

## Wilderness Workshop – RFVHC Partner Trail Project August 22, 2020

Another successful project completed! On this hot and smoky August Saturday, the five partner organizations involved met at the Thomas Lakes Trailhead to travel to the project site near Hay Park. There were about 20 volunteers from Wilderness Workshop (WW), Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA), Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV), US Forest Service (USFS) and ourselves, RFVHC. The project was spearheaded this summer by Olivia Deihs, now working for WW. The project was originally planned as a long weekend backpacking trip, where we have served as camp cooks for the last 2 seasons, but now was shortened to one day due to COVID protocols.

The project goal was to restore certain trails that have become popular with bikes, but that lead into the wilderness, where bikes are not allowed. The group split into 2 in order to further ease social distancing as well as achieve more work. Taylor van Zyl, Jasmine Pierce and Susan Cuseo rode their trusty trail horses and arrived at the worksite along with several USFS rangers/trail crew plus Olivia for guidance. Our task was to clear an old fence section, then gather deadfall from nearby tree stands and drag it onto the trail we wished to obscure. Other volunteers roughed up the tread with hand tools to promote regrowth to discourage travel. Also included was to install a new sign.



Taylor van Zyl & trusted steed - Morgan  
“Who needs a ladder ?”



Susan Cuseo -Trail Chairman and  
Taylor van Zyl –  
new RFVHC Board Member

We moved a short distance to the second area needing the same treatment, lunched together (socially distanced!) in the shade, talked trails then returned to work, now on a trail descending toward Hay Park. More tread work, more deadfall. The horses Jasmine, Taylor and I rode were required to tie quietly and not make any drama to distract from our work – all were perfect! (horses – Morgan, Oso & Browning)



Taylor, Jasmine & Susan



Juli Slivka and Olivia Deihs of  
Wilderness Workshop



USFS - Seth, Allegra and Wyley

Mike Pritchard and 4 additional RFMBA volunteers assisted with the project. I was able to converse with Mike during our post project gathering about how our two organization's future partnership might successfully proceed together. Solid ideas were expressed for moving forward towards that goal.

Our RFVHC team was very happy to have participated. It was a win-win for trails!

Sincerely, Susan Cuseo RFVHC Board Member and Trails Chair with RFVHC Board Member Taylor van Zyl