

## Partnership Project Success Story

<b>State:</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>FS Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$ 13,011.84</b>
<b>National Forest/Grassland:</b>	<b>White River National Forest, Holy Cross Ranger District</b>	<b>Other Funds Used:</b>	<b>\$</b>
		<b>Partners:</b>	<b>\$ 69,005.00</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Gore Range Natural Science School (GRNSS), Vail, HCRD Interpretive Cost-Share</b>	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 82,016.84</b>

**Project Purpose/Objectives:** The purpose of the partnership is to ensure enjoyment of environmental education for the public at Vail Mountain and in the Holy Cross/Eagle Ranger District. Through this partnership, the Gore Range Natural Science School provides interpretive programs and visitor information services on the Forest. The mission of the Science School is to raise environmental awareness and inspire stewardship. As a result of their programs, recreationists gain a better understanding of the White River National Forest and how to care for its incredible natural resources.

**Work Performed:** During 2006, Gore Range Natural Science School (GRNSS) naturalist interns continued to staff the Nature Discovery Center on top of Vail Mountain. Naturalists saw over 18,000 visitors at the Center and guided 1,160 people on natural history hikes on top of the mountain.

Naturalist interns also regularly staffed (759 hours) the front desks of the Minturn and Eagle Offices from June to September. They provided much needed assistance in answering visitors' questions and assisting with bookstore sales during the busy summer season.

As Forest Service volunteers, GRNSS naturalists provided interpretive talks every Saturday night at Camp Hale and Gore Creek Campgrounds, and interpretive walks weekly from Grouse Creek and Maloit Park. Between June and September, 240 people participated in the campground programs, and 37 people attended the interpretive walks.

**Benefits:** In addition to helping better serve the visitors to the Eagle and Holy Cross Ranger Stations, this partnership served an additional 18,000+ members of the public on locations throughout the two districts while educating them on environmental issues, including the Forest Service's four threats, so they can help protect the land of the White River National Forest.

Structural improvements resulting from this partnership also include a staffed Nature Discovery Center on Vail Mountain and amphitheaters at both the Gore Creek Campground and Camp Hale Memorial Campground with more projects planned for the future.

### **Additional Information**

**Partners:** Gore Range Natural Science School (GRNSS)

