

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



September Photo Contest
Winner: **Teresa Golden**

"While sitting on a huge boulder in the tundra meadows near the two snow melt ponds near the top of Mt. Evans Summit, one nannie goat and her baby were walking along the cliff edge. The baby moved behind the mother and then walked in front of her to face me. Seconds later, they disappeared over the edge and out of site. What an exhilarating moment!"

Congratulations!

September Newsletter 2021

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FOMELC WEBSITE: <https://fomelc.org/>

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

The safety of our community is our top priority, and we are committed to doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 (aka coronavirus). We are closely monitoring guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), and how these might affect our programs. We are also coordinating with our US Forest Service partners to remain in compliance with their COVID-19 response guidelines. Stay Safe and Healthy!

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.

Friends of Mt Evans & Lost Creek Wildernesses
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“Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints!”
–Chief Si’ahl, Duwamish and Suquamish Nations



Note from the Chair – By Peter Vrolijk

Changing Seasons

A couple of weeks ago I noticed a chill on my arms even though I felt warm from trail running – fall must be coming. The appearance of the first golden aspen leaves confirms fall’s arrival, as does the early morning temperatures. When will we see the first snowflake?

I realize that I am filled with gratitude for all the volunteers who contributed to trail maintenance projects, invasive plant treatments, and trail patrols. I am especially grateful to those who participated multiple times and those who worked on different types of projects. The commitment to wilderness that our volunteers demonstrate through their actions is tremendous. Our last day solving tread erosion issues on the Payne Creek trail, our trail that we adopted for focused trail maintenance this year, brought out a crew of 15 people – the maximum number allowed in wilderness. And the final weed treatment project was over-subscribed, causing some to have to wait until next year.



Looking up the Rosalie trail toward Guanella Pass from Rosalie above the point where it crosses the Abyss Lake trail, Mount Evans Wilderness.

While none of this work serves as a panacea for the issues that the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses face from their heavy usage, our efforts at the very least help arrest wilderness degradation and in focused areas make progress in restoring wilderness character. We look with pride at the improvements on the Payne Creek trail and progress toward invasive plant eradication along the Beaver Meadows and Resthouse trails, among others.

Now is a good time to enjoy the essential qualities of wilderness, to look beyond the remaining work to be done and appreciate wilderness on its own merits. Thanks to everyone who contributed on projects – it was a pleasure working with every one of you, and together we accomplished a tremendous amount.

- Peter

September is National Wilderness Month

On August 31, President Biden issued a Proclamation declaring September 2021 to be National Wilderness Month!

Interested in reading more? [Click Here](#) to read the two-page Proclamation and learn more.



Mount Evans in early summer from the Cub Creek Trail beneath Rosedale Peak. Photo by Peter Vrolijk

Mount Evans Wilderness



Abyss Trail - photo by Guy Hoisington

America's Wilderness – A video created by the National Park Service and produced by Chuck Dunkerly.
In wild places there is incredible natural beauty and also an opportunity for personal reflection, inspiration, and growth. Learn about the landscapes and ideals of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

[AMERICA'S WILDERNESS](#)

NEW FOMELC MEMBERS FOR 2021

WIN A NEW OSPREY BACKPACK WITH A HYDRATION PACK!



One lucky guy and one lucky gal will win a new Osprey daypack at our “All Hands Day Event”!

Special thank you to Osprey for donating these 2 incredible daypacks!

We are working on an outdoor “All Hands Day” for this fall. This will be a short project day (2hrs or less), with a BBQ in the afternoon. Throw your name in the hat at this event for a chance to win! Details Upcoming in a separate email!

FOMELC Training Program Now Online!

Dee Lyons

The FOMELC Wilderness Training Program

A virtual online program for FOMELC volunteers

A Wilderness patrol with a FOMELC mentor is a part of the program.

The training is designed to be accomplished at your own pace.

Are you registered?

Contact: dee@fomelc.org

Trail Patrols

Survey123 Reports are coming in! Check the interactive map on our website.

Keep them coming! [FOMELC Interactive Map](#)

Please patrol with caution as certain hunting seasons have already started.

For more information, please visit the [Colorado Parks & Wildlife](#)

2021 Fire Restrictions

Know before you go! Colorado Fire Bans: <http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html>

August Payne Creek Adopt-A-Trail Project

By Dee Lyons (Assistant Trail Crew Leader)

Our trail work moved further up the Payne Creek Trail in August with 8 volunteers working to construct needed water drainage structures and remove downed trees from the trail. Some trail folks commonly refer to this type of work as “trail plumbing.” The volunteers constructed 2 drainage dips, 8 water bars and 4 check dams. Some of this trail is an old logging road so it is quite wide in areas, which produced a challenge in thinking outside the box for drainage construction.



We had an excellent turn out for the August trail project. A huge thank you to Robert and Annie Legrand, Greg Angstadt, Joe O’Leary, Bob Hunter, Dee Lyons, Ralph Bradt, and Peter Vrolijk for coming out to volunteer!

Watch the October newsletter for results of our final September work project on this trail.



*Bob & Annie Legrand, PeterVrolijk, Joe O’Leary Bob Hunter, Ralph Bradt, Greg Angstadt
Picture by Dee Lyons*



Special thank you to Front Range Backcountry Horsemen Dan Shier and Dan Lincoln for hauling our tools to the work site!

Picture by Peter Vrolijk



Peter and Joe completing a check step.

FROM THE WEED PATCH

Alan Rockwood

The noxious weed treatment of 2021 came to an end this past week. It was a strong finish to a challenging season. The weather created ideal conditions for our most aggressive invasive plants – musk thistle, Canada thistle and yellow toadflax. I must confess that volunteer participation started slow, but by August new volunteers were stepping up in a big way. On the last major project, Upper Beartrack Lakes Trail, we had to cap the number of volunteers.



Dan & Beth -not pictured -Lincoln hauling out thistle blossoms

The largest turnout of the season was at Pedee Creek with 13 volunteers. It is a big area to treat and needs all the volunteers we can get to deal with the musk thistle. The species is an extremely prolific seed producer and capable of explosive growth. We used both chemical and manual treatments harvesting the developed flower. Pedee Creek was finalized this past week when Dan and Beth Lincoln, members of both FOMELC and Front Range Backcountry Horsemen, came in with horses to pack out the 150# of thistle blossoms we harvested and bagged on August 14th. Then on September 18, Dan, Beth and horses went to the Vance Creek area of the Captain Mountain Trail to extract even more musk thistle blossoms bagged in early August. Peter Vroljik helped with this tough

but essential job.

On September 4th we (9 volunteers) were able to make the through hike from the Mt. Evans Road to the upper Beartrack Lakes Trail and down to Camp Rock. This year we found no evidence of Canada Thistle remaining on the highest mile of the trail. A few years ago, there was a series of dense infestations in this area. Half of the group made a second treatment of the large orange hawkweed infestation about midway to Camp Rock, and the other half of volunteers went on to treat an infestation of yellow toadflax and Canada thistle just above the wilderness boundary. It is an exciting hike across the alpine tundra and a great opportunity to make a difference in the high country!! We particularly thank our selfless “shuttle driver” that got us to our starting point at 13,500’ and picked us up at Camp Rock.



Thank you to our drivers, without them this project could not have happened. Paul Kane, Mary Franquemont, Loren and Dahl Winters and Candice’ Rockwood, who was not pictured here.

Thank you Loren and Dahl Winters, Paul Kane, Mary Franquemont, and Candice’ Rockwood.

Again, thanks to the “old timers” who have made FOMELC’s noxious weed program truly exceptional among “friends” organizations and a big welcome to our new volunteers that began participating in weed projects this season.

