



CATS End of Year Report - 2019

By: Bob Johnson (Field Director/Vice President)



The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based out of the Loveland/Fort Collins area which is devoted to designing, building and repairing the various recreation trails found in Northern Colorado. We partner with city, county, state & national agencies to help provide the manpower and skills required to help keep their trails managed and open to the public. All members of the organization are volunteers (no paid positions), who share a common bond with their love for the outdoors. Our members come from various backgrounds and ages ranging from seven years old to seventy-one years old.

Highlights for 2019

The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) completed its seventh trail season in the Northern Colorado area. CATS had a total of thirteen trail project locations which accumulated over 51 whacks for a grand total of 409 volunteer event hours. With the attendance of all our volunteers at these projects our hours for land agencies exceeded 2400 hours!



CATS constructed or otherwise helped improve over 2,500 foot of soft surface trail in the Northern Colorado area. Our quantitative log shows that the organization installed over 145 new stone steps, fourteen stone monowalls and rubble walls of various sizes and lengths (650'), numerous rolling grade dips, rock water bars, nicks, drain clearings and construction, and extensive placement of rip-rap elements to trail up/down slopes. There was over 1,000' of closed trail we implemented and a viable amount of naturalizing, corridor clearing and roughed in trail work completed which is hard to annotate. We again moved piles of crusher fines to awaiting trail cuts for a staggering 2600'. Most of the placement was manually done with the use of shovels and wheel barrows. Our partnership efforts with WRV at Young Gulch were great and unfortunately not accurately quantified. Needless to say, all those

that worked out there know the contributions of the CATS organization and the work shows it. CATS' overall NOCO area influences are reflected in the improvements within the land agencies. Our statistics are never really justified with paper counts; but we try hard to historically record our work.



Membership

The organization picked up some new members this year – fourteen in total. Attendance was strong this year at the beginning with Willow Bend and Round Mountain and then seemed to taper off for the rest of the year. Our camping adventures started strong also and then had slightly diminished participation by the end of the year. Several of our members have earned their hats, t-shirts and even the long-sleeved shirt on the basis of attendance and of course putting in hard personal exertion to back that award. Others have moved along the leadership chain by taking NOCO CL training courses,



WRV leadership university classes, graduating from the OSI TA class, sawyer training and more. Trained CATS members strengthen the organization with more of its members acquiring trail and various other skill sets. Furthermore, our members are continually asked to lead crews and projects with other trail groups. CATS members have racked up over the last two years noteworthy awards from WRV and various city organizations. CATS indirectly provide instructors for several training events with WRV, VOC, OSI and the NOCO Trailbuilders Coalition.

Partnerships

In 2019 Overland Mountain Bike Association (OMBA) and Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) continued to provide leadership with the trail crew leader training course. The NOCO Trailbuilders Coalition provided a third year of training this year at the Chilson Center in Loveland CO. CATS continued to work alongside with OMBA, WRV and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) at various projects, most notable the Young Gulch trail project, which is now open to the public. CATS partnered with a new organization – No Barriers USA at their campus in Livermore, CO to work on rehabilitating an existing trail and make it more accessible for their clients. We also took on another park within CPW – that is – Watson Lake SWA and laid in a nice crush trail along their lakeside. Our partnerships continue to nurture and expand each year with the understanding that CATS is a very responsible and serious partner that can be counted on to perform extraordinary and quality work on assigned volunteer projects.



Equipment



Our van made it through the second year of service with road trips to SFSP at Cameron Pass, Young Gulch, and Lory State Park. The van got a new battery, wiper blades, oil change and its insides were renovated again early this year with new pull out drawers and shelving. Our tools took some hits this year with a McLeod breaking, one pick mattock bent over head, missing several hand jacks, and some broke

handles. Nothing devastating to say and our post season inventory will fix everything – especially at the annual toolfest. The van outside looks good and it runs good. Overall assessment is a great vehicle for our needs. We are looking at improving the pick mattock accessibility and a few other minor things. Continued maintenance of the tools [scrapping] is highly recommended and appreciated by all after each event. We may need to step up our ‘tool sweeps’ each week to assure less tool loss. CATS now has a rented storage bin that we can store excess equipment [camping] instead of in the van, thus freeing up more space for event tools. The van supplies can now be tailored to match the event coming up. We picked up some new sandwich boards for our events to note our presence on the trail and we now have some new communications devices [hand held].



Notables

CATS neon yellow shirts are making a hit with most members. Not only are they noticeable, but functional as well. They are made of that synthetic material which breaks the wind and keeps you warm. They can be worn underneath the traditional tan t-shirt and provide more protection. The buffs are in great demand also as they can be pulled up around the face in the midst of windy projects and blowing dirt.

A sizeable amount of folks in CATS are taking advantage of some of the free training offered in the areas of leadership, first aid, designing trails, sawyering and more.

CATS designed and constructed new trail at Round Mountain Connector Trail, Viestenz- Smith Mountain Park, No Barriers, and some trail re-design at State Forest State Park, Watson Lake SWA and Mehaffey Park.

Three camping treks, two toolfests, one fundraiser at Cactus Grill, one Farmers Market booth, one celebration party with No Barriers, and one annual CATS party.





CATS were asked by referral to come in and fix social trails at Mehaffey Park. On another referral, we were specifically requested to come in the park and help rectify another social trail and then crush it – Watson Lake SWA.

CATS were directly asked to come back to Hermit Park and assist in construction of a connector trail.

CATS had seven new projects and entered into two new partnerships with other land agencies.

Firsts!

- First time at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area with CATS
- First time at NO Barriers campus in Livermore, CO
- First time camping in yurts
- First time to cohost OSI TA course here in NOCO area
- First time to start rock shopping at quarries/landscaping firms vice in the wild
- First to set up a new storage area for CATS supplies
- First to do a fundraiser with an eatery in Loveland CO
- First time to work at Farmers Market partnering with City of Loveland
- First time to host a party at a brewery



Total Projects in 2019 - 13

Project Name	Total Whacks (visits)
Young Gulch	12
Rotary Park – Climbing Area	8



Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society

Northern Colorado Area, USA

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Viestenz- Smith Mountain Park	8
Round Mountain – Connector Trail	6
Willow Bend – completion of crush delivery	3
Mehaffey Park – fix social trails	3
Lory State Park – camping – Arthurs Trail/Shoreline	2 [3days]
Bobcat Ridge Natural Area – fix trails	2
CSU – ‘A’ Trail – fix	2
Watson Lake SWA – crush lakeside trail	2
No Barriers – fix Eagles Nest Trail	1
Hermit Park – Connector Trail	1
State Forest State Park – fix Ruby Jewel Trail	1 [3days]
New Projects = green	51

Land Agency/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
COL – Willow Bend	3	42	147
COL - Round Mtn	6	74	365
COL – Viestenz-Smith	8	55	182.75
COL – Mehaffey Park	3	22	76.5
Totals	20	193	771.25

Land Agency/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
LC – Rotary Park	8	45	146
Hermit Park	1	5	30
Totals	9	50	176



Land Agency/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
CPW – SFSP	1 [3 days]	35	240
CPW – LSP	2	25	156
CPW – Watson Lake	3	22	54.5
Totals	6	82	450.5

Land Agency/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
FCNA – CSU A Tr.	2	17	55
FCNA - Bobcat R NA	2	19	86.5
Totals	4	36	141.5

Land Agency/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
No Barriers USA	4	55	404.5
Totals	4	55	404.5

Partner/Project	Visits	Total Vols. Involved	Total Hours of Vols.
WRV – Young Gulch	11	54	416.5
WRV – Training	3	26	200
Totals	14	80	616.5

National Value of Volunteer Time

\$28.02 per hour [Colorado] *Estimated Value of Volunteer Time for 2018*

Closing

The CATS organization continues onward with ‘keeping it simple.’ We grow in size by word of mouth mostly as recruiting efforts are minimal and sometimes dismal. We walk the talk. Our swag and



outreach tables are there mostly to educate the public about who we are and what we do. Joining is their responsibility and so our ranks are small, but our group is tight and skilled. Keeping the fire lit is the challenge for our members. We need better participation next year in all events. Only a dedicated few are keeping the bulk work done. Our deep-pocket donors are keeping us afloat with free shirts of all kinds, hats, patches, decals, van repairs, social media expenses and more. Thank you very much. Without money most things are not attainable, a sad fact of life. I am thankful that there are other visionaries in the group that can see the value of keeping this organization alive. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into making this organization operate. I would hope that in the future more individuals step forward to help out.

“The future of CATS is secure in its vision for promoting citizens to become skillful outdoor stewards and take independent personal responsibility for developing future trailbuilders.” *Bob Johnson, 2018*

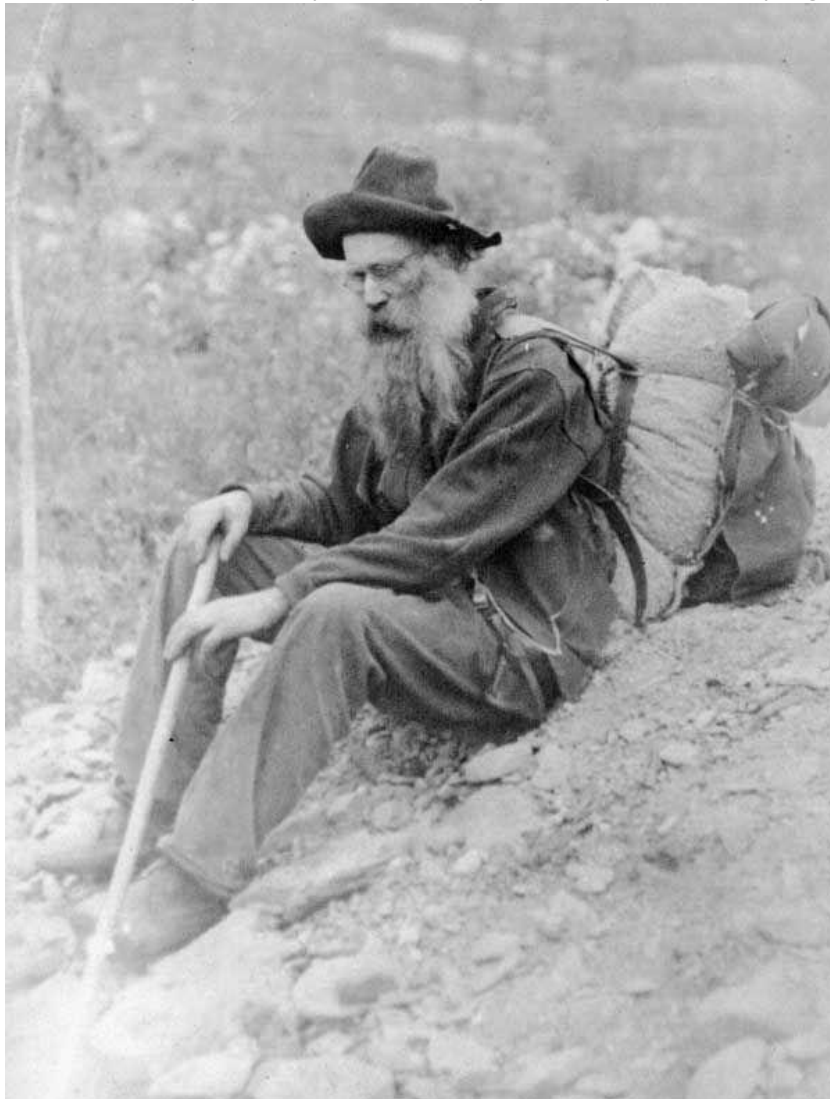


Figure 1 Bob Still Whacking Trail