

## THE VEGA PROJECT - 2011

Many of the members from the Western Slope ATV Association in Grand Junction, Colorado met for the fourth time this summer to volunteer their time on a multi-day trail project. The group usually hosts four multi day events and multiple single day events. Once again our Vega work project proved to be the most popular of all our work parties to date. This Project is based near Vega State Park which borders the Grand Mesa National Forest. I'm sure this projects popularity is due to the availability of the campground, the cabins and Vega Lake. We had approximately twenty-five people staying in the cabins and the campground and fifteen staying at our base camp. There were several that came up for a day at a time and not everyone worked every day.

On Thursday we had 28 people show up to help install restrictors and log fencing on High Trail, which is a very popular ATV trail with a 50 inch width restriction on it. On Friday we had thirty-five people to help finish what we started the day before and sent a smaller crew to the damaged West Leon Creek Bridge to block off access to it until it is rebuilt. On Saturday we had a whopping 41 people to help out on two very bad places on Monument ATV Trail. The majority of these people were busy picking rocks and loading trailers. This day's success is a tribute to them.

We recorded 853 hours of volunteer time on this project. All of these people not only volunteered their time but their ATVs, their tools and their own gas to travel as well as pay their own campground fees. We experienced near perfect weather for our work days. The only rain, of course, came at our BBQ, which was unfortunate as we had almost sixty people in attendance, that is, until the rain just kept on falling.



Above is width restrictor and log fencing installed on the west end of High Trail. The Orange marker posts are so snowmobile users will see the location.

The crew then moved to the east end of High Trail, which is approximately six miles away. They always try to get both entrances to a trail done on the same day so an over width vehicle cannot be trapped inside and to prevent damage the one just installed.



Above, the finished east end restrictor and the work crew. While holes are being dug, concrete mixed and the restrictor being planted in the holes, others are busy cutting logs, fitting them with grooved stubs, driving posts for reinforcement and wiring logs together. It is always a big team effort and ends up very aesthetically pleasing.



Members are shown loading rocks into trailers to take down the trail to a stream bed. There is no such thing as a rock too big or too small. The big ones go on the bottom and the perimeter and the smaller ones on top.



A new rock trail placed through what used to be a difficult stream crossing. Now if the beavers dam the creek up again as in the past the crossing will still be navigable.



Pictures can be deceiving. Many of the very large rocks put in here actually sank out of sight into the muck. There was over 30 trailer loads of rock loaded and unloaded by hand to make this a long lasting crossing that will no longer be widened out.

