



Protect America's Climbing



The Front Range Climbing Stewards Mt. Glennon Darkside II Project Report

May 2nd 2016



In 2016 The Front Range Climbing Stewards, a collaborative project of the Access Fund and The Boulder Climbing Community were contracted to continue hardening the social trail accessing the bouldering area on Mt. Glennon: Darkside Boulders. The bouldering area is home to 53 developed routes on various boulders. On March 27th preparations for the project were completed and construction began. The FRCS program was charged with mitigating the erosive impact of climbers accessing the boulders between the Squirring Coil area and the Warm Up Traverse area. The increase of popularity to the area within the last 15 years had caused these trails wear into steep,

loose eroded shoots. The construction involved building stone staircases and check steps into the unsustainable user trail along the existing trail corridor. In addition to this objective FRCS installed a staircase and improved two landing platforms off of this main trail where further erosion could be prevented and the safety of climbers could be improved. Delineating and amplifying the connection of the trail to the Mt. Glennon ridge above the bouldering areas was performed in line with the strategy of discouraging the use of the numerous social trails between the ridge and the trailhead.



Trail before



Trail after

The method of quarrying the stone material needed for these structures from the slopes above and then restoring these quarry sites allowed relatively small FRCS crew to complete the project within seven weeks. The effected slopes were restored and protected by retaining structures with natural character. The skilled stone work was performed by four FRCS crew members with occasional help of 17 volunteers from the climbing community. Earthtreks-Golden climbing gym in particular supported the project by sending paid staff to volunteer one day. For a list of volunteers & metrics see appendix A.



Trail before



Trail after

The condition of the general Mt. Glennon area is still to be desired. The social trails accessing the ridge above are many and the erosion is critical relative to the small number of visitors who appear to take those trails. This project has addressed the impact of the majority of the climbing resource at Darkside boulders. Unimproved social trails still exist between to roughly 10% of the developed boulders in the area. The boulders accessed by these trails do not see the majority of use in the area. The condition of these trails can be monitored and future projects considered.

Work Metrics:

The metrics of the project are categorized in the following categories with the corresponding amount and unit of measure.

outcome	amount	unit
Trail Improved	167	L FT
Rock Step	85	#
Crib Step	9	#
Retaining Wall/Structure	184	SQ FT
Rubble Wall/Structure	163	SQ FT
Staging areas constructed	30	SQ FT
Aggregate Backfill	117	CU FT
Restoration--Fill, Rock 100%	134	SQ FT
Move Rock by Hand	396	#
Seeding w/ native mulch	357	SQ FT

Appendix A:

Darkside II Volunteer Log

Name	Date	Hours	Name	Date	Hours
Peter DellaVecchia	4/5/2016	8	Leah Ross	4/27/2016	7
Owen Silver	4/8/2016	4	Maren Olsen	4/27/2016	5
Kim Vines	4/12/2016	5	Joey	4/27/2016	5
Dana Henze	4/12/2016	4	Seth	4/27/2016	5
Brian Frederickson	4/15/2016	8	Kim Vines	4/27/2016	4
Ben Pingilley	4/15/2016	6	Jillian Gralewski	4/28/2016	4
Nik Vukovich	4/20/2016	6	Kyle Culp	4/28/2016	4
Johnny Addleman	4/21/2016	8	Total Hours		99
Alex Brown	4/22/2016	8			
Lonnie Veraldi	4/22/2016	8			