



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colorado Mountain Club Receives U.S Forest Service National Volunteer & Service Award

Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) received the Leadership Award April 22 at the Forest Service Building in Salida, CO via webinar from the U.S. Forest Service Chief. The Club was one of six organizations recognized with U.S. Forest Service Volunteers & Service Awards for 2018.

“CMC has been providing volunteer stewardship projects for over 30-plus years. Their leadership is critical to the effectiveness of volunteerism and service on the Leadville and Salida ranger districts,” the announcement of the award stated. The Leadership category recognizes innovative, impactful, and visionary leadership in the delivery and accomplishment of Volunteers & Service activities and programs.

“It’s nice to be recognized for the work we’re doing and to highlight our stewardship projects throughout Colorado” Julie Mach, Club Conservation Director, said. “We could not do this work without dedicated agency staff on Forests around the state.”

CMC supports stewardship of public lands through on-the-ground project work, as well as volunteer management through the Upper Arkansas Public Lands Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator position. In 2018, CMC’s Stewardship Crews completed over 3,400 total project hours on public lands which resulted in 1.6 miles of new trail constructed, 209 miles of trail inventoried, 471 downed trees removed, 24 signs installed, and over \$140,000 in funding leveraged for public land projects.

Additionally, volunteers in the Upper Arkansas Valley (Salida, Buena Vista & Leadville area) contributed over 50,000 hours of work to public lands in 2018 and more than 1,300 volunteers contributed their time which is valued at over \$1 million in-kind. As part of the larger Upper Arkansas Public Lands Volunteer and Partnership Program, individuals and local organizations help land agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service with trail construction, habitat restoration, fencing, patrolling, and other volunteer projects on public lands. The Partnership Coordinator position hosted by CMC is critical to helping land managers coordinate volunteer groups, manage partner agreement, and complete annual reporting for these projects.

To learn more about the program and get involved in volunteer opportunities, please visit www.arkvalleyvolunteers.org.

Please direct any questions regarding this press release to:
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The Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) represents the very best of Colorado. The CMC was founded in 1912 and was instrumental in establishing Rocky Mountain National Park. For over 100 years, CMC members have, and continue to define what it means to not just be a Coloradan, but an outdoor enthusiast in Colorado. With over 6,500 members, the Club connects the outdoor community in Colorado with outings – daily hiking, climbing, skiing, camping, etc – events, skills courses, as well as conservation and stewardship activities to protect our public lands.

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