

Highlights from the SMT August 2010 Meeting

Ben Lara from the National Forest Service reported on current & future National Forest Service trail projects. Of special interest to SMT is the ongoing planning for construction of a single track trail on Upper Cottonwood which will connect to existing trail in the Arkansas Hills System.

Mike Sugaski & Daniel Golin have continued flagging the North Backbone trail. There is still a lot of work to be done to finish it but volunteer groups such as the Salida-Buena Vista high school bike club & church youth groups will be solicited to help SMT volunteers.

The Southwest Conservation Corps has 2 crews scheduled to work on re-routes for Pauli & Sand Dunes but both need more environmental analysis before work begins in Oct. If the re-routes are finished, any extra time might be able to be devoted to N Backbone.

The Little Rainbow is being re-flagged in order to get bids for construction. The city of Salida & Chaffee County are still holding \$25,000 for funding it. Private pledges & donations specifically for the Little Rainbow already amount to over \$2,000; a grant application to Bikes Belong for \$10,000 is being submitted, and a benefit concert featuring the Groove Farmers at Salida Café is scheduled for Sept. 26.

Trail Rewards cards will be distributed beginning at the next work session, scheduled for Aug. 14 on Starvation Creek. They can be picked up &/or punched whenever the tools trailer is at a work session, or at Absolute.