

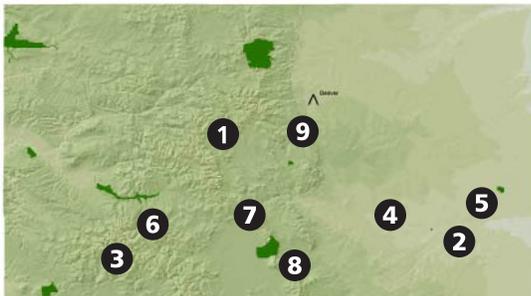


Colorado News



Autumn sunlight on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Trails Network

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative

2. Bent's New Fort Interpretation and Education Project

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Semmens Family Trust

3. Animas River Corridor Project

Town of Silverton, San Juan County, Mountain Studies Institute

4. Prairie Horizons Trail

Kiowa and Crowley County Communities, CDOT, Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation

5. Kiowa County Heritage Trails Plan

Kiowa County Historic Preservation Commission

6. Lake Fork River Enhancement

Lake Fork Watershed Stakeholders

7. Salida Union Pacific Trail
City of Salida

8. Huerfano County Trails Master Plan

Huerfano County

9. Bear Creek Watershed Project

Front Range Earth Force, AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps, University of Colorado at Denver, Groundwork Denver, City of Denver Parks and Recreation

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Trails and Training Coming to Reality in Silverton

As part of the recently completed Silverton Trail project, RTCA staff put on a one-day trails workshop. The workshop provided local trail enthusiasts with classroom and on-the-ground sessions on planning, building, and repairing existing trails. Over the course of the following weekend volunteers put their new skills to work and enhanced over 300 feet of existing trail.

The local trail advocates have also built approximately 500 feet of new trail in town. With the cooperation of the Town of Silverton, San Juan County, and the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, volunteers have built the first section of new crusher-fine trail that will connect the town's visitor center to the train depot and beyond. Interpretation and art will eventually be included along the length of the trail.

New Trail at Bent's Old Fort

There are several hundred feet of new trail on the ground at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. The park hosted the Range Riders chapter of the Public Land Corps to build boardwalk and Geo-cell trail as part of an NPS Centennial Challenge project. This is the first section of a two-mile-long Trading Territories interpretive trail that will be completed in the spring of 2009. The trail layout and design plan was provided by RTCA staff from Denver. Engineered drawings came from Intermountain Regional staff in Santa Fe. Funding for the trail was provided by the Centennial Challenge program and Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Current Projects

1. Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Trails Network

Location: Mosquito Range - South Park Region of Central Colorado
Congressional District: 5
Project Partner: Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
RTCA Contact: Kay Salazar

Project Goal

As part of their strategic plan, the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative is working to create a network of recreation opportunities and preserve popular access routes for recreational users while respecting the rights of private property owners. The outdoor recreation goals include identifying, mapping and improving trails, improving access to recreation corridors and promoting responsible recreation use.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help community partners and neighborhoods shape and support a collaborative planning process to resolve user conflicts, meet everyone's needs to access the outdoors and create a trails neighborhood plan. This neighborhood process may serve as a pilot project to steer



Hiker enjoying the view of the Mosquito Range. Photo: Cara Doyle

other neighborhoods in the area to work together on trail planning and development that will ultimately lead to a comprehensive trail system.

2. Bent's New Fort Interpretation and Education Project

Location: Southeastern Colorado
Partners: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Semmens Family Trust
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne

Project Goal

This historic site will be improved to some level and will be open to the public to interpret the rich history of southeastern Colorado. The goals include the development of directional and interpretive signage on the site, a system of walking trails around the remnants of the fort and down to the Arkansas River, and a public educational program that will get local school children to the fort to learn about another aspect of their heritage and history.

RTCA Role

RTCA staff will assist in creating a public participation strategy to aid in determining the design of the site and collaborate in developing a concept plan for the site and a circulation system that will include parking, support facilities, and interpretive trails.

3. Animas River Corridor Project

Location: Town of Silverton
Partners: Town of Silverton, San Juan County, Mountain Studies Institute
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne



Range Riders build boardwalk trail at Bent's Old Fort NHS

Project Goal

The goals of this project include building new trails in and around Silverton and employing adaptive re-use of abandoned lands to create an attractive regional park. The project also anticipates the interpretation, enhancement, and improvement of up to seven miles of the Animas River corridor, a historic area impacted by past mining practices.

RTCA Role

Provide assistance in the design of the proposed park area and trail system. Advise local advocates on public outreach strategies and facilitate public meetings and outreach to partners.

4. Prairie Horizons Trail

Location: Along State Highway 96 in Southeastern Colorado

Partners: Kiowa and Crowley County Communities, CDOT, Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation
RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan

Project Goal

To make the trail the most memorable and enjoyable segment of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, to improve trail safety for cyclists through highway improvements, and to provide necessary amenities for cyclists including showers, restrooms, shelters, access to water, and emergency call boxes.

RTCA Role

Lead in the completion of a planning document including identifying current issues and potential solutions, help develop concept designs for

“The participation of RTCA...is considered to be most important to this project”

- Nancy Moore, Chairman
Prairie Horizons Trail Committee



Kiowa County residents identify historic resources on maps

community amenities and trail location alternatives, coordinate with multiple entities and continue to build a broad coalition of supporters and partners to help implement desired changes.

5. Kiowa County Heritage Trails Plan

Location: Kiowa County
Lead Partner: Kiowa County Historic Preservation Commission
RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan

Project Goal

Project partners will develop a plan for trails that will link historic, recreational, agricultural, geologic, natural, cultural and scenic resources and make resources accessible to residents and tourists. The planning process will help to make county residents aware of resources, create a sense of stewardship and pride in the resources, and reinforce the County's sense of its identity relative to the County's history.

RTCA Role

RTCA will lead the planning of a public workshop to help determine trail alignments based on previous resource inventories. Assist in development of a plan document as content is created, coordinate between multiple agencies, and identify and incorporate necessary resource experts.

6. Lake Fork River Enhancement

Location: Lake Fork of the Gunnison River and Henson Creek, Lake City, Colorado

Congressional District: 3

Project Partner: Lake Fork Watershed Stakeholders

RTCA Contact: Kay Salazar

Project Goal

In 2003, the Lake Fork Watershed Stakeholders was created to better understand the resources and historic impacts within the watershed along with the future demands of increased



Taking preliminary measurements on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison

Current Projects cont.

growth and recreational use. A collaborative, community effort was initiated to explore opportunities and options to help solve these issues. The primary goal of this project is to improve the ecological function and natural design of the Lake Fork and Henson Creek in the Lake City area. In addition, fishing and boating enhancements will be considered in the planning effort.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help develop a collaborative plan to guide project partners in reaching their goal to improve the ecological function of both rivers and enhance recreation opportunities. RTCA will assist in strategic public engagement in cooperation with project partners and target outreach to landowners, boating and fishing interests and other key stakeholders.

7. Salida Union Pacific Trail

Location: Along the Arkansas River in downtown Salida, Colorado
Congressional District: 5
Partner: City of Salida
RTCA Contact: Kay Salazar

Project Goal

The intent of the City of Salida is to construct a trail that would link the existing trail network to downtown and modify an existing drainage culvert for pedestrian and bicycle access to the "S" Mountain, a popular recreation area, to the north of downtown. Working with Union Pacific in creating a solution to help eliminate social use and trespassing on railroad property would be beneficial for both entities. The City would secure access to the Arkansas River corridor, connect the existing trail system and provide entrance to the "S" Mountain, and Union Pacific would protect their property and rail line and reduce trespassing.

RTCA Role

In addition to assisting with trail planning, RTCA will help plan productive communication strategies for the City and project partners to consult with Union Pacific. Researching potential funding sources and assisting with public engagement are other areas of assistance.

8. Huerfano County Trails Master Plan

Location: Huerfano County
Lead Partner: Huerfano County
RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan

Project Goal

This project will create a plan to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources while making those resources accessible to visitors. The plan will illustrate possibilities for an interconnected system of trails, open space and parks in Huerfano County.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in developing a process for gathering data on county resources, oversee the overall planning process including the public process, and coordinate with multiple agencies and entities.

9. Bear Creek Watershed Project

Location: From Mt. Evans to the South Platte River, Denver Metro Area
Partners: Front Range Earth Force, AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps, University of Colorado at Denver, Groundwork Denver, City of Denver Parks and Recreation
RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan

Project Goal

To create a groundswell of activity in the Bear Creek Watershed related to engaging kids in the natural world with the goals of creating on-the-ground conservation success while cultivating the next generation of conservation stewards. To provide young people with a continuum of conservation experiences by creating pipelines through existing programs and opening paths to eventual conservation careers.

RTCA Role

Coordinate planning process among multiple entities, identify on-the-ground conservation projects for young people to be involved in and support land managers in engaging young people in conservation work.



Young Bear Creek Watershed residents plant trees along Bear Creek

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

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THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

52-85 Trail Master Plan Bears Fruit for Communities

Collaborative regional planning is paying off for five Colorado communities after the completion of the 52-85 Trail Master Plan. With RTCA assistance, the communities of Firestone, Frederick, Dacono, Fort Lupton and Brighton have completed a regional plan for a segment of the Colorado Front Range Trail. The plan has been incorporated into other community planning documents and is being adopted by councils and boards as a guiding document. In the City of Brighton, the 52-85 Trail Master Plan helped secure a \$425,000 construction grant from the Colorado State Trails program.

Groundwork Denver Visits the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

The Groundwork Denver Green Team recently got the chance to explore and learn about the rare wonders of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and help National Park Service staff maintain this unique site. Green Team members helped NPS rangers install sandboxes as part of an interactive learning experience for young students. Team members also helped rangers install marker posts along a trail, an attraction at of the monument.

The Green Team learned some history during a tour of the Hornbek Homestead. They listened to ancient stories of redwood forests, volcanic eruptions, and the prehistoric climate. Team members also learned about early scientific discoveries and heard the histories of prehistoric hunting and gathering Paleo-Indians, the Ute and Jicarilla Apache peoples, and the pioneers. The GW Denver Green Team will continue visiting Colorado national parks throughout the summer and keep working to make a difference in their city.



NPS Ranger introduces Groundwork Denver Green Team to Florissant Fossil Beds