

COLORADO FOURTEENERS INITIATIVE



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation





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In this season of thankful reflection, we at Colorado Fourteeners Initiative want to acknowledge the many people like you who have contributed their time, talents and donations to help preserve and protect the Fourteeners. Our work would not be possible without your generosity.

On behalf of CFI's board and staff, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of our important mission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lloyd F. Athearn".

Lloyd F. Athearn
Executive Director



Future Projects >> Planning, logistics and fundraising are under way for a multi-year effort to reconstruct the three established routes on Mount Elbert, the state high point. Botanical surveys this summer found a couple of extremely rare plants within the identified trail corridor for the Southeast Ridge route.

A group of five volunteers wearing hard hats and work clothes are gathered around a large log on a rocky trail. They appear to be working together to move or position the log.

\$315,000

of in-kind value provided by these volunteer efforts.

A newly constructed trail section featuring a raised wooden turnpike and a set of wooden stairs built over a rocky and uneven terrain. The surrounding area is lush with green grass and trees.

After

Opened 30th sustainably designed summit route featuring raised turnpikes and staircases.

CFI SMASHES RECORDS AGAIN IN 2015

>> Trail maintenance staff increased from six members to eight. The two four-person crews set an all-time record by engaging 1,550 days of volunteer trail stewardship through 60 projects on 23 routes. This volunteer work provided an in-kind value of more than \$315,000.

>> CFI opened its 30th sustainably designed route this summer: El Diente Peak's Kilpacker Basin. The crew constructed many raised turnpikes, staircases and timber structures to control erosion. Much of the season focused on the closure, stabilization and restoration of the old route along Kilpacker Creek which involved re-vegetating 14,600 square feet of trail utilizing 6,000 transplanted vegetation plugs.

>> CFI completed a second season of reconstruction work on the heavily used Mount Bierstadt summit trail. Logs were used to build most structures due to the lack of available rock on the peak. During the one-day "Logapalooza" event, 40 volunteers hauled 84 logs high onto the mountain, with the record being eight logs hauled in a day.

>> In June CFI released the inaugural "14er Report Card" that distilled down more than 20,300 GPS-based data points from the Sustainable Trails baseline inventories into a very digestible ranking of trail conditions on 42 inventoried routes. Bringing all these routes

up to sustainable levels will cost \$24 million—\$18 million to build 16 new sustainable routes and \$6 million to continue reconstructing 26 previously delineated routes.

>> CFI crews and volunteer Peak Stewards made an all-time high number of on-mountain hiker contacts to impart Leave No Trace practices. Patagonia Denver helped provide CFI logo vests to make volunteer Peak Stewards more noticeable.

>> 14er fans across the country helped CFI's Mount Columbia trail project win \$85,000 through REI's "Every Trail Connects" program, one of only two trails in the country to reach maximum funding in this social media contest. By October CFI had already set a new all-time record for corporate fundraising at more than \$146,000.

>> CFI placed compact infrared trail counters at 10 locations to track the amount of hiking use on nine 14ers. When combined with data from the five counters placed last season, CFI will get a more accurate picture of hiking use on 14ers across the state.

>> Four new avalanche safety videos were added to CFI's YouTube channel, which now contains more than 40 videos that have been watched more than 27,300 times.

Two volunteers wearing hard hats and work clothes are shown hauling large logs across a stream. One is in the foreground, pushing a log, while another is further back, also handling a log.

40 volunteers

Hauled 84 logs high onto the mountain in the Logapalooza event.

Three hikers, two women and one man, are smiling and posing for a photo. They are wearing backpacks and hiking gear, standing on a trail surrounded by green trees.

Peak Stewards

volunteers contacted 2,651 hikers over 71 days.

2016 PROJECT WORK PLAN BECOMES CLEARER

>> CFI will head back to Chicago Basin to complete the last year of major trail delineation on Mount Eolus. When complete this will be CFI's 31st sustainable summit route. The remote location and complicated logistics require a larger CFI crew to finish up this multi-year project.

>> Funding is in place to allow CFI to kick off the first year of what promises to be a five-year project to build a sustainable trail up Mount Columbia. "Halfway to Heaven" author Mark Obmascik said, "More swear words have been uttered by hikers climbing Mount Columbia than any other Colorado 14er."

>> CFI plans to move its two-person mini reconstruction crew from Mount of the Holy Cross to Quandary Peak to begin addressing the extensive backlog of needed trail improvements on this high-use peak. The season-long crew makes it easier to schedule volunteer projects, while increasing hiker educational contacts.

>> The Sustainable Trails Program will report on three updated trail inventories collected this summer. Staff returned to three peaks with varying degrees of reconstruction and maintenance work performed since the initial baseline inventory. The analysis will compare on-the-ground conditions on Mount of the Holy Cross, where crews have been

based for five consecutive seasons, Grays and Torreys Peaks, which have been maintained through frequent annual volunteer projects and Mount Shavano, which has not seen a single trail maintenance project.

>> A total of eight members will return to CFI's two mobile maintenance crews, which will aim to complete 60 volunteer stewardship projects.

>> The second "14er Report Card" will be released in the spring, this time focusing on statewide 14er hiker use projections and the economic impact generated by 14ers hikers.

>> Some of the 10 infrared trail counters will be moved to new locations to expand the number of peaks with accurate estimates of hiker use levels. Counters will remain on a few of the most popular peaks, including Grays/Torreys and Quandary, to see whether use levels are changing over time.

>> CFI continues to reach out to landowners of mining claims on the saddle near the summit of Mount Shavano for public access so that the planned trail reroute can be constructed. Shavano is among the highest priorities for future work identified in the 14er Report Card.

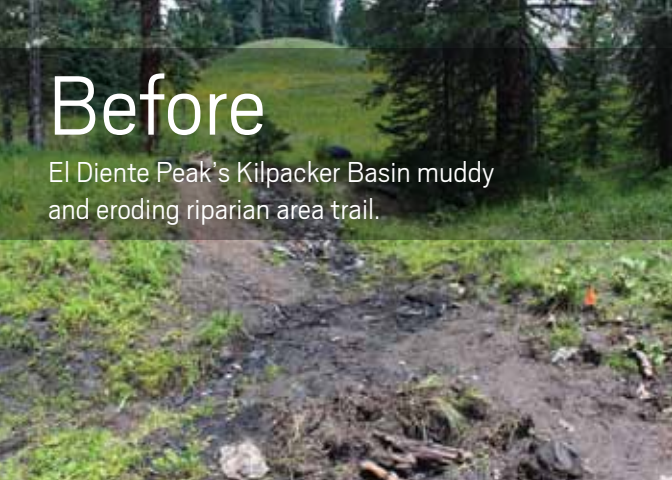
1,550 days

of volunteer trail stewardship through
60 projects on 23 routes.



Before

El Diente Peak's Kilpacker Basin muddy
and eroding riparian area trail.



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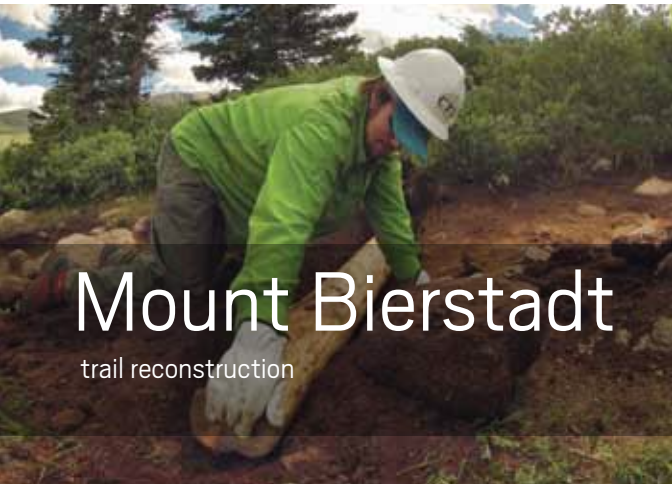
Cover photo: Clearing storm over Sneffels Range at sunset. Photo by Glenn Randall. www.glennrandall.com.
The upper left flap photo: Bierstadt volunteer with hammer. Photo by Cameron Miller Photography.
The lower right flap photo: Climbers on Redcloud Peak's false summit. Photo by Glenn Randall. www.glennrandall.com.



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Mount Bierstadt

trail reconstruction



19,473

on-mountain hiker education contacts

