

## Partnership Project Success Story

<b>State:</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>FS Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>National Forest/Grassland:</b>	<b>White River National Forest Dillon Ranger District</b>	<b>Other Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>Partners:</b>	<b>\$ 95,000</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Friends of the Dillon Ranger District</b>	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>

**Project Purpose/Objectives:** Friends of the Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of local citizens who joined with the Dillon Ranger District (DRD) in 2004 to provide opportunities for community members to play a more active role in the sustainable management of National Forest system lands. Their current membership is seventy-seven. The board consists of eight very dedicated volunteers. FDRD employs a paid executive director (Guff Van Vooren), although she volunteers much of her time. Their mission is to promote stewardship of the White River National Forest in Summit County through partnerships, volunteer service, education, and support. FDRD focuses on the following goals and objectives:

- Create collaborative partnerships between the Forest Service and a diverse group of local organizations, individuals, and users of our local National Forest lands
- Encourage community-based forestry by increasing volunteerism in Summit County
- Create excellent educational programs for visitors and residents, in order to promote, protect, and preserve our National Forest lands
- Develop broad support for the Dillon Ranger District by increasing donations, developing visitor information services, and recruiting volunteers for both field and office positions

**Work Performed:** Implemented the Forest Stewards Program's inaugural season – 20 volunteers participated in an ongoing effort to maintain trails, inventory amount and type of trail users, and educate the public on forest-related information. Participating partners include Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), Summit County Open Space and Trails (SCOSAT), Keystone Science School (KSS), and Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. This summer, FDRD Stewards accomplished the following:

Participated in 6 training sessions, setting them up to succeed in, and enjoy, their volunteer experience. In addition, participated in a Crew Leader Training (co-hosted by VOC, SCOSAT and FDRD) with 20 other state-wide crew leaders.

- Crew Leaders led 5 trail maintenance projects on 3 miles of trails and 1 buck-n-rail fence construction project on the Wheeler Lakes and Windy Point trail areas. In addition, in partnership with VOC, we maintained 1.5 miles of the upper Spruce Creek trail at Mohawk Lakes. In total, trail maintenance was performed on 4.5 miles of trail and 600 feet of buck-n-rail fence was constructed.
- Ranger Patrols performed 33 patrols on 18 different trails, covering 174 miles. In addition, in partnership with KSS, 27 patrols were conducted on 14 different trails, covering 60 miles. In total, 60 Ranger Patrols encountered 1,034 visitors, contacting 333 of them, on 234 miles of trail.
- Outreach Educators hosted 6 trailheads and volunteered at the DRD front desk on 5 days. In addition, they assisted the DRD staff in the Christmas Tree Cutting Program. In total, they encountered 2,540 visitors, contacting 1,675 of them.
- Collected 2 truckloads of litter and 8 bags of recycling at Green Mountain Reservoir campgrounds

- Performed erosion control and closure efforts along the Miners Creek trail
- Picked up 32 bags of trash and 11 bags of recycling on Dercum Mountain at Keystone Resort
- Removed 2 truckloads of invasive musk thistle and false chamomile plants north of Silverthorne
- Rehabilitated one acre of the Ophir Mountain Burn Area behind the High School
- Removed 1 mile of obsolete fencing (and 4 miles of barbed wire!) in an elk migration corridor near Lakeview Meadows (southeast of Ophir Mountain)

**Benefits:** In 2006, FDRD generated approximately \$95,000 in support of DRD through volunteer efforts (nearly 5,300 hours), money, and in-kind donations from volunteers, members and sponsors. FDRD was awarded the 2006 Rocky Mountain Region “Caring for the Land Stewardship” Award, one of three external awards presented annually to organizations partnering with the USDA-FS in each region. In addition, 14 internal awards are presented annually. Regional Forester Awards are presented each year for outstanding achievement by Forest Service employees and their partners.

### **Additional Information**

**Partners:** Friends of the Dillon Ranger District (FDRD), include Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), Summit County Open Space and Trails (SCOSAT), Keystone Science School (KSS), and Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness

