



*Front Range
Climbing Stewards
2015*



Front Range Climbing Stewards

2015 Director's Report

Dear Friends and Supporters of the FRCS,



Climbing is probably the fastest growing sport in the world right now, and as a result there are huge pressures on the fragile environments where we climb. The main environmental impact that climbers have is not from climbing itself, but from our feet on the ground as we approach and descend from the crags. The way to minimize these impacts is simple: *every crag should have a single, durable approach trail that everyone stays on.* But with thousands of climbing area across the U.S. needing work, and new areas being developed all the time, how will these trails get built? Land managers, like the City of Boulder and the U.S. Forest Service, are already stretched thin just trying to maintain their

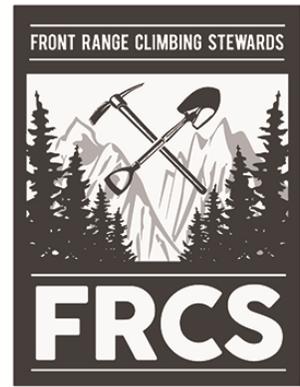
existing hiking trail systems, and climbers can only do so much as volunteers at weekend events. So the Boulder Climbing Community and the Access Fund partnered to launch the *Front Range Climbing Stewards* (FRCS) in 2014 as a way to address this problem. After operating for two seasons, it's clear that we've created something that really works. Climbers, land managers, and the general public have been amazed by our results on the ground. Taking care of our climbing areas is something that every climber, every climbing organization, and every climbing business should care about and support. If we join together we can minimize our own impacts through stewardship efforts like the FRCS, and assure that there will still be something beautiful there for our children, and their children. I've been climbing for over fifty years now, and I still love it, but these days I devote a big chunk of my life to climbing stewardship. Won't you join me, and our whole community, in supporting the FRCS program?

Good climbing,

Roger Briggs
FRCS Program Director

Here are some ways you can support us:

- [Join the Access Fund](#) (every climber should do this), and check the box to become a joint member with your local climbing organization, the Boulder Climbing Community.
- **Donate to the FRCS trail fund.** You can do this in two ways:
 1. Make a check to "Boulder Climbing Community" (noting "for trails"), and mail to: BCC, 825 7th Street, Boulder, CO, 80302
 2. Donate with PayPal on the [BCC Website](#).
- Spend a day or part of a day working side by side with our trail crew, March through October. For all news and details about BCC and FRCS, go to the [BCC Website](#). Subscribe to the free **BCC eNews** at the bottom of the home page.



Protect America's Climbing



What is the FRCS Model?

- The core of the FRCS program is a 3-man, full-time, mobile trail crew with high-level skills for building durable approach trails in steep, loose, fragile terrain. They can move 700-pound rocks hundreds of feet through the air on high-lines, then split and shape them into steps, walls, and other durable structures (see photos). The work these guys produce has proven to be jaw dropping for nearly everyone who sees it, from land managers to casual hikers.
- FRCS is a program of the Boulder Climbing Community (BCC) that runs in partnership with the Access Fund (AF). In this unique partnership between a local and a national non-profit, the BCC acquires funding and administers the program, while the AF provides payroll, accounting, insurance, and contracting services.
- The FRCS crew is supported by a growing volunteer program. We like to have one to three volunteers assisting the crew on a daily basis, and the crew also leads larger volunteer events on weekends, such as the *Rocky Mountain Rendezvous* at Lumpy Ridge last August.
- It costs about \$115,000 per season to run our 3-man crew, with 93% of that cost going to crew payroll. Our funding sources are diverse and include:
 - **Land managers** - In 2015, the City of Boulder OSMP and Jefferson County Open Space provided 71% of our funding
 - **Businesses** - REI Colorado is our major business partner and Earth Treks Climbing Gym is our local business partner. We will be expanding our partnerships in 2016.
 - **Organizations** - The American Alpine Club, The Access Fund, and Colorado Mountain Club Boulder.
 - **Generous individuals** in our community have contributed anywhere from \$10 to \$10,000.

Summary of FRCS Projects in 2015

Total number of volunteer days: 269
Total number of volunteer hours: 1486

<u>Project Site</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Land Manager</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Pistol Whipped Wall (Indian Creek)	2 weeks	BLM Monticello	BCC/AF
Skunk Canyon	2 weeks	Boulder OSMP	OSMP
Royal Arch Trail	9 weeks	Boulder OSMP	OSMP/BCC
Amphitheater	3.5 weeks	Boulder OSMP	OSMP
Boulder Falls	3.5 weeks	Boulder OSMP	OSMP
Dark Side	6 weeks	Jeffco POS	Jeffco/BCC
Lumpy Ridge	0.5 weeks	RMNP	BCC
Turkey Rocks	2 weeks	Pike National Forest	BCC
Castleton Tower	2 weeks	BLM Moab	BCC/HMI

2015 Project Partners

We are proud to collaborate and be supported by the following organizations. Without their assistance this year would not have been possible.

The Access Fund	Montrose HS Outdoor Club
Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks	AF Jeep Conservation Team
Jefferson County Parks and Open Space	Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance
REI Colorado	Climb Tech
Colorado Mountain Club – Boulder	Rock Mountain National Park
Rocky Mountain Field Institute	Salewa Footwear N.A.
High Mountain Institute	Wylaco Construction Supply
Earth Treks Gym, Golden	Monticello BLM Field Office
Flatirons Climbing Council	South Platte Ranger Dist. (USFS)
Colorado Mountain School	Boulder Ranger District (USFS)
Rock Project	Moab BLM Field Office
Northern Colorado Climbing Coalition	Watershed School

Outlook for 2016 and Beyond

We have been busy planning our 2016 season of work and it looks to be our best season yet. We will be doing several months of work on the iconic **Third Flatiron** descent trail, a month at **Plotinus Wall**, finishing our project at the **Dark Side** boulders near Morrison, chipping away at the monumental **Castleton** project that we started on last fall, as well as the access trails at **Turkey Rocks** and **Lumpy Ridge**. Other possible projects that we are working hard to develop in 2017 and beyond are **Clear Creek Canyon**, **Boulder Canyon**, **Devil's Head**, and **Cathedral Spires Park**.

The cost of running our 3-man crew for 2016 season will be about \$120,000. To cover this we are anticipating anywhere from \$70,000 to \$100,000 from land manager contracts and other fee-for-service activities such as educational programs and consulting services. The remainder of the crew cost comes from BCC fundraising. This money fills the gaps in fee-for-service funding, and allows us to do projects at our own cost on lands where budgets are near zero (most Federal lands, like Boulder Canyon).

Our partnership with REI Colorado is growing, and they will remain our primary business partner and supporter in 2016. But we need partnerships and support from all of our climbing-related businesses and organizations, and from everyone who loves to go climbing in our beautiful natural places. All of us working together can make climbing sustainable. Please consider a donation – large or small – to the FRCS program.

The FRCS Team

OUR CREW: [JB Haab](#) – Field Manager and Crew Leader
[Aaron Mojica](#) – Crew Member
[Max Barlerin](#) – Crew Member

SUPPORT STAFF: [Roger Briggs](#) – FRCS Program Director
[Jim Chase](#) – AF Operations Director, FRCS Financial Manager
[Scott Rennak](#) – BCC Marketing and Development Director
[Bill Briggs](#) – BCC Treasurer
[Ty Tyler](#) – AF Stewardship Director



