

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 32,062
National Forest/Grassland:	White River National Forest Aspen/Sopris Ranger District	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$ 309,677
Project Name:	Aspen/Sopris Trails Program	Total Project Cost:	\$ 341,739

Project Purpose/Objectives: To enhance Wilderness, Recreation and Trail experiences of the Forest Publics.

To protect and maintain Wilderness areas, wildlife and flora populations, while accommodating an ever increasing number of visitors who hike, camp, fish, bike, ski, and hunt on the White River National Forest. Staff, volunteers and visitors interact and educate each other to be better caretakers of the Forest, and learn the complexity of choices and causes and effects that occur during multiple use management of public lands. To provide better information, education, and interpretation about the White River National Forest.

Work Performed: Colorado Fourteeners contributed 5,120 hours to trail restoration and re-routing at Pyramid Peak. They have also provided Peak Rangers to review the 14,000 ft peaks in the area and adopted Capital Peak and Snowmass Peak by providing trail improvements. Colorado Rocky Mountain School – provided 960 volunteer hours. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers provided trail projects and Adopt a trail program.

Information and Education – partnerships with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies resulted in naturalist tours at Ashcroft, Aspen Mountain, Independence Town Site, Maroon Lake, and Snowmass. Volunteers at the Maroon Bells portals greeted many of the 350,000 visitors to the area and campground talks were given at Difficult Campground. The Forest Conservancy marshaled a total of 8,350 service hours worth over \$150,000, while hiking more than 3,400 miles on trails in the District. While on the trail, they communicate with Forest visitors, explaining rules and regulations, safety issues, while monitoring and patrolling for the Forest Service. Aspen Environment Fund provided funding for a visitor service specialist in the SCA program. Roaring Fork Transit Authority provides interpretation and education about the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness and trails in the area. Wilderness Workshop provides information about the wilderness through monitoring the campsites, trails, noxious weeds and visitor impacts.

Benefits: The White River National Forest leads the nation in numbers of visitors that come from all over the world to recreate. The emphasis of the Aspen/Sopris district places on making sure that visitors can safely access the Forest through a network of well marked and maintained trails is vital to the Forest Service’s mission of Caring for the Land and Serving People. By partnering with a diverse group of volunteers, the Aspen/Sopris Ranger District is continually striving to offer world class service to those who come to the White River National Forest and encourage all to practice world class stewardship of public land.

Additional Information

Partners: Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, CO Fourteeners Initiative, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Colorado Rocky Mountain School, Forest Conservancy, Wilderness Volunteers Independence Pass Foundation, Student Conservation Association, Aspen Environment Fund, and Roaring Fork Transit Authority