



2021 Stewardship Crew Report





Summary

From mid-May to late October, Colorado Mountain Club's stewardship crews actively supported public land management agencies on a wide variety of trail and conservation projects throughout Colorado. Whether logging out trails closed due to severe blowdown, inventorying campsites in National Conservation Areas, or helping to construct new trail sections, the crew produced consistent, quality work and remained adaptable to changing project needs and schedules throughout the season.

Accomplishments



129 miles of trail maintenance and construction

- 8,455 feet of new trail construction
- 38,060 feet of tread maintained



535 drainage structures installed or maintained

- 75 water bars
- 82 grade dips
- 378 drains



17,505 feet of trail closed and restored



469 ft³ of crush fill moved



1,209 downed trees removed



14,700 feet of corridor cleared



171 ft² of rock retaining walls installed



10 wash crossings constructed



- 201 campsites closed/restored
- 59 backcountry campsites maintained



110 check steps or stairs constructed



3,145 hours of work



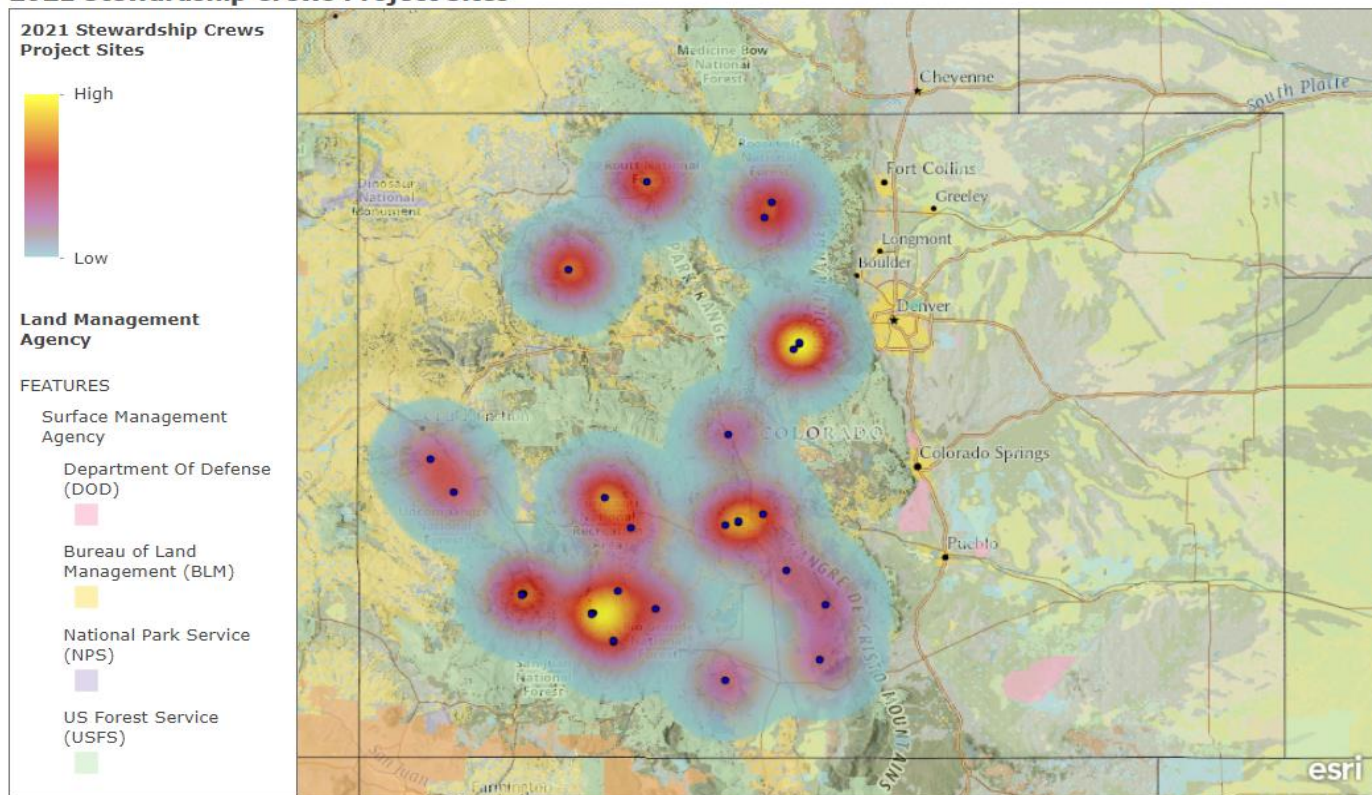
283 gallons of trash collected



Project Highlights

The CMC Stewardship Crews worked in 24 unique project locations throughout the state of Colorado in the 2021 season. Their work spanned as far north as the Routt National Forest, and as far south as the San Luis Valley. The projects highlighted spanned multiple weeks and demonstrate some of the unique conservation work the crews tackled this season.

2021 Stewardship Crews Project Sites



Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

The crew spent 2 weeks near the end of the season conducting campsite inventories. The first week, campsite inventory and cleanup was conducted along the Escalante Canyon Road out of the Uncompahgre Field Office. The second week was spent doing the same in the East Creek, Nine Mile Hill, and Cactus Garden areas of the Grand Junction Field Office. In total, they cleaned and restored 180 campsites and removed over 620 pounds of trash.



Routt National Forest

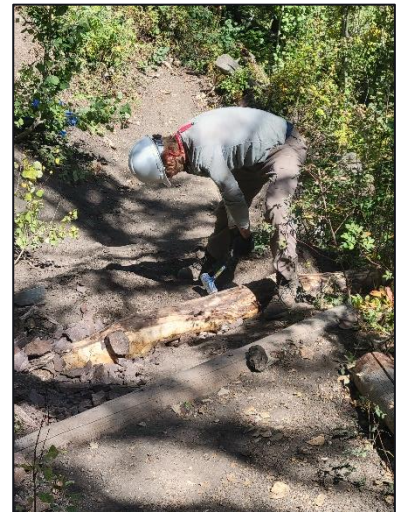
CMC Stewardship Crews spent a total of four weeks on the Routt National Forest, logging out trails. During these four weeks, the crew cleared 553 downed trees over 30+ miles of trail, including sections of the Continental Divide Trail.



“The CMC crew is able to work independently to accomplish trail tasks efficiently and to FS trail standards. This is helpful since our FS staff are many times maxed out on capacity juggling rec operations / projects / fires during the field season to where they might not be able to get onto the trail to line out project work (trail clearing, drainage, etc.). Having a crew that can complete a multi-day trail clearing backpacking trip is helpful since we have many miles of Wilderness, CDT and other remote trail areas to work on and not always a FS crew or partner to clear them. This was our pilot year with the CMC trail crew. Based on the accomplishments of the crew clearing hundreds of trees from trails in a few weeks we will be seeking to work with them again in the future.” – Brendan Kelly, District Recreation Program Manager, Hahn’s Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District

GMUG National Forests

The Stewardship Crews spent 3 weeks on the Gunnison Ranger District. During the first week of work on the Beaver Creek trail in the West Elk Wilderness, the crew re-benched and armored a section of trail that was sloughing down the hillside. The second week was spent on the Sun Park trail prepping 66 logs for a future project. The final week was spent in the La Garita Wilderness, logging out Rough Creek, Cebolla & Skyline trails. The Crew also spent 2 weeks working on the Blue Lakes Trail on the Ouray Ranger District. The crew fixed tread issues and trail braiding, closed social trails, cleaned, and installed drainage structures, installed check steps, and inventoried campsites around the Lower Blue Lake.

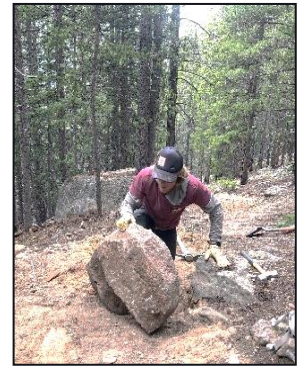


“With time being so strapped right now it is nice to have a group be able to complete projects with little supervision and still accomplish the work needed on the ground.” -Julie Jackson, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation), Ouray Ranger District



South Platte Ranger District

The CMC Stewardship Crew performed three weeks of maintenance on the South Park Trail between the Shelf Lake Trailhead and Guanella Pass. Work focused on drainage, preventing excessive erosion, and widening the trail corridor.



"Keep up the good work! South Platte can always have work available to engage further with the CMC Stewardship Program and volunteers."

-Brandon Mitchell, South Platte Ranger District

Crew Highlights

CMC crew members anonymously shared their favorite aspects and memories from working on the stewardship crews this past season:

- ▲ "Getting to see a lot of Colorado was one of the most rewarding aspects. Another was doing work I love, crosscutting and building water bars/steps."
- ▲ "Logging out the CDT, there were lots of through hikers every day, good conversation and immediate job satisfaction and praise of thanks from hikers."
- ▲ "Doing conservation, cleaning up areas for future generation use, educating public on our work."
- ▲ "Giving back to the land, being immersed in wilderness settings, seeing the immediate result of your work."
- ▲ "Building structures that will make people's trail experience more user friendly. Learning more about different plant life and ecosystems. Seeing and experiencing such beautiful mountains."
- ▲ "I had a great time and am thankful to CMC and staff for the opportunity."

