



CATS End of Year Report - 2021

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The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) 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, and 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 through their love for the outdoors. Our members come from various backgrounds and ages ranging from seven to seventy years old.

Highlights for 2021

CATS finished its ninth year in Northern Colorado and celebrated its fifth full year as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in 2021.

CATS focused most of our efforts on longer distance projects in 2021, spending significant time working on mountain trails for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the US Forest Service. On top of our usual trail work CATS was also able to support the restoration efforts after the Black Hollow Mudslide. In total CATS hosted 27 weekday/weekend projects for a total of 768 volunteer hours.

More detailed statistics can be found throughout this report broken by the various agencies which we worked with.

Membership

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to restrict our ability to actively recruit members. With added restrictions and limits on event size CATS chose to focus on current member and work to make sure that proper tools and equipment were provided on the events to remain safe and healthy while on the trail. Halfway through the year CATS began to support weekend project once again providing food and amenities (such as cabins) to help provide additional perks for joining the projects. At the end of the year CATS had 40 active volunteers (attended one or more projects in a year) and 124 rostered volunteers (attended one or more projects in last three years).

Partnership

CATS partnered with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), Knar Runners, and Overland Mountain Bike Association (OMBA) on multiple events in 2021. Members from CATS provided instructors for WRV's spring training series, teaching the basics on how to lead a trail crew, and members from WRV supported CATS with the Poudre River Restoration effort. A newer partner, the Knar Runners, provided multiple members to



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support CATS at State Forest State Park helping CATS in its final push to get the Ruby Jewel re-route completed in time for the Never Summer run event. OMBA's trail agent team collaborated with CATS on a joint project at Young Gulch to complete the rebuild efforts for turn three to make it more user friendly for all trail users.

Equipment

Due to limited use in 2020 many of CATS tools were in great shape for the 2021 season requiring very little sharpening. Outside of general replacement of damaged equipment CATS did not add any large pieces of equipment to its arsenal.

Below is a condensed overview of the projects/locations CATS worked in 2021:

Loveland Natural Areas – 201 Hours, 17 Events

CATS assisted the city of Loveland with the construction on a few trails throughout the city.

- Completed the new 0.9 mile Sunset Vista trail (opened Spring 2021).
- Co-hosted a public trail day at the Old St. Louis Natural Area, building part of a crusher fines trail connecting the open space with a new paved trail through the town.



City of Fort Collins Natural Areas – 44 Hours, 1 Events

CATS assisted the city of Fort Collins with final preparation of the Maxwell trail providing support to de-berm the newly built trail, naturalize the old trail, and repair parts of the trail that were damaged by the equipment used to build the new trail.





Larimer County Natural Areas – 85 Hours, 3 Events

CATS assisted Larimer County with the repair and rebuild of portions of its Sundance trail on Cater Lake. Installing multiple large rock walls, stairs, and a large causeway to help stabilize the trail tread and allow safe travel for users no matter how high the reservoir water level rises.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife - 328 Hours, 3 Events

CATS hosted two weekend events at State Forest State Park.

- During the first weekend project CATS focused on repairing the Ruby Jewel re-route which was damaged by a major windstorm in 2020. Once the repairs were made CATS had the great honor to finish the last part of the trail opening the reroute to its first visitors, allowing the Never Summers Race to use the reroute for its 60K & 100K race later in the year.
- During the second weekend project CATS focused on repairing the Lake Agnes trail, building multiple rock walls to stabilize the trail and spending time closing/re-naturalizing multiple social trails that were near the lake.

CATS also hosted its first ever project at Golden Gate State Park. During the weekend project CATS focused on development of a new trail (Racoon Trail) building a large switchback turn and multiple steps/rock walls to support trail tread.





US Forest Service - 110 Hours, 3 Events

CATS hosted three weekend events at in the Poudre River Canyon supporting the US Forest Service.

- CATS was able to assist the US Forest Service with some major rigging work to remove steel beams, a transformer, and multiple large pieces of debris from the Poudre River after the Black Hollow Mudslide.
- CATS (in collaboration with OMBA trail agents team) was able to rebuild the entrance to the third bridge at Young Gulch, making it more accessible for multiple trail users.



Closing

The 2021 season was a step forward for CATS after a rough year in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Cameron Peak fire. Though the heat, multiple injuries, and limited leadership bandwidth forced CATS to reduce the number of weekday projects compared to previous years, CATS was able to host multiple additional Saturday & Sunday projects in 2021 providing additional support to trails further west. The past few years have led to strains on the current organizational model. As we approach 2022, CATS plans to realign and pull more support from its members to help run projects as we build a more sustainable operation going forward. In 2022 CATS celebrates its 10th year in northern Colorado; with this significant milestone the goal will be to set it up for success now and for the next 10 years.

Hope to see you on the trail!