United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Volunteer Program Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

Updated 2/25/15

Dear Potential Volunteer Group,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Rocky Mountain National Park!

Rocky is home to one of the most dynamic and hard-working volunteer programs in the National Park Service. Each year, Rocky utilizes volunteer groups to augment paid-staff on various projects during the summer. It's a great way for the park to get work done AND the groups to learn a lot about their park through service.

In 2014, over 1,000 volunteers served at Rocky by taking part in a group volunteer opportunity. These groups came from our neighboring towns in Colorado or other parts of the country to serve a day or more in the park. We offer opportunities for groups ranging in size from 2-25 (depending on the project and including any adult leaders). If your group is smaller or larger than the posted size, or you have members of the group that are under the age limit, please contact the volunteer office directly to see if we can accommodate you. We're willing to get creative to accommodate your group.

Some things to keep in mind when planning a day of volunteering in Rocky:

Weather and Required Attire:

1. For all projects, we ask that the volunteers **wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and closed-toed shoes or boots**. We also ask that groups come prepared for a day of work by bringing a **backpack** with plenty of water, food, a hat and sunscreen and clothes appropriate for the weather. A backpack with a waist band is recommended for trail projects.
2. Check the weather conditions and come prepared. In the summer months, it might rain, become very windy or even very cold at higher elevations. In contrast, your day of service might be during a warm spell in the park. It's your responsibility to check the weather and plan accordingly.
3. Rocky Mountain National Park is a high-elevation park ranging from 7,600 to over 14,000 feet above sea-level. Most volunteer work takes place between 7,600 and 12,000 feet in elevation. Keep this in mind when planning your work here… make sure that you get accustomed to the elevation before your scheduled work day.
4. 2. Volunteer groups bringing children need to provide **one adult leader for every five volunteers** under the age of 18.

Cancellation Policy:

1. Projects may change depending on the current needs of the park, weather conditions, a fire or staffing changes. Your group will be notified a week in advance if your project is scheduled to change. If **YOUR GROUP SUDDENLY NEEDS TO CANCEL** after committing to a project, remember

that many park staff have been counting on your arrival and it is your responsibility to notify the park **ASAP**. You will need to call the phone numbers that are provided in your volunteer packets.

Camping and Entrance into the Park:

1. We may be able to provide your group with free camping in the Administrative Loop of Moraine Park Campground. For every four hours of service, groups may be eligible for one night of camping. Free group camping is based on availability. Please see the camping section of the group application form (to follow) to request your camping. Also note that all group members staying in the Moraine Park Admin Loop campsites will be required to participate in the volunteer work. Volunteer groups must provide all of their own camping equipment.
2. The volunteer office will provide the group with a free entrance pass to the park for the dates of service (this will be mailed or emailed to the group point of contact ahead of time). The supervisors of the groups will provide leadership, tools and equipment for the projects as well as any safety equipment necessary. Additionally, a short orientation and safety briefing is given prior to your group starting work.

Once you have considered the above information, and would like to volunteer at Rocky, please have a look at the catalog of opportunities to follow. Using the specific group size and age requirements for each project, apply for the project(s) that your group is qualified for. Please also provide an alternative project (or two) in the case that your first choice has already been assigned a group. Using the attached group application form, please provide all of the required information, and submit the form via email, mail to the volunteer office. Upon receipt, you will receive an email or call from the volunteer office for confirmation as well as to give you an idea of if/when your project will be scheduled.

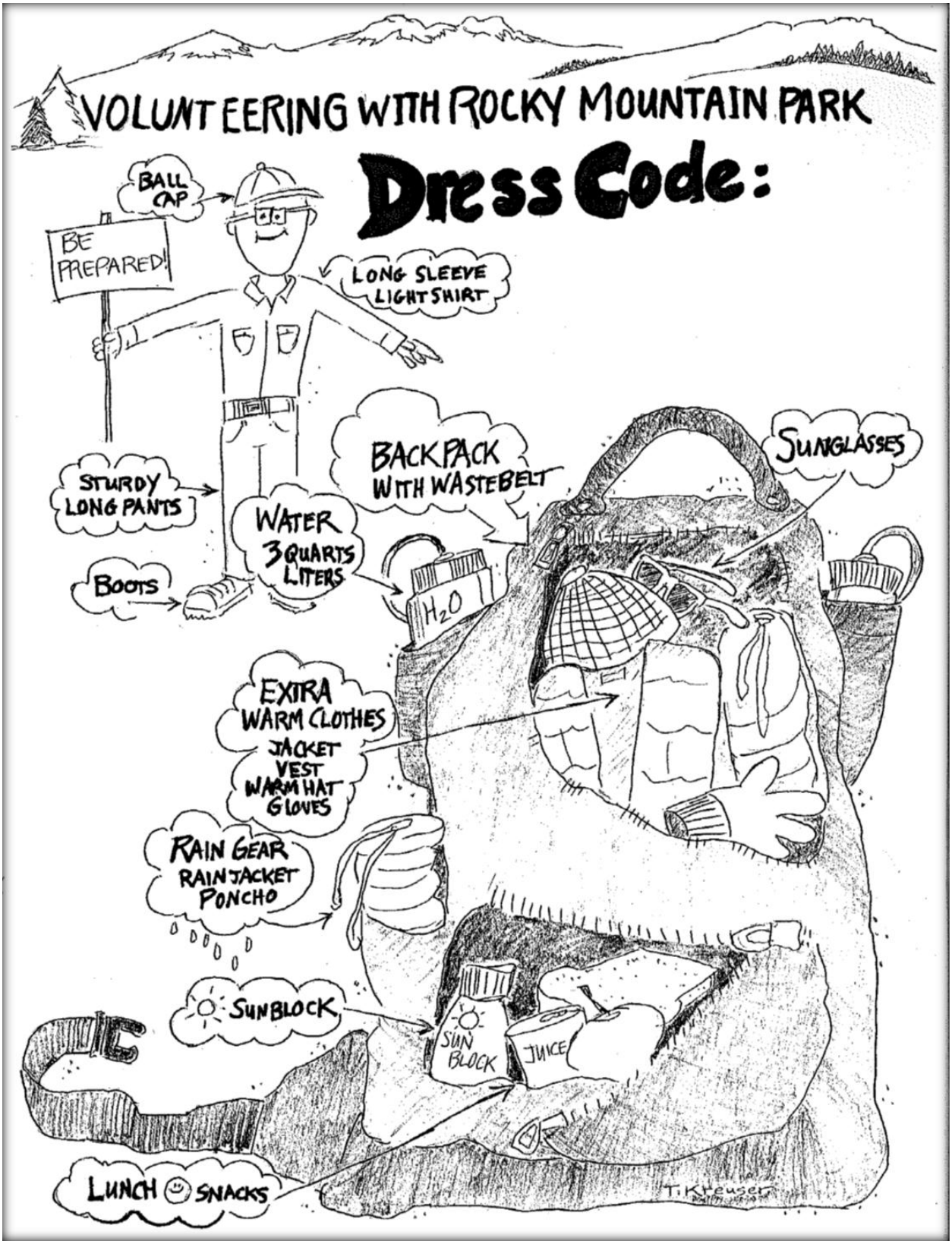
Remember, an application does not guarantee a project. Please wait for paperwork from the volunteer office before making plans for your project. Group projects will be assigned in the order that the applications are received.

For questions on the group volunteer program at Rocky Mountain:

Call: 970-586-1372
Email: romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov
Mail: Volunteer Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
1000 Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517
Website: http://www.nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm

Thank you again for your interest in volunteering with your group at Rocky!

Sincerely,
Zephyr McConnell
Volunteer Groups Coordinator
Rocky Mountain National Park


VOLUNTEERING WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK
Dress Code:
BALL CAP
BE PREPARED!
LONG SLEEVE LIGHT SHIRT
STURDY LONG PANTS
BOOTS
WATER 3 QUARTS LITERS
BACKPACK WITH WASTEBELT
SUNGLASSES
EXTRA WARM CLOTHES JACKET VEST WARM HAT GLOVES
RAIN GEAR RAIN JACKET PONCHO
SUNBLOCK
SUN BLOCK
JUICE
LUNCH SNACKS
T. Kreuser

The following is a list of group volunteer projects planned for the spring, summer and early fall of 2015. Please check each specific project regarding group size and age limitations. Apply for the project(s) that meet your group's qualifications, interest and availability.

VEGETATION

Description: Projects are ongoing.

Help park revegetation staff plant native plants in one of several restoration sites. Sites may vary from alpine Tundra to montane meadows to campgrounds and roadsides. Volunteers are needed to spread topsoil, rake and prepare planting surfaces, install erosion control, sow seeds, harvest willows, plant native plants, and water restoration sites.

OR Help the park's greenhouse staff grow tens of thousands of native plants for restoration projects throughout the park. Volunteers are needed to transplant seedlings into larger pots, water native plants, clean seeds, mix soil and help with general upkeep of the nursery. Actual duties will depend on the varying needs of the greenhouse at the time of the project.

OR Invasive plants are spreading throughout the park and are crowding out native species and reducing high quality wildlife habitat. Help the park's invasive species control staff remove invasive exotic plants. Most sites are in the montane regions of the park, consisting of campgrounds, roadsides, and also meadows with sweeping vistas. Volunteers are needed to hand pull invasive plants from the ground, dig up plants with a shovel, and clip and bag flower heads of certain species.

Group Size: 4-20

Minimum Age: 13

Dates of projects: Mondays-Thursdays, June 22nd through September 24th (except holidays)

Time: 8:00-4:00 (flexible)

Conditions and Safety:

Volunteers must perform all tasks in a safe manner using the appropriate tools for the task and wearing the necessary personal protective gear required for the task. Work tools, gloves and safety vests will be provided by the NPS work leader. Care must be exercised when working on/off-trail and near rivers/streams. Work will take place outdoors and working conditions will be variable. Volunteers should dress appropriately for the work & weather: long pants, long sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes/boots etc. Work typically involves hiking over uneven, potentially rocky and wet, slippery terrain. Potential hazards

include exposure to scratchy or thorny vegetation, irritating vegetation (i.e. knapweed), biting or stinging insects, wildlife, allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, etc.) and other hazards typical of outdoor work environments. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion may be required. Project may require ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

LOG HAULING

Description:
Help the staff in the seasonal moving of logs to help protect park resources including vegetation and wildlife. The main duties are:
1. Move logs from Horseshoe Park to Moraine Park.
2. Place along approved roadways and distances.
3. Work well with park staff and other volunteers.
4. Follow all safety guidelines.
5. Help with traffic control while logs are moved.

Conditions and Safety:
Log hauler volunteers may utilize a variety of tools if needed. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be utilized at all times. Much of this work is physically demanding and involves lifting up to 40 pounds and is done at elevations between 8,000 and 9,000 feet. Work is a one to two day operation in August. The VIP uniform is not required.
Group Size: 5-15
Minimum Age: 12
Date of project: 8/26/15
Time: ½ day
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

TRAILS PROJECTS

Description:
Assist Rocky Mountain's Trail Crew with a variety of trail projects for the summer. Projects vary and may include: flood recovery and tread repair on all of the park's accessible front-country trails, including Sprague Lake, Lily Lake and Bear Lake. Volunteers might be doing trail repair / reconstruction, digging with a shovel, use of picks and Pulaski's, root removal and possible log check / water bar construction, digging drains, doing temporary heavy lifting while moving logs into place with timber tongs, using word-working skills and use of traditional hand tools. Volunteer may potentially hike up to 10 miles in one day.
Conditions and Safety:
This usually is a 8am-5:30pm project and requires hiking at elevation while doing physical labor. Must be able to hike long distances and do physical work. Moderate to Strenuous work (can be catered to group size, their goals, demographic, etc.) **Trails Projects require hiking and being away from toilet facilities all day. Groups are responsible to bring plenty of food and at least 3 liters of water per person. No exceptions unless otherwise informed by park supervisor.**
Group Size: 2-20 (ideally 5-10)

Minimum Age: 14
Dates of project: Mondays-Thursdays from May 25th – October (depending on first snow and except holidays).
Time: 8:00-5:30
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

CAMPRGROUND PROJECT

Description:
Help our campground staff with maintenance of tent pads prior to our busy summer season! Volunteers will be removing rocks and other debris from the tent pads along with the help of our campground rangers.
Conditions and Safety: Light lifting, walking on uneven terrain outside in a variety of weather conditions
Group Size: 2-20
Minimum Age: 9
Dates: May (except holiday)
Time: 9am-3pm (flexible)
Note: This project is weather-dependent. If Rocky gets mid-May snowfall, the volunteer project might be changed to something more suitable for the weather.
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

FIRE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

Description:
Help Rocky's Firefighters keep Rocky safe! We're looking for volunteers to assist our fire crews with fuel reduction projects. Downed trees, limbs and branches need to be collected and piled up to be later burned or removed to create defensible space around the park! Volunteers might be hiking up to ½ mile to get to the work site, then walking around, bending over and picking up branches, logs and sticks and putting them in piles. This is a very important project to help the park and the surrounding community.
Group Size: 5-25 (possibly more)
Minimum Age: 12
Dates: May 26th-July 31st (7 days per week except holidays)
Time: 8am-4pm (flexible)
Note: This project might change depending on the weather, or if our firefighters are called to an active wildfire.
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

GENERAL (OPEN, VARIOUS PROJECTS)

Description:
Painting: Help Rocky Mountain staff paint benches at our amphitheater! This project involves painting the bench seats at Glacier Basin Camp Ground Amphitheater. All safety procedures will be covered ahead of time and the park will provide paint shirts and gloves. Painting skills aren't required but would be helpful.

Various Maintenance Projects: Help Rocky Mountain staff with a variety of Maintenance tasks from building benches, fencing, assists with carpentry or other odd jobs that are essential for the park. Tasks vary and are numerous! Be ready for anything!
Group Size: 5-10
Minimum Age: 8
Dates: Open (except weekends and holidays)
Time: 9am-4pm (flexible)
Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Group may need to provide own transportation to and from work sites.

Rocky Mountain National Park
2015 Volunteer Group Application

Group Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Group Contact Person: _____

Address of Contact: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

_____

_____ Email Address: _____

Age(s) of Group Members (min-max): _____ Total Number of Volunteers (estimate, including leaders): _____

Has this group volunteered in Rocky Mountain in the past? YES ☐ NO ☐
Does the group have the required equipment? (Backpacks, cold weather gear, water bottles ect.)? YES ☐ NO ☐

List preferred projects / dates/ **in order of preference:** (We encourage you to list more than one project option, as your first choice may not be available).

	Volunteer Work Date/s	**Project Name**	**Arrival Date**	**Departure Date**	**Campsites needed? (yes or no)**
1st Choice					
2nd Choice					
3rd Choice					

Please use the space below to provide additional information, including: relevant skill sets/experience, preferences about projects, special needs, etc.

Submit application(s) to:
Email: romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov
Mail: Volunteer Office
Rocky Mountain National Park
1000 Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517
Questions? Call 970-586-1372/1330

Privacy Act Statement

Collection and use is covered by Privacy Act System of Records OPM/GOVT-1 and USDA/OP-1, and is consistent with the provisions of 5 USC 552a (Privacy Act of 1974), which authorizes acceptance of the information requested on this form. The data will be used to maintain official records of volunteers of the USDA and USDI. Furnishing this data is voluntary, however if this form is incomplete, enrollment in the program may not proceed.

For Official Use:

Date Application Received:_____ Date Campground Approval (if applicable):_____

Date Supervisor Contacted:_____ Date Paperwork sent to Group:_____

Date Supervisor Approval:_____ /Or Reason for Not Approving:_____

Notes:

May 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 **Fire Fuels**	27 **Fire Fuels**	28 **Fire Fuels**	29 **Fire Fuels**	30 **Fire Fuels**
31 **Fire Fuels**						

June 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation	2 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation	3 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation	4 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation	5 Fire Fuels	6 Fire Fuels
7 Fire Fuels	8 Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	9 Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	10 Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	11 Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	12 Fire Fuels	13 Fire Fuels
14 Fire Fuels	15 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	16 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	17 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	18 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	19 Fire Fuels	20 Fire Fuels
21 Fire Fuels	22 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	23 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	24 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	25 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	26 Fire Fuels	27 Fire Fuels
28 Fire Fuels	29 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	30 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)				

July 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	2	3	4 Fire Fuels
5 Fire Fuels	6 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	7 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	8 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	9 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	10 Fire Fuels	11 Fire Fuels
12 Fire Fuels	13 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	14 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	15 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	16 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	17 Fire Fuels	18 Fire Fuels
19 Fire Fuels	20 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	21 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	22 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	23 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	24 Fire Fuels	25 Fire Fuels
26 Fire Fuels	27 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	28 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	29 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	30 Trails Project Fire Fuels Vegetation General (Open)	31 Fire Fuels	

August 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	4 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	5 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	6 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	7	8
9	10 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	11 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	12 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	13 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	14	15
16	17 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	18 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	19 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	20 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	21	22
23	24 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	25 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	26 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open) Log Hauling	27 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	28	29
30	31 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)					

September 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Trails Project Vegetation	2 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	3 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	4	5
6	7	8 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	9 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	10 Vegetation General (Open)	11	12
13	14 Vegetation General (Open)	15 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	16 Vegetation General (Open)	17 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	18	19
20	21 Vegetation General (Open)	22 Trails Project Vegetation General (Open)	23 Vegetation General (Open)	24 Trails Project General (Open)	25	26
27	28 General (Open)	29 General (Open)	30 General (Open)			

October 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	2	3
4	5 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	6 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	7 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	8 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	9	10
11	12	13 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	14 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	15 **Trails Project** **General (Open)**	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31