



» *(Before & After) Trail reconstruction on Maroon Peak*



» *Packing in to the Maroon Peak project*

2013 CONTINUES RECORD-SETTING PACE

>> Volunteers set an all-time season record of 1,330 days of donated labor through working on 53 trail maintenance and restoration projects on 19 peaks. This work provided an in-kind value of \$235,570.

>> Completed and opened new summit routes on San Luis Peak—both the primary Stewart Creek side and the Cochetopa Creek side from the Colorado Trail—and an approach route on the lower slopes of Maroon Peak. Began the first season of work on the Southwest Fourteeners project with a three-person project stabilizing and reconstructing the existing Mount Eolus trail.

>> Provided more intensive trail maintenance efforts on 10 Fourteeners, including a hybrid project on Mount of the Holy Cross that involved continued maintenance, restoration and nightly hiker education of campers staying in the East Cross Creek area.

>> Collected detailed, GPS-based baseline inventories on 22 Fourteener summit trails, effectively wrapping up the first round of condition inventories as part of the Sustainable Trails Program. Phase I analysis continues in developing ranked priorities that will drive future reconstruction and maintenance work.

>> Peak Steward volunteers, including CFI Directors, spent 58 days on the mountains directly contacting 4,462 hikers about Leave No Trace minimum impact practices. A further 6,610 hikers were contacted by CFI crews, helping minimize impacts through on-mountain education.

>> Nine new web videos—a four-part series on volunteering and a five-part series on mountain weather—were completed and posted to CFI's YouTube channel in an effort to help raise awareness among enthusiasts before they leave home. Two of CFI's trucks were wrapped to improve CFI's presence at trailheads and while traveling through mountain communities.



» A sustainable designed, durably constructed approach trail will be constructed next summer through the lush Kilpacker Basin on the south side of El Diente Peak.



» The lack of a clearly delineated, well maintained trail on the upper slopes has caused Bierstadt hikers to trample vegetation into a 25-foot-wide swath in some places.

2014 PLANS BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE

Funding over the coming months will dictate what projects CFI will undertake in 2014. However, plans are beginning to take shape, including:

>> The first of two seasons of major trail reconstruction will begin on the Kilpacker Basin approach route to El Diente Peak. A new, 1.2-mile-long trail reroute will be constructed in 2014 on higher and drier terrain to the northwest, allowing the current, user-created trail along the creek to be closed and restored in 2015.

>> Seasonal crew leaders will play a technical leadership role in the Forest Service's major trail reconstruction project on Mount Bierstadt. This trail, likely the most heavily used in the state, is suffering extreme vegetation loss and erosion that grow annually.

>> CFI again hopes to have a multi-faceted presence near Holy Cross that combines continued trail reconstruction and maintenance on the Halfmoon, Notch Mountain, and nearby trails, as well as continued riparian area campsite restoration work and direct hiker educational contact.

>> The Sustainable Trails Program hopes to begin conducting detailed counts of hikers on trails to get a more accurate sense of use. This will tie in with on-the-ground conditions to connect use levels and trail design with resulting impacts. Inventorying of trail conditions and uploading field work completed will become an integrated part of the existing CFI maintenance crews.

>> A further batch of educational web videos will be produced and volunteers will play an even larger role in ensuring the continuing presence of on-mountain education through the Peak Steward program.

>> CFI will wrap three more field trucks and enhance in-field marketing efforts to better connect with Fourteener enthusiasts. In the face of continued cuts to Forest Service partner funding, CFI's future success will be tied to increased private giving.