When Heil Valley Ranch reopened, notebooks were placed on the Lichen Loop and Wapiti Trail with a prompt to “take a moment to share your thoughts about Heil Valley Ranch reopening.” These are the pages from the notebooks. Take some time to read over how people reacted to the reopening.
6/16/22
I'm so happy to be back, but it's also so strange. The wild flowers are beautiful, but there are also a ton of weeds. The new laid scope is beautiful too, but I miss the trees.

6/18
Thanks! Looks great!

6/18 Overjoyed to be back running these trails. Thank you SO much. Rob and Heather Batchley

6/18 It's great to be back. Thank you so much for all the work you've done to re-open.

6/18 Awesome but a bit shocking. I miss what was.

6/18 Thanks for all the hard work!

Guest: So good to be back at our favorite track. Thank you, thank you - especially for all the baby oranges you've planted!"

megusta

Love it so much! Great new trails

6/18 Let's get the upper lot open past noon. Amazing to see how strong the wild flowers are after the fire. Happy to see some living trees, long live the pines & oaks! —Blake
6-18-22
So happy you are open again. Thank you for all the hard work getting the trail ready.
The contrast of the trail chair against the green is stunning, lots of beautiful flowers, weed or not. Wish I had packed my water colors.
Sue & Steve

6/19/22
Thank you to all who contributed to help the way to reopen my favorite hiking spot. It is mixed emotions to see the terrain but time heals it. It will be beautiful in a new way. I am grateful to hear the birds & insects & see the grasses & wildflowers. And looking forward to the saplings taking old trails to rebuild the forest. Many thanks again.
G. Michelle, Boulder CO

6/19/22
Thank you so much for all you have done to reopen this trail! It is our closest path to home and my 13 month old daughter is so lucky to enjoy it. I was so pumped about the fire but loving all the gorgeous wildflowers!
Amanda & Lillian

6/19/22
Thank you for all your hard work to reopen Heil Ranch.
This is my family's favorite hiking spot. Raphael, Nina, Oren, Roni

6/20/22
So happy to be back. This place is beautiful and its regrowth astounding. Nature moves forward and is truly inspirational. Your hard work is so apparent. Thank you for the rebuilding.
Juneteenth 2022

Glad to be back. Curious to see how the ecosystem will continue to change. We held live to hear from naturalists about how to expect and why (e.g., Robert Reddy’s example, where Canyon Peak fire got rid of top of invasive plants.)

Juneteenth/Father’s Day

So surprised to see the green after the dry winter. Thank you for your effort to clear the weeds on trails and for the burnt tree clearing. He photos after fire were devastating as it’s clear about the work ongoing for the next several years. Good job!

Monday, May 20

Grateful to see the reopening - really amazing to see the process of rebirth.

Monday, June 20, 2022

So happy to be here again! Thank you for all the hard work. It’s still a beautiful place, even though things are different now.

I’m so glad to be back here, and I’m excited to see how the landscape will change and grow over time. And thank you for all the hard work you’ve put in.

Glad to see open, maybe consider keeping it open until July when flowers usually start. Sad to see the trees burned but it’s Nature’s way sometimes so we can notice new things.

Thank you!!!
It's wonderful to be back here! Thank you for all the hard work it took to re-open. This is my parents' favorite spot and they've missed it so much. We're all marveling at the changes and the new beauty.

Thanks, L, N, & J - Longren.

I appreciate the thoughtfulness with which Bergs does things, such as selective cutting and removal of trees near trails without removing all of them. It's obvious that Bergs is doing things for a new kind of beauty here. I'm so glad I live here.

I'm not sure that I can fully express in words how much this place means to me. It was the first trail I hiked 4 years ago when I moved to Breckenridge. I looked out over the valley and was filled with emotion. I left NOT in search of something, I didn't know what that something was until I returned to Hot Valley Ranch. This place has been my source of peace, my sense of strength, my winged, my friend, my teacher. To have it back means so much. I feel like I have gained a part of my heart back. Thank you for your efforts.

XO, Shannon 6/22/22

So excited to be back! And it's so beautiful too! All of the wildflowers are spectacular.

Thank you for all the work you did!

Thank you, dear team, who made this reopening possible. So honored to be back out on this land. May we all heal together, one step at a time, on this ever-changing precious planet.

Thank you again. -CW 6/22/22

I am so happy to this trail. Thank you

Anna Mann
June 22 - Thank you for recovery work.
June 22 - It's so pretty.
June 30th - So sad to see the devastation of the fire, but thankful to everyone who is working to restore this beautiful place.

June 24th - Even with the devastation I can see the beauty!
Don't take nature, life, your health, loved ones for granted.
Enjoy this beautiful sunny day you have something very special here.
Quinn Reynolds Oregon

6/27 Andy, Rose - Longmont. We've been coming here for many years, both by foot and bike. Strange now something so familiar looks post fire. But it would've been worse if not for the hard work of Ranger Brian & SMP working toward sustained redos over the years. Thanks to your hard work in getting Neil fully reseeded. It's a special place!

6/24/22 First time back. In some strange way, the fire rebirth this area. I hope there will be some kind of control for the Huck Thore. Thanks for all the hard work to get this trail up and going again.
Oyl Nick

6/24/22 Also my first time back. Incredible to see the devastation, but also the rebirth. What a heavy toll that the trees that did survive will birth new ponders. Mortality will be high.
Heil Valley lives! Thinks Boulder County. For all that you have done to bring this place of special back to us.
Although different, it's not necessarily a bad thing. The character absolutely remains. Peace & Love to all you.
6/25/22 It has a new sort of beauty. The burned areas make me appreciate what was spared. I feel much appreciation for the beautiful trails now. Flowers! Thank you to all who worked to re-open the land.

Jill Weber
Longmont

6/25/22 Thank you for the countless hours it took you all to re-open the paths. I loved it before and now it feels even stranger in life! the birds seem happy, the flowers blooming, the trees fallen over to give new life. I feel such gratitude to walk amongst this land again.

Deeply grateful,
Stacie Schneider
Niwot, CO

Fantastic!

6-25-22 It's good to see the wild turkeys (and their young ones) bouncing back after the fire. A hiker-only trail to the Picnic Road trail would be a great addition; looked and Grandtini Qu Grey Trails are too short.

Nick Jameson - Bearhead

*You can see more wildlife without all the bikes racing down the trail at 25 MPH (speeds the critters).

6-26-22 History cannot be change. Evolution is change. History cannot be changed. I am only one changing. I am only one changing. Layering it self into a new Vibran, a new-old system including all beings. Rocks and round seeds laying awaiting awakening, love and inted connections, exchange of energy, a love
On this trail
with a most lovely friend
we witness destruction
and new life burgeoning
from the ashes, like the Phoenix.
What a beautiful journey!

with gratitude,
Kirsten

6/26/22
So grateful!
The Hudaks

6/28/22
It's like a whole different
world, I didn't recognize it.
The plants were not here
before and now there everywhere.
This place has changed
a lot.

Carmen Schmidt

6/27/22
So thankful to see South Heil and the Lichen lay
again even in its altered state. The landscape
is changed but awed at the new life emerging
from the ashes. Thank you for the hard work
as I have always loved it here and glad to return.
P.S. saw a deer.

Natalie H.

6/28/22
It feels like a rebirth. We are John
grateful for all the conservation and
hard work to sustain the trails.
6/28/22

YES! I've been waiting two years for this hike! Thank you! Mary U. And I understand why.

6/28 Happy to be back. Closing the parking lot at noon is ridiculous. 😞

6/28 My favorite place. Birch - hawks both returned. Loving the birds are they feeding more in the dead pines? Thank you for all your hard work to get it open.

6/28/22 "I love hiking here and I missed it." - Keeva (age 5)

"I missed hiking here and I love this trail." - Maggie (age 6)

"I like hiking here a lot of the time. I like when we play on Bulldog Rock." - Gwen (age 5)

6/29 Such a bittersweet time - but so happy to be back on the trail.

6/29 My kids are 17 & 15. Today we were here & they haven't been on this trail since they were 3 & 3 years old. Yeah!

6/29 I missed this place.

6/30 Thrilled to be here. Loving the wildflowers. Thanks for your work that made the re-opening possible.

7/1 The healing nature you are doing here gives me hope. Thank you! Wildflowers & birds are amazing! Nancy Good
Missing all the trees. The field of wildflowers are
damaging.

Thanks for all the hard work re-establishing the trail.

I feel so grateful for all the work that allowed re-opening. Such a beautiful place. I am very curious about what the things come back post fire. Is all this Thistle Nature? Would love to learn about the process.

Thank you to our Bldg Co. Open Space staff and volunteers for your obvious hard work to re-open Heil Valley Ranch. The Lichen loop was one of our favorite trails for a quick beautiful outing. We'll have to learn how to love it in a new way! And thanks to the taxpayers of Bldg Co and the voters who approve our open space taxation! Look what we can do together to preserve and enjoy our beautiful county.

*Be we could enjoy a hikes without bikes and dogs to dodge.

Beautiful place, thanks for bring it back!

Devastating to see the lost trees, though the wildflowers are beautiful. Thanks for the hard work so it could re-grow.

Flowers, butterflies, grasses, thistles - REBIRTH.
7/3 What a great place - How can we stop
The planes from circling over head?

7/3 Wonderful trail
Absolutely gorgeous!
Although signs maybe
Confusing - sometimes

7/3 Great job with trail - Love it 😊

7/3 Desperately missed this place
And am deeply grateful to be here.
Stunning beauty all around! 💫

7/3 So happy this trail is open!
7/3 Happy overall w/ bittersweet reopenings. The beauty of the flowers on thistles and so forth helps. Nature 😊

7/3 So happy to be able to walk this trail again. I stopped hiking for a long time since this was the most accessible for me. Hope to get back to more hiking now. Thanks for the maintenance & replanting! 🌱

7/3 We really appreciate all the hard work that went into reopening! Thank you!
7/4 Being on this trail again fills me with joy.
I am so thankful for all the recovery efforts and the resilience of the life
in this beautiful area.

7/4 Happy 4th of July. This is my favorite fire!

7/4 Lots of great memories here. Beautiful area
even after the fire. Life is amazing. Thank
you to all who helped make this area open again.
Craig Atteberry, Longmont

7/4 Our family is so happy that Heil is open again.
I used to hike these trails a lot when I was
pregnant and it is special to be able to come
back here with my now 1.5 yr. old daughter.
Thank you for all your hard work making
these trails accessible again!
Katarina Takaiishi, Longmont

7/4 Thank you for your hard work to make our
beloved Heil Ranch accessible again. It's so sad to
see our forest burned. We have spent many hours
on this trail over the years, smelling the juniper,
scented sap and listening to the birds. I'm grateful
to be back.
Laurie Moore, Longmont

7/4 Change can be fast, but what do we learn?
Grateful for being allowed back.

7/4 This is rest! Best wishes.
Wayne Moore, Longmont

7/5 Thank you for giving us a peaceful and quiet and
beautiful place to be in nature! ❤

7/6 So grateful to be back here again! Drummer
We love it here. So grateful to be back here among you! All those who worked so hard to re-open the trails. Always hope from ashes.

7/17/22

Awesome! The wildflowers & scenery are spectacular. This is my 2nd visit here & I am used to regular many times.

7/8 So grateful for all you have done to make it possible for us (natives) to return. Marylo. What a different, starkly beautiful landscape, intimately revealing the cycles of nature.

How long were you actually closed?

With respectful gratitude,

John P. "Mingo" Steiner king33@goa.com

7-8-22 Sad that it burned. Still a great area! Worst part is main lot closing at noon!

7-9-22 So glad to be able to come and enjoy the summer birds!

7-9-22 Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for all the work. Glad to be able to come back here.

7/13/22 It's amazing to see the beauty of the wildflowers, bees & butterflies returning. Thank you for your work to make this accessible again! 😊

7-14 So appreciative of restoration efforts 😊

Despite the fire, This is a gorgeous place on earth 😊
7/20 Very sad! Good to see all the wonderful, hard labor that happened in to the fire recovery. Maybe we need to rename Heil to Millen Mound. All of the seeds for the birds, hundreds of grasshoppers in N section. A sad but very educational place to see. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to try to give this place some life. Linda B

7/27 - So so THANKFUL to be back! The fire is so devastating - but Nature will find a way! Epitome of Hope.

Love You Heil Valley.

- The Weinheinens

7/11/22 Thank You! One of my favorite fractals.

K Zapp

7/17/22 (10:15) Stoked to see Heil Living & Breathing.

7/19/22 (10:15) Empathy for what it takes to grow a forest. is shocking. May this new habitat regenerate & all beings who share it enjoy.

R8

7/21/22 - Thank you for opening the trail. It's been a good friend for many years. Today, a mule deer greeted me and wished me well. O moss the shade, but look forward to watching the pines grow over the years.

Marion C

Come to Be Back - Let's do work ahead bout you have done a great job! 14.25 5.15

Dear 1 Phl

John & Angello Taylor

7/31/22 Thanks to the heroes who helped to restore this area! We missed bulldozer rock, so great to be back.

- Boulder Schlapers
7/24/22

We are so thankful for the trail crew & rangers for all of the hard work. This is such a nice place to come & contemplate death/life cycle.

    with Love - Suyen, Levi & Mom

7/24/22

This trial is awesome and I love it—fire or no fire.

  —Anonymous

7/19/22

Thank you for your hard work in opening this trail. You are all very grateful to everyone. 😊

expecting too much, this box is full of spiders

7/25/22

The efforts and results of the restoration are beyond impressive. The thoughtfulness of the planning and the results are greatly admired, from the dangerous tree removal to the planting of seedling pines, and on and on. (Now if there could be a way to prevent the Great Mule (from becoming the norm—hoping they are just a stage in transition).

    thank you!! Boulder Pos, Rangers, Volunteers, etc."

7/29/22

Heidi is a Gem! 1 st time back & so thankful for the mitigation & restoration efforts. Many thanks to Denice.

7/28/22

Makes me sad that I never came here before the fire. There would have been nice shady spots then. Glad to have it open now though. Gives us a lesson on the power of fire's nature.
7-28-22
This was my favorite park in the area.
Thank you for all your hard work bringing it back.

Scott

7-30-22
My 2nd time back since re-opening. It killed me that day of the fire. I saw Broomfield 28th St Mall. Wanted to come back but decided to head back to Denver. Then wanted to stay in hopes it would quickly get put out. Instead I sat on the hill @ Regional Park (I think) on Aspap. Over looks the water power plant and just watched in horror for over 2 hours. Wondering about it was it really here, the Greenbriar (I see eaten @ so many times after a fire), the neighborhood I just was in delivering for Clueless, the people that lived just down the street. I met the last time I was here as they were walking their pony here. This was my first place to attempt a hike 2 days after surgery. Hysterectomy - Thank you CDOT not banning such surgeries or abortion - smh - I did no hikes.

my 1st 38 days after surgery. I think there was 3 & them 2 for sure. My 1st hike here was in winter. I felt like I was in the mountains (no cell service) and I knew Boulder's sight here. Seeing people climb on top in cross country skis surprised me. My phone stop working at cold one winter.
The turkey feet plants are so big in snow. A few weeks ago my first hike back was quite emotional. My jaw was dropped. Seeing the destruction, I hugging a burnt tree along the way. I felt so filled with all my strength to survive it. I really hope they down as I got to the top of the hill to see the main parking lot the trees. The last time before fire I saw 5 adult turkeys n at least 20 babies. Gal down 2 weeks then back up the hill. It was hilarious to see an adult have to go yell at the few babies that struggled behind the baby. I was laughing. I saw the lot I saw movement. It was filled with movement. I laughed. I thought it was a flock of turkeys. I was so worried about all the kids. I'm grateful for all who helped bring it back for us.
7/31 All these fuzzy weird looking corn bushes are great. Gonna go make me some corn bread. 97 1/2 out of 10, would recommend.

7/31 I saw my first flock of wild turkeys right where I've come back for a little over a month to one of my absolute favorite hiking spots in Boulder, you know, nature is rejuvenating. Many thanks again to CC who made the re-opening possible.

8/3 Please open the closed section of the trail. The nesting birds will move on next year if there is human traffic. It's the nicest part of the trail. Sad that hundreds or thousands of people miss that part of the trail due to a couple birds.

3/Aug 2022

This is a favorite trail for me and my uncle. He has been visiting Heil since 2010(ish). We love to admire Dog Face Rock — named by my uncle, Neal. 😢 Sad to see it all burned up, but happy to see its still here.

Also, OMG look at all this Mullen!
6/19/22 Thank you for bringing back our favorite trail.

6/19/22 Thank you for all the hard work... Happy Father's Day.

6/20/22 So good to be back. Thank you for the care you give our precious public lands. - Love Mr. Joe, Boulder, Colo.

6/20/22 Broke my heart when this place burned, on so many levels. It's my Platinum training and mental health escape. Thank you. - John Gooden

6/21/22 It's so nice to be able to bike & hike here again and thank you for enjoying this peaceful & beautiful area. All your work to open it up again! - Marie Mcn

6/21/22 YAY!

6/23/22 Great to be back! Last time I was only before the fire. So sad, yet beautiful in a certain way. Thanks for your effort.

6/24/22 So beautiful! Amazing place to spend my birthday. Check out our pictures on insta at cookeheadskiml

[Signature: Robin in the Rain]
16-24-2023

Amazing work getting this trail open again! Riding it for the first time today. Since the fire was marvelous. Really a showcase on fire rehabilitation. It was intimidating coming down the trail with those thistle forests though! This would be a great opportunity to build more trails in this area and expand the Front Range riding network while we are recruiting for the hackers already! Thanks for making it great every time! - Trevor Lane, Boulder, CO

2022/06/25
So glad to be back in this beautiful place. Thank you to all the folks that worked very hard to get it open! Much appreciated. Hope there will be more trails out in the area we are blessed with an abundance of space & need more trails for all the motorcycle fans. Again.

6/25/22
I've lived in Boulder County for 11 years now. First in Boulder and now in Longmont. It's nice to have access to the Heil Valley trail network again! It's one of the closest Boco Open Space trails near my house. Thank you for your hard work to reopen the area. A great opportunity exists to educate the public on wildfire risks and regrowth after a fire. Love the wildflowers!!! I will be visiting weekly from now on. - Karissa Simpson
Longmont, CO

6/25/22

Thank so much to the Boulder County staff and volunteers for getting these trails open. I appreciate the thought that went into opening the access trail instead of waste while we wait. Although it's quite different than before, I still love and am grateful for this trail. - Dave Gardner
Boulder
Thank you for all the hard work by so many to open Hiel Ranch again. I understand the importance of reintroducing and protecting wildlife. I do hope that continued evaluation occurs so that singletrack trails can open again in shorter than a "few" years from now. Even if in small increments, or for limited periods or days.

Thanks,
SJ Middle Fark

6/26/22 Thank you so much for taking care of our amazing trails. Still gorgeous.
Sarah Jolly
Boulder

Mon, June 27 Before the fire & closure I would ride my bike from NW corner thru the South entrance thru Hiel Ranch & out thru the upper NL entrance to Lyons. Eat lunch at the Market deli & ride back home along Hwy 66. Since the closure I've been lost to find a place this adventurous. I just had to pause for an elk cow & calf trotting up the valley meadow on the left. Maybe I'll see a black bear.

Doug Conner

28 June

Wow, what a huge amount of effort to recover these trails! Thanks for your dedication. Let's all remember how lucky we are to live here.

-Mike D
Berthoud
6/22 Election + Awe + Emotional respect for crew & nature of hard work

Marlene - long over

6/29 Beautiful Thank you for re-opening and we can see that a tremendous amount of respect - clean up has happened! Thank you!
Debbie & Steve Davis

7/12 So excited to be able to enjoy this lovely place again. Thanks for all the hard work &

7/12 Happy it finally re-opened. Trees are gone. all the tree covers good to see the trail hasn't been buffed out like hell. Rocks belong. Bogo Guides in communication on the longevity of the upper climb. Also the wood climb is terrible. Please look into approval of a single-track alternative.

7/12 Feeling immense gratitude to all the hard work put in to re-opening Hell. Enjoying the wildflowers & the new life here.

7/14 REOPEN: IF TRUE. WHY ARE THE TRAILS & LIST CLOSED?

7/15 Love y'all. Thanks for all the hard work. Look at these flowers & new growth.

7/15 May as well have left it closed. At least for birds. I appreciate the effort.

7/16 Beautiful! Thank you for all the hard work to restore.
Excellent restoration. Building is excellent with the
large windows, wall tile work. Seen.

In your job for the work. I miss the slight,
Can't imagine the effort required.

7/9/2022  Woohoo! Jason Wilson Boulder, Co

7/11/1 Why Closed?

7/13-29 Quiet. Warm weather, hydrating 😊

7/13  THANK YOU!!! All THE HARD WORK IS
     MUCH APPRECIATED!!

7/16 Cao. Some Open now!! The idea that you need
     yours to study wildlife effects on the hike? don't seems... foolish

7/16 Fantastic!! Thank you for
     all your hard work.
     Could you install a little more
     shade? It's hot!! 😄

7/18 GORGEOUS! GLAD TO BE BACK
     AWESOME WORK FIRE + FIRE
     REMEDICATION FOLKS! THX!!

7/18 We O' Heil! 😍 BJ

7/21 Trail should be OK to ride —
    if no remediation happening.
    Coordinate schedule to open.

7/23 Thank you!

7/24  Thank you 😊
813 - YAY!! Well done, can't believe how much work has been done.