

A Fresh New Look at an Old Trail

By: Bob Johnson 2013

Shoreline Trail at Lory State Park has seen better days since its creation. The trail was built to provide a scenic avenue to the shore of Horsetooth Reservoir – thus the name. Shoreline Trailhead starts at the lower Arthur's Rock parking lot and heads easterly towards the reservoir. This trail is just less than one mile in a one-way direction and crosses over three hogbacks and two valleys.

Something had to be done with the deteriorating trail conditions to make a visitors experience safe and enjoyable. Earlier, last year, the Friends of Lory State Park took action at the lower portion of the trail – near the reservoir by putting in stone steps to stabilize the trail and slow down the water washing down the middle of the trail. Volunteers worked four hours April 27th 2013 and made a small dent in the work that was needed.



Unfortunately, trail maintenance crews are not allowed to deviate from the original placement of the existing trail due to habitat issues concerning the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.



So, maintenance groups have to be creative about fixing problems and dealing with water drainage and at the same time keeping all the user groups in mind. Stone steps and water drainages seemed to be the answer.

Last year, **CATS – Colorado Addicted Trail-builders Society** adopted the Shoreline Trail and continued the repairs. At the first hogback, easterly from Arthurs Rock lower parking lot, the group made minor repairs to the existing drainages and steps in the trail.

The second hogback in the direction of the reservoir area required extensive planning and repairs to stop the erosive trail braiding, cupping, and widening. Some of the water damage to the trail included deep ditches that will continually destroy the trail. CATS trail teams filled most of the ditches with rip-rap (busted up rock) to slow the water down and re-establish the trail definition. Filling in these ditches



helped make the trail safe and reduced the risk of tripping by all users – including horses. Rip-rap placed in certain areas also helps abate the trail bench from expanding.



CATS has big plans to finish the third hogback area trail repairs this spring and tout the trail is safe for all users. A grand re-opening will be announced!

CATS put in 12 team trips to do the trail repairs,

- 62 ½ hours as a whole group
- 890' +/- feet of trail repaired in 2013.

Any comments or questions – please contact Bob Johnson, FoLSP board member and CATS coordinator. E-Mail: N-CATS2@comcast.net

We welcome volunteers to come out and join us!