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## September 2020 Newsletter



(Photo: Silver Dale Heritage and Recreation Site on Guanella Pass)

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Please make a 2020 charitable contribution to: <https://fomelc.org/donate>

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## Note from the Chair – The Reasons We Keep Going – Peter Vrolijk

Yesterday I was driving to the Wigwam trailhead, and with every mile I grew discouraged with aggressive drivers on 285, the pall of the hazy, smoke-laden sky, thoughts of the fires on the west coast, especially in places that I have visited over the years, and the stark reminders of the Hayman burn. I was discouraged by the work I had done over the summer doing campsite inventory surveys, finding people happily sitting around their morning campfires on bone-dry, windy days in the midst of a long-standing fire ban or camp fires left smoldering with rocks too hot to touch. I suppose wildfire is on a lot of our minds these days.



View to southern, smoke-laden skies from saddle at top of Tanglewood trail.

But then I turned a corner on the road and saw the aspens on the highest elevations above Goose Creek with the first hints of color, and I was reminded of why we keep doing what we do. An important quality of wilderness is its ability to calm and soothe our soul – the authors of the Wilderness Act understood this benefit. And the work we do helps ensure that future generations can enjoy this benefit, too.

Every winter and spring are full of behind-the-scenes ideas and discussions about how to make each short summer season as beneficial as possible, and we had some good plans coming into the spring. So much for planning... But we retained the important objectives and found ways to progress those goals as conditions allowed, and as Brandon and Ralph's articles attest, we achieved some good successes. We celebrate each success and every volunteer who contributed to those achievements and who remained flexible under conditions of uncertainty and additional precautions.

We keep going, trying to maintain the benefits of Wilderness for the future. We talk with people on the trail, and with each conversation hope that we instill a small measure of more responsible behavior. And as Matt's article highlights, we do so in an environment that makes us rely ever more heavily on charitable donations. While our major asset is volunteer hours, we still require funds to sustain the organization. We have made concerted efforts to reduce and eliminate fixed costs, but there remain costs to communicate with you and other members of the public. Please help us continue this work – a little goes a long way – and our most heartfelt thanks to those who have supported us already this year.

- Peter

# FOMELC MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE BACK! VIA ZOOM

**Mark your calendars... our Monthly Meetings are back!**

We are excited to announce the reintroduction of our monthly meetings! Our first guest speaker, Brad Andres, will present: ***Birds of the Bear Creek Watershed.***



Brad A. Andres, Ph.D., works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). He is a member of The Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society; he serves as Vice President of the Board, as well as the Bird Monitoring Chair. He's a frequent volunteer at the Evergreen Nature Center along with his wife Heather Johnson, who also works for the USFWS.

For more information about Brad Andres, click here: [www.drbradandres.com](http://www.drbradandres.com).

**October meeting will be held on Oct. 21 from 7-8 pm. Please watch for a meeting announcement in early October because you will need to RSVP in order to attend this lecture.**

**Our meetings this year will be held via Zoom.**

There will be an opportunity during the Zoom meeting to ask Brad Andres questions.

We look forward to restarting our monthly meetings with you!

**FIREWOOD ALERT!**

You have the power to protect Colorado's trees and forests!

**BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.**



Pests like the invasive emerald ash borer can hitchhike in your firewood. Help us prevent new invasive species from reaching Colorado's forests.

- ▶ Don't bring firewood into Colorado from out of state.
- ▶ Use firewood from your property on site, and don't take it with you when you travel around Colorado.
- ▶ Buy local, or gather on site when allowed.



## **Fire Restrictions**

Know before you go! Colorado Fire Bans:

<http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html>

This site will also have the August 19<sup>th</sup> Colorado Statewide Open Fire Ban information.

According to a press conference on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Jared Polis has extended the fire ban for another 30 days.

This site also has COVID19 updates.





## How The Forest Service is Coping with COVID19 and Volunteers

Brandon Mitchell  
Wilderness, Trails, Recreation  
Forest Service

Pike National Forest  
**South Platte Ranger District**

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As I write this, 2020 has been a bit of a whirlwind. Our office has been closed to the public since mid-March, and maximum telework for USDA and the USFS began around the same time. All NFS recreation sites in Region 2 were closed to public use in early April. We started planning for the summer season, including volunteer activities, onboarding seasonal staff, and for other projects, during the “gated phase” where essential activities only were being allowed such as fire, law enforcement and eventually timber and recreation operations. We initiated the use of risk assessments internally along with JHA’s by late April when we began to return to the field less intermittently. After receiving direction from our FGLT for volunteers and partners in mid-June, we also implemented use of risk assessments for volunteer activities to mitigate potential COVID exposure, and subsequently started using a “standard operating plan” for volunteers by late June/early July. Phase I activities were allowed until mid-July when the PSICC returned to a gated status and volunteer activities were curtailed by the end of July. A few inquiries have come in since then to continue activities during the gated phase and the South Platte District has accommodated a few of those requests for working, but only outside of the volunteer agreement and under the stewardship groups or individuals insurance coverages.

We recognize it has been difficult for everyone to attempt to plan and implement projects under this evolving direction, which has been based on the number of COVID-19 cases in our areas/Counties. We really appreciate everyone’s cooperation in using extra caution to reduce risks and exposure this season. Despite these challenges, there have been great accomplishments in 2020 with trail clearing and maintenance, recreation site inventory, invasive inventory, weed treatments, and other tasks. Thanks to FOMELC and our other stewardship groups for continuing to work so adaptably this season.

Now, it is nearly time for accomplishment reporting for volunteer hours, wilderness character monitoring, wilderness stewardship performance, and for trails so we will be in touch soon to get your updates. Hopefully, we can all get out and enjoy some more nice late summer/early fall weather the next few months.

Thanks again for all your contributions in helping to steward the Lost Creek and Mt Evans areas and adjoining lands on the Clear Creek, South Park, and South Platte Ranger Districts.

- *Brandon*



# How The Forest Service is Coping with COVID19 and Volunteers

Ralph Bradt  
Wilderness/Trails/Travel Management  
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**Clear Creek Ranger District**

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It has been a difficult year for the Clear Creek Ranger District, our volunteers, and the Forest Service in general. With COVID-19 concerns, and under its added safety protocol requirements, no volunteer work was authorized under volunteer agreements until the first of July. This precluded work by all our volunteer groups including FOMELC, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Front Range Back Country Horsemen, Colorado Mountain Club, and others. However, a number of individuals hiking alone and in family groups and, working outside volunteer agreements, independently collected trail and campsite data. This data proved very helpful in prioritizing trail clearing work and added to our campsite inventory data.

After the first of July, volunteer work was authorized under our COVID-19 Risk Assessment protocols and applicable JHAs. Some FOMELC projects, such as All Hands Days, involving larger groups or requiring close quarter work had to be cancelled, but other projects, invasive weed projects in particular, continued with great success despite the need to strictly adhere to COVID-19 protocols. Other volunteer groups also put in time on our Mount Evans trails. Front Range Back Country Horsemen was able to get a significant number of miles logged out and get needed water hauled for weed projects, Colorado Mountain Club did a bunch of corridor work on the Beartracks trail, and VOC did needed trail work on both the Hells Hole and Captain Mountain trails.

All in all, and despite the added COVID safety requirements, much has been accomplished this year by all our volunteer groups on the Clear Creek Ranger District. And with the Mount Evans highway and the Loveland Ski area closed, all the volunteer work that's been done has been Wilderness/trails stewardship work.

Thanks for all the work you've done, your patience, and to your diligence in staying safe, both in terms of COVID and otherwise. Hopefully, next year will be back to more normal and we can all get out together and begin to leave this season's craziness behind us.

- *Ralph*

## FOMELC Member Crew Shirts & Hats for Sale

Shirts are sold at ½ the price from original order price.

Consider purchasing a shirt/hat to support FOMELC.

Shirts (Dark Green only): \$15 100% lightweight polyester



Hats \$10

Contact Gordon at :  
[gordon@fomelc.org](mailto:gordon@fomelc.org)

or Dee at:  
[dee@fomelc.org](mailto:dee@fomelc.org)

To order your shirt and/or hat.



**FROM THE WEED PATCH**  
*Alan Rockwood*



Our 2020 invasive weed season is over except for filing reports with the Forest Service and the State’s Noxious Weed Office. It was an exceptional year on many fronts. This season FOMELC treated more infestations of invasive weeds than ever before – 13 sites in Lost Creek Wilderness and 14 sites in or adjacent to Mount Evans Wilderness. Several of these infestations were visited multiple times over the course of the summer.

With the outside support from grants, FOMELC was again able to hire contractors to treat 5 of selected largest sites where they would be the most effective. The 22 remaining infestations were treated by volunteers. This year we had volunteers initiate projects that were not on the original schedule. Those were Payne Gulch (Dee Lyons and Ralph Bradt), Indian Creek (Debbie Black and Bill Klink) and Cub Creek (Peter Vrolijk). These initiatives enabled FOMELC to provide a very comprehensive program of invasive weed control in both Wildernesses.

All this was accomplished in the year of COVID-19. We instituted protocols for project crews to limit the risk of person to person transmission of the virus which limited the size of a crew. We expected that the number individual volunteers to decline in this environment which was indeed the case. It is understandable – Please STAY SAFE! I do want to acknowledge and express my gratitude to those that did volunteer this season: **Debbie Black, Ralph Bradt, Deb Grass, Bill Klink, David Litke, Dee Lyons, Candice’ Rockwood, Jim and Cathy Shelton, Chris Sill, Peter Vrolijk, and Charlotte Wytias.** Each volunteer made a significant contribution to the program when it was most needed.



Further, I would like to recognize a few volunteers this season their efforts. First, I call it the “Aspen Award” (aspen is a “succession species” that often begins the reforestation process) is shared by two of our newest members **David Litke** and **Chris Sill**. They quickly got involved in the weed projects and became regular participants.

Next, the “Maxwell House – good to the last drop” Award goes **Jim Shelton**. He has the knack to pump more herbicide from the backpack sprayers than anyone else. When Jim says his sprayer is out, it’s OUT. Plus, our first project at Rolling Creek we used all the herbicide brought for the day before finishing the area. Jim recruited his wife to go back with him the next day and they manually pulled the remaining musk thistle in the parking area.







**Deb Grass** was a regular this season and gets the “Energizer Pika” Award for her commitment and “I can do that-attitude” despite her “pika-like” stature.

I particularly want to recognize **Dee Lyons** with what we shall call the “Bristle Cone Pine” Award for her enduring dedication to FOMELC’s weed program. When she took on the newly identified Canada thistle infestation at Payne Gulch, Dee wound up making more weed treatments than anyone else in FOMELC. Hiking through the Bristlecone grove by Lincoln Lake is a favorite for weed crews and Dee loves to highlight that “the grain of the Bristle Cone never cracks when cutting wooden cookies”.



Finally, thanks to **Peter Vrolijk** his schedule kept him from participating during July, but he was there at the end of the season when we needed a lift in energy.

In a normal year, this would have been a significant accomplishment. But, you can’t take a year off in this endeavor. What this small group of volunteers did in 2020 to preserve native habitats and enhance “wilderness character” was AWESOME!



David Litke, Alan Rockwood, Chris Sill and Debbie Black starting treatments at Goose Creek

All the easy stuff at Pedee Creek has been treated. Now we have move into the rocks and brush. (Deb Grass, Debbie Black, Alan Rockwood and Peter Vrolijk



# LOST CREEK WILDERNESS HISTORY

## History of the Colorado Trail - Ralph Bradt

The Colorado trail began as a concept in 1973 of the US Forest Service and various private entities for a trail from Denver to Durango. The first summer involved reconnaissance and survey work for the route. About 70% of the trail was already in place as existing trail sections, to be stitched together with new trail construction done primarily by volunteers.



The Colorado Trail through the Lost Creek Wilderness can be divided into two parts.

There's the old section from near the Rolling Creek Trailhead to near the North Fork Trailhead. On the old maps, it's called the Hooper Trail. In 1885, George Laws, W. W. Hooper and a man by the name of Rodgers, began construction on a road into Lost Park. They built it at a cost of \$1700 to carry lumber from their sawmill in North Lost Park to the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad in Estabrook. Some sections were very difficult due to seeps across the road and required a great deal of corduroy to make it passable by wagon.

The remains of the sawmill can still be seen just east of the North Fork Trailhead on the south side of the North Fork of Lost Creek. The sawmill was abandoned a few years later and Mr. Hooper (at left) moved on to become the Forest Ranger of the Bailey District, and later the Forest Supervisor on the Leadville National Forest.

There were concerns at the time that the road would make access into Lost Park too easy and "be the cause of ruination of the herd of buffalo", considered the last wild herd in the state.

Unfortunately, this may have been true. Although killing buffalo was by this time illegal, four were killed by poachers in 1897 and, reportedly, the last buffalo seen in the park was during the summer of 1901 by Ranger C. L. Fitzsimmons.

Sometime around 1898, the mill was resurrected and put back into operation, but the logging was in trespass on the South Platte Timber Reserve and forest officers of the General Land Office (pre-Forest Service) closed the operation down.

The wet sections of the old Hooper Trail east of the high point were rerouted in the late 1990s to avoid the wet, rotted sections of corduroy, but the old road can still be followed if you're feeling adventurous.

The Colorado Trail from the Rolling Creek Trailhead to Long Gulch was long called the Hooper Trail, although Hooper's road only extended to the sawmill. From the point at which the trail leaves the Wilderness boundary to Long Gulch, the boundary follows a line 300 feet north of the trail all the way to the Long Gulch Trailhead, excluding the trail from the Wilderness.

## History of the Colorado Trail con't



1898 - Hooper's Sawmill



2005 - The site of Hooper's Sawmill

Beyond the Long Gulch trailhead, the trail re-enters the Wilderness for about 7 miles to the Ben Tyler trail and the Rock Creek trailhead. This is known as the Black Canyon section. It was constructed as one of the sections of new construction on the Colorado Trail, probably around 1975-76.

On June 24, 2013, a lightning strike started a fire that burned about 10 acres about a mile and a quarter up the Colorado Trail west of the Long Gulch Trailhead. Although it threatened no private property and was burning in Wilderness towards timberline, smoke jumpers and fire crews were dispatched to put it out. It was one of two recent lightning caused Wilderness fires that have not been permitted to burn naturally, despite the fact they posed no immediate threat outside the Wilderness.

# What is Wilderness? Dee Lyons

The **Wilderness Act** of 1964 was written by Howard Zahniser of The Wilderness Society. It created the legal definition of wilderness in the United States, and protected 9.1 million acres of federal land.

“In order to assure that increasing population, expanding settlement, growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States. For this purpose there is established Wilderness Areas where the Earth and its community of life are...untrammelled. Where man himself is a visitor, who does not remain, where land retains its primeval character and influence.”

*-Wilderness Act of 1964*

## Is a Permit Required in Lost Creek or Mount Evans Wilderness?

**Yes, However it is Free!**

**Why?**

There is a mandatory self-issuing permit system in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness areas to enable the Forest Service to better manage visitation. The same type of system is also in place in other Wildernesses. The intent is to use the data obtained through the permit system to more accurately assess the amounts and types of existing Wilderness use. This enables the Forest Service to better preserve Wilderness natural condition for future generations, balanced against the pressures of growing populations and increased use. These permits have no quotas associated with them nor are there any fees required to obtain them. They are available free at each trailhead. As you enter the Wilderness, fill out the provided permit and deposit the stub in the slot in the lower front of the register box. Keep the permit in your possession and please follow the Wilderness regulations found on the back.

*(information obtained from the Pike National Forest Website)*



# News from Marketing & Education – Gordon Brown

## What is in Your Backpack?

*From the REI Website*



Heading out for a day hike is a delightful way to explore nature with friends and family, or even by yourself. Whether you want to go deep into the mountains or stay closer to home, the places to go are numerous; many state and national parks offer broad networks for trails, as does national forest land.

To determine what you need to bring on a day hike, think about how far you plan to hike, how remote the location is and what the weather forecast has in store.

In general, the longer and/or more remote the hike is

and the more inclement the weather, the more clothing, gear, food and water you're going to want. If you're just getting into day hiking, be sure to read REI's <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/hiking-for-beginners.html> article before you head out found on their website.

### What to Bring - Day Hiking

These items should be on your hiking checklist:

- Hiking backpack
- Weather-appropriate clothing (think moisture-wicking and layers)
- Hiking boots or shoes
- Plenty of food
- Plenty of water
- Navigation tools such as a GPS, map and compass
- First-aid kit
- Knife or multi-tool
- The rest of the "Ten Essentials" (see link below) as appropriate for your hike

Packing the "Ten Essentials" whenever you step into the backcountry, even on day hikes, is a good habit. True, on a routine trip you may use only a few of them or none at all. It's when something goes awry that you'll truly appreciate the value of carrying these items that could be essential to your survival.

# What is in Your Backpack? Con't

The original Ten Essentials list was assembled in the 1930s by The Mountaineers, a Seattle-based organization for climbers and outdoor adventurers, to help people be prepared for emergency situations in the outdoors. Back then, the list included a map, compass, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing, headlamp/flashlight, first-aid supplies, fire starter, matches, knife and extra food.

Over the years, the list has evolved to a “systems” approach rather than including individual items. Here’s what it looks like today:

## Updated Ten Essential Systems

1. **Navigation:** map, compass, altimeter, GPS device, personal locator beacon (PLB) or satellite messenger
2. **Headlamp:** plus extra batteries
3. **Sun protection:** sunglasses, sun-protective clothes and sunscreen
4. **First aid:** including foot care and insect repellent (as needed)
5. **Knife:** plus a gear repair kit
6. **Fire:** matches, lighter, tinder and/or stove
7. **Shelter:** carried at all times (can be a light emergency bivy)
8. **Extra food:** Beyond the minimum expectation
9. **Extra water:** Beyond the minimum expectation
10. **Extra clothes:** Beyond the minimum expectation

The exact items from each system that you take can be tailored to the trip you are taking. For example, on a short day hike that’s easy to navigate you might choose to take a map, compass, and PLB, but leave your GPS and altimeter behind. On a longer, more complex outing, you might decide you want all those tools to help you find your way. When deciding what to bring, consider factors like weather, difficulty, duration, and distance from help. More information on the Ten Essential Systems can be found on REI’s website:

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>

# NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS

**Matt Komos**



## **Ever Wonder What It Takes to Run FOMELC Financially?**

As a volunteer organization, FOMELC has had to evolve and change the funding model as time has gone on. When FOMELC was initially started in 2005, a seed grant from the Wilderness Society for \$25,000 helped launch the Friends as the newest group to help steward the important Wilderness lands of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek. In addition to the seed grant, FOMELC entered what is known as a cost-share agreement with the South Platte, Clear Creek, and South Park ranger districts, as these lands cross over multiple national forests. The essence of a cost-share agreement is that as a volunteer organization doing work on behalf of the Forest Service, each year we agree to complete certain levels of work in agreement with the Forest Service, and in return we receive a grant. Over the years, these amounts have ranged from \$1,500 to as much as \$5,000. In addition to the cost-share agreement, FOMELC had traditionally relied on member dues as well, but the Board voted to do away with member dues starting in 2019, wanting to provide a way for more people to participate without financial obligation and realizing that volunteer time was a significant source of payment in itself. Finally, FOMELC has increasingly competed for and received significant "restricted grants" to enhance our field programs. This is a trend that is likely to continue in the future. But as "restricted grants", they can only be used for projects with little or no funding for "organizational expenses". At the same time, they tend to put pressure on those expenses - recruiting volunteers, communication platforms, training, uniforms and insurance. These grants we receive require "matches" from volunteer time and it is a competitive process. The more volunteers have involved the project and the more hours they contribute the better chance we have of being funded.

Fast forward to 2019, as Federal budgets had continued to be cut, the cost-share grant money that helped with ongoing expenses for the organization were not spared in these cuts. For the first time since its inception, FOMELC could not rely on this grant money, and the same has held true in 2020. While our expenses are not exorbitant by most standards, with these cuts, FOMELC has had to turn to other funding sources and grants to help with ongoing expenses, which we will get to shortly. The reality is that FOMELC does need to rely on the community in which we do our work, which is why you will see our fundraising appeal in this month's newsletter as well.

### **Revenues and Expenses**

Though a non-profit organization, FOMELC still operates as a business, and as any business, we take in revenues and incur expenses to operate the business. At the beginning of the year, the Board meets to discuss and approve a budget for the year, which includes estimates for our revenues and both fixed and variable expenses that we anticipate for running various programs. Based on how revenues come in through the year, we make adjustments to variable expenses and decide where we might have to make cuts or can expand what we do. Let's take a deeper look at some of the numbers:

In 2019, we took in \$24,299 in revenue, with about half of that coming from a state weed grant that gets passed directly to Foothills Vegetation for a lot of the spraying work and in support of the weed work led by Alan and his weed teams. We also made our first fundraising appeal last year specifically for a new website, in which many of you gave substantially along with each Board member, which brought in over \$4,700. For the last few years, we have also benefitted from a grant from the Platte Canyon Community Partnership which brought in \$2,255 last year. Finally, we received over \$1,300 in other donations as well as \$2,550 for an intern to help with our weed work. Really a great year in terms of the money we were able to bring in!

## NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS CON'T

Looking at the expense side of the equation, we incurred expenses of \$29,759, leaving a deficit of about \$5,460. Now don't worry, we had a bit of a cushion in the bank, so ended the year with a bank balance of about \$7,404. Our fixed expenses included items for running the business, such as our subscription to Constant Contact (\$600/year), our storage shed rental (\$1,020/year), and various other costs, as shown below.

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<b>Fixed</b>		
	<b>Constant Contact</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>
	<b>Storage Shed Rental</b>	<b>\$ 1,020</b>
	<b>Spring Training</b>	<b>\$ 787</b>
	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 1,453</b>
<b>Total Fixed</b>		<b>\$ 3,859</b>

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With regard to variable expenses, in 2019 we focused on items such as marketing and printing new brochures, hats and shirts, or participating in events (\$3,200), a new website (\$2,591), Chamber of Commerce memberships (\$520), the annual NWSA conference (\$1,105), and various other expenses that help support our mission and our members, but don't necessarily cover the day-to-day running of the organization. For many of the grants we secure, we actually have to incur some costs to make them happen, such as additional insurance or project-based expenses, which go to these variable expense items as well. These are the areas where the Board makes adjustments to the budget, which we did for 2020 with some conservative adjustments to our variable expenses.

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<b>Variable</b>		
	<b>Website</b>	<b>\$ 2,591</b>
	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>\$ 3,242</b>
	<b>Registrations &amp; Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$ 1,625</b>
	<b>Training</b>	<b>\$ 277</b>
	<b>Member Events</b>	<b>\$ 692</b>
	<b>General and Administrative</b>	<b>\$ 850</b>
	<b>Trails</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Tools</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Variable</b>		<b>\$ 9,278</b>
<b>Total Fixed and Variable</b>		<b>\$ 13,137</b>

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### Pass through expenses/restricted use grants:

<b>Foothills Vegetation</b>	<b>\$ 11,274</b>
<b>Weed Grant Expenses/Other Grants</b>	<b>\$ 5,562</b>



## NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS CON'T

This was before COVID-19 hit, which did allow for a reduction in some 2020 planned expenses, but also, we anticipate a reduction in some of our 2020 expected revenues. We were fortunate to be able to get rid of our storage shed for 2020 as the South Platte ranger district donated space for us and Clear Creek bought a new shed to house a lot of our gear as well as some first aid kits. So, our budgeted fixed expenses were reduced to about \$2,800 to run FOMELC, and we had about \$5,300 planned in variable expenses to help support the organization, which include items such as finishing the website (\$2,400) and Chamber of Commerce dues (\$520). While we do have money in the bank, we have gotten to a place where we can't rely on cost-share agreement grants or some of the traditional sources of funding and we are looking to build on the great foundation we have as an organization.

Although we can't do all of the great work we do without our volunteers on the ground, we hope in addition that you can add FOMELC to your annual giving considerations. <https://fomelc.org/>

**The idea of wilderness**  
**Needs no defense.**  
**It only needs more defenders**

- *Edward Abbey*



(Photo by Dee Lyons)

**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 **NEW website** to sign up. [www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org)