



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

CONSERVATION CORPS

2019 End-Of-Season Portfolio



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Strengthening America through
service and conservation



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Since 1931, Rocky Mountain Conservancy has supported Rocky Mountain National Park and other public land partners through educational programs and philanthropic donations. Early on, the focus of the Conservancy was developing educational materials and publications for visitors to use while in Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the past eighty year, the Conservancy has grown to support its public land partners in a breadth of ways.

Currently, Rocky Mountain Conservancy contains five departments:

- **Retail** – manages nature stores throughout Colorado and Wyoming to provide visitors with educational materials and interpretive products for visitors to learn more about public lands.
- **Publications** – produces nature guides, children’s literature, natural and cultural history books, and more to enrich people’s experience in Rocky Mountain National Park and other public lands.
- **Philanthropy** – connects people to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Conservancy through a membership program and donations supporting RMNP and Conservancy programs.
- **Education** – provides field classes, internships, nature-based activities, and fellowships for people of all ages to further understand and connect with public lands.
- **Conservation** – hosts the High School Leadership Corps, Conservation Corps, and Volunteer Stewardship programs to engage local high school youth, young adults (ages 18-25), and the public (all ages) in conservation work.

Conservation Corps Program Outline

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy created the Conservation Corps program in 2003. Initially, the program supported seven interns on one crew in Rocky Mountain National Park. Since 2003, the program has grown to provide thirty-six youth with a summer-long internship opportunity on six different crews. Crews locations are: (listed in order of when they were established) Rocky Mountain National Park - Estes (2003), Rawah Wilderness (2005), Shadow Mountain (2006), Red Feather Lakes (2009), Boulder (2014), and Rocky Mountain National Park – Kawuneeche/Moraine (2015). Crews are made up of five to ten people (one to two leaders and four to eight crew members).

Program Goals:

1. To empower youth with job skills, career development resources, a conservation ethic, and a connection to our nation’s public lands to create the next generation of stewards.
2. To increase participant awareness of careers related to the environment, environmental stewardship, and public lands.
3. To link Conservation Corps projects to the missions and visions of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Rocky Mountain National Park/National Park Service, and Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest/USDA Forest Service.
4. To increase participant awareness and use of effective leadership skills based on positive and constructive communication and to provide opportunity for practice of these skills.
5. To increase participant awareness of the cultural and natural history and environment of the Rocky Mountain region.
6. To inform crew members in the need for and use of various methods of construction for environmentally friendly trails restoration, and reclamation projects.
7. To provide on-the-ground conservation work for Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF).

The season spans eleven weeks between late-May and early-August. For eight weeks the crews work directly alongside the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service completing conservation project you will find summarized in the pages following. The other three weeks focus on leadership training, educational programming, and career development.

The program provides work clothing, camping gear, housing, and a living stipend to all members and leaders. The program is funded through generous donor support, in-kind gear donations, grant funding, and National Park Service and USDA Forest Service project funds.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps is an AmeriCorps program through The Corps Network.

Estes Crew



Name: Charlotte Graeve (Crew Leader)

Hometown: The Woodlands, TX

School/Area of Study: Texas A&M University | Major: Parks & Conservation

Career Goals: My hope is to one day work for the U.S. Forest Service where I will have the opportunity to both protect our natural resources and encourage and inspire others.

Likes/ Hobbies: Hiking, reading, trail running, camping, playing soccer, writing

Testimonial/ Quote: "I know I will leave this summer with such a different outlook on interpersonal dynamics and conservation in the modern world, and I am grateful to have had this second season with Rocky Mountain Conservancy... This season taught me so much about

working with myself and with others in a way that I hadn't experienced in either of my two previous corps seasons. I feel beyond blessed to have been given this opportunity and to have received the best crew I could have asked for. Estes Bestes and RMC shaped my summer into one that I will hold with me forever!"



Name: Nick Barba

Hometown: Northville, MI

School/Area of Study: Oakland University | Major: Environmental Sciences (Sustainability & Resource Management)

Career Goals: Peace Corps Volunteer (Environmental Education/Sustainability), Research Botanist

Like/Hobbies: Backpacking, running, teambuilding, playing piano, going to concerts, and eating peanut butter

Testimonial: "My experience as a crew member of RMC-CC was phenomenal. I explored the landscapes and cultures of Colorado, made an impact on the world through varied conservation work, and met many amazing people with the same passions as me... My expectations for this program were too low. I did not realize how much RMC would impact my life and future goals. I did not expect to become so close to my crew and to learn so much about the world of conservation. RMC continually exceeded my expectations in the skills I learned, the people I met, and the places I got to explore."



Name: Rafael Renteria

Hometown: Round Rock, TX

School/Area of Study: Texas A&M University | Major: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

Career Goals: National Park administrator

Like/Hobbies: Golf, softball, hiking, video games

Testimonial/Quote: "As the 2019 season comes to a close, and I reflect on the experience as a whole, I see only growth. I grew not only in my knowledge of the resource and the things that affect it, but also in character. I feel like I better understand what kind of work goes into preserving the resource around us and what I can do to make the work we do more effective and efficient. While there is always low points to any experience, I can only really see how all the high and lows have led to a learning experience, making my summer a complete success."



Name: Denisse Silva

Hometown: Longmont, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Neuroscience

Career Goals: I would like to become something in the medical field preferably in the emergency medicine or surgical area.

Like/Hobbies: I like to swim, read, hike, and spend time with my dog.

Testimonial/Quote: "The summer seemed long at first, but ten weeks of being on the field went by quickly and with them came many lessons. I think that I have seen the most growth in my outdoor, work, and team skills. Coming up to Estes I was primarily nervous for the challenge of living outdoors for an entire summer. I had never done something similar to this summer. I had grown up camping with my family, and occasionally with friends. However, those trips only lasted for three or four days not eleven weeks. In my time camping with my crew, my outdoor skills have been strengthened."



Name: Hope Theander

Hometown: Grew up in Fort Collins, currently reside in Littleton, CO.

School/Area of Study: Colorado Mesa University | Major: Undecided, possibly Environmental Science

Career Goals: I will explore around after my first years out of college with a steady, yet flexible job. Travel, learn and define myself. After that, I plan to settle down and find a full-time job that can accompany my needs.

Like/Hobbies: I enjoy hiking and fishing (still need to learn how to fly fish though). I love playing volleyball with my friends but also meeting new ones. I want to get into rock climbing.

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer has been very different from every other summer I have had because I had to learn how to make connections and how to be independent. I was alone for the first time in 18 years with a few strangers, my Chevy Malibu, and a bear box. Our minimalistic way of living has opened my eyes to a new type of life and made me appreciate having a bed, a shower, and most importantly, a refrigerator! I have seen my crew members grow and I have felt myself grow throughout this unique experience."

2019 Work Highlights

The Estes Crew contributed extensively to critical conservation projects in Rocky Mountain National Park during the 2019 season. This work included two weeks of service with the Resource Stewardship division and six weeks of work with the trail crew.

During their two weeks with the vegetation team within the Resource Stewardship division, the crew worked to eliminate Leafy Spurge (an invasive species) using herbicide sprayers. They sprayed over 2500 Leafy Spurge stems across dozens of acres in Rocky Mountain National Park. This work helps to promote native plant growth, improve wildlife habitat, and support the National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Plan.



Beyond their management of invasive species within the Park, the Estes Crew also worked extensively to help protect the native plant restoration work conducted within the greenhouse and nurseries. They monitored native plants in the greenhouse, removed invasive plants in the nursery, and constructed a wildlife fence around a new native plant nursery to mitigate plant damage from small mammals (rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents).



For the rest of their season (six weeks) the crew worked with the Rocky Mountain National Park trail crew. This work brought them throughout the east side of Rocky helping to complete annual trail maintenance and support large-scale trail improvement projects. Trail maintenance focuses on improving trail drainages to divert water off trails, mitigate erosion, and encourage hikers to stay on trail. The crew helped maintain the Sandbeach Lake, Finch Lake, Deer Mountain, Mill Creek, Bierstadt Lake, Emerald Lake, and Thunder Lake trails.



In addition to their maintenance of popular hiking trails, the crew helped to construct and repair bridges and sections of trail at the Alluvial Fan, above Mills Lake, and in Wild Basin.

At the Alluvial Fan, the crew transported material to help with establishing new trail surface near the bridge below the waterfall. Once fully completed, this trail will be an accessible trail ensuring all visitors can enjoy the Park.

In Wild Basin, the crew assisted in improving safety at a bridge along the trail to Ouzel Falls. This bridge needed the handrails to be elevated and replaced. The crew helped to peel logs and set handrails to foster trail safety and enjoyment.



Above Mills Lake on the approach to Black Lake the crew spent multiple weeks helping to transport materials, prepare logs, and construct a bog bridge across a wetland area. Wet, marshy areas are important to wildlife habitat and stream health. Due to these critical ecological roles, it is important trails travelling through these areas are built to mitigate damage by encouraging people to stay on trail and out of the wetland habitat.



Rawah Crews



Name: Zoe Parham (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Columbia, MO

School/Area of Study: University of Missouri (Class of 2019) | B.S. in Plant Sciences

Career Goals: To be working outside for as much of the year as possible and leaving the earth better than I found it. I am interested in sustainable flower farming, working for the Forest Service, and a plethora of other opportunities.

Like/Hobbies: Reading, waking up early, mint oreos, maps, adventuring, learning, and meaningful conversations

Testimonial/Quote: "I am forever grateful for this season of work and growth. No reflection will truly be able to articulate the meaning of this summer and the relationships which have been formed. Those relationships are with others, myself, and especially with the natural world. There is no way to compare last season with this season, other than to say they both have had a profound impact on my life and my mind. I have never felt so full."



Name: James Zafarana (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University (Class of 2018) | B.S. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

Career Goals: I hope to continue to find ways that I can support conservation by fostering a relationship between people and our natural and built environments so that these public spaces are accessible and just.

Like/Hobbies: I enjoy pretty much any excuse to get outside! Including, but not limited to, trail running, hiking, biking, snowboarding, kayaking etc.

Testimonial/Quote: “Most importantly, I am feeling extremely grateful to have met these people from Rawah Crew and shared such a special experience with them. As a crew, we created a lot of beautiful memories and experiences together. Friendships blossomed, adventures ensued, and joy was the result.”



Name: Blake Boyle

Hometown: Loveland, CO

School/Area of Study: University of Central Florida | Major: Environmental Studies

Career Goals: To obtain a job in natural resource management.

Like/Hobbies: My main hobbies are fly fishing, backpacking and free diving. But out of all of them fly fishing is my favorite.

Testimonial/Quote: “My experience throughout the season has been incredible fun and constructive. The lessons I have learned and the experience gained will benefit me for the rest of my life. If I could describe this summer in one word it would be growth. My knowledge has grown, my relevant skills have grown and I have grown as a person... No matter which direction I go in the future I’m very thankful I have had this opportunity, and will apply the skills and knowledge learned into whatever I do.”



Name: Nidya Hernandez

Hometown: St. Mary’s County, MD

School/Area of Study: College of Southern Maryland | Major: Undecided

Career Goals: To be able to get a job working outdoors that I am happy doing.

Like/Hobbies: Camping, baking/cooking, fostering puppies, playing video games

Testimonial/Quote: “My experience as a whole has definitely been eye-opening to say the least. I came to Colorado this summer with average expectations and this program has definitely exceeded them. I have learned and experienced so many new things that I wouldn’t have unless I came here. I am so grateful that I was chosen to be a part of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and work alongside so many amazing people. I loved spending this summer in the outdoors and working on trails that people care so deeply about.”



Name: Amelia Marren

Hometown: Murfreesboro, TN

School/Area of Study: Bryn Mawr College (Class of 2019) | B.A. in Growth and Structure of Cities and Environmental Studies

Career Goals: To be happy and improve city environments and quality of life through green infrastructure.

Like/Hobbies: I love taking care of trees, gardening, taking public transportation, and going out to eat. In my free time I like to spend time in nature, play ultimate frisbee, and adventure.

Testimonial/Quote: “As a whole, this was a really humbling experience. I have never worked and lived with so many wonderful, hardworking individuals. When I look at my fellow crew members, I see hope in our future that I don’t see in my other peers.”



Name: Miles Moore

Hometown: Frisco, TX

School/Area of Study: Front Range Community College | Major: Natural Resource Management

Career Goals: To work on sustainability solutions that are easy for large populations to implement.

Like/Hobbies: I spend most of my free time refreshing my mind and body in public lands! My favorite activities are photography, mountaineering, snowboarding, and climbing.

Testimonial/Quote: “All in all, I am walking away from this summer with a fresh perspective on public land management, stewardship, teamwork and trail maintenance as well as a renewed outlook on my academic and professional trajectory.”



Name: Nathan Morrow

Hometown: Saint Charles, IL

School/Area of Study: Montana State University | Major: Conservation Biology

Career Goals: While I don’t have any specific career goals, my dream job is something that allows me to experience, understand, protect, and share the natural wonders of the earth. In doing so I hope to inspire more people to do the same!

Likes/Hobbies: I like to play ultimate frisbee, listen to lots of music, play guitar, look at stars, hug trees, think about aliens, and eat breakfast burritos.

Testimonial/Quote: “This has been the most impactful summer in recent memory. I feel that I’ve grown in numerous ways, many of which I have not realized yet.”



Name: Angelee Rose

Hometown: Golden, CO

School/Area of Study: Montana State University | Major: Environmental Biology and Engineering
Minor: Outdoor Education

Career Goals: Many things, I want to teach people the power of our land and help teach and preserve our natural lands and resources, I would like to continue working with kids and adults to help spread the importance of environmental stewardship, and one goal I want to hopefully achieve is to help get our third world countries out of the term developing in a environmental friendly way. I would also like to try and pilot adding environmental studies and education into

elementary education so that children are learning young and getting exposed quickly to the lessons many people take about twenty years to learn.

Like/Hobbies: Hiking, running, climbing, reading, biking, snowboarding, the forest, trees, talking to others, cooking, photography

Testimonial/Quote: “The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is a program I will forever be grateful to. It has taught me life lessons that I do not believe I would have been able to obtain anywhere else. On one of the most important levels I was able to give back to the public lands that have given me so much since I was a kid, it warms my heart to know other people that care so much about these areas and want to spend their time developing and protecting them. The power of hard work, leadership, education, dedication, friendship, and giving radiates through the program.”



Name: Mario Silva

Hometown: Fort Collins CO

School/Area of Study: New Mexico State University and Dona Ana Community College | Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology and Welding Technology

Career Goals: Short term - Finish college and work during the summers. Perhaps get some internships with tech companies and or travel abroad. Work in the outdoors every other semester to help either BSA or outdoors conservation; Long Term - Find a good job either in another country or perhaps on the west coast. Patent a new engine that can run on less fuel but provide more power. Build a shop that I could use myself but also figure out a way to recycle homes efficiently and effectively while also having a side job blacksmithing or metals science.

Like/Hobbies: Absolutely love outdoor work and having a good time outside. I do calligraphy when the weather is bad or on an inside day. Fossil hunting in New Mexico as well as making jewelry out of various items I find or make. I have a knife collection as a hobby, but also enjoy martial arts as a life sport and activity. I have a very active lifestyle and go running when I need to think about difficult choices and such. I generally like to have a good time.



Name: Sarah Sneath

Hometown: Columbia, SC

School/Area of Study: College of Charleston (Class of 2019) | B.S. in Geology

Career Goals: Work in water resources either with an NGO or environmental consulting firm. I would like to help people/countries figure out how to better manage their water resources through water budgets and engineering.

Like/Hobbies: Rock climbing (bouldering and sport), recreational photography, geoguesser game, fossil hunting in rivers, and reading

Testimonial/Quote: “This summer has been a memorable one for sure. So much personal growth has happened both internally and externally. When applying for this job, I remember the question that asked what being a steward means. Prior to this summer experience, I knew the broad definition of stewardship but not how it applies under the lenses of wild places. I had never really spent much time hiking or living in the great outdoors, so I was not aware of the degree of our impact in these spaces. Little things from learning and practicing LNT to taking the impactful educational classes during midweek to digging drains and sawing trees, I now have a deeper understanding of how to be a better steward for our environment. After spending an amazing, difficult, and challenging summer working in the backcountry of Colorado, I know my place in protecting and preserving our public lands through education and action.”

2019 Work Highlights

In 2019, the two crews working in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District combined forces to become one “megacrew.” The Rawah Crew focused their work on trails along the Cache le Poudre River, in the Red Feather Lakes area, and throughout the Comanche Peaks and Rawah Wilderness Areas. Their primary focus was on trail maintenance, which included improving trail drainages and removing downed trees from the trail corridor.

Before the Rawah Crew began their trail maintenance work, they spent two weeks working to reopen the Young Gulch Trail in the Poudre Canyon. The Young Gulch Trail has been closed for several years after the High Park Fire in 2012 and the Colorado floods in 2013. These two natural disasters washed out the trail completely in certain areas requiring new trail to be built and structures constructed over the course of five miles. During their two weeks of work at Young Gulch, the Rawah Crew helped dig new trail and construct rock walls along switchbacks and steep grades to protect the trail from washing out.



After their time spent at Young Gulch, the crew shifted towards their primary goal of maintaining wilderness trails. During this work the Rawah Crew cleared 251 trees and constructed or repaired more than 1300 trail drainages over 63 miles of trail. The crew worked on the Big South, Blue Lake, West Branch, Rawah, Link, McIntyre, Lower Dadd Gulch, Lady Moon, Flowers, and Fish Creek trails.



Shadow Mountain Crew



Name: Dana O'Malley (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Hoosick Falls, NY

School/Area of Study: St. Lawrence University (Class of 2018) | B.S. in Environmental Studies and Geology

Career Goals: To do hands-on meaningful conservation work and inspire others.

Like/Hobbies: Sitting outside, drawing, and moving rocks

Testimonial/Quote: "This season I have grown and learned a lot about myself as a leader. I also learned a lot of new outdoor skills, work skills and potential plans for my future. It has been a culmination of support from the conservancy staff, my crew members and our USFS partners, Kendra and Amy, that have helped me learn all throughout the season...I am very grateful for all that RMC has taught me and have had a great summer here in the Rockies."



Name: Malyce Collins

Hometown: Boston, GA

School/Area of Study: 2021, Environment & Society

Career Goal: To work in the field of environmental improvement.

Hobbies: Photography, violin, and being outside

Testimonial/Quote: "I came into RMC wanting to challenge myself, and that I did. This summer was challenging in a number of ways, but it was a very positive experience as a whole and I am very glad to have had the opportunity to come to Colorado, meet and work with some amazing people, do meaningful work, and learn so much."



Name: Zeke Cramer

Hometown: Estes Park, CO

School/Area of Study: Western Colorado University | Major: Environment and Sustainability, Emphasis: Ecology

Career Goals: My career goal/s is to work in a job that allows me to preserve/work in the environment or to work in a career educating others on how to preserve the environment.

Like/Hobbies: I am an avid mountain biker and fisherman.

Testimonial/Quote: "I am so stoked on how this summer has gone. I have learned so much and I can't wait to apply the skills I have learned in this program to my ventures later in the future."



Name: Brooke Frederickson

Hometown: Plymouth, WI

School/Area of Study: University of Wisconsin – Platteville | Major: Environmental Engineering Minor: Sustainable and Renewable Energy Systems

Career Goals: It is my goal to work with a company in order to expand the amounts of renewable energy that are present in the world. I do this in hopes to preserve the earth so that others are able to enjoy it like I have and that they can continue in the process of giving back.

Like/Hobbies: I enjoy being outdoors fishing, hiking, and recently I got into photography, so I am having fun taking pictures of wildlife and a variety of landscapes.

Testimonial/Quote: "During my time with Rocky Mountain Conservancy, I discovered and inquired many new skills and information regarding conservation, the program, and myself. I did not know what to expect going into the season, but I couldn't have asked for a more meaningful and memorable experience. I feel that I have been privileged to have met so many new people whom I've built relationships with that will last a very long time."



Name: Hayden Hasberger

Hometown: Newnan, GA

School/Area of Study: University of North Georgia | Major: Computer Science

Careers Goals: Use my computer science skills to help the environment in any way possible.

Like/Hobbies: Snowboarding, kayaking, climbing, hiking, running, fishing, and rafting

Testimonial/Quote: "My expectations were definitely exceeded this summer, and I look forward to the chance to be able to continue stewarding the land and working with cores and with people like I've met this summer. Definitely a summer to never forget."



Name: Kaylee Ireland

Hometown: Littleton, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

Career Goals: In my career, I want to be a strong conservation leader within environmental education. I want to teach outdoor skills and awareness of the environment to people. Through environmental education, I want to focus on diversity and inclusion in the outdoors.

Like/Hobbies: Backcountry trips, rock climbing, music, and potatoes

Testimonial/Quote: "Reflecting on the summer season, I have seen myself grow in many ways. I have gained new skills in areas I wanted and in other areas I did not expect to grow in. This summer has been an experience I will never forget and am incredibly grateful to have been able to participate in this program."

2019 Work Highlights

The Shadow Mountain Crew began their season by participating in the Wilderness Ranger Academy and receiving their crosscut certification from the USFS. From there, they quickly moved into the field. Their first project brought the crew to the Darling Creek Trail. This trail runs through the Sugarloaf Fire of 2018. Due to the fire, the trail is scattered with downed trees and is highly susceptible to erosion. The crew worked extensively throughout the burn scar to remove hazard trees and stabilize the trail surface. This work helped improve trail safety, protect hikers, and mitigate impacts to local watersheds.



After spending two weeks on the Darling Creek trail, the crew shifted their focus to high visitation areas in the Sulphur Ranger District (USFS lands in Grand County). This included heavily trafficked multi-use trails and popular wilderness trails on the west side of the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

On the Meadow Trail, the crew helped build turnpikes to mitigate the impact of mountain bikers on the wetland area surrounding the trail. This required them to help transport and peel logs before setting them into the trail to help raise the trail surface.



The crew shifted their efforts to supporting a motorized trails project in the Stillwater Pass area. This project worked to improve trail connectivity and increase trail access for motorized trail users. The crew worked to help move material and clear corridor for the new trail.



Their last big project was on the Cascade Creek Trail from Monarch Lake up to the Continental Divide. In 2017, the Shadow Mountain Crew began this project by replacing a rotting section of wilderness bridge just below Cascade Falls. This year, the crew returned to replace the other half of the wilderness bridge. This multi-day project brought the crew together with the USFS wilderness crew. The crew helped fell trees for the bridge, peel them for placement, and construct the bridge and handrail.



Boulder Crew



Name: Daniel Vasquez (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Round Rock, TX

School/Area of Study: Texas State University | Major: Water Resources

Career Goals: Pursuing a career in water conservation and sustainable resource management. I hope to one-day work for a water development board or possibly local government.

Like/Hobbies: Soccer, reading, listening to music, and hiking

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer has been another summer of growth for me in so many different areas. My crew leader position this summer allowed me the opportunity to lead others in a unique work environment that is still new to me in many regards."



Name: Sophia Lemen

Hometown: Omaha, NE

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Natural Resource Tourism, Minor: Global Environmental Sustainability

Career Goals: I am highly interested in natural resource conservation and climate justice. I have a growing passion for the protection of our environment so that we, as a global community, are able to enjoy our environment through various activities and scenarios. I currently do not have a specific career outlined for myself as I am exploring various fields and navigating my interests. I thoroughly enjoy meeting new people and exchanging thoughts, interests, ideas, etc. Networking is a beautiful thing. I am hopeful to be in a workplace that values sustainability, collaboration, support for its staff, and a positive atmosphere. I believe my position as a Conservation Corps Crew Member will have a significant impact on my life and, in turn, direct me toward a better idea of what I decide for a career.

Like/Hobbies: Photography, running, biking, swimming, hiking, painting, singing, cooking, spending time with friends and family

Testimonial/Quote: "I am truly grateful for all the learning experiences and challenges that I faced and overcame this season with the Conservation Corps."



Name: Sam Leval

Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

School/Area of Study: Florida State University | Major: Social Work, Minor: Spanish & Urban Planning

Career Goals: I want to become a mental health counselor and aim to incorporate outdoor recreation as a resource to patients.

Like/Hobbies: I like Mexican food, Parks & Rec, and listening to Jorja Smith. I enjoy going to the beach, running, and volunteering at an animal shelter.

Testimonial/Quote: "Living in the woods with five strangers was a daunting thought to me as I prepared to join this program. I couldn't imagine living without daily showers and connection to the outside world. Just two months later, my mindset has completely changed. These five strangers have become my family and the woods my home."



Name: Breiana Olguin

Hometown: Centennial, CO

School/Area of Study: University of Colorado – Denver | Major: Environmental Science/Sustainability/GIS

Career Goals: Research, hands on conservancy work, and natural resource testing

Likes/Hobbies: Outdoor recreation, anything space related, and Japanese gardens

Testimonial/Quote: "Tons of growth this summer; physically, mentally, and experientially. Seeing myself progress into a stronger person along with seeing others progress in their own ways was a satisfying way to spend my summer. I've pushed myself to go outside social comfort zones while also pushing physical ones. While pushing these borders I still maintained an internal state of peace. I've never been around so many diverse personalities while also being around the same mindsets."



Name: Rosendo Pacheco Jr.

Hometown: Bennett, CO

School/Area of Study: Metropolitan State University of Denver | Major: Marketing

Career Goals: To obtain a job marketing for sports, outdoor activities, or big companies.

Like/Hobbies: Drawing, hiking, atv riding, movie junkie, weightlifting, videogames, old vehicles, comics, all types of music (country, metal, classic rock, rap, old school like Sinatra or Ben E. King), Sports (football, basketball, baseball, WWE)

Testimonial/Quote: “My experience as a whole has been amazing. That is an understatement to say the least, its been a rollercoaster where luckily it has been very few low points but as the season closes, my seat is reaching the final high point of the ride before it’s a straight downslope and return into civilization. It only feels as if last week was May and I had just entered camp where I met my bosses and peers who I’d be in connection for all summer, now that it is goodbye, I know it has been a blessing of a summer since it feels like it went by too fast.”



Name: Luke Paczos

Hometown: Huntington Woods, MI

School/Area of Study: Grand Valley State University | Major: Natural Resource Management, Minors: Environmental Studies, Biology

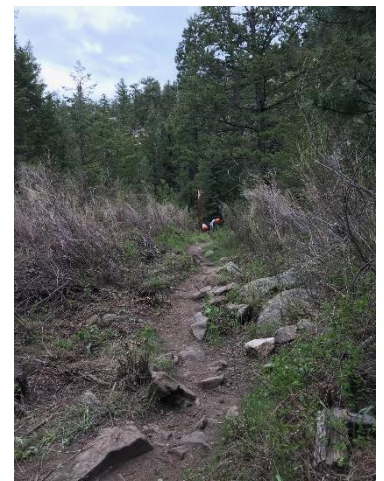
Career Goals: After graduating I hope to work on studies/research related to ecology/ecological restoration. My goal in life is to have a career working outside which creates a positive impact on the environment and will leave me fulfilled at the end of each day. I hope to find a job somewhere out west where I will also be able to strengthen my love and passion for the outdoors.

Like/Hobbies: Hiking, skiing, hacky sack, hammocking, longboarding, rap, collecting art, working out, and video games

Testimonial/Quote: “My season with Rocky Mountain Conservancy has been extremely positive in all aspects ranging from work, personal relationships, and experiences gained from living and camping in Colorado for the summer. The program has far exceeded anything that I expected when I first arrived along with surprising me along the way with things that I did not even expect. Overall, the program could not have been better regarding the overall work, people, and setting in which everything took place.”

2019 Work Highlights

The Boulder Crew began their season at lower elevations with work on more “front-country” trails due to the significant snowpack on higher elevation trails. Along the Ceran St. Vrain and Forsyth Canyon Trails, the Boulder Crew helped to improve trail corridor and construct trail structures, such as retaining walls, check steps, and water bars. This work helps to encourage people to stay on trail by clarifying the corridor and fortifies the trail surface to prevent erosion impacts from high use and weather.

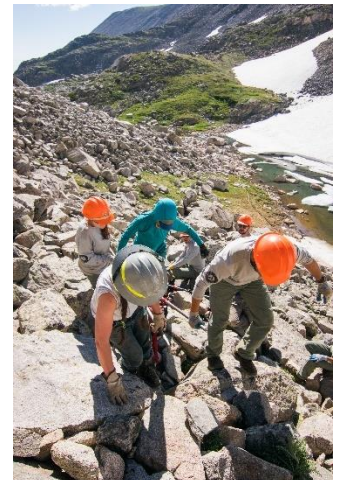




As warm weather melted snow in the high country, the Boulder Crew followed the snow line. On the South Boulder Creek Trail in the James Peak Wilderness, the crew helped to finish up a turnpike project and constructed waterbars, drains, and stairs to fortify a wet section of trail and protect surrounding riparian areas.



The Boulder Crew wrapped up their season on the Isabelle Glacier Trail in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. This project focused on construction of check steps in the alpine tundra, far above tree line. The crew teamed up with Front Range Climbing Stewards, a professional trail crew focused on climbing area access, to complete this project. The work was hard, and the conditions were taxing, but the views were unbeatable.



Moraine Crew



Name: Davina Spears (Crew Leader)

Hometown: Originally from Peyton, CO, but currently live in Hudsonville, MI

School/Area of Study: University of California – Berkeley | PhD in Earth and Planetary Science

Career Goals: I hope to be a distinguished professor of Planetary Science at a University. I also hope to be CEO and founder of an extraterrestrial body mining company

Like/Hobbies: “I enjoy rock climbing, hiking, camping, and other outdoor sports. I compete in taekwondo for sparring and forms. I enjoy reading and anything that has to do with nature and space. I also enjoy playing Legend of Zelda. As a hobby, I enjoy acrylic painting.”



Name: Nate Czapinski

Hometown: West St. Paul, MN

School/Area of Study: North Dakota State University | Major: Emergency Management, Minor: Natural Resources Management and Sociology

Career Goals: Emergency management work for Parks Service or state, have my own business

Like/Hobbies: History, learning new things, reading, outdoor activities, forgotten skills, music



Name: Jazmin Gonzalez

Hometown: Loveland, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Zoology

Career Goals: After I graduate from vet school, I want to be able to travel the world and rescue wildlife.

Like/Hobbies: Hiking, watch/play sports

Testimonial/Quote: "I'm really glad that I was part of this program because I developed and strengthened a lot of skills and made new contacts that will definitely help me in the years to come... I can't wait to see what the future holds for me and I'm super thankful for the

opportunity to work with RMCC this summer!"



Name: Ben Halee

Hometown: Manhasset, NY and Boulder, CO

School/Area of Study: University of Miami | Major: Environmental Engineering, Concentrations: Architecture and Urbanism

Career Goals: Currently want to obtain a PhD in water quality control, sustainability management or other related fields (have to narrow my search down!) My dream program would be the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Like/Hobbies: Skiing, Hiking, Rock climbing, I love to work on various architectural designs outside of class, making music via Ableton Live, Singing, photography, and I love a good TV binge.



Name: Jake Miller

Hometown: Estes Park, CO

School/Area of Study: Front Range Community College | Major: Natural Resources

Career Goals: Teaching, Forest Technician, something in Natural Resources

Like/Hobbies: Fly fishing, hiking, bird watching, anything outdoors

Testimonial/Quote: "I truly enjoyed this experience and am sad it is over. I met a ton of awesome people who shed new light on my future, brightened my day and taught me new things."



Name: Nick Monheiser

Hometown: Highlands Ranch, CO

School/Area of Study: Colorado State University | Major: Ecosystem Science and Sustainability

Career Goals: Become a Park Ranger for the National Park Service to start and eventually become a superintendent possibly

Like/Hobbies: Outdoors, hiking, hammocking, walking, travelling, and road-tripping

Testimonial/Quote: "This summer has given me many experiences that will stick with me for the rest of my life. These experiences have helped me grow in my interpersonal, work and outdoor skills. I would like to thank the Rocky Mountain Conservancy with providing me with this

opportunity and allowing me to have a great summer in Rocky Mountain National Park."

2019 Work Highlights

The Moraine Crew spent their summer working to improve campgrounds



and preserve historical buildings in Rocky Mountain National Park. In Moraine Park and Aspenglen campgrounds, the crew fortified five tent pads by constructing retaining walls on the uphill slopes to mitigate erosion from washing out the tent pads. Additionally, some of these sites required the installation of a french drain to capture water and move it away from the campsite. This helps mitigate erosion and washouts and protect watersheds from nonpoint source pollution.



In addition to this work protecting campsites from erosion, the crew also helped to improve campground facilities by helping renovate a comfort station and constructing an accessible pathway to the facility.



Additionally, the crew supported historic preservation of buildings in Rocky Mountain National Park through restoring exteriors. This included roadside buildings like those at the Fall River Visitor Center and McGraw Ranch to the backcountry ranger cabin at Thunder Lake. Their restoration efforts focused on re-shingling roofs and painting exteriors.



During their final week of the season, the crew received the special opportunity to support a large-scale restoration



project on the alpine tundra by decommissioning and revegetating a trail. This project included transporting a large amount of topsoil in wheelbarrows to prepare for active replanting. The tundra is a very sensitive ecosystem. By restoring a decommissioned trail, the crew helped support the ecosystems resiliency.

Lastly, they received some training in skid-steer and mini-excavator operation to wrap-up the season. After a season working alongside these machines and learning from the NPS staff operating the equipment, it was a greatly appreciated opportunity to try out their skills.

