

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative

www.mrhi.org info@mrhi.org

Building Sustainable Connections in Sheep Creek

MRHI Stewardship Crew members partnered with the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) to connect two popular trails on the South Park Ranger District, FST 645 (Sheep Creek Trail) and FST 684 (Twelve Mile Lake Trail). These two trails are used by hikers, bikers and equestrians. The goal of this project was to alleviate wetland habitat concerns and create a more sustainable connection.

Using part of the old sustainable roadbed, crews used hand tools to construct 0.4 miles of new single-track trail connecting the current FST 645 (Sheep Creek Trail) and FST 684 (Twelve Mile Lake Trail). They also installed an awesome single plank bridge across sheep creek. Our SCC partners did an amazing job, with support from South Park Ranger District staff and MRHI. Special thanks to the Park County Land & Water Trust Fund supported by local taxpayers, as well as the National Forest Foundation and South Park National Heritage Area for funding to make this improved trail possible!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
FAIRPLAY HOLIDAY BAZAAR, SAT. DEC 7TH, 9:30-5

UPCOMING EVENTS:
COLORADO GIVES DAY, TUES. DEC 10TH
EARLY GIVING HAS BEGUN!
FAMILY SOLSTICE HIKE, SAT., DEC. 21, 6 P.M.



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Historic Buckskin Cemetery Moonwalk Succeeds Despite Snowstorm

One day before our annual Moonwalk, snow was falling fast and a few folks were calling to ask questions or even cancel. Despite the dire warnings, the snow and wind cleared nicely by Saturday afternoon and nearly 100 folks still managed to enjoy a magical evening in the moonlight. Tiny white string lights twinkled along the trail and bonfires warded off the chill. Our dedicated volunteers decked out in 1800's garb were well-prepared for the chilly evening and shared stories about Alma's past. Other volunteers were kind enough to provide delicious homemade cookies to brighten the evening. Thanks to all of you who helped make it happen!

For the first time, we were successful in lighting the way with solar lights to avoid the noisy hum of generators. Reservations were made through Eventbrite, also for the first time, in hopes of reaching a broader audience. Special thanks to Caroline Gannon who provided donations to the Moonwalk in honor of her mother, Catherine Anne Halpin Munsell. Her spirit continues to inspire us each year.



Members of the MRHI Stewardship Crew logged out an amazing amount of wood with folks at Sacramento Creek Ranch. Here: Tilly Ford, Ed Chilton, Aubree Heil, and MALT's Jeff Jordan.



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Creating Improved Trail Access for All Users

Tackling the Puma Point Trail was an exciting and challenging project this autumn. Everyone was called in to assist – community volunteers, South Park Ranger District staff, Southwest Conservation Corps, MRHI Stewardship Crew, and the South Park High School Vocational Agriculture/FFA.

Located next to the South Park National Heritage Area Visitor Center, the Puma Point trail provides a mellow .61 mile loop through an open meadow and a small dense aspen grove to a spectacular scenic overlook of South Park and surrounding mountain ranges. Our goal was to improve access to the trail using Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines. It included a new alignment of the first .17 miles of trail to a more gradual slope. We also widened the tread to approximately 5 feet to allow for passing and resting zones. Next year, we'll work on the second half and welcome volunteers to help! We're grateful to the USFS Secure Rural Schools Committee (RAC), South Park National Heritage Area, and local tax payers via the Park County Land & Water Trust.

Below: Students from South Park High School Vocational Agriculture/FFA built two accessible benches for the Puma Point Trail.

MRHI Stewardship Crew improved tread with crush fill and compacting at Puma Point!



Thank you to members of the South Park Community Church in Fairplay for sponsoring a community weed pull!



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December 10



ColoradoGivesDay.org



**Make a direct difference for conservation in the Mosquito Range.
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