Dear Friends,

As this year, 2001, comes to a close I would like to send a special thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who have helped us maintain and improve The Colorado Trail. It has been thirteen and a half years since The Colorado Trail was officially dedicated and twenty-eight years since the publisher of Colorado Magazine, Merrill Hastings and Regional Forester, Bill Lucas conceived the idea of a Colorado trail.

Now, through the efforts of thousands of volunteers from all over the world The Colorado Trail is the premier high altitude long distance trail of the world. Our Official Guidebook is in its fifth edition. The Colorado Trail is the most accurately mapped long distance trail in the world and any one with a home computer can print out maps of the CT in almost any scale they desire from our CD.

A backcountry trail is not static. It needs care to repair the ravages of wind and rain, fire and flood. Vegetation constantly attempts to reclaim the trail corridor. Fifty-three groups or individuals have adopted sections of the CT as the first line of defense. Occasionally these adopters need the help of a weeklong crew when the magnitude of the problem exceeds their capabilities. All of the sections are currently adopted but the turnover is about 10 percent per year. So if you think you would like to maintain a segment of the CT contact the office for more information or to get your name on the waiting list.

One of the main objectives of The Colorado Trail as yet remains unfulfilled, and that is to have the CT separated from motorized traffic to the maximum extent possible. Every year we come a little bit closer to this objective. The Cash Creek reroute, over the past two summers, bypassed 6 miles of county gravel road. The Copper Mountain reroute will eliminate another 4 miles of road. The Jarosa Mesa reroute of three summers ago eliminated another 6 miles of jeep track. The Swan River reroute of the 90s eliminated a very unpleasant dusty 10 miles of gravel road. So we are making progress. Each of these reroutes required literally years of planning and negotiation before construction could begin. There are still approximately 100 miles of the CT where we think it is possible to separate it from some form of motorized traffic. But each year the planning and approval process becomes more difficult because of environmental concerns and competing uses for the land.

We still need your help as a volunteer to build and maintain the CT each summer, with the planning and negotiation process that takes place year around and the dollars it takes to support both of the above. We plan to field 15 to 20 work crews next summer, so come on out and join the fun. The summer schedule should be in your mailbox next month. As always your donations are needed and much appreciated. Thank you again for all your help in the past and we hope to see you on The Colorado Trail again this summer.

Merle McDonald, President
The Colorado Trail Foundation
Lucy and The CTF

We have a permanent resident at the Educational Facility and her name is Lucy. She has given us all hours of pleasure for all the years that The Foundation has owned the cabin with her antics and friendliness. It used to be that she would come out in the early evening as we all gathered by the fire and as the years went by, and her offspring stayed around, she came out more and more in the daylight hours. A snowshoe hare, she has survived the predators in the valley and the ungainly feet of the human population. Often sitting between our feet or hopping among the camp chairs, she would take off like a streak towards the cabin, jump into the air, do a complete turn and land on her feet, look us over and then casually lope away.

Her whole family is out the day that we make ice cream and pour the salt water out in our sump hole. For them the salt is Christmas in July. Even the deer partake in the treat, as well as the mice and voles in the night.

Being a hare, she produces a litter of young ones fully clothed in fur. From the time that they are born, they or foragers as they have no nest. A beautiful chocolate brown in the summer, they turn almost completely white during the winter and are completely camouflaged from ten feet away.

Long live Lucy and her extended family so that the watercolor class can keep on having a wild subject to draw. We love you Lucy! Enjoy the snowy landscape at Christmas time.
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