

## Partnership Project Success Story

<b>State:</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>FS Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>National Forest/Grassland:</b>	<b>White River National Forest Eagle/HX Ranger District</b>	<b>Other Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>Partners:</b>	<b>\$ 62,500</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Eagle County Youth Corps</b>	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 77,500</b>

**Project Purpose/Objectives:** Eagle County's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is an investment in two of our most valuable resources: our youth and our environment. Created in 2000 by the Eagle County Commissioners in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, The National Forest Foundation and the Gore Range Natural Science School, this innovative program for young people provides the opportunity for them to learn about forest management and natural resource career opportunities while earning money for their groups and assisting public land agencies with much needed work.

**Work Performed:** The program, in cooperation with the White River National Forest, also includes the other partners such as: the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Eagle County municipalities. The partners identify work projects, youth-power needed and age/skill requirements and provide onsite supervision, supplies and assistance to each group. Some of the groups involved in past project seasons include: Local Girl and Boy Scout troops, St. Vincent's Church youth group, Eagle Valley High School Wrestling, Vail International and Junior Hockey, Ski and Snowboard Club Vail, Vail Valley Pony Club, Eagle Valley High School Choir, Basalt High School Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball Teams, Battle Mountain High School Soccer, Football, Speech, Cheer and Dance teams, Vail Mountain School, Eagle County Charter Academy, and the LDS Church.

Rather than focusing on a set group of kids who work for an entire project season, the program allows a greater number of young people to be involved and earn money for their group projects. For their work, groups are paid \$10 per hour per individual youth participant.

The YCC is approaching its seventh year of operation and while the program has been modified over the years, our overall goals remain the same:

For more information on the Eagle County Youth Conservation Corps, please contact program coordinator, Jennifer Rose at 970-328-4112 or email [ycc@eaglecounty.us](mailto:ycc@eaglecounty.us)

### **Additional Information**

#### **Partners:**

Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Eagle County municipalities.

The value of this donated labor for FY2007 was \$20,000. The benefits of this program to the participants is that it provides an opportunity for local youth to learn about forest management and natural resource career opportunities while earning money for their youth projects. They also assist the Forest Service with needed forest health improvements.

The YCC started in the summer of 2000. Participation doubled by 2001. In 2007, the program reached 400 to 500 youth, and their projects have become more comprehensive. Thousands of Eagle County youth have been reached over the program's 8 years of operation.

In September of this year, Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell issued this goal, "*This year, I challenge you to take at least one child into the woods.*" This partnership involving the youth of Eagle County is the living embodiment of this challenge.

