



Protect America's Climbing

# The Front Range Climbing Stewards

## Upper Dream Canyon-Oceanic Wall Approach Project Report

### Overview

The Boulder Climbing Community's (BCC) Front Range Climbing Stewards Program (FRCS) has completed a 3 week trail work project at Upper Dream Canyon in partnership with the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forest-Boulder Ranger District (USFS) and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy (RMC). This project was made possible by a grant from the Access Fund. The primary objectives for this project were to address the impacts of climbers and other recreationists accessing various recreation sites along North Boulder Creek in the Upper Dream Canyon area.

### Project Synopsis

In 2018, FRCS and the USFS agreed upon a strategy of rerouting the existing hiker trail that accesses North Boulder Creek and the Oceanic Wall climbing area by constructing a new durable trail that contours along the cliff formation and restoring the existing trail that runs along the creek (**Figure 1**). In 2020, FRCS, alongside a 5 person RMC youth corps crew, continued the work from the 2018 season, constructing a durable hiking path through an adjacent talus field and restoring the original trail which was severely eroding and depositing soil into the watershed. FRCS was responsible for the design and construction of this new stretch of trail, as well as providing training in dry stone masonry techniques (**Figure 2**) to the RMC youth corps crew. The labor and planning for this project can be found in **Appendix B**.



*Figure 1: FRCS moved the original trail away from the riparian zone and placed it on a more sustainable alignment through the talus.*



Figure 2- FRCS quarried locally sourced stone into suitable shapes to build staircases and retaining walls.

## Project Outcomes

At the end of the project, 72 linear feet of durable and sustainable trail were built, including 313 ft<sup>2</sup> of retaining structure and 52 stone steps. Please see the 2020 Upper Dream Canyon Budget in **Appendix A**, labor and planning hours in **Appendix B**, full Work Metrics Section in **Appendix C** and additional before/after photos in **Appendix D**.

### Appendix A: 2020 Upper Dream Canyon Budget

Item	Cost
FRCS Labor	\$ 10,633.20
BCC Administrative	\$ 2,126.64
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 12,759.84</b>
Access Fund Conservation Grant Awarded	\$ 2,000
Boulder Climbing Community Fundraising	\$ 10,759.84

### Appendix A: Labor and Planning Hours

Labor Type	Hours
Volunteer	12
FRCS Paid Labor	445
FRCS Planning	11
RMC Youth Corps	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,168</b>

### Appendix B: Complete 2020 Work Metrics

Project Outcome	Amount	Unit
Trail Improved	73	Linear ft
Rock Steps	52	#
Retaining Structure	313	Ft <sup>2</sup>
Rubble Structure	167	Ft <sup>2</sup>
Rock Quarried	325	Ft <sup>3</sup>
Rocks moved via rigging	8	#
Rocks moved by hand	108	#
Trail Restored	60	Linear ft
Aggregate/ Crush Fill	300	Ft <sup>3</sup>

## Appendix D: Before and After Photos



*Before: The talus field in which the new rerouted trail is going to run through*



*After: Heavy rock manipulation of the talus field provided enough space for FRCS to construct staircases and walking paths through the talus.*



*Before: Access to the climbs at Oceanic Wall went right of the log on an unsustainable and erosive slope above a small spring.*



*After: The original trail was decommissioned and restored and a sustainable path was built through the adjacent talus field.*



*Before: Many large rocks and trees made the talus field unwalkable.*



*After: FRCS utilized the fallen trees for restoration and maneuvered stone in order to create a walking surface through the talus.*



*Before: The end of 2018 work at UDC.*



*After: FRCS began construction directly on top of work from 2018 to continue the staircase leading into the talus field.*