

Trails Workshop – What’s the Plan?

A two-day workshop about trails hosted by Forest Service Salida Trails folks:

- What are trails for?
- What & where trails are locally.
- Who needs trails? Who *are* “we” that use them?
- How to get involved in trail care.
- How to coordinate future trail activities and projects!

--This two-day workshop will provide interesting classroom information and discussion, & “on trail” methods and standards for trail maintenance and construction.

--A workshop goal will be to develop a corps of interested and knowledgeable trail partners who can work together to provide a sustainable trail system in our valley.

-- All workshop participants will receive the Forest Service Trail Construction Notebook and several other handy trail work reference materials, in addition to a good foundation in trail building and maintenance skills from a variety of sources. There will be a good DVD and power point presentation.

--This workshop is for all of us who like trails and enjoy and want the opportunity to work on them as individuals, crew members, and crew leaders. We hope it leads us all together to bigger and better things in the world of trails in our valley!

When & where: The workshop will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 2nd & 3rd. The 1st day will be in the meeting room at the Buena Vista Library at 131 Linderman Ave. The 2nd day we will be on the Davis Meadow Trail in the Four-Mile area east of Buena Vista.

To register, please contact Tambi Gustafson at 719-530-3978 in the Salida Ranger District, or tgustafson@fs.fed.us. Space is limited in the library so please register soon, and so that we can have all necessary class materials available. As we get closer we will have more detailed information and get it out to you.

Here’s what we will cover in this 2-day workshop:

9 a.m. 1st day – in the morning:

- What are trails for? Are trails important?
- What and where are the areas “big” trails, most popular trails?
- What’s the “trail inventory” – non-motorized, motorized, & in wilderness in our area, and how many people use them? What’s available today to care for them?
- Who uses our trails, (who are we) - and why this matters. Different trail purposes, levels of difficulty, different trail users = different trail impacts – what are those impacts? How are trails developed to meet these different uses, purposes, and impacts? What are trail class standards?

An awareness of the information in these topics lets us know “why” we are doing the work we do on the ground, on our trails, & why we need good trail standards and trail “savvy”. This knowledge lets us share this with others.

1st day lunch & an on-going discussion: How we get involved; can we, how do we coordinate our efforts?

Then – 1st day in the afternoon:

- So..., once we decide what a trail is for, how do we decide how to build & maintain it? Time & use proven trail maintenance and construction methods for different user groups, places, and purposes!
- Trail Basics (Today, & *tomorrow in the field*):
Examples – The 10% rule; The half rule; Grades, fall lines, and drainages; Contours, contours, contours – not too steep, not to flat; Control points; Dirt, water, gravity, (& use).
- Trail specifics (Today, & *tomorrow in the field*):
Examples: Surface water control; Trail corridor; Trail foundation; Wet areas; Stream crossings; Turns, steps, & walls; Reclamation.

Over at 4 p.m.

9 a.m. Day 2 – on the trail again!

What you will need - Be sure you come prepared for a day outside, working on the trail – as much hands on as we can manage and you'd like to try. It'll be fun! Wear boots, long pants, & long sleeved shirt. Bring something for cool weather (it's springtime in Colorado), or rain. Bring gloves, sun-screen, water bottle (full), and a sack lunch. Not too worried about bugs, yet. We'll have hard hats.

Depending on snow conditions, we plan to put as much as we can of what we learned yesterday to work on the Davis Meadows Trail today. Since it's mostly a "show me" day, we won't worry too much about how many miles of trail we'll work on, we'll focus on seeing how we can apply what we've covered. Depending on snow-melt, we may go instead to Mears Junction on the Rainbow Trail on 285 just past Poncha Springs. There's a great selection of trail there near the parking lot with a large variety of different "concepts" and needed work there, too. We'll be sure & know what we need to do ahead of time & let everyone know. We'll also be sure to figure out meeting places and car-pooling opportunities ahead of time.

- Tools & safety. We'll have a selection of trail tools to look at, and carefully review safety requirements as well as how to use each of them.
- Trail Basics: Examples – the 10% rule; the half rule; grades, fall lines, and drainages; contours, contours, contours – not too steep, not to flat; control points; dirt, water, gravity, & use.
- Trail Specifics: Examples - Surface water control; Trail corridor; trail foundation; Wet areas; Stream crossings; Turns, steps, & walls; Reclamation.
- Schedule another workshop day together?

Over at 4 p.m.

Whew! It'll be good. Hope to see you there.