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## PRESS RELEASE

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### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN GRAND COUNTY

*Over 100 volunteers helped make Grand County's 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive National Public Lands Day celebration a success!*

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands, and Grand County has one of the longest-running annual celebrations of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) in the country! National Public Lands Day is always held on the fourth Saturday of September; this year it was on September 25 and was Grand County's 27<sup>th</sup> year of volunteering and celebrating our public lands. With over 100 volunteers on five different projects across the county, we in Grand County continue to show how much we love and care about America's public lands.

The five projects this year included the annual Upper Colorado River Cleanup with the Bureau of Land Management; trail work and other improvements on the Strawberry/Phases Trail System with the Bureau of Land Management; trail work along the Lower Creekside Trail with the US Forest Service; trail work on the Turkey Spur/Tonahutu Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park; and a Stewardship Ambassador Training with Headwaters Trails Alliance and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The Upper Colorado River Cleanup is always the largest project in the county, this year drawing over 75 participants including from Middle Park High School, Colorado River Outfitters, and the High Country River Rafters Club, among other individuals and groups. Together they cleaned over 11 river miles, broke down fire rings and fences,

and picked up trash along the bank. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project to help keep our river clean.

The other projects built and maintained turnpikes, dug culverts, constructed water bars and check steps, cleared drains and trail corridors, decommissioned trails, and removed dead and downed trees for trail safety and access. Next time you're out on a trail, consider the work that goes into making it the fun, safe, and enjoyable experience you're having!

The day ended with a Picnic in the Park, at Polhamus Park in Granby. Two local bands played music for attendees, which included volunteers, supporters, and the general public. The bands were River Wilder and The Moffat Tunnel Band. The Picnic included short presentations about the day and 16 door prizes, contributed by Big Agnes, The Trailhead, and Two Pines Supply. Organizations who tabled at the event included Headwaters Trails Alliance, Colorado Headwaters Land Trust, Grand County Wilderness Group, Destination Granby, the US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition. We look forward to another great Picnic in the Park next year!

Thank you to everyone who made this day possible, including Headwaters Trails Alliance; Colorado Headwaters Land Trust; Law Thyne and Carver's Bakery Café; the Town of Granby; the US Forest Service; the Bureau of Land Management; Rocky Mountain National Park; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Winter Park Resort; R&J Liquor; and the Fraser River Valley Lions Club. Special thanks also to NEEF, the National Environmental Education Foundation, for ensuring that National Public Lands Day happens nationwide every year, and to Grand County's Open Lands, Rivers, and Trails Fund for contributing financial support for the day's projects and resources.

For more information about NPLD or to give support, please call Headwaters Trails Alliance at (970) 726-1013 or visit <https://headwaterstrails.org>.