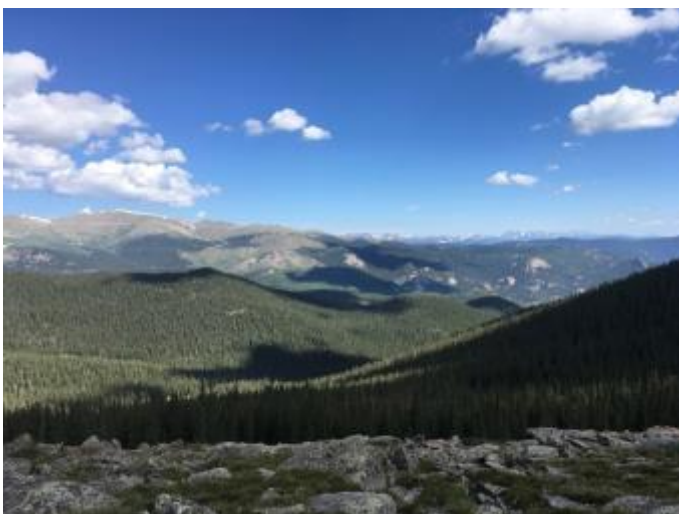




PO Box 3431  
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[www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org)

## JULY 2019 Newsletter



### *Announcement*

FOMELC is launching a fund-raising campaign to raise \$5000 by year-end to help support development of a new website. Our website is a crucial source of information about trails in our wilderness areas and our group's activities, and the current platform is unsustainable. Our organization runs on a shoestring budget of small grants from government funding agents, and some of these are diminishing.

Please help us keep our website running by making donation to FOMELC

<http://www.fomelc.org/contribute>

Your contribution to our 501(c)3 organization is tax-deductible.

**Chairman:**

Peter Vrolijk  
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**Trail Projects Coordinator:**

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[steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

**Weed Projects Coordinator:**

Alan Rockwood  
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**Secretary:**

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**Trail Patrols & Hosts:**

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**Forest Service Liaison**

Ralph Bradt  
[rbradt@fs.fed.us](mailto:rbradt@fs.fed.us)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Contact Project Lead:

Project Weeds: [alan@fomelc.org](mailto:alan@fomelc.org)

Project Trails: [steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

Project information will be updated with each newsletter

### July:

31: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm

Video: **American Values, American Wilderness with Christopher Reeve**

### August:

10: Trail Project- **ALL HANDS DAY** & Monthly Meeting BBQ (Mount Evans Wilderness) Beaver Meadows and Beartracks Lakes Trail Work and Weed Project. Camp Rock Trailhead.

Additional project to include an all ladies project crew team. More info to follow.

14: Beartracks Lakes Weed Project (Mt Evans Wilderness) Orange Hawkweed. Contact Alan

20: Wigwam Creek East Trailhead (Lost Creek Wilderness) Contact Alan

### September:

1: Beartrack Lakes and Lincoln Lakes Canada Thistle(thru hikes) 2 Teams (Mt Evans Wilderness) Contact Alan

25: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm

Delia Malone, Wildlife Committee Chair, Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter, "Restoring the Natural Balance: The Vital Necessity of Reintroducing Wolves to Colorado"

**Interested in taking an active part in FOMELC operations? There are many behind-the-scenes tasks where administration help is needed.**

**Contact [admin@fomelc.org](mailto:admin@fomelc.org)**



## Note from the Chair – By Peter Vrolijk

The middle of summer is upon us, and we have some accomplishments to be proud of but a lot of work yet to accomplish. Individuals and groups have cleared downed trees from trails, Alan has led a number of projects treating thistle and hawkweed, and the accumulating trail patrols continue to provide information to our group and others about work that is needed. I hope that everyone is getting into the wilderness to appreciate the abundance and diversity of

wildflowers this year is offering us. Yesterday on the Beaver Meadows trail the fragrance of roses was like walking into a perfume shop.

As one further inducement to contribute volunteer hours, we have received a significant donation of Patagonia clothing that we will distribute at our end-of-season celebration in recognition of volunteer efforts. We will offer 1 raffle ticket for each patrol completed and two tickets for every day spent on a project. The more tickets you earn, the greater the chance that you will get to choose early from the clothing offering. We will have more information in the fall, but every day working in the wilderness will improve your chances of getting the clothing item you most want.

## TRAILS – Steve West

FOMELC continue to make strides to patrol all the trails in the Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness Areas for the second year in a row. Provided below are the remaining trails that require patrols by Wilderness Area:



### **Lost Creek Wilderness:**

**Brookside-AG, Brookside-McCurdy, Craig Park, Hankins Pass, Lake Park McCurdy Park, Ute Creek & Wigwam.**

### **Mt. Evans Wilderness:**

**Burning Bear, Captain Mountain West, Cub Creek West, Hell's Hole, Meridian, Mt Evans, Roosevelt Lakes, South Chicago Creek & Three Mile.**

If you have hiked/patrolled any of these trails or trailhead, don't forget to upload the data thru our recording APP.

## Geology in Wilderness (By Peter Vrolijk)

FOMELC hosted a geology hike along the South Park trail toward Square Top Lakes on July 14. Yvette Kuiper, structural geology faculty at Colorado School of Mines, and her student, Asha Mahatma, led the hike. We examined high-grade metamorphic gneisses that record the early history of the North American continent and folds and fabrics within the rocks that provide clues to that history. Rocks as old as 1.8 Ga (billion years) are rare on Earth so having the opportunity to learn about rocks of such antiquity is a rare treat.

This hike introduced a more formal facet of FOMELC – the opportunity to hike in wilderness while achieving a deeper understanding of one of the components of the area (geologic bedrock), and to do so without the need of accomplishing a work task. We think the members would benefit from similar theme-based hikes in the future and invite all members to propose and develop themes for hikes.

Pictures by Gordon Brown.





# All Hands Day June 29, 2019



All Hands Day at Rolling Creek Trailhead brought out many members to remove trees and spray weeds in Lost Creek Wilderness.





# FOMELC Marketing/Education

## FOMELC receives a Service Grant from Platte Canyon Community Partnership Resale-Boutique (PCCP)

*By Charlotte Wytias*

**EVENT: Wednesday July 31, from 10am to 2 pm, at the Shawnee Community Center  
(5 miles south of Bailey)**

PCCP Resale-Boutique in Bailey offers partnership-service grants to nonprofit organizations in the Bailey-Conifer area. The recipient assists at the Boutique for the period selected and the receiving organization receives up to 75% of the Boutique profits during that period. FOMELC was selected for this grant for the month of August.

**Volunteers are needed to help support this grant by purchasing items from the Boutique during the month of August!**

FOMELC volunteers are going to be sharing their love of Wilderness with two dozen kids from the Boys and Girls Club of the High Rockies. The FOMELC folks will be using materials from the FOMELC training program :

- What Is Wilderness?
- Leave No Trace
- The workbook the children will be using is called Wilderness Explorer, provided by the US Forest Service teaching Wilderness and Leave No Trace Principles. Upon completion of the workbook, a Junior Ranger Patch was given to each child.



# FOMELC WEED ERADICATION PROGRAM

## From the Noxious Weed Patch – *Alan*

End of July, we are approaching the midpoint of the season for identification and treatments. As expected, the cold and snowy spring has had a significant impact on plant development (“phenology” if you want a new word this month.) Most species seem to be reaching the “flowering” stage weeks later this year. For yellow toadflax, this seems to be particularly the case and it is most effectively treated when flowering. Another species that has responded differently is Canada thistle. Unfortunately, it loves the moisture. In locations with Canada thistle like the “Beartrack Burn” and Beaver Meadows, where we thought we were making progress, it is difficult to see right now – but persistence, persistence, and persistence is the answer.

On Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Peter Vrolijk and I gave a tour to Steve Ryder Colorado’s Noxious Weed Coordinator using the Lincoln Lake to Beaver Meadows route. It gave us an opportunity to discuss our treatment approaches in the remote sections of Mount Evans Wilderness. We have several infestations of species along this track – high elevation Canada thistle on the upper Resthouse Trail, the new orange hawkweed site in Resthouse Meadows and Beaver Meadows with small patches several species. It was a successful day with only a light shower after lunch. Ralph Bradt still on the “disabled list” had to serve as the drop-off and pick-up driver. However, gave him a chance to talk about how our GIS database can be linked to the State’s preferred system.

Remember the second All Hands Day is coming up on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Besides Steve’s trail projects there will be multiple options for weed projects at “Magic Valley” on Bear Creek and Beaver Meadows. Peter may even talk about the atypical geology of the Bear Creek channel in “Magic Valley”!

The final note for those of you with an eye noxious weeds and an urge to hike; please think about one of the Lost Creek Trails. With the ongoing comprehensive inventory of invasive species, we want as many eyes on the Lost Creek as possible over the course of the summer. I look forward to seeing on the trail. *Alan*



Noxious Weed Team on the warpath with Orange Hawkweed at Beartrack Lakes Trail July 27<sup>th</sup>.



Thank You to Our Sponsors & Supporters

For All Hands Day June 29, 2019





### **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.

## **I Have a Question!**

Got a general or specific trail question? [Admin@fomelc.org](mailto:Admin@fomelc.org) email will go to all board members and one of us will get back to you.

How do I become a volunteer with FOMELC?

Check out our website to sign up. [www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org)

Like your Newsletter?

Let Us know!

[admin@fomelc.org](mailto:admin@fomelc.org)