

CLRD Trails Program 2023

State of the Program

We've made great strides on most of the low hanging fruit of post-fire recovery work. The first few miles of trails accessible from trailheads have been evaluated and mitigation measures have been taken. This work has been logistically ideal for volunteer groups and Youth Corps Crews conducting time sensitive and noncomplex projects. As we transition to our 3rd post-fire season it is time to tackle projects with a higher complexity and shift resources further into the backcountry, both inside and outside of the fire perimeter. To achieve those ends we've recruited the Shoshone Pack String to travel down and pack 2 of our Youth Corps Crews into the Comanche Peak Wilderness, and hope to have the PWV Stock folks pack the RMC crew into the Rawah Wilderness for 2 hitches. Organizations like Wildlands Restoration Volunteers are also uniquely suited to these challenges with their ability to provide logistical support and highly qualified leaders to lead large groups of volunteers on backcountry projects.

Priorities (In No Particular Order)

Roaring Creek- finish reroutes (contractor) and stabilization (volunteers/youth corps)

Donner Pass- start reroutes (contractor)

Chambers Lake Trail Bridge- full replacement (volunteers)

Comanche Peak Wilderness- continue trail stabilization, log out all trails, and begin backcountry projects with pack support (youth corps/volunteers).

Rawah Wilderness- log out all trails, construct new bridge on Camp Lake/Rawah (North) Jct., and continue erosion mitigation projects on Rawah (North) Trail. (youth corps/volunteers)

Construct Lady Moon Meadow Accessible Loop (WRV/PWV)

Construct reroute around Sky Lutheran Ranch to Beaver Creek TH (volunteers/Youth Corps)

2023 Resources

Volunteers- programmatic and Adopt-A-Trail

3 seasonal CLRD staff (each will lead a youth corps crew identified below)

Rocky Mountain Conservancy (RMC Crew)- 10 person crew for 10 weeks

Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps (LCYCC Crew)- 12 person crew for 16 weeks

Indigenous Youth Corps- 16 person crew for 11 weeks

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers- Committed to Lady Moon Meadow Accessible Loop construction if grant funds awarded

Private contractors- committed to Roaring Creek and Donner Pass

2023 Plans

Comanche Peak Wilderness (Pingree Park/Crown Point Access)

- Major trail blowout reported on Little Beaver between Jack's Gulch and Fish Creek junction. Foot bridges washed out on Beaver Creek.
- Reroutes and continued stabilization needed on Beaver Creek, Little Beaver, Fish Creek, Little Fish, Flowers, Upper Dadd.
- LCYCC and Indigenous Youth Corps

Comanche Peak Wilderness (Dunraven Access)

- Miller Fork experienced major blowouts in riparian sections during 2021/22 storm events. Will conduct field trip with hydrologist to get the go ahead before replacing infrastructure.
- Bulwark and Indian need stabilization work. North Fork in good shape.
- May have either LCYCC or Indigenous Youth Corps camp out at Cheley Camp to perform this work. We'll also have a 12 person Sierra Club group for 2 weeks based in Estes.

Rawah Wilderness

- All major corridors cleared during 2022 season.
- RMC crew staying at Stub Creek for 2023 season and will be primarily focused on the Rawah. Initially chasing snowmelt on day trips clearing any new downed trees, followed by 2-8 day backcountry tours supported by USFS/PWV pack stock.
- Clearing trees main goal followed by drainage/tread work.
- Significant erosion damage on Rawah (North) trail identified by staff in 2022. Major bridge at Camp Lake Jct. washed out and needs replacement. RMC crew likely won't have time for these projects.

Redfeather

- Lady Moon Meadow Accessible Loop- partnering with WRV to build 700 ft. of boardwalk and set road base on approx. 1.8 miles of trail. Hope to get PWV support.

Roaring Creek

- Reroutes to be completed by private contractor in July.
- Additional stabilization work from LCYCC/Indigenous Youth Corps

Donner Pass/Lookout Mountain

- Reroutes via private contractor to start in 2023 and finish in 2024

Additional Non-Wilderness

- Rebuild bridge on Chambers Lake Trail
- Construct reroute around Sky Lutheran Ranch to Beaver Creek TH