



treadlines

NEWS FROM THE COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Colorado Trail
Foundation

WINTER 2012



THE COLORADO TRAIL'S New "Collegiate West" 80

A major expansion of The Colorado

Trail is underway: 80 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the Collegiate Peaks area, previously built and maintained by the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and affiliates, have been officially added to the CT.

While total CT mileage will expand to 566 miles, the new route, known as Collegiate West, will not extend the end-to-end length of the 486-mile Trail. It will, however, offer users with an exciting alternative to the existing route.

and southeast of Monarch Pass in the south. The new route, which will receive new segment designations, includes such landmarks as the beautiful Hope Pass and Lake Ann.

"It's all very exciting," said CTF Executive Director Bill Manning, who noted the new mileage is a natural fit for the CT which has long shared 234 miles of tread with the CDNST.

Adding the Collegiate West 80 also creates a great new 160-mile Collegiate Loop that is bound to become one of most popular long hikes in Colorado, Manning predicts, and not only for its high-elevation route and spectacular views of the Collegiate Peaks from both the east and west.

"Loop hikers can park at Twin Lakes – or anywhere else along the loop – and not have to worry about shuttling vehicles," he said. There are also good resupply spots – Twin Lakes, Buena Vista, Mount Princeton Hot Springs, and Salida – along the route.

It is expected that the loop will mainly appeal to hikers and horseback riders. Mountain bikers might not choose it because of the lengthy detours required.

Long discussed by the CTF Board of Directors, the genesis for the addition of the Collegiate West 80 came during the retreat in May. The demise of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and its role in maintaining and upgrading the CDNST added impetus to the idea of taking on the additional responsibility.

It didn't hurt, either, that "Mother of the Colorado Trail" Gudy Gaskill, who attended the retreat, voiced her enthusiastic support for the expansion.

Manning noted that adding the new route to the Trail harks back to the roots of the CTF and its long-held concept of creating a Colorado Trail "system." The Forest Service signed off on the addition this summer.

Now, the real work begins.

Office staff and Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator Janet Farrar are already lining up Adopters for the new 80 miles, much of which is being rerouted and rehabilitated as part of an intense, multi-year project involving crews from the Forest Service, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Southwest Conservation Corps, Buena Vista Correctional Facility, and the CTF.



That route, now called Collegiate East, includes the second half of Segment 11 through the first half of Segment 15, beginning in the north near Twin Lakes

Tread Lines is the newsletter of The Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published twice a year.

The Colorado Trail® is 566 miles long in the Rocky Mountains between Denver and Durango. It has been described as one of the best trails anywhere, one of the most scenic and among the best maintained. The Trail is a favorite of enthusiasts who hike, mountain bike and ride horseback.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation funded almost entirely by private sector individuals and companies. Our mission is to keep The Colorado Trail in good condition, maintaining and improving it with the help of many volunteers. We recruit and train volunteers, provide leadership, organize The Colorado Trail ("CT") work crews, supply and support the crews, and manage the Adopt-A-Trail program to accomplish annual maintenance on the entire Trail. We also conduct week-long supported treks on the CT and distribute information about The Colorado Trail and Trail Crews. We work in cooperation with public agencies and acknowledge great support from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Region. Donations are needed, much appreciated and tax deductible Non-profit ID #84-1057336.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Update

A JOYFUL ROUTE TO MY FINAL MILES



It has been a great year for The Colorado Trail Foundation. Donors have sustained the effort and CTF volunteers have maintained the Trail. The organization

is in good shape and our annual mission accomplished. You'll read more about that in this newsletter, plus you'll find a summary of our 2012 accomplishments online at ColoradoTrail.org/accomplish2012.html.

This year was also a milestone for me personally as I finally completed The Colorado Trail. What a great experience.

My completion effort began in earnest three years ago even though I first stepped foot on the CT in 1986. As the CTF Director since 2006, I thought it was high time I see it all. In 2010, I set my sights on completing the trail, having already traveled about 200 miles of it on foot or bike. I began planning and training to hike the rest. I found that using hiking poles really helped me, especially my ankles and knees, so I began using them on every hike. And, as I know that footwear is possibly the single most important consideration, I experimented and found that lightweight trail hikers worked well for me. My training hikes were great. I enjoyed building up to longer jaunts and loved my time in the peaceful outdoors. The goal of completing the CT was providing joy already.

Off we went on the CT. In 2010, my girlfriend **Judy Bolis** and I did a series of CT day hikes on segments between Denver and the Collegiate Peaks. For several of these adventures Judy dropped me off at a segment division and then drove to the other end. We hiked toward each other until we met, then hiked to the car. I got to complete each segment and she got the shorter hike she wanted. It was brilliant. Our favorite hike was Copper Mountain to Camp Hale. I completed about 100 more CT miles this way.

In 2011 friends encouraged a backpacking trip. I hadn't been backpacking in decades, so I wasn't sure whether my back and joints would handle it well. But I trained carefully, gradually building up my backpack weight and hiking distance. My body got used to the extra weight. I dusted off my old gear and bought some new. Again, I found that just getting ready was fun. Three of us began in Segment 17 and hiked 70 miles to Mount Princeton Hot Springs for a celebratory soak. All went well. My careful training paid off and my body did fine.

Also in 2011, I completed 18 miles on horseback, or mule rather. It was a September day made spectacular by aspens turned golden. CTF Office Manager Aimée O'Malley and I were grateful that our host, **Harold DeWalt** of

Deer Valley Ranch, had made this possible. I'd forgotten what a treat it is to sightsee without needing to watch your step.

Good friends then began planning a 106-mile hike for 2012, which would polish off my final miles in one big push. Many thanks go to CTF Board Chairman **Steve Staley**, a two-time CT Completer who took the lead. We blocked off 12 days in August for the hike and Steve planned our daily mileage so we would camp near water each night. We would resupply in Lake City to reduce the food weight we'd carry. Travel and lodging plans were made.

Setting this goal was exciting for me and the training hikes again were a really enjoyable part of my year. In early August, off we went - Staley, **Bruce Peterson**, **Gerry VanderBeek**, **Sean Hurley**, **Tim Burroughs**, **Dan Cohen**, and me. We referred to the trip as "Bill's Last Mile." What a blast.

We began in Segment 17 and walked toward the Animas River in Segment 24. This is the highest and hardest part of the CT. You can see each climb coming and, at around 12,000 feet in elevation, each ascent takes its toll. Well worth it, though: The views are spellbinding. Up and down, mile after mile, day after day, immersed in "the great outdoors." I found the multiday aspect especially rewarding. Mother Nature was calming and rejuvenating. CTF supporter, **Dan Bereck**, joined us for part of the hike. We met wonderful people along the trail, sharing our enjoyment.

I found the hike to be challenging, but everything went smoothly. Approaching the end I had the feeling of tremendous accomplishment. It takes serious energy to tackle The Colorado Trail. Altogether worthwhile: from setting the goal, to training, planning, creating memories with friends, and immersing oneself in the Rocky Mountains.

Go get on the CT; I highly recommend it.



- CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

This fall, volunteer **Loren Woods** hiked the new route, installing Colorado Trail markers along its length.

Now, with assistance from CTF Board Member **Jerry Brown**, a professional surveyor from Durango who has hiked and mapped not only The Colorado Trail but also the entire 3,000-mile Continental Divide National Scene Trail, graphics expert **Valerie Miller**, and **Mal Sillars**, whose long-term involvement and local knowledge has been an incredible help, Manning is preparing a new databook that will include the Collegiate West 80 as well as updated information on the existing trail. Publication is planned for early in 2013.

A new map book from Brown also will be available soon, Manning said, but revisions to the latest edition of the official guidebook, published last year, will be some time off. Plenty of information on the new route will be available online, however, as well as in the new data and map books, he said.

Board chairman Steve Staley remarked that, "Foundation supporters and volunteers are congratulated on this new 80-mile addition. Their past and continued involvement made it possible."



SHUTTLE DRIVERS *Needed*

Trail users frequently contact the CT office in Golden seeking rides to or from the Denver or Durango trailheads and elsewhere along the Trail. We try to accommodate by referring them to a list volunteer shuttle drivers we keep on file. But additional drivers are always needed, particularly in the Durango area.

If you are able and willing to offer rides to hikers, bikers, and other users, please contact Executive Director Bill Manning or Office Manager Aimée O'Malley by phone, 303-384-3729, or e-mail, ctf@ColoradoTrail.org, and add your name to the list. It's a great way to make new friends and talk Colorado Trail.

TREKKERS ENJOY THE *High Life*

"Great latrine views and the shower is awesome!"

Now, if that isn't a four-star recommendation for the Colorado Trail Foundation Trekking Program, we're not sure what is.

Okay, how about this? In a survey of trekkers on their overall satisfaction with the food, meals and menu choices, camp set-up, and staff and guides, the program, led by **Chris and Jeanne Szczech** of **Colorado Mountain Expeditions**, scored 4.9 out of 5.

The Szczechs (pronounced "zeck") and their guides led nine weeklong supported treks spanning the length of the CT. The 107 trekkers in 2012 represented 21 states, Canada – even one from France.

Trail days can be strenuous, but with backpacks shuttled ahead to the next camp, the big shelter set up by staff, appetizers, cold drinks, "backcountry gourmet" dinners, and showers awaiting weary hikers, who's complaining?

TAKE IT FROM THE TREKKERS THEMSELVES:

- » *"I couldn't believe the amount of fresh food, especially fruits and veggies. The chopping required every night was impressive!"*
- » *"Amazingly well done. The campsites were always in great places, and the shower was the ultimate luxury. Not having to carry everything is what makes this trail possible, for most of us."*
- » *"Great staff. Everyone always had a smile and something good to say."*
- » *"It exceeded all of my expectations. Thanks for a great trip!"*

Jeanne and Chris plan to start taking reservations for next summer's trek on Dec. 1. Check the CTF website for more information.



Adopters, HELPERS CONQUER 'HERCULEAN' TASK

Ten times normal. The "Great Blowdown of 2012" made it a year to remember for Trail Adopters and their helpers, who faced the daunting task this spring of removing hundreds of trees toppled by high winds since the last hiking season. Over some stretches the CT was completely impassable.

But what looked like a project that could take months to accomplish was handled in a few short weeks, often days, as Adopters, with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, rallied dozens of volunteers to chop, saw and clear the trail in time for users to hop on this spring.

"We don't need no professionals. We don't need no stinking chainsaws. The call to action was answered by a wonderful community of friends of the CT, who accomplished this noteworthy task with haste and panache," wrote **Steve Combs**, an Adopter in Segment 12 who headed up the cleanup in his particularly hard-hit section in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area south of Twin Lakes.

He applauded the 43 volunteers who spent 475 hours clearing 296 trees, calling their efforts "herculean."

Combs' crew wasn't alone.

South of Combs' area, west of Buena Vista, longtime Adopters **Jon and Marilyn Greeneisen** and their helpers "cut and removed 61 trees, cleaned 41 water bars, cut back foliage, removed rock, and nailed up two trail markers" to get their section open for the season.

In addition, they said, in early May the Forest Service cut some 40 large trees that had been blown down and were blocking the Trail. "Kudos to the USFS for their quick response to our call for help," they reported to the CTF office.

Of course, tree removal is a yearly task for most of the CT's 63 Adopters and 161 Adopter Helpers, who maintain 64 Adopter sections ranging from 1.6 to 16.8 miles in length and typically are the first on the ground in the spring checking out and assessing trail conditions.

But this year was particularly bad in many sections. The Salida Ranger District, for example, reported removing some 3,000 trees by late July. In a normal year, district personnel said, the count is around 300.

Janet Farrar, Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, said CT Adopters reported removing more than 1,100 trees in all from the Trail, spending nearly 3,000 hours doing that and other work, including repairing rockslides, replacing and adding signage, and performing erosion control.



Our Growing 'FACE' ON FACEBOOK

With more than 2,700 "Likes," The Colorado Trail Foundation's Facebook page is increasingly becoming a go-to place for information about the Trail.

The CT's Facebook friends share tips, trail conditions, photos and videos, and other useful tidbits.

Administered by Executive Director Bill Manning and CTF Board Member Blake Welch, the page is a great source for all things having to do with Trail.

If you're a Facebook user, check us out.

TRAIL CREWS – *Missions Accomplished!*

The Colorado Trail Foundation sent out 12 crews – 11 weeklong and one weekend – this summer to build bridges, clear new tread, and otherwise tune up the trail. As usual, due to the enthusiasm of crew volunteers and the expertise and encouragement of crew leaders, it was mission – make that missions – accomplished.

Most noticeable – and notable – are three new bridges, one over Guller Creek in Segment 8 near Copper Mountain Ski Resort, and the other two across South Fooses Creek in Segment 15, west of Salida. All are big improvements over what existed before.



HERE'S A RUNDOWN OF THE CREWS AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- » **Crew 0112, Lost Park, June 30-July 7.** Crew Leader **Tom Brooksher** and 21 crew members worked 807 hours, beginning by removing by ax and pocket chainsaw a dozen downed trees, ranging from 6 inches in diameter to more than 30 inches, over a two-mile section. They also restored about 90 yards of trail that is traditionally boggy, installing two culverts, building three French drains, and performing other restorative work. They also rehabbed about 600 yards of trail.
- » **Crew 0212, Guller Creek, July 7-14.** Crew Leaders **Steve Stadler** and **John Lipe** and their crew of 22 worked 971 hours replacing the failing bridge across Guller Creek at about mile point 5.2 on Segment 8. The crew had to carry in or find on site all new bridge materials, including carrying two 23-foot trees 700 feet to the site to be used as stringers, demolish the existing bridge, build new bridge sills and equestrian crossings, and do considerable stream reconstruction. Trail maintenance was also performed on a mile of tread leading to the bridge site.
- » **Crew 0312, Snow Mesa, July 14-21.** Undeterred by the almost daily rain and hail, Crew Leader **Loren Woods** and his self-supported backpack crew of seven spent 323.5 hours restoring two slide areas on the trail, 525 feet and 1,300 feet in length. They also widened 3,125 feet of trail mostly on steep side slopes and added 22 water drainage features.
- » **Crew 0412, South Fooses Creek, July 21-28.** Led by Crew Leader **Bill Carpenter**, the South Fooses Creek crew of 22 worked 1,304 hours replacing two old low-profile log bridges with bigger, stronger 26-foot-long crossings. Under the direction of Forest Service personnel, who also led a weekend CT crew in replacing a bridge closer to the Fooses Creek trailhead in 2011, the new bridges are among the nicest, and most picturesque, on the Trail. The team also refurbished the horse crossings downstream of each bridge.
- » **Crew 0512, Morrison Creek, July 28-August 4.** Crew Leader **Paul Smith** and 17 crew members camped near the old Lienhart Mine and worked to improve the CT north toward Morrison Creek and Pine Creek.
- » **Crew 0612, Tunnel Gulch, August 1-5.** Crew Leader **John Lipe** and his team of 17 workers spent 509 hours building 190 yards of new tread on a reroute of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail near the historic ghost town of St.

Elmo. Work included digging and hauling nine cubic yards of fill and tread material, removing numerous stumps, and building approximately 65 feet of log cribbing.

- » **Crew 0712, Morrison Creek, August 4-11.** Crew Leader **Loren Woods** and his team of nine devoted 415.5 hours continuing the work of Crew 0512 around Morrison Creek. They removed 16 trees, cleared three-quarters of a mile of corridor, built or refurbished 10 water diversions, removed 35 feet of berm, built a rock bridge over Morrison Creek, replaced 45 feet of washed-out tread, and deepened 60 feet of channel to prevent future washout.
- » **Crew 0812, Winfield, August 11-18.** Crew Leader **Cindy Johnson** and her crew of 22 spent 859 hours extending a new section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail above the ghost town of Winfield by several hundred feet. Hundreds of wheelbarrow loads of dirt and rock were moved in the process.
- » **Crew 0912, Winfield, August 18-25.** Picking up where the previous crew left off, Crew Leader **Glenn Kepler** and his team of 18 constructed nearly 600 feet of new trail in 619 hours of work. That included building a 4-by-5-foot French drain and approximately 60 feet of raised tread with rock foundation.
- » **Crew 1012, Buffalo Peaks, August 18-25.** Crew Leader **Bill Carpenter** and a crew of 11 worked 651 hours building 600 feet of new trail in the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness area that was a reroute around boreal toad habitat. Some 24 lodgepole pine stumps were removed and a rock crossing with steps and armor built across Four Mile Creek with steps and armor were built.
- » **Crew 1112NOS, Gold Hill, June 16-23.** Led by **Kelley Gorham**, this annual crew from Daniel C. Oakes High School in Douglas County, improved 4,424 feet of tread, rehabbed and built drainage features, removed fallen trees and cleared trail corridor. The 19 high schools put in 674 hours of work.
- » **Weekend Crew 112, Camp Hale, July 12-15.** This always popular all-female crew led by **Cindy Johnson** removed bridge that had deteriorated and restored the site to original state. The 18 women also improved 1.5 miles of trail north from the base of Camp Hale. They worked a total of 412 hours. Operations Director **George Miller** said that despite the smaller than usual number of crews working this summer, several important improvements were made to the Trail, including fixing several problem areas beginning with the completion of a 10-year project to eliminate boggy trail conditions in Lost Park. Looking ahead, Miller said it appears the CTF might be able to start a long-awaited rerouting project next year, moving the trail off Fooses Creek Road in Segment 15, west of Salida. Several crews are likely to be scheduled as well on the new 80-mile section, Collegiate West, which is being added to the CT, Miller said.



TRAIL TALES *Worth Telling*

Every completer, every thru-hiker has a story to tell. One of those completers, CTF Executive Director Bill Manning (who recounts his completer miles in his column on Page 2) is no exception. Over the course of a couple decades, he's traveled the Trail on foot and horseback, by mountain bike, and, yes, even unicycle. Here are some other 2012 tales worth telling:

TOMO FROM TOKYO

Tomo Tsuchiya flew more than 13,000 miles – twice – to complete The Colorado Trail.

Tomo, who owns a hiking and camping equipment store in Tokyo, flew to Denver in July of 2011, hoping to be able to complete the CT before continuing on to Salt Lake City for an outdoor retailers convention in August. He came up short, though, having to leave the trail outside Creede in order to keep his commitment in Utah.

"I hope to complete the trail some day," he told the CTF staff when he stopped by the office in Golden before continuing his journey.

That opportunity came sooner, than later. Returning this summer, Tomo was able to arrange a ride to Creede, where he resumed his hike. Seven days later, he reached Durango.

"Although it takes two years for me to hike thru, I'm very happy!" he e-mailed Executive Director Bill Manning. "I'd like to take my wife to CT again. Thank you for your kindness."

Anytime, Tomo, anytime.

THE 50TH REUNION GUY

Most people take an easier path to their 50th high school reunion. Then there's Stan Foster.

Stan, a retired Air Force officer in Estes Park, Colo., with his wife, CTF Board Member Carol Foster, did what many reunion-goers hope for: show up at the gathering a few pounds lighter.

The way he did it, however, was rather unusual: He hiked the length of the CT from Denver to Durango, to celebrate with more than 80 members of the Durango High School Class of 1962.

Along the way, he picked up a new trail name – "The 50th Reunion Guy."

RON KUBIT

In submitting his completion form this year, Ron Kubit of Littleton, Colo., noted that he had a lot of great company during the five years between June 2006 and August 2010 that it took him to finish the Trail.

"All three of my kids hiked segments of the Trail with me, one 200 miles, one went 100 miles, and my youngest did 12 miles," he said.

Ron's brother and his brother's two sons came from Milwaukee to do his last two segments with him. This was "just after (his brother) finished his cancer treatment." "Ending the trail with him and his kids had a special meaning," he said.

"Last year, my son organized and guided three blind teenagers on two segments of the CT," he said. "Lessons have already been passed on . . ."



STORIES FROM OTHER COMPLETERS:

- » "While hiking across a mesa, storms lighting up the skies, I sang to the Lord to shine his light on me. The clouds broke open and the sun shined directly on me lighting the way to the safety of an aspen forest. Incredible!" - Kate "Kermit" Foote, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- » "I started solo the day after I turned 30, my first bike-packing trip. What a way to usher in the 30s! And wow, the rain! I started out worried about forest fires, but the day I started was apparently the day the monsoons started and I got rained on every day – tough going when you're on a bike. But we needed the rain so bad, and it's better than running from forest fires! I couldn't stop smiling, living a dream that was years in the making." - Andrew Schuhmann, Littleton, Colo.
- » "I met some amazing people. Almost every night I was camping with people – I didn't expect that. It is difficult to pick out just a few (highlight) moments out of a month-long trip where every day was an adventure." - Brandon "Whiskey Stick" Eubanks, Dolores, Colo.
- » "We had a great time on the trail – and got engaged!" - Tiana Brown and Lucas Mile, Denver, Colo.
- » "Started with a partner (76 years old) whose hips gave out at Kenosha Pass, so I continued with two llamas. At Bolam Pass, I discovered that one llama had a cut on his foot and the other had saddle sores, so I borrowed a day pack and a light tent, strapped lots of stuff on the outside, and finished the last 53 miles without the llamas." – 70-year-old Tim Oliver, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- » "I was charged by a moose in Segment 20. Fun stuff!" – Geoffrey Carlson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- » "I was repeatedly attacked by some sort of hawk in the Lost Creek Wilderness, about 10 miles before Kenosha Pass. He swooped down on me about 10 times, forcing me to the ground on several occasions. As I ran from tree to tree, he continued the assault, announcing his inbound trajectory with a piercing screech. The feathered missile didn't let up for several hundred yards of trail. I knew to be wary of bears and mountain lions. But birds, too?" – Matt Roane, Pagosa Springs, Colo.

HEARD ON THE TRAIL

CREW LEADER AND CREW MEMBER:

Bill: "I was so tired this morning I couldn't tie my shoes."

Martha: "Is that why you're wearing boots?"

Trail crew member on a crew leader's question regarding a jar of kimchee:

"Never answer 'yes' to the question: "Do you want to smell this?"

Trail user question posed to a trail crew member:

"Is it volunteers who mow the tundra?"

Thru-hiker on her encounter with a trail crew:

"Hospitality doesn't even begin to describe the experience I've had. . . . Not only did I receive an abundance of food, but a ride into town. . . . The trail is made up of unexpected turns and this is one that I will forever be grateful for and forever remember – this trail crew made my thru-hiking adventure possible and that much more enjoyable."

A PICNIC, A PARTY, and a Date to Save

Friends of The Colorado Trail gathered in Denver and Durango this fall to eat, drink, trade stories, and celebrate another successful year for The Colorado Trail Foundation.

The annual Friends Picnic on Sept. 15 at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood drew its largest crowd ever – more than 185 volunteers, completers, trekkers and others – continuing a trend for the past few years. A big part of the ongoing success of the event is due to the hard work of Events Committee members **Steve Stadler, Carolyn Burtard, Diana Doyle and Sue Henley.**

In addition to picnic fare, cake, and the always popular pocket chainsaw competition, Executive Director Bill Manning told attendees that the CTF Board of Directors had approved a plan to add 80 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to The Colorado Trail (see cover story), the first major expansion of the trail since its inception more than 35 years ago. Board Chairman **Steve Staley** followed up by praising CT supporters for their continued involvement, saying that without them the addition of the Collegiate West 80 wouldn't have been possible.

It was a similar scene on Oct. 6 at a Friends Reception held in conjunction with the board's fall meeting in Durango. More than 85 people attended the gathering at **Carver Brewing Company**, a longtime friend of the CT and creator of, among other brews, Colorado Trail Nut Brown Ale.

And there are more good times to come. Be sure to mark your calendar for our Holiday Reception on Dec. 6 from 4:00-7:00



p.m. at the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St., in Golden. The annual event typically attracts some 300 friends, supporters, local business people, and representatives of other outdoor groups and the U.S. Forest Service. Please RSVP to the CTF office, 303-384-3729 or ctf@ColoradoTrail.org.

FROM *Apple's eye*

If Apple's eye is any indication, Colorado Trail usage by long-distance hikers was up a bit in 2012 over the previous year's hiking season.

Bill Appel – known, appropriately, to trail users simply as “Apple” – has maintained an “angel camp” at Lujan Pass for the past six seasons, treating trail users to a cold soda, snacks, and large tent complete with camp stove. Those who stop by on their way through are encouraged to sign a logbook that Apple maintains to keep track of who's coming through, by what means – foot, bike, or horse – and from what direction.

His rough count, which is also based on personal observation, information from other trail users, even trash gathered at his camp, showed a hiker increase of about 15 percent.

In 2011, he “guesstimated” about 320 hikers between July 2 and August 28. In addition, he saw “61 mountain bikes, four llamas, 17 horses with riders, and 41 dirt bikes.”

This year, he was on site 23 fewer days, from July 9 to August 12, so he had to extrapolate to come up with figures comparable to last year. To the 236 hikers he counted this year he made these “conservative assumptions”:

“First, we should add at least 30 hikers for the period from July 2-9, since this was a low snow year and a healthy flow of hikers had already started in early July. Next, we should add at least 48 hikers for the period from August 13-28, based on last year's average of at least three hikers per day. If we increase this by 15 percent, since I was on site only until 5:00 p.m., we arrive at a conservative estimate of about 360 hikers – an increase of about 14 percent over last year.”

During his stay this summer, Apple also counted 77 mountain bikes, 44 llamas, four mules, three horses with riders, and 40 dirt bikes. “The increase in mountain bike and dirt bike traffic was similar to the increase in hikers,” he said, adding that he couldn't account for the decrease in horse riders.

GIVE ON *Colorado Gives Day*

The Colorado Trail Foundation has added its name to the list of nonprofits participating in the third annual Colorado Gives Day, an initiative that encourages Coloradans to donate online during a 24-hour period to a number of worthy causes. This year's Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 4.

The initiative, a partnership of the Community First Foundation, an Arvada-based foundation dedicated to increasing community generosity and involvement, and FirstBank, Colorado's largest locally owned bank, began in 2010. That first year, \$8.7 million was distributed to Colorado nonprofits. In 2011 it was \$12.8 million.

One hundred percent of donations go directly to the designated nonprofits.

CTF Executive Director Bill Manning said the foundation applied this year to become part of Colorado Gives Day as a way to increase awareness of the organization and in the hope that new donors will be encouraged to give.

Manning added, “The CTF is grateful to every one of you contributors, including those of you who will donate on Colorado Gives Day.”

Colorado Gives Day is December 4th, and donations to the CTF can be made at <https://givingfirst.org/> *TheColoradoTrailFoundation.*

SHOW YOUR *CT* Love

You already know that the CTF's online store is your best resource for Trail maps, guides, commemoratives, and other items. If you haven't checked it out lately, though, check again.

For completers, there are great new T-shirts designed by **Blake Welch**, owner/principal of **Welch Creative Group Inc.** and a CTF board member. For trail workers and users, there is a line of new folding saws, in addition to the tried-and-true pocket chainsaw.

More recently, CTF volunteer and sign-maker extraordinaire **Phred Jahner**, of **Hawk Ridge Ranch**, has designed a series of great commemorative signs, for completers and others.

To see the full line of CT products, click the CT Store link at ColoradoTrail.org and support the trail you love



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Foundation



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