

# Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



## June Newsletter 2023

- Page 1** Photos by Dee Lyons
- Page 2** We Need Volunteers
- Page 3** Trail Work Progress & Needs
- Page 4** FOMELC Events and News
- Page 5** Outreach - LNT
- Page 6** Invasive Weed Schedule
- Page 7** Greetings from the Trail
- Page 7-9** Abyss Trail Project May 20
- Page 10** Board Members & Mission Statement



**Chairman - Steve West**

## **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

There are several Wilderness areas where we need volunteers:

- We need volunteers to hike the trails to record data on their cell phone using an app that was developed by the Forest Service for these two wildernesses. **Training will be provided** to instruct volunteers to use this app. This will allow FOMELC trail crews to prioritize work that is an issue.
- Once the priorities of the trail issues are established, FOMELC trail crews hike the trails to correct the issues. What kind of issues? Downed trees blocking the trail, water flowing down the trail causing damage, and brush that is encroaching into the trail. We encourage you to volunteer to help make a more pleasant hike.
- Invasive weeds are an issue throughout both wildernesses. **FOMELC is a leader in eradicating these weeds.** Invasive weeds are a menacing threat to wilderness native vegetation and wildlife. Invasive weeds crowd out the plants and can be toxic to wildlife that makes up the natural ecosystem. FOMELC volunteers are trained to identify and eradicate these plants.
- With the significant increase of backpackers into the wilderness areas, campsites both legal and illegal have proliferated. Illegal campsites degrade the wilderness characteristics. They need to be removed and the area rehabilitated. Your volunteering will have a significant impact in eliminating these sites. Instruction is provided by our trained crew leaders.

We hope that by reading this article you get the sense that trained volunteers are needed to support the Forest Service and these two wilderness areas. Please consider volunteering with FOMELC. This is the link to our website for further information:

<https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>

*- Steve*

# 2023 Trail Work Progress and Needs

Ralph Bradt



The 2023 field season has begun and there's much to do, as usual. **The Clear Creek Ranger District has contributed funds to FOMELC** in exchange for our organization doing trail clearing and maintenance and other stewardship activities. Although all our Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness trails need to be patrolled, cleared, and maintained, please consider giving the north side of Mount Evans Wilderness trails the priority.

As of the middle of June, snowbanks have pretty much receded up high and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, the Mount Evans State Wildlife Area and its trailheads opened for the summer. Folks have already been out in both Lost Creek and Mount Evans Wildernesses beginning to patrol and clear trail, but there are many more miles of trail to cover. Some folks just patrol and record what they find. Others carry saws, big and small, and cut out what they can and record their progress. All contributions have value as we clear and maintain the trail system.

To see the current status of work done and work that still needs done, see our progress map at:

<https://melc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2e3ddc77942e48f485b688ff877adf31>

On the map, deadfall across the trail is shown as a green dot. Deadfall that has been cut out has a yellow outline. Certified crosscut sawyers wanting to help cut out trails, please contact Ralph at [ralph@fomelc.org](mailto:ralph@fomelc.org) to coordinate efforts.

## Current Status:

### Mount Evans Wilderness

DATE	TRAIL	MILES PATROLLED	TREES CUT	TREES REMAINING
5/16/2023	Abyss	4.1	3	0
5/23/2023	Hells Hole	2.0	6	1
5/25/2023	Cub Creek	5.0	9	3
5/30/2023	Lincoln Lake	0.6	0	0
5/30/2023	Resthouse	5.0	20	0
6/9/2023	Cub Creek	1.7	0	4
6/9/2023	Meridian	3.0	10	0
6/15/2023	Beaver Meadows	1.8	2	1
		23.2	50	9

## Lost Creek Wilderness

DATE	TRAIL	MILES PATROLLED	TREES CUT	TREES REMAINING
5/9/2023	Brookside/McCurdy	5.2	6	3
5/13/2023	Colorado	5.4	0	17
5/27/2023	Rolling Creek	4.8	0	13
5/28/2023	Lizard Rock	2.3	0	0
5/28/2023	Hankins Pass	2.4	8	8
6/6/2023	Payne Creek	2.3	7	0
		22.4	21	41

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## *FOMELC EVENTS & NEWS*

You can sign up for all events at: <https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>  
Check sign up regularly since events will be loaded into the system weekly.

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### **2023 Wilderness Stewardship Training Program**

Online training for new and existing volunteers is now available. You need to have a Google email account to access the Google Drive training.

Contact Dee Lyons at: [dee@fomelc.org](mailto:dee@fomelc.org) to register for the free training. All new volunteers are encouraged to attend the online training

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**Latest alerts, trail conditions, campfire restrictions, reservations and pass information:**

**Know Before You Go – Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests  
Pawnee National Grassland:**

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/alerts-notice/?cid=fseprd613831>

**Know Before You Go – Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron &  
Comanche National Grassland:**

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/psicc/alerts-notice>



## OUTREACH & TRAILHEAD HOSTING GORDON BROWN

Hello Fellow Volunteers:

I ran across this article and video on the LNT website discussing trash on trails and I thought I would share it with you. It's so important to not drop trash on all wilderness lands where it can impact wildlife and the environment. Please do your part to help reduce and eliminate trash in the wilderness.

**FOMELC is a Proud Partner of LNT and works to educate and practice their principles.**



How long do you think it takes for aluminum cans to decompose? Dirty diapers? Plastic bottles? What about an orange peel? We bet some of the answers may surprise you!

[Check out this video to learn how long some common objects will stay behind when left outdoors](#)

Packing out all our trash (and other's) is critically important to the health of the surrounding environment—including vegetation, water sources and animals.

Thanks for doing your part by picking up your trash every visit!

See you out there,

JD Tanner  
Director of Education and Training  
1000 North St., Boulder, Co 80304



# Invasive



From the Weed Patch – Alan Rockwood

## 2023 FOMELC Invasive Weed Projects Tenative Schedule

Date	Day of Week	Project Site	Comment
14-Jun	Wednesday	Cub Creek East	Training: Intro to Herbicide Treatments
22-Jun	Thursday	Rolling Creek	Two teams - Rolling Creek, Payne Creek East
29-Jun	Thursday	Goose Creek	Hankins Gulch
8-Jul	Saturday	Indian Creek	Access from SWA
13-Jul	Thursday	South Meadow Capt Mtn	VOC Partnership (date fixed)
16-Jul	Sunday	Beaver Meadows	Orange hawkweed - plus
20-Jul	Thursday	Capt. Mtn Trailhead	Interagency - State and USFS
23-Jul	Sunday	Wigwam Creek	Trailhead to mile 2
29-Jul	Saturday	Beartrack Lakes	Orange hawkweed original site
2-Aug	Tuesday	Resthouse	Access from Lincoln Lake
5-Aug	Saturday	Magic Valley	Access from Beaver Meadows Trail
11-Aug	Friday	Pedee Creek	VOC Partnership (date fixed)
19-Aug	Saturday	Beartrack Lakes	All-hands-day, two teams- toadflax, hawkweed #2
24-Aug	Wednesday	Lower Goose Creek	Yellow toadflax and Can. thistle on social trails
2-Sep	Saturday	Upper Beartrack Lakes	Access from Mount Evans Road
4-Sep	Monday	Beaver Meadows sites	Annie's Meadow and others, 2nd, IF NEEDED

<https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>





# GREETINGS FROM THE TRAIL!

Wyatt Stanland  
Trails Coordinator

We need volunteers to form a **Trail Projects Committee**. This committee is a group of volunteers who want to be more involved in the trails program. The committee will meet one or two times a year to discuss trail maintenance techniques, project schedules, trail maintenance strategy, and more.

The Friends of Mt Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses is also looking for a group of dedicated wilderness stewards to lead or join the **Trail Patrol Committee**. Trail Patrols are a primary and essential source of trail upkeep and information for FOMELC and the Forest Service, and you can grow your part in this relationship! Members on this committee will get to organize and analyze wilderness patrol data in ArcGIS, guiding volunteers to patrol trails. **Contact:** [wyatt@fomelc.org](mailto:wyatt@fomelc.org)

Sign up for upcoming trail projects: <https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>



## Abyss Trail Project May 20 From A Novice Viewpoint - Loren Winters (Photos by Loren Winters)

The first trail project of the season was May 20 on Abyss trail, and there was a great turnout with 10 volunteers, many of them experienced in trail work. I was one of the inexperienced ones, but Wyatt did a great job of coordinating the work, while Ralph Bradt provided instruction in preparing logs for water bars. For FOMELC volunteers who haven't done any trail work but would like to try, this is a quick overview to provide an idea of what it's like and to encourage you to come out and help.

We gathered at the Abyss Trailhead on Guanella Pass early on a clear and chilly Saturday morning. Wyatt began with safety instruction. PPE included long-sleeve shirts and pants, gloves, and eye protection. The latter was needed to protect from flying rock chips and other debris, the gloves for handling tools. We headed up the trail with shovels, mattocks, McLeods, and buckets in hand. It was three miles to the work site, passing along the way the trail improvements from FOMELC's Adopt-a-Trail project last year. The present project was a follow up to add water bars and stone stairs to redirect water runoff and repair badly eroded areas on a steep portion of the trail. We reached the work area, a beautiful spot above a rushing creek at about 10,000 ft. We divided into small groups for the various jobs of preparing logs for water bars, excavating areas of the trail for the logs and for stone steps, and digging drainages.

We broke for lunch at noon and then resumed work, continuing until mid-afternoon before starting the hike back down, tired but satisfied with having completed the trail improvements as planned.

One of the good things about working on a project like this is the teamwork. While people have assigned tasks, everyone looks out for ways to help others. When you're carrying a 5-gallon bucket of fill dirt up a steep trail, it's a relief when someone takes the bucket from you halfway up. Another plus, if you're new to trail work, is learning new skills as well as an appreciation of what it takes to maintain the trails that we all take advantage of for recreation. A reward for the hard work of swinging a pick, moving dirt with a McLeod, or scraping bark with a drawknife is the satisfaction of seeing a project brought to completion at the end of the day and knowing you've improved the trail experience for hikers.

**Thanks** go to **Annie & Bob Legrand, Keith Kuhlman, Dan Graver, Elizabeth Motley, Greg Angstadt, Loren Winters, Bob Hunter, Ralph Bradt, Wyatt Stanland and Brian Parsons for their great work!** This year, Beartrack Lakes trail in Mt. Evans Wilderness is FOMELC's Adopt-a-Trail project. The first session on that trail is Saturday, June 24. There are also sessions in July and August. Sign up here: <https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>



Scraping out a drainage  
Elizabeth



Finishing a water bar  
Annie



Excavating rocks  
Brian





Removing bark with a draw knife  
Greg



Trail work with a view  
L-R: Greg & Brian



Ready to drop in the log  
Dan



Positioning a stone step  
L - R: Brian & Wyatt



Photo break from hard work  
L-R: Greg, Bob Hunter, Elizabeth, Ralph  
Front: Bob Legrand



Heading back after a satisfying day  
Bob

# FOMELC Board Members

**Chairman:** Steve West  
[steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

**Trail Projects Coordinator:** Wyatt Stanland  
[wyatt@fomelc.org](mailto:wyatt@fomelc.org)

**Secretary:** Loren Winters  
[loren@fomelc.org](mailto:loren@fomelc.org)

**Membership Coordinator:** Vacant - Volunteer Needed

**Web Information Tech Lead:** Deb Grass  
[lildeb@fomelc.org](mailto:lildeb@fomelc.org)

**Noxious Weed Projects Coordinator:** Alan Rockwood  
[alan@fomelc.org](mailto:alan@fomelc.org)

**Outreach & Trailhead Hosting:** Gordon Brown  
[gordon@fomelc.org](mailto:gordon@fomelc.org)

**Newsletter Assistant Editor:** Loren Winters

**Newsletter/Wilderness Training Program:**  
Dee Lyons [dee@fomelc.org](mailto:dee@fomelc.org)

**Treasurer:** Matt Komos  
[matt@fomelc.org](mailto:matt@fomelc.org)

**Forest Service Liaison:** Ralph Bradt  
[ralph@fomelc.org](mailto:ralph@fomelc.org)

**FOMELC WEBSITE:** <https://fomelc.org/>

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

The safety of our community is our top priority, and we are committed to doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 (aka coronavirus). We are closely monitoring guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), and how these might affect our programs. We are also coordinating with our US Forest Service partners to remain in compliance with their COVID-19 response guidelines. Stay Safe and Healthy! As of April 2023, According to the Forest Service as of April 2023, there are **no restrictions** and all counties in Colorado are in low status.

## 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.



<https://fomelc.org/>

Friends of Mt Evans & Lost Creek Wildernesses  
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**“And Into the Forest, I Go To Lose My Mind and Find My Soul”**

**- John Muir**