

BACKCOUNTRY PROGRAM WATERSHED REPORT 2003



Kessler Peak, Big Cottonwood Canyon Utah

Salt Lake Ranger District, Wasatch–Cache National Forest



USDA
Forest Service
*Caring for the Land and
Serving People*



Prepared by: Sean Wetterberg, Wilderness Manager

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INTRODUCTION

The 2003 summer field season was busier than ever! Thanks to the agreement between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service, the backcountry areas of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons were patrolled and maintained for another summer. The implementation of a successful volunteer program under the supervision of the two funded Backcountry Rangers has enabled us to leverage project funds and increase accomplishments.

The purpose of the agreement is to provide watershed protection on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the City watershed. The agreement funds Backcountry Rangers who complete resource protection projects, educate visitors, and enforce City watershed regulations. The US Forest Service's responsibilities are to hire, train, and supervise personnel, as well as to provide transportation and equipment. As part of the agreement, the US Forest Service is to report on the project accomplishments by the end of each season. The goals, objectives and accomplishments for the 2003 season make up the bulk of the report. It is summarized with a conclusion followed by an appendix. Additional statistics and maps are available upon request.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To fulfill its responsibility as per the agreement with the City, the Forest Service has four main goals that drive the summer backcountry operations. The program aims to educate visitors in backcountry areas and ensure compliance with regulations. It works to improve the quality of National Forest System (NFS) lands within the watersheds, inventory and monitor backcountry conditions and to maintain a volunteer program. Information is collected with regards to each goal that helps us to monitor our effectiveness. Below, each of the four goals are presented, followed by our objectives. Then, based on monitoring, our accomplishments and areas of needed improvement are discussed.

Goal 1. Have a presence in the backcountry to improve public awareness of watershed issues and ensure compliance with watershed regulations on NFS lands through backcountry patrols.

Objectives

- Patrol the backcountry areas of the municipal watershed regularly.
- Educate the public about watershed issues.
- Educate the public about Leave No Trace hiking and camping techniques.
- Distribute educational literature to the public if needed.
- Erect and maintain educational posters and signs at all trailheads and lakes.
- Contact visitors observed in violation of watershed restrictions and issue warnings or citations.

Accomplishments

Backcountry Rangers cover a lot of ground in order to manage the watershed areas. This season, uniformed Rangers hiked a total of 611 miles, up 45% from last year.

This increase is likely the result of having additional Rangers (volunteers) out patrolling the backcountry. Rangers record the number of encounters (observations) with visitors that they make each day for the trails they patrol. This tally of users does not represent actual use. Rather, it reflects a relative level of use for each trail. The number recorded and the seasonal sums are a function of several factors. The number of users hiking a trail influences the number of encounters. Also, the seasonal totals by trail are influenced by how often a trail was patrolled and the number of Rangers patrolling. This presents some problems when comparing these use numbers by trail for each season in the way we did in last year's report. This season, because we had more Rangers (volunteer Rangers) hiking and counting users, we were able to hike more trails, more often and reported a higher number of encounters. Because of this, a statistical comparison of the sum of encounters by trail for this year against last year is not valid.

Comparing the annual total number of encounters is useful to monitor how many visitors our Rangers could potentially contact. Last year, 5,220 visitors were encountered in the backcountry versus 6,486 visitors this year (up 24%). This number is likely the result of a more effective patrol program. Backcountry patrol this season was augmented by the coordination of four additional uniformed volunteer Rangers that submitted additional encounter numbers. A change in staffing levels likely affects the number of visitors who encounter Rangers. Watching the seasonal trends of the total number of encounters helps us monitor our presence in the backcountry.

One reason to patrol the backcountry is to have Rangers available to make contact with visitors. Rangers track these contacts throughout the season. Contacts are different from encounters. Contacts are those encounters in which either a minimum five-minute Leave No Trace (LNT) specific or watershed specific conversation took place. Not all encounters with visitors lend themselves to either a LNT or watershed contact. For example, LNT is typically reserved for those contacts made with campers who represent only a fraction of the visitors encountered. Rangers often make other contacts with the public, answering questions, etc. These more general contacts are not recorded or monitored. Other times, visitors simply go about their hike and show little interest in stopping for a conversation. Our contacts usually only occur with those that are interested or those that are in violation.

Table 1 shows the number of contacts by watershed area for the last two seasons. The same factors as those effecting encounters influence the number of contacts that are reported by trail (i.e. the number of Rangers available and how often a trail is patrolled) so it seems inappropriate to compare trails. Comparing annual totals allow us to monitor how many visitors we are able to reach with these key messages. The table shows that a five minute, Leave No Trace specific message was delivered to 377 visitors this season (up 5%). Additionally, 526 watershed specific messages were given to backcountry visitors. This was the first year that watershed contacts were recorded and the totals will be compared against next year's. Literature about watershed and LNT hiking and camping techniques were given to many individuals as well as groups affiliated with organizations such as church groups, boys and girls clubs, and hiking clubs. Ideally, we would like to see both numbers continue to go up.

Fiscal Year	Data	Wilderness name					
		Deseret Peak	Lone Peak	Mount Olympus	Non-Wilderness	Twin Peaks	Grand Total
2002	Sum of Total l# of 5 min. L-N-T Contacts	0	97	8	134	120	359
	Sum of # of Watershed Contacts	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	Sum of Total l# of 5 min. L-N-T Contacts	16	77	33	126	125	377
	Sum of # of Watershed Contacts	0	111	54	224	137	526

Table 1: Visitor contacts for the '02 and '03 seasons made by USFS Backcountry Rangers in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

General trailhead signs and bulletin boards were maintained throughout the summer. Frequently these signs are either vandalized and need replacement or updated to inform visitors of new rules, fire closures, hunting and hiking information. The new sign program currently being implemented with the “Keep it Pure” theme will go a long way to improve the quality and availability of information for canyon visitors. All those responsible for this much needed improvement are to be commended.

When making contacts, our goal is always to try education before issuing citations. Rangers issued 146 warnings or violations (up 90% from last year). The reason for such a substantial increase is uncertain. Having covered 45% more trail miles than last year and additional volunteer Rangers likely contributed. Most visitors who were in violation of watershed regulations were receptive to educational messages and/or issuance of citations. Pet owners were asked to take their animals out of the canyon immediately and some were cited.

Figure 1 compares the number of violations or warnings issued by Rangers for the last two years. Camping, Swimming and fire are by far the most often broken rules. It is interesting to document how many of the various types of violations occur each year as well as to see how that changes over time. This information will change next year as we plan to differentiate between the actual number of citations written and the number of warnings issued. By monitoring our program, there is a need to do more to influence campsite selection. Ultimately, we would like to see all of these numbers go down next year. We recognize that limited staffing can only have so much of an effect on visitor behavior. An increased presence through additional volunteer Rangers may improve our success at lowering these instances of non-compliance.

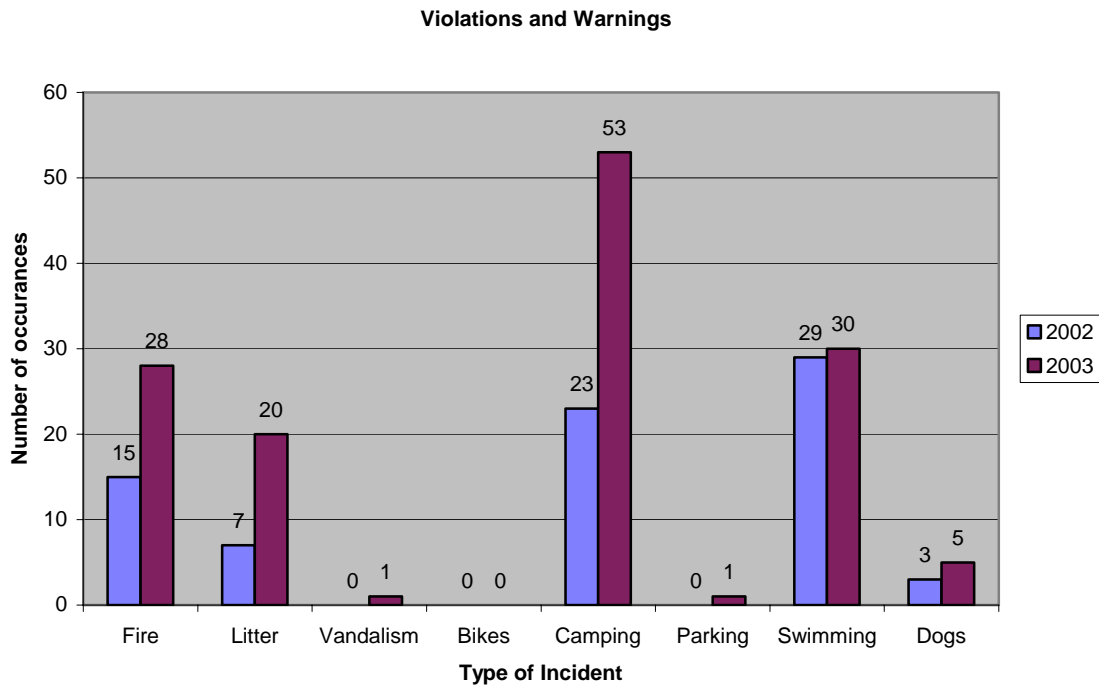


Figure 1: The number of violations and warnings by type of incident issued by USFS Backcountry Rangers for the '02 and '03 seasons in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

Goal 2. To protect and improve the quality of NFS lands within Salt Lake City watershed.

Objectives

- Maintain and improve existing trails to prevent excessive impacts and erosion.
- Rehabilitate all backcountry campsites located within 200 feet of water and any other heavily impacted sites.

Accomplishments

Most watershed impacts in the backcountry come from visitor use. Our objectives are targeted at minimizing these impacts. The season typically starts with an effort to clear the trails of fallen trees. If trails are not cleared, visitors go around them often damaging vegetation and increasing erosion. Maintaining and building the trail's water management structures are critical for a sustainable trail system. The crew cleared 85 trees, maintained or built 154 waters bars and 40 check dams on watershed trails. They also rehabilitated eight eroding switchback cuts. In areas where the tread was washed out, eroded or unstable, 565ft of tread was rebuilt.

Camping impacts in sensitive areas were dealt with by removing 71 fire rings to discourage their use. Eight of the most excessively used sites were rehabilitated and naturalized. A comparison of the work done between this year and last year can be seen in Figure 2. The figure shows that generally less trail work was completed this year. The reason for this is unclear as we had the additional help of volunteer Rangers and extensive group volunteer project days. There are likely going to be fluctuations in the

amount and type of trail maintenance work done each year. It depends in part on how trail structures are holding up to use and weather and how difficult specific projects are.

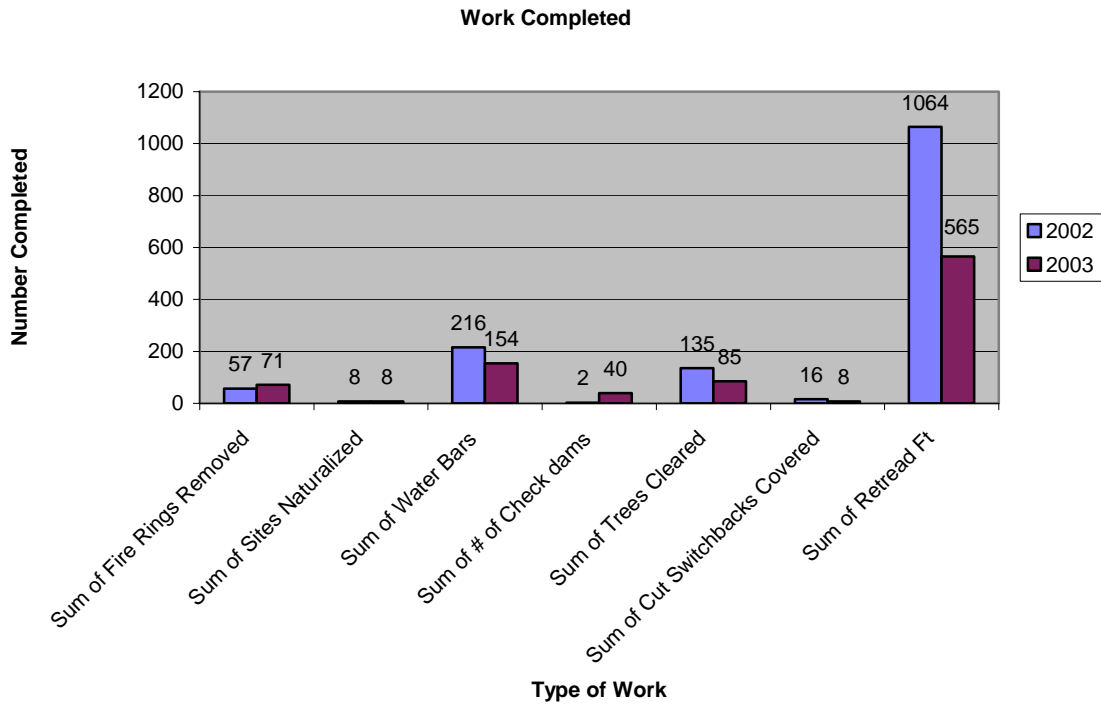


Figure 2: Trail work completed by USFS Backcountry Rangers and volunteers for the '02 and '03 seasons in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

Goal 3. To inventory and monitor Backcountry conditions.

Objectives

- ****NEW**** Establish a trail counter program to monitor trends in visitor use.
- Locate campsites, signs and structures using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and transfer all data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for mapping and spatial analysis.
- Monitor the number of cars at trailheads.

Accomplishments

In an effort to gain a better understanding of how many visitors use some of our trails, we started a trail counter program. Trail counters give us a better idea of the general level of use on backcountry trails. We installed four counters this summer on various trails (2 high use and 2 low use trails). This use survey is not meant to be statistically valid and an absolute measure of use. Nevertheless, it will add significantly to our understanding of the general level of use on these trails. Next summer, we will install more trail counters to improve our understanding of use. Figure 3 shows the level of use that we recorded this summer on the four trails. Something to note is the relatively high use levels September to mid October when program funding runs out.

Wilderness Trail Counts Summer 2003

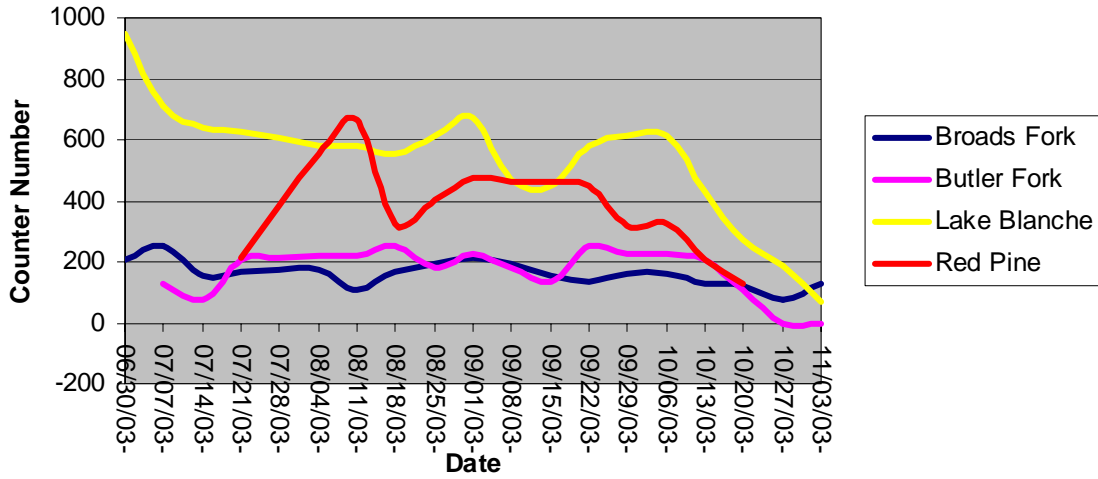


Figure 3: Visitor use (June – November) recorded by trail counters on four trails in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

Our other inventory programs, the campsite and backcountry sign inventory continued as they did last summer. The Twin Peaks Wilderness area’s campsite inventory was completed (Map 1). We hope to complete these projects next season.

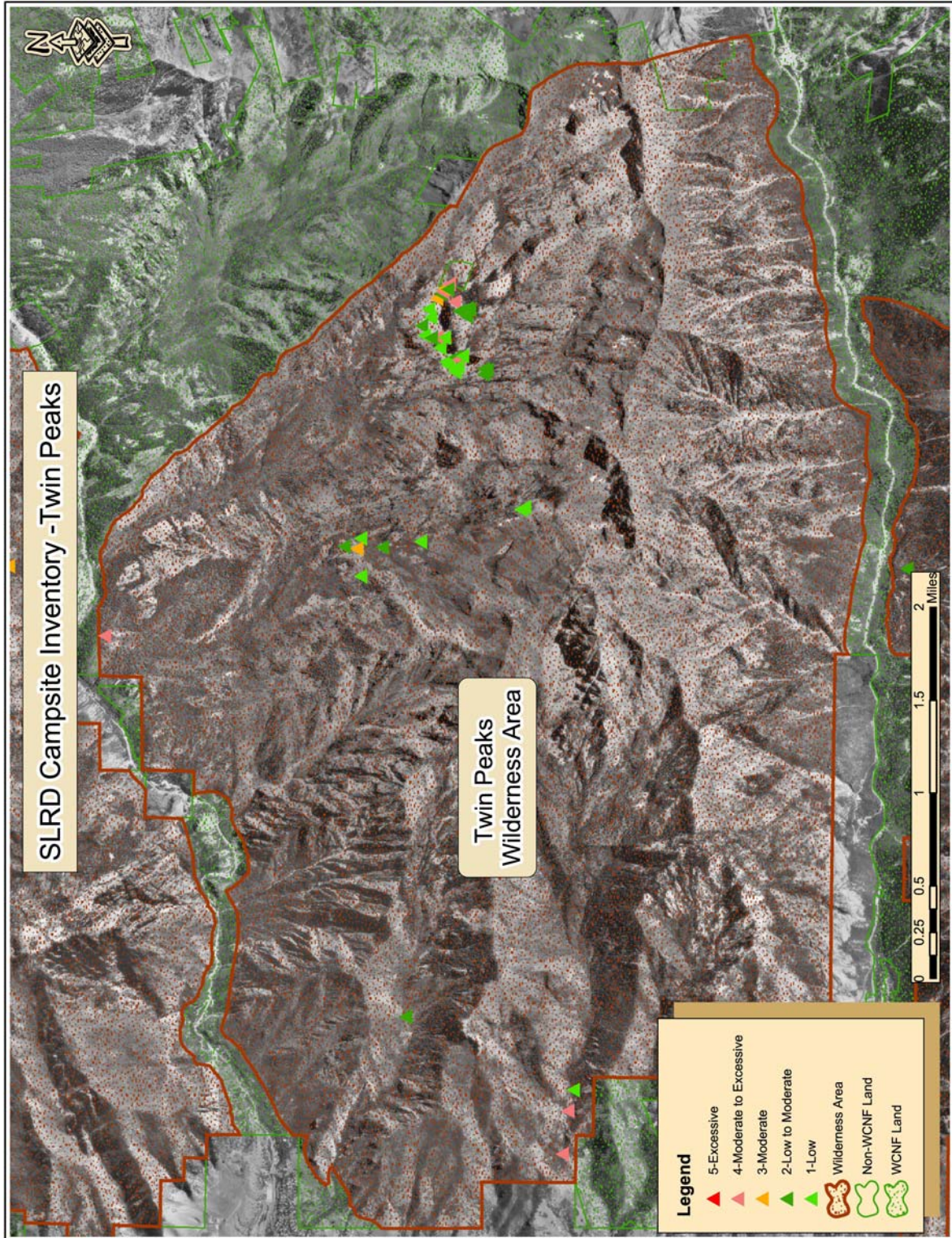
After consulting with USFS staff, it was decided that we will no longer keep track of the number of cars in trailhead parking lots annually. We have that information for 2003 and may decide in the future to spend another season tracking this information for comparison. It was decided that there is little utility in tracking vehicles each year but it may be useful as time passes to do another survey.

Goal 4. To implement a consistent volunteer program utilizing local interest groups and individuals.

Objectives

- Coordinate with interest groups and individuals and schedule volunteer work projects.
- Conduct training sessions with volunteers that prepare them for project work. Topics include, but are not limited to, tool use, trail construction and maintenance, rehabilitation, and personal safety.
- Increase the recruitment and use of uniform wearing volunteer Rangers to increase presence and make visitor contacts.

Map 1



Map 1: Campsite Inventory of the Twin Peaks Wilderness Area, Salt Lake City Utah (11/2003).

Accomplishments

Last year we developed a volunteer program to increase our effectiveness. Volunteer hours are presented in Table 2 showing which watershed areas they helped maintain. Figure 4 compares the number of hours contributed by the various groups for the last two years. The number of volunteer hours increased by 70% from 335 last year to 1,100 this year. The 1,100 volunteer hours is equivalent to having two additional full-time Rangers working eight-hour days for the same sixty-three days currently funded through this agreement.

Sum of Hours Worked		Group Name or Individual				
Fiscal Year	Wilderness name	Individual	Save Our Canyons	Wasatch 100	Wasatch Mt Club	Grand Total
2002	Lone Peak	34	12			46
	Mount Olympus	53	42		20	115
	Non-Wilderness	44	6			50
	Twin Peaks	14	90		20	124
2002 Total		145	150		40	335
2003	Deseret Peak	9				9
	Lone Peak	86		24		110
	Mount Olympus	194	52		45	291
	Non-Wilderness	294	144	16	84	538
	Twin Peaks	88	31		33	152
2003 Total		671	227	40	162	1100
Grand Total		816	377	40	202	1435

Table 2: The sum of volunteer hours by trail and volunteer group supervised by Backcountry Rangers for the '02 and '03 seasons.

Volunteer Hours by Group

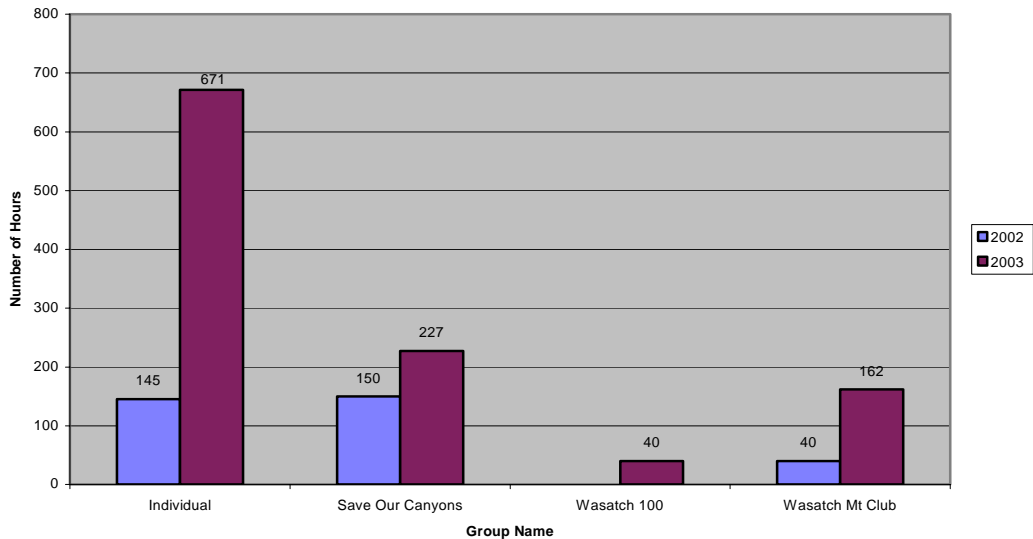
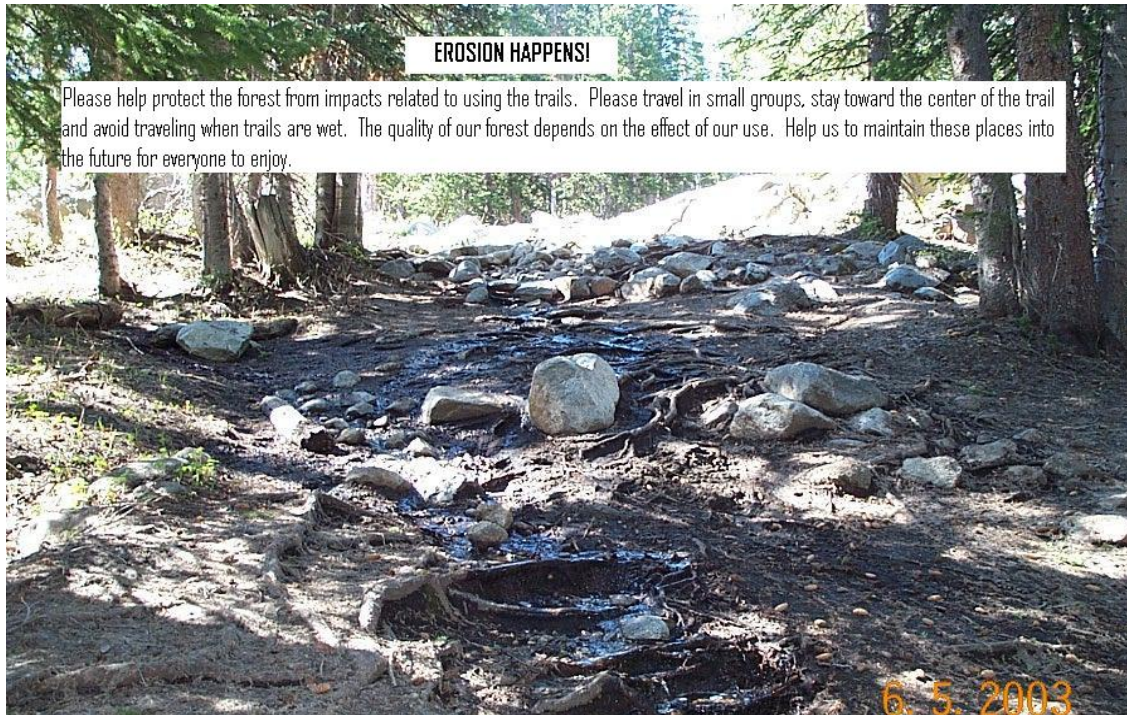


Figure 4: The number of hours volunteered by various groups and individuals for '02 and '03.

Three local groups now help us in maintenance and restoration projects, the Wasatch Front 100 runners (WF100), Save Our Canyons (SOC) and the Wasatch Mountain Club (WMC). These groups donated 40, 227 and 162 hours respectively. The WMC and SOC volunteered on eight pre-scheduled project days (4 days each). WF100 helped on five project days. Each session begins with a safety and tool talk. It serves as training for new volunteers and a refresher for returning volunteers.

Group volunteer projects included much needed trail maintenance and repair. A day was spent rehabilitating six heavily impacted and abused campsites on the Mill B North trail. These denuded sites (identified through the campsite inventory) were located close to the stream and were likely delivering sediment and impacting the watershed.

The major undertaking and most significant watershed improvement project completed this year was with the help of volunteers. It was the re-route of the lower section of the Lake Mary Trail at Brighton Resort. All three groups helped on two project days for 302 volunteer hours. The trail was severely eroded and impacted the riparian and wetlands adjacent to Mary creek. The lower section was re-routed to an existing service road at Brighton Resort. The closed section was ripped and seeded with a native seed mix donated by Brighton then covered with weed-free straw, brush and trees. Many water bars and check dams were installed to slow the volume and flow of runoff.



Lake Mary trail condition prior to rehabilitation. Text was added to some photos for educational purposes at the Silver Lake Visitor Center.



The same location after being reseeded with native grasses and covered with weed-free straw.



As of the fall, new grass had already begun to grow.

Gayle Parry, the SOC volunteer coordinator was instrumental in managing the volunteer program from their side. Much of the summer work (227 hours) was accomplished with their volunteers and articles were published in their summer 2003 newsletters (Appendices 1 & 2). These newsletter articles are great because they advertise the watershed impacts associated with use as well as how those impacts are mitigated.

Most of the volunteer help came from individuals who worked with us both part time and full time (671 hours). Four of these volunteers worked as Rangers, in uniform. They patrolled with us, and alone to make public contacts and do trail work. Other individuals helped by doing trail work and giving us feedback as to work that needed to be done.

We were very fortunate this season to get the full time help of a volunteer. This individual agreed to donate her time (2 months-40 hour weeks) and energy in exchange for free government housing. This volunteer worked as a staff Ranger, in uniform and greatly helped us increase our presence. She offered this statement about her time as a backcountry Ranger that demonstrates what she took from her experience:

...this experience has changed-irrevocably-the way I look at the Forest and Wilderness. I have a whole other respect for it that otherwise might not have been so quickly cultivated. I will never look, feel or act the same way about the Forest again. I thank you for being part of that, volunteerism works!

We hope to be able to recruit this kind of help in the future as it increases the effectiveness of this program. Coordinating a volunteer staff is extremely demanding. The two Rangers currently funded through this agreement make this possible. They train, direct and coordinate all of the volunteer projects and daily patrols. Without these positions, it is unlikely that a watershed volunteer program and the work it accomplishes would exist at all.

CONCLUSION

Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are vital resources to the Salt Lake valley, not only as watershed, but also as recreation areas for the valley's rapidly expanding population. Due to the ease of access into the canyons from Salt Lake City, pressure from public recreational use will continue to increase. Maintenance of the quality of the Salt Lake City watershed is dependent on the continued coordination of planning and activities between Salt Lake City Public Utilities, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the Salt Lake County Sheriff, Alta Town Marshals, and other agencies responsible for watershed protection. The cooperation of businesses operating in the canyons, interested non-profit organizations, and the public is also necessary to protect the watersheds of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

This report demonstrates how the US Forest Service meets its responsibility in the agreement with Salt Lake City Public Utilities. It shows how the funds are used through the accomplishments. The program is now set up so that our efforts and progress can be

tracked. We made significant achievements this year, specifically with regards to increasing our backcountry presence and improving our volunteer program. We hope to keep this momentum next year. The USFS wishes to continue in this agreement, as it is an effective way to maintain and protect the watershed areas of Little and Big Cottonwood canyons. We are looking forward to working with Salt Lake City Public Utilities again next summer.

03 Wild
Vols

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

Summer, 2003

Smokey, the Gooooood Bear, Needs YOUR help this summer.

Please join SOC's Wilderness Volunteers
in helping rehabilitate some long-neglected
Wasatch Wilderness terrain.
See page 8 and and the back cover for details.

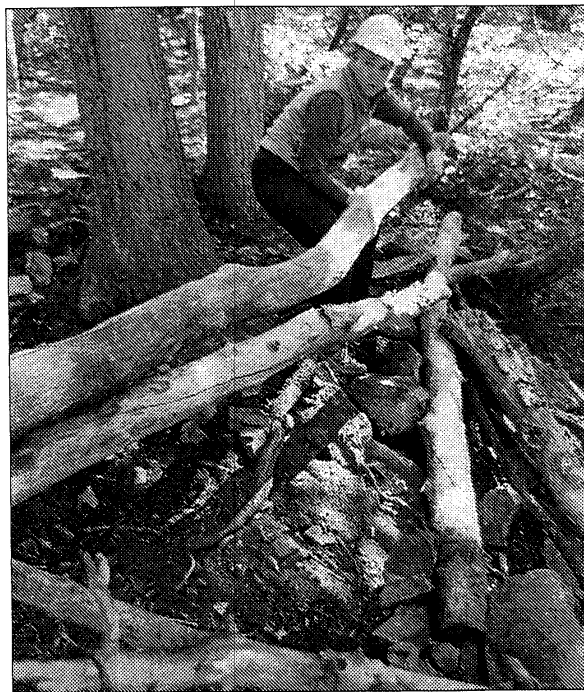
Save Our Canyons is a quarterly publication of the
Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons.

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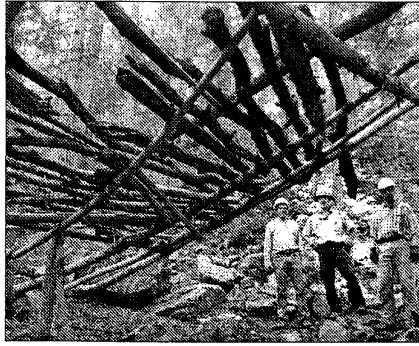
ALEXIS KELNER, Perennial Editor

Listen to
Save Our Canyons'
Wasatch
Environmental Update
With John Worlock
Tuesday's at 4:30 pm
KRCL Radio (90.9 FM)



Cheryl Hart warms up for wilderness work party.

PHOTO: A. Kelner



Steve Roens and FS personnell dismantle illegal structure in wilderness area.

**SOC volunteers needed to
Help the Forest Service Help the Wasatch
Become a Volunteer!**
June 14, July 12, August 9, Sept. 13

Save Our Canyons will be joining the Forest Service Backcountry Rangers the second Saturday of June, July, August and September to work on trails and rehabilitate camp sites in our mountains. Working with the Forest Service in the backcountry is a pleasant and rewarding experience.

We will meet at the Big Cottonwood Park-and-Ride Lot at the canyon mouth at 8 a.m. on June 14th, July 12th, August 9th and September 13. We will work with volunteers from the Wasatch Mountain Club on two of those days: July 12th and September 13th.

The Mountain Club has generously asked our volunteers to meet with them at the Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge at Brighton for refreshments at the end of the days in which we work with them.

Our first time out on June 14 will be spent working on the Brighton Lakes Trail by Lake Mary.

Come out and get to know some fellow Save Our Canyons volunteers, Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers, and Forest Service Rangers. *Help the Forest Service help the Wasatch.*

You can just show up on the above dates, however, if convenient, we would appreciate your contacting Gayle Parry at gwperry@attbi.com, 277-4124 so we can plan our days and give you the credit you deserve for working with us.

Requirements:

Wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes, gloves.

Bring: *2 quarts of water, snacks, lunch, day pack, sunscreen, sunglasses, rain gear, tee shirt, and a warm shirt.*

Save Our Cany

A new adventure
for Save Our Canyons members
HERBOLOGY HIKE

Saturday, July 12

Merry Lycett Harrison of *Millcreek Herbs* will lead a Herbology Hike in Millcreek Canyon on Saturday, July 12.

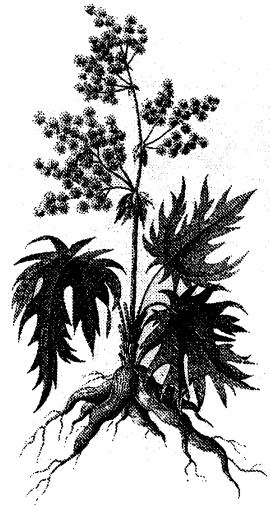
Merry received her training from Master Herbalist, Michael Moore of the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She completed the Master Gardener Program and studied ethnobotany at the BACA Institute of Ethnobotany. Come and learn about the herbs, medicinal and edible, that grow in the Wasatch.

The hike will take about 4 hours.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot. This will be a relatively short hike. Bring a lunch, water, flower books, hats, weather protection (you never know).

Please sign up by calling Lisa at 363-SAVE (363-7283) or sending an email to:

lisa@saveourcanyons.org.



SOC's Wilderness Volunteers to Start Their Second Season

There is nothing more practical in the end than the preservation of beauty —TEDDY ROOSEVELT



Gayle Parry, SOC's Volunteer Coordinator

The headlines bombard us from all directions. The present administration is assaulting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the BLM lands, National Parks and Monuments, roadless areas, Wilderness Study Areas and established Wilderness Areas, and on and on.

Every year the Forest Service tries to work with less funding. With less funding, established Wilderness Areas will suffer. Many of the trails we love to hike in the Wasatch Mountains are in Wilderness Areas. These well-loved trails will turn into roads, campsites into rubbish heaps and alpine lakes will become polluted if

someone doesn't help the Forest Service Wilderness Rangers keep the backcountry beautiful and the trails maintained.

This year Save Our Canyons is again asking for volunteers to help with this effort.

Working with the Forest Service in the backcountry is a pleasant and rewarding experience.

Come out and get to know some fellow Save Our Canyons volunteers, Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers, and Forest Service Rangers. Help the Forest Service help the Wasatch. See page 8 for details. — *Gayle Parry*

**CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
TO SAVE OUR CANYONS**
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Special Surprise Notice

For the first time in many years there are no hearings to attend or critical letters to write.

SOC members should celebrate the interlude by enjoying the Wasatch we are all trying so hard to preserve.

SEE: Schedule of Activities on pages 8-9

03 WILDERNESS
VOLS.

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

Autumn, 2003

SOC volunteers improve the Wasatch

Volunteers Jessica Jackson and Julia Hendrian with the Forest Service's Joelle Dickson in the back take a momentary break during trail maintenance work. Hot, thirsty work. But exceptionally rewarding!

Save Our Canyons is a quarterly publication of the Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons.

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ALEXIS KELNER, Perennial Editor

Thanks to all our supporters,
with a special hurrah for

- Dick Jefferis**
- Aquarius Foundation**
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment**
- Jules Dreyfous**
- Holladay Gun Club**
- Stan and Rosanne Crawley**
- Norcross Foundation**



rector and ultimately as SOC's Executive Director. Upon graduation, Dan joined Lisa in Salt Lake City. Sharing Lisa's feelings concerning the environment and wanting to support Lisa in any way possible, Dan became intimately involved with Save Our Canyons as a volunteer.

He didn't necessarily think of himself as a volunteer, but just liked to help. Helping included interacting with hikers at trailheads, manning Save Our Canyon's booths at many events, helping with fund-raisers such as the slide shows of Conrad Anker and Andrew McClean, being the man of all trades at annual parties, attending meetings in other towns including meetings on the proposed Powder Mountain development, attending rallies, running

errands and generally being available to do anything that needed to be done.

Dan feels that environmental groups need to open more channels of communication between themselves and others. He thinks that the leadership of Save Our Canyons tries to do this by finding every way possible to help and cooperate. "Save Our Canyons has done more than anyone to help valley and foothill residents to resist unwanted development by insisting that government and developers follow the rules in the Foothill and Canyons Overlay Zone."

Save Our Canyons was unaware when hiring Lisa Smith that we would get two for the price of one. Dan has been outstanding. Thanks, Dan.

Wilderness Volunteers Shine in 2003 Season

By GAYLE PARRY (SOC's Volunteer Coordinator)

Save Our Canyons' Wilderness Volunteers made impressive progress in the backlog of needed trail and campsite rehabilitation in the Wasatch this past season. In order to tackle the jobs at hand, Save Our Canyons, the Wasatch Mountain Club, the Wasatch 100, and the Forest Service pooled their volunteer personnel to complete some daunting tasks. The most daunting was the closure of the lower three tenths of a mile of the Lake Mary section of the Brighton Lakes Trail. The combination of the groups was so successful that the teaming up will continue in the future.

The first trail day (June 14) drew thirteen volunteers and the other three trail days (July 12, August 9, and September 13) drew around twenty each day from the combined groups. Save Our Canyons had at least ten or more volunteers at every trail day. This translates to an impressive number of hours of work performed this season by the Save Our Canyons volunteers.

The focus on Trail Day, June 14, was the rehabilitation of illegal campsites off the Mill B North Fork Trail in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Four campsites situated too close to a stream were rehabilitated. Campers in one area were ticketed both for camping too close to the stream and for leaving human fecal matter in the trees adjacent to the campsite.

Volunteers were awesome in their ability to dig big holes into which they moved huge boulders that were planted as "icebergs" with just their tips showing to prevent campers from putting tents on the illegal sites. Trash and deep ashes from the fire rings were also taken out and some needed trail maintenance was done.

The next two trail sessions (July 12 and August 9) were spent closing the first .3-mile of the Lake Mary

section of the Brighton Lakes Trail. Forest Service spokesman, Wilderness Ranger, Sean Wetterberg, says that the Lake Mary Trail is the most heavily used trail on the Salt Lake Ranger District. Three hundred hikers were counted using the trail in just one day. As a result of its location in riparian and wetland areas, the trail had deteriorated into deep ruts, excessive trail braiding, had wetland damage, and soil loss. Re-routing, installing water bars, check dams, and bridges could not keep up with the erosion and damage, and it was becoming a threat to the watershed.

Volunteers hauled logs, rocks, and brush onto the trail and planted grass seed covering it with straw. The trail has been re-routed to the existing ski area service road; however the Forest Service, Save Our Canyons, and the Wasatch Mountain Club are investigating a new, scenic trail. This new trail will be studied next spring to ascertain whether it is too close to wetlands. Stay tuned.

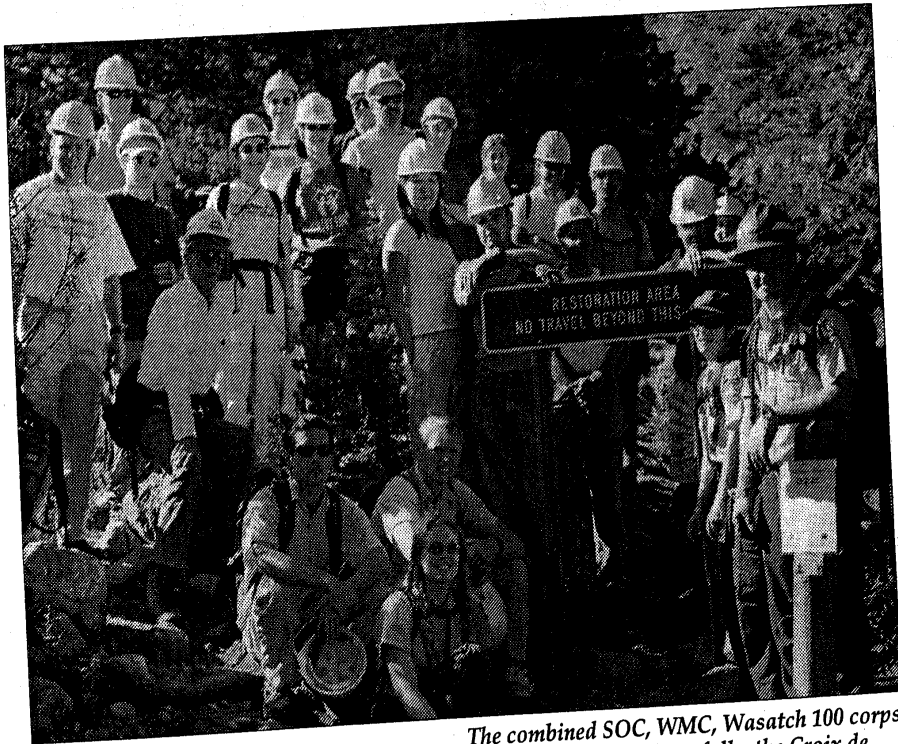
Volunteers broke into two groups on the last Trail Day (September 13). One group constructed water breaks and water bars up into the upper meadow of Broads Fork. The other group worked on the Mount Olympus Trail where most of the effort involved closing down the short cut paths that are just beyond the Wilderness sign.

This season's volunteers worked as a well-organized team and accomplished an astonishing amount of work. Everyone enjoyed refreshments after some of the trail days and that provided an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other.

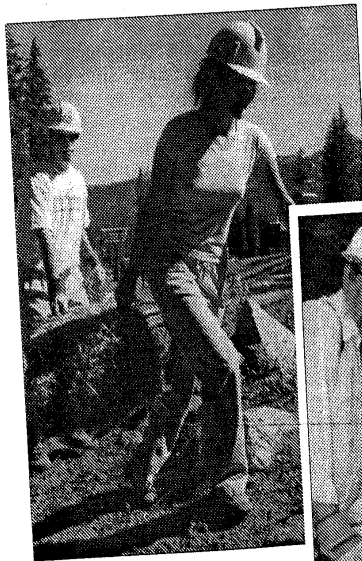
By contributing time and effort to the Wasatch Mountains in whatever capacity, our Save Our Canyons' volunteers do **save our canyons**.

www.saveourcanyons.org

Save Our Canyons - Autumn, 2003 5



The combined SOC, WMC, Wasatch 100 corps of engineers. Give those folks the Croix de Guerre!



SOC's Summer Activities

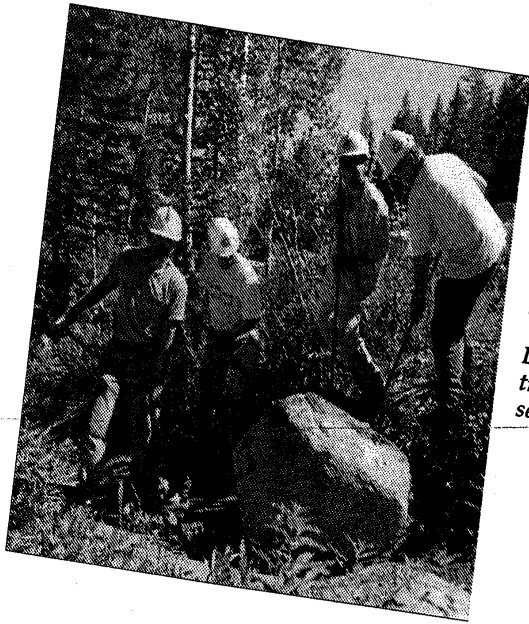
For Save Our Canyons volunteers, the summer of 2003 was a time of work. Wasatch Mountain Club and Wasatch 100 volunteers also pitched in – all under Forest Service Wilderness Ranger leadership.

There is always much more that needs doing than the FS and volunteers can accomplish. The beaten down and eroded Lake Mary trail from Brighton was put to bed; other trails were repaired; campsites were cleaned up and planted with rock icebergs to discourage camping near watershed streams. If you play there, you should work a day there!

rps



Lake Mary Trail put to bed with dead trees, large boulders and wildflower seeds.



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