



PO Box 3431
Evergreen, CO 80439
www.fomelc.org

August 2019 Newsletter

Fire in Lost Creek Wilderness

Per the Park County Sheriff's Office the following trailheads have been closed as of August 26 due to the **Shawnee Peak Fire**: Ben Tyler, Brookside Payne Creek, North Fork, Long Gulch and Rock Creek Trailheads.



These trailheads should reopen soon after the fire is under control.
<https://psiccfireinfo.blogspot.com/>

Some Forests and Counties have gone into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Chairman:

Peter Vrolijk
Peter@fomelc.org

Trail Projects Coordinator:

Steve West
steve@fomelc.org

Weed Projects Coordinator:

Alan Rockwood
Alan@fomelc.org

Secretary:

Dee Lyons
dee@fomelc.org

Treasurer:

Matt Komos
Matt@fomelc.org

Webmaster Team Lead:

Alan@fomelc.org

Marketing/Education

Team: Gordon
Brown
Brownny327@yahoo.com

Trail Patrols & Hosts:

Dave Swinehart

Newsletter:

Dee Lyons
dee@fomelc.org

Forest Service Liaison

Ralph Bradt
rbradt@fs.fed.us

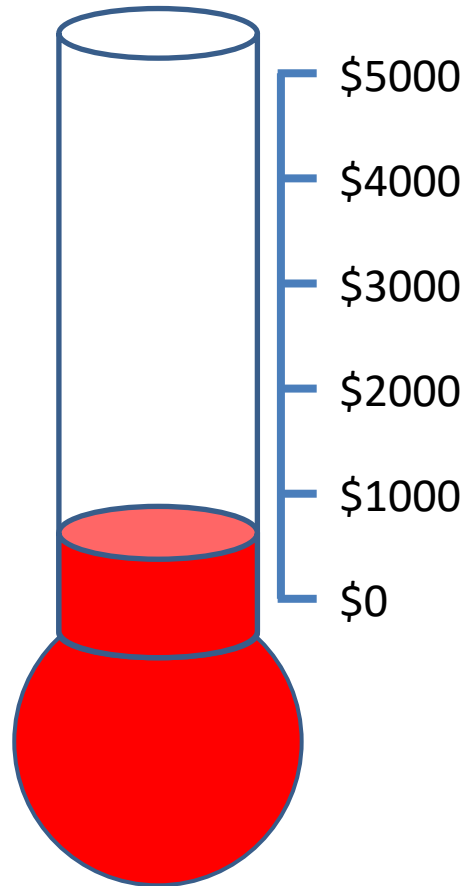
2019 Website Fundraising Status

Since the start of our fundraising campaign in July to fund the revamping of the FOMELC website, we have made modest progress toward our goal but still need substantial contributions. Please consider a donation of any size to help us reach this goal by the end of the year.

Please help us keep our website running by making a donation to FOMELC:

<http://www.fomelc.org/contribute>

Your contribution to our 501(c)3 organization is tax-deductible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Project Weeds: alan@fomelc.org

Project Trails: steve@fomelc.org

Project information will be updated with each newsletter

September:

- 1: Beartrack Lakes and Lincoln Lakes Canada Thistle(thru hikes) 2 Teams (Mt Evans Wilderness) Contact Alan
25: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm
Delia Malone, Wildlife Committee Chair, Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter, "Restoring the Natural Balance: The Vital Necessity of Reintroducing Wolves to Colorado"

October:

- 5: End of Season Party

September Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be 6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 25 at Evergreen Fire Rescue Station No. 2, 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen. We will have a special program for the evening presented by Delia Malone, Wildlife Chair, Colorado Chapter of the Sierra Club. Her presentation is entitled "Restore Wolves; Restore the Balance". This will include the video: "Canis Lupus Colorado". Ms. Malone is an ecologist, who has worked across Colorado conducting biological surveys for rare plants, animals and natural communities. She also serves on the science advisory team of the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project which has a campaign to restore gray wolves to the wild lands of Colorado's western slope. This promises to be a fascinating program and stimulate a lively discussion.



Interested in taking an active part in FOMELC operations? There are many behind-the-scenes tasks where administration help is needed. Board Secretary position also available. Contact admin@fomelc.org

Note from the Chair – By Peter Vrolijk

August started with a successful All Hand's Day, focusing on the Beaver Meadows trail in Mt. Evans. We had a crew out hunting and spraying the (ob)noxious orange hawkweed, yellow toadflax, and the usual thistle intruders. Another crew did a phenomenal job of restoring a section of eroded and incised trail, accomplishing much more than anyone expected while the last crew removed an unsightly stretch of barbed wire next to the trail. We also had our booth set up at the trailhead where we enjoyed a picnic at the end of the day. We are indebted to Jake and Mike (USFS) for leading the trail crews. I remember the day mostly for how much everyone enjoyed working together to achieve these accomplishments.

The high country has the look and feel of late summer – the first sparse yellow leaves are occurring on plants. I also notice the days getting shorter. There is still a lot of work to be done, lots of trails still to patrol, and we seem to be in a period where a day out is almost guaranteed to have fine weather. Please help us complete our surveys of all trails in both wildernesses. *Peter Vrolijk*



Peter on the Brookside-McCurdy trail below Bison Mountain, Lost Creek Wilderness

TRAILS – Steve West

SAVE THE DATE End Of Season Party

The Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness will be sponsoring an End of the Year volunteer appreciation and AG-Brookside Trail construction Party. The extravaganza will take place on **October 5 at the AG Ranch in Shawnee.**

Volunteers will continue constructing the new AG-Brookside trail during the day. Then starting at 5:00 the FOMELC Board will cook and provide dinner for all the volunteers and members.

So, mark your calendars for October 5th. Information will be provided in future communications.



(Trail markers indicating where the new construction of trail will take place)

All Hands Day June 29, 2019

Beaver Meadows Trail & Magic Valley



Thistle eradication in Magic Valley near Beaver Meadow Trail



Removal of several hundred feet of barbwire fence along Beaver Meadows Trail





Beaver Meadows Trail:

Crosscut for materials for check dams.

Trail Maintenance: Drainage Check dams (3)
Drainage Waterbars (4)



Special thanks to Rangers Jake & Mike
from Clear Creek Ranger Districts for
coming out to be Crew Leaders



FOMELC receives a Service Grant from Platte Canyon Community Partnership Resale-Boutique (PCCP)

Volunteers are needed to help support this grant by purchasing items from the Boutique during the month of August!

In conjunction with Platte Canyon Community Partnership (PCCP), Conifer Rotary Club and FOMELC, we held a Wilderness and LEAVE NO TRACE educational seminar with the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. We had 27 kids, 5 Boys and Girls Club staff members, 4 FOMELC members and 3 Forest Service Rangers. Super turnout! We conducted training in LNT principles, and “What the Wilderness Means to a Forest Ranger” , Interpretative hike reinforcing LNT and fed them lunch. Great time was had by all! FOMELC will receive a grant from PCCP for hosting this event base on their sales for August. Thanks to FOMELC members: Melanie, Dee, Charlotte and Gordon for their participation in hosting this event.

Special thanks to Rangers Dale and Marc from South Platte Ranger District for their participation in this event.



A hike on National Forest reinforces the morning classroom time of Leave No Trace Principles.
What does the word “Wilderness” mean?
How do you dig a cathole?
What does a Ponderosa Pine smell like?





FOMELC WEED ERADICATION PROGRAM

From the Noxious Weed Patch – *Alan*

The 2019 weed season is rapidly winding down. Our last projects of the year will be Sunday, September 1st with the through hikes for the Canada thistle at Resthouse “switchbacks” and upper Beartrack Lakes Trail. Right now, the weather looks outstanding for those treks. It was a different year with the very late snowpack persistence making it a short season. We also had three effective treatment projects in Lost Creek Wilderness for the first time – Rolling Creek, Hankins Pass/Goose Creek Trail corridor and East Wigwam Creek.

I want to focus my August comments on experiences from a treatment project on Friday, August 23rd. Bottom line is that wilderness stewardship is a “team sport.” One of the more remote sections in the Mount Evans Wilderness is the Cub Creek Trail between Truesdale Creek and the Lost Creek Trail junction. Last year, Peter Vrolijk reported several patches of Canada thistle in the blow down along the Trail. To get us and the gear there, Dan Lincoln (Backcountry Horsemen and FOMELC) and I decided to ride to the site on two of his horses. Beartrack Lakes Trail had been cleared earlier this year and Cub Creek was totally clear in 2018. Plus, two sawyers from the Forest Service (Jake and Mike) and Bill Klink and Dan Shier (Back Country Horsemen) set out Thursday morning on Cub Creek Trail to see if anything needed to be cleared. We had planned to meet Jake and Mike at Truesdale Creek Friday morning. About 3 miles up Beartrack Lakes, two downed trees blocked the trail. We found a way for the horses around the first requiring only my Silky. Using Dan’s 3’ crosscut saw we cleared the second. We made it to Truesdale Creek, lunched, and prepared to start spraying. Before we reached the first thistle infestation, we encountered two more trees blocking the trail, which we cleared. Around the next bend, there was another. We never met Jake and Mike. By then it was time to turn and head “to the barn”. We will have to start the treatment in 2020.

Fulfilling our mission requires current information from Trail Patrols, Trail Maintenance – clearing deadfall, corridors that accommodate horsemen, and a good tread for the horses themselves, then weed crews can do their jobs in the back country. All of our efforts are connected. Whether we are on the same project or not, we are the same team.





FOMELC Mission Statement:

The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses encompass 194,400 acres with over 170 miles of trails in Colorado's Pike and Arapaho National Forests.

We work in partnership with the US Forest Service, engaging in education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the wilderness character of these lands for current and future generations.

I Have a Question!

Got a general or specific trail question? Admin@fomelc.org email will go to all board members and one of us will get back to you.

How do I become a volunteer with FOMELC?

Check out our website to sign up. www.fomelc.org

Like your Newsletter?

Let Us know!

admin@fomelc.org