

# Trail Stories — February 2020

## *Sustainable Solution: Broad Coalition Rallies for Well-Loved Community Trail*

Red Pine Lake Trail, located 26 miles from downtown Salt Lake City, is one of the most popular trails on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Originally a legacy trail created for skidding logs, it was never designed for recreational use. Steep grades and poor drainage led to extensive erosion and trail entrenchment, making portions of the trail unusable. In summer 2019, the trail was given new life when a coalition of volunteers, nonprofit organizations, county, and national forest employees rallied to plan, prepare, and complete a half-mile reroute.



*Trail workers use primitive handtools while rerouting the Red Pine Lake Trail through the Lone Peak Wilderness. A collaboration between the Forest Service, nonprofit partners, and volunteers provided the many hands that made it possible. (USDA Forest Service photo by Meghan Stan)*

The trail was relocated and constructed using [sustainable design practices](#) and funded through a non-motorized Recreation Trail Program grant, matching funds from Salt Lake County, and additional commitments from various volunteers and partners. An emerging Adopt-a-Trail program will ensure long-term maintenance through. Finally, the heavily eroded old trail was rehabilitated and closed, allowing it to begin the process of re-naturalizing.

The partnerships forged during the Red Pine Lake Trail reroute are now assisting with six other major trail projects on the forest. These relationships and the Red Pine Lake Trail were made to last.

### 10-Year Challenge: Element Spotlight

- Element C: Achieve Sustainable Trail Systems. Trail systems are sustainably designed, well maintained, used for their intended purpose, and valued and supported by trail users and communities.

### Success Factors

- Used a NEPA process refined under the [Environmental Analysis and Decision Making](#) guidelines for efficient planning.
- Engaged a broad stakeholder base to plan, fund, and implement the reroute and rehabilitation.
- Used a novel funding mix of grants, volunteers, and partnerships.
- Used sustainable trail design concepts and tools.
- Ensured long-term maintenance support through an Adopt-a-Trail program.

### More Information

- For information about the Red Pine Lake Trail reroute project, contact Zinnia Wilson, Trails and Wilderness Program Manager, 385-377-2107/ [zinnia.wilson@usda.gov](mailto:zinnia.wilson@usda.gov).
- For information about the 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/10YTC>.

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## Collaborating Partners:

- [Cottonwood Canyons Foundation](http://cottonwoodcanyons.org/), <http://cottonwoodcanyons.org/>
- [Save Our Canyons](https://saveourcanyons.org/), <https://saveourcanyons.org/>
- [Trails Utah](http://trailsutah.org/), <http://trailsutah.org/>
- [Utah Conservation Corps](https://www.ucc.usu.edu/), <https://www.ucc.usu.edu/>
- [Salt Lake County](https://slco.org/), <https://slco.org/>
- [Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest](https://www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf), <https://www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf>



*Comparison of a steep, eroded section of the Red Pine Lake Trail before (left) with a sustainably designed rerouted section (right). Note the rolling grade dip in-between the two trees on the left that will allow water to drain and reduce erosion. (USDA Forest Service photos by Meghan Stan)*

## 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge

In 2017 the Forest Service released the National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, outlining 26 actions toward achieving a sustainable trail system. **Trail strategy Action 1.2 Implement 10-Year Trail Challenge** commits the Forest Service to launching a bold challenge, together with our partners, that increases our collective capacity to care for trails and increases on-the-ground results.