

Volunteers Complete, Maintain, and Restore the Colorado Trail



Partnership

Snapshot: Colorado Trail

The Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF) works with the Forest Service to provide a 500-mile non-motorized recreation trail between Denver and Durango, Colorado. The trail traverses diverse ecosystems and eight mountain ranges in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Through volunteer programs and other partnerships, CTF develops, maintains, and improves the Colorado Trail and trail corridor. The Forest Service manages the land base by providing analysis and decision-making for all construction, restoration, and maintenance projects and ensures that these activities comply with current laws and regulations.



Happy kids backpacking the Colorado Trail

Photo by Tom Yukman

Program Highlights

In 2006, the Colorado Trail benefited from the efforts of 779 volunteers who contributed 18,035 hours and \$325,531 worth of labor.

CTF trail crews are teams of approximately 20 volunteers who work on weekend to week-long summer projects. Sixteen week-long and five weekend volunteer trail crews accomplished significant trail improvements. These wonderful crews:

- Constructed over 3 miles of new trail
- Improved and maintained 20 miles of trail
- Built two major bridges and 304 water diversions (culverts, water bars, rolling dips)
- Linked 17 miles of non-motorized trail reroutes atop Cataract Ridge
- Constructed 57 cairns and erected 39 sign posts for trail markers
- Built 650 feet of buck and pole fence

Through the Adopt-A-Trail Program, volunteer adopters and helpers perform maintenance on particular trail segments. In addition to routine annual maintenance, 56 adopters removed 359 fallen trees and cleaned 241 water diversions.

Partnership Provides Trail Maintenance and Recreation Benefits

Hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers all enjoy the Colorado Trail. The partnership between the Colorado Trail Foundation and the Forest Service guarantees that this popular route receives regular care while giving volunteers opportunities for teamwork and outdoor experience in a positive social atmosphere.

State: Colorado
Forest: Rocky Mountain Region
Partners: Colorado Trail Foundation
FS Funds Used: \$4,000
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