



# The Front Range Climbing Stewards Castle Rock Overlook Project Report (Platt-Rogers Memorial Open Space Overlook Project IRFQ 2030-20) August 4, 2020

## Overview

The Boulder Climbing Community's (BCC) Front Range Climbing Stewards Program (FRCS) has completed a 6 week trail work project in collaboration with Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) in the Platt-Rogers Memorial Open Space at what is collectively referred to as Castle Rock. This is the second year of a multi year partnership between BCC and BCPOS. The primary objectives for this project were to address the impacts of climbers and other recreationists accessing the Broken Rock and Overlook climbing areas across from Castle Rock proper.



*Figure 1- Construction of a primary path (Right) with an alternative path (Left) that leads to the climbs at Broken Rock.*

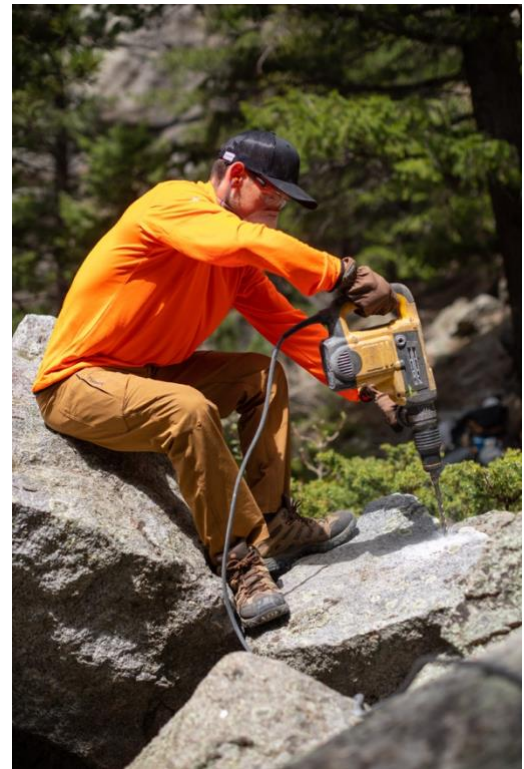
## Project Synopsis

In 2019, FRCS and BCPOS agreed upon a strategy of restoring the primary social trail in place by hardening the surface of the trail with natural stone. In 2020, FRCS continued the work from the previous season, building one primary path out of stone, while also providing hardened off shoot trails that access the climbing routes that run along the trail (**Figure 1**). This work included quarrying stone (**Figure 2**) from a talus field 200 ft to

the west and transporting it via a highline system, constructing stone staircases, retaining structures and belay pads (**Figure 3**), as well as restoration of existing social trails. The labor and planning for this project can be found in **Appendix A**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the start of the FRCS trail work season was delayed by more than two months. This led to a delay in hiring for the trail crew. In order to provide a full crew for the start of the Castle Rock Overlook project, BCC office staff worked in the field alongside the FRCS program manager quarrying and transporting material during the first two weeks of the project. By week 3 of the project, the FRCS crew was fully hired and working in the field.

COVID-19 also affected FRCS' ability to utilize large volunteer groups to help with the transportation and gathering of material. For reference, in 2019 volunteers provided 439 labor hours to the Castle Rock Overlook project and were instrumental in its success. In order to still utilize individual volunteers under the states COVID-19 guidelines, FRCS utilized rigging and a highline system to safely social distance while transporting material to the worksite (**Figure 4 and 5**).



*Figure 2- BCC staff quarrying and splitting stone.*



*Figure 3- Construction of a belay pad, providing a sustainable and flat area to stage and climb from.*

## Project Outcomes

At the end of the project, 80 linear feet of durable and sustainable trail were built, including 310 ft<sup>2</sup> of retaining structure, 34 ft<sup>2</sup> of new belaying area, as well as 60 ft of existing social trails were decommissioned and restored. Please see the full Work Metrics Section in **Appendix B** and additional before/after photos in **Appendix C**.

### Appendix A: Labor and Planning Hours

Labor Type	Hours
Volunteer	47
FRCS Paid Labor	777.50
FRCS Planning	7.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>832.25</b>

### Appendix B: Complete 2020 Work Metrics

Project Outcome	Amount	Unit
Trail Improved	80	Linear ft
Rock Steps	63	#
Retaining Structure	310	Ft <sup>2</sup>
Rubble Structure	45	Ft <sup>2</sup>
Belay Area constructed	34	Ft <sup>2</sup>
Rocks moved via rigging	110	#
Rocks moved by hand	35	#
Rock quarried	350	Ft <sup>3</sup>
Social trails restored	60	Linear ft
Aggregate rock full/crush	189	Ft <sup>3</sup>



Figure 4- FRCS staff utilizing the highline system to transport material



Figure 5- Material being transported via the highline.

### Appendix C: Before and After Photos



*Before: Various trails split at this junction.*



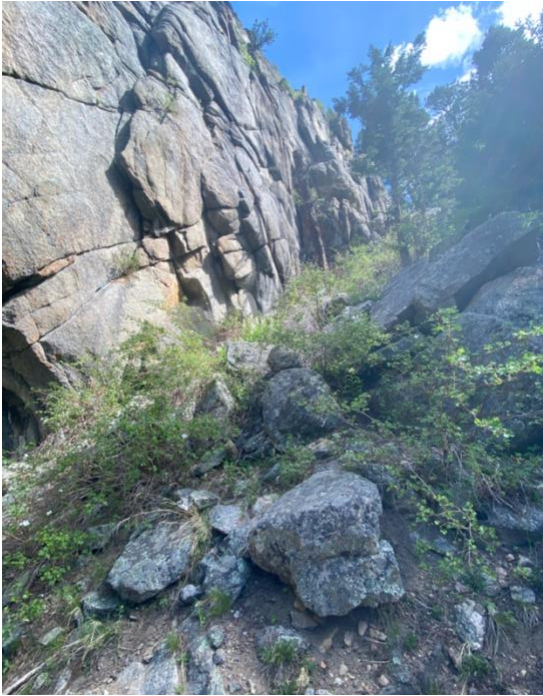
*After: Stone was brought in and used to build a primary trail for all users while also providing an alternative for climbers to access the climbs on the left of the trail.*



*Before: Access to the climbs on Broken Rock was overgrown and not obvious or comfortable to belay from.*



*After: A stone staircase and retaining wall was constructed to provide clear access to the climbs in the area*



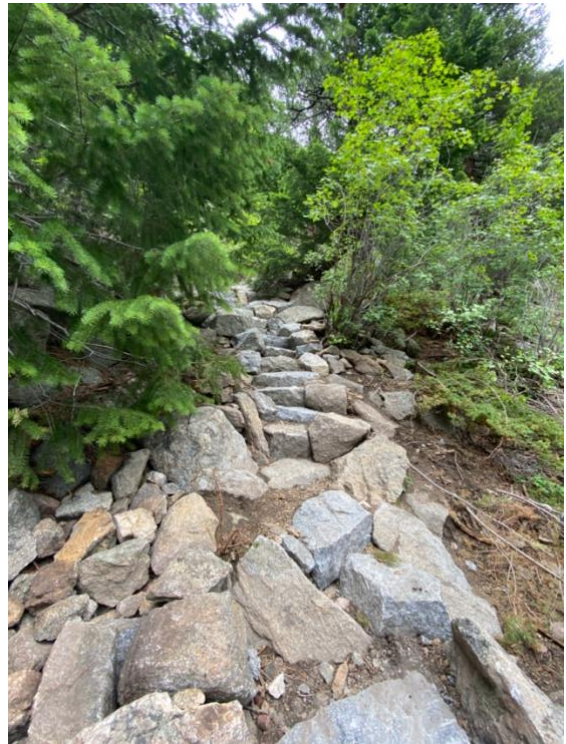
*Before: Access to climbs at Broken Rock*



*After: Access to climbs at Broken Rock*



*Before: Erosion on the primary user trail*



*After: A stone staircase was constructed to prevent erosion.*