

CATS End of Year Report - 2016



By: Bob Johnson, Director

CATS have been active now for four years up here in Northern Colorado and next year the organization will be celebrating their ten years in existence [2017]. There is no shortage of work and CATS is growing in many ways. In December the group finalized their non-profit status with the state and US government. CATS are now an official 501(c)3 charitable organization capable of asking for grant monies and receiving tax deductible donations. Mentioning this historic achievement first as it has been long overdue and with the help of many members and their personal commitment of long hours of enduring paperwork, CATS accomplished the acknowledged permanence of being a non-profit trail organization.

CATS has become a stabilized fixture in the NOCO area for trail maintenance and construction. Land agencies and other trail groups recognize that CATS members perform and instruct with exceptional diligence by way of the volunteers and/or their members at events.

Highlights for 2016

CATS had a total of 76 events [including meetings/trainings/scouting treks/toolfests] for the year. True trail whacks numbered at 57 [evenings/one dayers/weekends]. New tracking forms were implemented trying to quantitatively account for all the good work CATS members put out at each event. For example, CATS constructed and/or improved over 7475' of dirt surfaced trails in the NOCO region. Some other interesting facts include the group installing 115 stone steps and 40 mono-walls of various lengths. It seems CATS loves to work with rock. More detailed statistics can be found in the Work and Quantitative Logs for 2016.

The membership grew by five new individuals – Brandon, Cat, Ian, Nick, and Monica; mostly millennials, which the club needs to continue the vision. Brandon completed Crew Leader training and has been very active building trail and leading crews. The new members helped create a new facet for CATS, that is, an active social group that does various other activities besides whacking trails. CATS has moved into enjoying the trails and outdoors by sponsoring hikes, treks, climbing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, backpacking, and various other activities. CATS also take part in member sponsored local social events such as dinners, get-togethers, movies, home parties and more.

CATS accomplishments for this year are many and diverse. The Mariana Butte loop trail was completed in early spring allowing the visitor to complete a .9 mile walk around the base of the butte. The City asked CATS to construct a safe sustainable trail to the top of

the butte and that trail was finished giving the visitor a short hike (.1 mile) to the top of Mariana Butte to enjoy the 360° view of the surrounding area. Another trail system was started, named Hidden Hogback Trail [HHT], which runs directly behind the three hogbacks there at Mariana Butte and navigates northerly, to the Big Thompson River. The HHT is 70% complete and scheduled to be finished in 2017. Next year CATS is challenged with extensive rock work at the cliff base area, running parallel to the river; it will be a daunting enterprise.

CATS met with the founders of 'The Last Stand' [a veterans retreat in the mountains for them and their pets to visit]. CATS decided to assist them in building a 300 foot trail on their property. More plans are in the works for designing and extending that trail in 2017.

CATS camped on four separate weekends. Soapstone Prairie Natural Area camping trek, CATS continued to repair drainages, backsloping, armoring, and water crossings to the Cheyenne Rim Trail. Lory State Park hosted CATS at Arthurs Rock for a weekend of repairing the stone staircase and trails leading up to the climb up. CATS camped twice at Hermit Park and worked on the Limber Pine Trail [formerly Kruger Trail]. A sizeable group of CATS members went up to Hermit Park on a weekday and put some good sweat equity in trail construction.

CATS took on some difficult projects including a reroute of a turn on the trail at Rotary Park, Horsetooth. The project ended up as a good lesson in building climbing turns.

CATS continued their Crew Leader training in March with several veteran crew leaders attending then another special training in July.

CATS has been partnering with OMBC (Overland Mountain Bike Club) in trail building, crew leader classes inside and outside, and management efforts at Young Gulch Trail. There is a movement to combine crew leader training with OMBC in 2017, advance the class to two days, and relocate the training venue.

The CATS website has undergone some major improvements and is still under development as well as the Facebook page continues to receive reports on the weekly operations of the group. The Signupgenius.com site will still continue to register volunteers for work projects only. CATS google cloud is a new social media site for downloading photos and paperwork.

In closing,

Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society is a positive force for pushing the stewardship of trails. CATS start working on trails early in the year, about the 1st of April and finishes late in the year (December). With the sanctioning of the IRS, donors can come forward with tax deductible donations and CATS can focus on writing for grant monies to be used for the organization, training, and trail projects. The future is not set in stone; then again,

CATS future is destined to produce quality improvements to all the trails in the area and continue to grow in membership and responsibilities.

“Our greatest assets are our members. They are the dedicated volunteers that suit up in trail garb, at times leave behind personal commitments, travel great distances, mess up their vehicles with trail tools, work hard without complaint, in hot or foul weather or slashing through snake infested dense bush, tolerate me on projects, and never ask for compensation, but rather a hand shake; a smile; or a few words of praise. It is the bonding of trail addicts that propels this organization to greater heights.” Bob Johnson 2015

Bob Johnson
Director



The derived figures may not be as accurate as they are recorded.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Avg. members per event: | 5.5 |
| Avg. project hours per event for year: | 29 |
| Total individual hours at events: | 616 |
| Total project hours: | 2268 |
| Total trail projects: | 15 |
| Total Partnership Projects | 5 |
| Total events: | 57 |
| Total new/rehab trail: | 7475 |
| Avg. new/rehab trail per event: | 131' |
| Total closure trail: | 432' |
| Avg. close trail per event: | 8' |
| Total design and trail build projects: | 1 |
| New members: | 5 |
| Total active members: | 14 |
| On the roles | 21 |
| Public events: Booth assignments: | 0 |
| Rockwall class | 0 |
| Crew Leader class | 2 |
| Scouting trips for trail design | 8 |
| Onsite trail design | 3 |
| Crew Leader assist projects with other groups | 1 |
| Day events for public | 0 |
| Tool cleaning session | 2 |
| Meetings | 5 |
| College students - instruction | 0 |
| All projects total cost savings @ \$25.96 per volunteer work hour = | \$42,029.00 |

Definitions: Project = the area/park/trail that is the primary worksite Events = the repetitive trips back to the project site until completed Individual Hours = hours for an event that everyone gets credit Total Project Hours = everyone's combined hours for that project

Most Worked Land Agencies & Projects based on total individual Hours

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1. City of Loveland – Open Lands and Trails: Mariana Butte & Hidden Hogback Trail | 130.50 |
| 2. Larimer County DNR: Hermit Park | 68 |
| 3. LSP: Arthurs Rock | 36 |
| 4. FCNA: Soapstone Prairie Natural Area | 14 |

Totals are based on 'hands-on' work, not accounting for meetings, flagging, walk through's, scouting projects, or toolfests.

| City of Loveland Open Lands and Natural Areas | <u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u> | <u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u> | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Hidden Hogback Trail | 76 | 404 | |
| Trail to the Top | 33.5 | 165.50 | |
| Mariana Butte Trail | 21 | 97 | |

| Larimer County DNR | <u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u> | <u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Hermit Park Trail/project | 68 | 488 | |
| Rotary Park – Climbing turn repair | 17 | 69 | |
| Hidden Valley Trail – Devils Backbone | 7.5 | 35 | |

| LSP | <u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u> | <u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u> | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Arthur's Rock Trail | 36 | 312 | |
| Shoreline Trail | 5.75 | 38 | |
| Orchard Cove Trail | 4 | 32 | |
| Well Gulch Nature Trail | 4.25 | 29.75 | |

| FCNA | <u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u> | <u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u> | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Cheyenne Rim Trail- Soapstone Prairie NA | 17 | 69 | |
| Maxwell Open Space – Foothills Trail | 7 | 28 | |

| Partnership Trail Groups – | <u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u> | <u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| VOC: @ LSP & Hermit Park | 56 | 464 | |
| WRV: Young Gulch Trail | 27 | 135 | |
| OMBC: Hidden Valley and Young Gulch | 16.5 | 71 | |
| | | | |

Accounting by events [all-inclusive] and hours = the value of CATS volunteering = Colorado = \$25.96 at 2015

<http://independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>

By Project

| Symbol | Agency | event/project | Events | hours | value |
|--------|--------|---------------------|--------|-------|----------|
| CATS | CATS | CATS Admin | 12 | 12 | \$312 |
| ST | CPW | Shoreline Trail | 3 | 88 | \$2,284 |
| HV | LCNR | Hidden Valley Trail | 3 | 40 | \$1,038 |
| YG | WRV | Young Gulch | 7 | 188 | \$4,880 |
| SS | FCNA | Soapstone | 3 | 76 | \$1,973 |
| MB | COL | Mariana Butte | 33 | 649 | \$16,848 |
| FIGI | CATS | Figi Property | 4 | 64 | \$1,661 |
| AR | CPW | Arthurs Rock Trail | 5 | 144 | \$3,738 |
| MAX | FCNA | Maxwell Trail | 2 | 31 | \$805 |
| HP | LCNR | Hermit Park | 7 | 174 | \$4,517 |
| RT | LCNR | Rotary Turn | 5 | 58 | \$1,506 |
| WG | CPW | Well Gulch Trail | 1 | 50 | \$1,298 |
| WTF | WRV | ToolFest WRV | 1 | 25 | \$649 |
| LTF | CPW | ToolFest Lory | 1 | 20 | \$519 |
| | | | 87 | 1619 | \$42,029 |

By Agency

| Symbol | # Projects | Agency | Events | hours | value |
|--------|------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|----------|
| CPW | 4 | CO. Parks & Wildlife | 10 | 302 | \$7,840 |
| FCNA | 2 | Ft. Collins Natural Areas | 5 | 107 | \$2,778 |
| | | Larimer County Natural | | | |
| LCNR | 3 | Resources | 15 | 272 | \$7,061 |
| COL | 1 | City of Loveland | 33 | 649 | \$16,848 |
| PWV | 0 | Poudre Wilderness Volunteers | 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| | | Wildlands Restoration | | | |
| WRV | 2 | Volunteers | 8 | 213 | \$5,529 |
| CATS | 2 | CATS | 16 | 76 | \$1,973 |
| | | | | 1619 | \$42,029 |