

**FY 2006 Centennial Grant Accomplishment Report  
for  
The Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses  
(FOME and LC)  
Development and Implementation of the Wilderness Stewardship  
Program  
in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses**

**Project Name:** Development and Implementation of the Wilderness Stewardship Program in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses.

**Background:** The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses are two of the 35 Region 2-designated wildernesses in Colorado. The Mount Evans Wilderness encompasses 74,401 acres and approximately 19 trailheads accessing 120 miles of trails. The Lost Creek Wilderness encompasses 119,790 acres with 16 trailheads accessing 130 miles of trails, including the Colorado Trail, which passes through the area. Both of these wildernesses are popular, high-use destinations where “unmanaged recreation” is a great concern and challenge.

These areas provide wilderness experience for Colorado’s central and south Front Range cities, Denver and Colorado Springs, and include access to two fourteen-thousand-foot peaks, Mount Evans and Mount Bierstadt in the Mount Evans Wilderness. Visitors use both wildernesses year-round for activities including backpacking, fishing, hiking, hunting, rock climbing, 14-er peak-bagging, and winter activities.

**Project Purpose:** The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses only have one designated Wilderness Ranger managing nearly 195,000 acres of wilderness and trails. As a result, impacts to both wildernesses include unmanaged recreational use; trail degradation; invasive weed infestation; and ignorance about wilderness ethics and regulations. A Friends group was needed to support the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and the Clear Creek Ranger District of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests for overall wilderness character work and restoration, including A) education; B) invasive weed inventory and mapping; C) required registration; D) trail maintenance; E) campsite inventory; and F) O<sub>3</sub>-zone monitoring.

**Resource/Public Benefits:**

Congress directed the Forest Service to protect the natural condition and the wilderness character under the Wilderness Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-577). Congress designated the Mount Evans and Lost Creek wilderness areas with the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-560) and 1993 (P.L. 103-77). The benefit of this partnership is a volunteer workforce to help the Forest Service in all aspects of wilderness stewardship including education, monitoring, training, research, on-the-ground trail maintenance, required registration, and signing. Such cooperative efforts helped enforce and support the stewardship ethic, preserve the wilderness resource for future generations, and increase community involvement in wilderness stewardship. The public benefited through improved trails; clean up and removal of man-made objects and camps; unmanaged recreation use reduction; invasive weed

comprehensive mapping; increased volunteer opportunities; and understanding that people are caring for the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses. Lastly, both wildlife and botanical resources benefited from the increased care.

### **Community and Partnership Involvement:**

As a start-up organization, the key to our success was our ability to recruit volunteers. The Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter; Mount Evans Group; Pikes Peak Group; Enos Mills Group; and Rachel Carson Group provided opportunities to recruit volunteers. Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) sponsored recruitment and stewardship awareness presentations at the Flagship Store in Denver and the Colorado Springs store. Earth Day and Beyond; Church of the Hills; the Evergreen Parks and Recreation District; High Country Horseman; the Park County Library; the Heritage Museum; and the Conifer Chamber of Commerce provided free or low-cost event volunteer recruitment opportunities. The Evergreen Rotary Club has invited FOME and LC to submit a proposal for community-based funding and volunteer support. Other community partnerships included the following:

- ❖ Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) - Hayman Fire education and trail restoration work
- ❖ Front Range Back Country Horseman (FRBCH) - Trail clearing, Leave No Trace education, volunteer support, and wilderness stewardship rides
- ❖ Upper Arkansas and South Platte Project (UASPP) – Volunteer support, Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness wildlife habitat and migration education
- ❖ National Geographic, Trails Illustrated - Volunteer appreciation gifts
- ❖ REI - Volunteer appreciation gifts
- ❖ Bison Peak Lodge - Volunteer support

### **Outputs and Accomplishments:**

The Centennial Grant provided FOME and LC:

- A)** Start-up funds to develop and purchase non-profit and volunteer recruitment material, develop Web site and other promotional materials
- B)** Recruit volunteers
- C)** Train, equip, manage, and schedule volunteers
- D)** Meet specific program requirements, including Wilderness stewardship and education programs; trail management; invasive weeds inventory and mapping; campsite monitoring; required registration/visitor use data; and O<sub>3</sub>-zone monitoring.

The Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek offer the following outputs and accomplishments:

**Table 1 - Outputs – Category A - Setup, Structure, and Implementation of FOME and LC, Management of FOME and LC from November 1 – September 30.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Value</b>
1	Formed 501 (c)(3)	10	Hours	\$400.00
2	Filed 501 (c)(3)	1	Filing Fee	\$50.00
3	Developed Non-Profit Materials, Incorporation Papers, Minutes, Operation, Publicity, and Fundraising Plans	200	Hours	\$8000.00
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Value</b>
4	Develop Volunteer Recruitment Materials	100	Hours	\$4000.00
5	Purchase Volunteer Recruitment Materials Graphics, Display, Posters, Electronic Brochures, Ads, etc.	Costs	Dollar	\$3920.00
6	Develop and Maintain Web Site	150	Hours	\$6,000.00
7	Management of Non-Profit Nov. 1 – September 30, 240 hours/month	2,160	Hours	\$86400.00
<b>Total Hourly Contribution to Set Up FOME and LC:</b>		2,520	Hours	<b>\$100,800.00</b>
<b>Total FOME and LC Cash Contribution</b>				<b>\$4,420.00</b>
<b>Total Contributions for Category A</b>				<b>\$105,220.00</b>

**Table 2 - Outputs – Category B - Recruit Volunteers**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Value</b>
1	Volunteer Recruitment Presentation Development	10	Hours	\$400.00
2	Volunteer Presentation to the Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter	3	Hours	\$120.00
		90	Miles	\$33.75
3	Volunteer Presentation to Sierra Club, Pikes Peak Group	6	Hours	\$240.00
		200	Miles	\$75.00
4	Volunteer Presentation to Sierra Club, Enos Mills Group	3	Hours	\$120.00
		90	Miles	\$33.75
5	Volunteer Presentation to Sierra Club, Mount Evans Group	1.25	Hours	\$45.00
		10	Miles	\$3.75
6	Volunteer Presentation, Evergreen Rec. Center	1.25	Hours	\$45.00
		10	Miles	\$3.75
7	Volunteer Presentation, Park County Library	3	Hours	\$120.00
		90	Miles	\$33.75

8	Volunteer Presentation, Clear Creek Ranger District	3	Hours	\$120.00
		90	Miles	\$33.75
9	Earth Day and Beyond – Evergreen Earth Day	8	Hours	\$360.00
		20	Miles	\$7.50
		Costs	Materials	180.00
10	Church of the Hills – Earth Day Celebration	4	Hours	\$180.00
		10	Miles	\$3.75
		Costs	Materials	40.00
11	REI Flagship Store Presentation	10	Hours	\$400.00
		90	Miles	\$33.75
		Costs	Materials	\$50.00
12	REI Colorado Springs Store Presentation	10	Hours	\$400.00
		200	Miles	\$75.00
		Costs	Materials	\$50.00
8	Heritage Festival – Community Non-Profit Day	8	Hours	\$360.00
		20	Miles	\$7.50
		Costs	Space Rental	\$25.00
9	Conifair	20	Hours	\$800.00
		40	Miles	\$15.00
		Costs	Materials	\$1000.00
		Costs	Space Rental	\$125.00
		Costs	Electrical	\$50.00
<b>Total Hourly Contribution for Volunteer Recruitment</b>		87.5	Hours	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>Total Miles Contribution for Volunteer Recruitment</b>		960	Miles	<b>\$360.00</b>
<b>Total FOME and LC Cash Contribution</b>				<b>\$1,520.00</b>
<b>Total for Category B</b>				<b>\$53.80</b>

<b>Outputs – Category C - Train, Schedule, Equip and Manage Volunteers</b>					
Item	Description	Quantity	Who	Unit	Value
1	Design Volunteer Training	30	FOME	Hours	\$1200.00
2	Develop and Produce Training Materials	40	FOME	Hours	\$1600.00
		50	FOME	Packets	\$250.00
3	Volunteer Kick-off Night – 25 Volunteers	6	FOME	Hours	\$240.00
		Costs	FOME	Food	\$75.00
		20	FOME	Miles	\$7.50

4	X-Cut Saw-Bucking Certification – 3 Volunteers	20	FOME	Hours	\$800
		40	USFS GS9	Hours	\$874.40
		60	Volunteers	Hours	\$1500.00
		60	FOME	Miles	\$22.50
5	Volunteer Orientations – 27 Volunteers	12	FOME	Hours	\$600.00
		40	USFS GS9	Hours	\$874.40
		20	USFS GS6	Hours	\$321.60
		185	FOME	Miles	\$69.37
		162	Volunteer	Hours	\$4050.00
6	Weed Identification and Mapping Training – 11 Volunteers	12	FOME	Hours	\$600.00
		40	USFS GS9	Hours	\$874.40
		20	USFS GS6	Hours	\$321.60
		66	Volunteer	Hours	\$1650.00
7	Equipment, Uniform and Expenses for Volunteers	15	CCRD	\$100.00	\$1500.00
8	Management and Scheduling of Volunteers	100	FOME	Hours	\$4000.00
<b>Total Hourly Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management</b>		220	FOME	Hours	<b>\$8,800.00</b>
<b>Total Miles Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management</b>		265	FOME	Miles	<b>\$99.75</b>
<b>Total Hourly Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management by USFS GS9</b>		120	USFS GS9	Hours	<b>\$2,623.20</b>
<b>Total Hourly Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management by USFS GS6</b>		40	USFS GS6	Hours	<b>\$643.20</b>
<b>Total Hourly Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management by Volunteers</b>		288	Volunteers	Hours	<b>\$7,200.00</b>
<b>Total Cash Contribution for Volunteer Training, Scheduling, Equipment and Management</b>					<b>\$325.00</b>
<b>Total Equipment Contributions by CCRD</b>					<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Total For Category C</b>					<b>\$21,191.15</b>

The following figures are TY 2006 to date. These figures will increase during the fall and winter:

<b>Accomplishments – Category D</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Value</b>
1	Miles of Trails Patrolled	FS, Volunteers, FRBCH, CUSP	250 Miles
2	Number of Trails Patrolled	FS, Volunteers, FRBCH	31 Trails
3	Number of Miles Hiked	Volunteers	766 Miles
4	Number of Volunteer Hours	Volunteers	1225
2	Water Bars Cleaned	FS and Volunteers	113
3	Trees cleared/Bucked	FS and Volunteers	86
4	Ozone Badges Recovered and Replaced	Volunteers	8
5	Trails Inventoried for Weeds	FS and Volunteers	31
6	Visitor Contacts Made	FS and Volunteers	775
7	Visitors Seen	Volunteers	1070
8	Required Registration Input Hours	Volunteers	300
9	GS 11 Hours Contributed	FS	40 Hours @ \$26.50/Hour
10	GS 13 Hours Contributed	FS	30 Hours @ \$38.00/Hour
11	Program and Volunteer Management	FOME	400 Hours @ \$40.00/Hour

**Contributions:** Contributions to the project for work done in FY 2006 are in the table below. These figures are figures to date and will also increase over the fall and winter.

<b>Contributions</b>		
<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Centennial Grant	<b>\$41,000.00</b>	Used to purchase supplies, equipment, and for contracting where professional work was required.
Other Forest Service Funds	<b>\$12,766.40</b>	Costs for employee salaries, transportation, etc. (estimated to date)
Program Coordinator Hours	<b>3,227.5</b>	Person hours to date
Value of Program Coordinator	<b>\$129,100.00</b>	Based at \$40.00/Hour to date
Partnership Cash Contribution	<b>\$6399.75</b>	Cash Contributions to date (includes mileage)
Combined Volunteer Hours	<b>1813</b>	Person hours to date

Value of Volunteer Hours	<b>\$45,325.00</b>	Estimated at \$25.00 per hour to account for travel time, fuel, vehicles, and other personal costs, to date. (to date)
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**Final Comment:** The Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek is considered by other volunteer groups, USFS Regional Office staff, and the Clear Creek and South Platte Ranger Districts as being off to a successful start. But it needs to secure its future and continue the work it has begun. We trust we have proven to the USFS our commitment to wilderness stewardship in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses and that the investment made in helping our organization is a sound and stable one.