

Update January 7, 2018 from Rick Trujillo

Hello Everyone

This is my first email of the season to inform that I have received your emails and to announce the work schedule for the 2018 Hardrock trail work volunteers. As most of you know, the Hardrock volunteer trail work is traditionally done over two consecutive days, usually the weekend before the Hardrock run proper. This year will be the 25th running of the Hardrock Hundred, with the start in Silverton at 6:00 am, Friday, July 20.

Therefore, the 2018 Hardrock trail work volunteers work schedule is for the two consecutive days of Saturday, July 14 and Sunday July 15. This is still more than six months away, hopefully enough time to allow most of you to make work/travel/lodging/camping arrangements to attend the work parties. As with previous years there will be two separate work groups, one focusing on the Hardrock route itself (overseen by me) with the second focusing on the Silverton Double Dirty 30 route (overseen by Megan Finnesy). It is a little early right now to state exactly where the work will be done for either work group, or to take tally as to who goes where, but pertinent information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the work dates.

I will be sending a general information email such as this soon after the beginning of each month into early June. Then as we get into mid-June I will provide more information such as where and when to meet for each work day.

Today, January 7, dawned clear and cool (26 degrees Fahrenheit) with some 3 inches of new overnight snow in Ouray, the first new snow in more than two weeks. As some of you may be aware, this winter has been anything but normal. It so far has been the driest Winter in my memory since the extreme drought of 1976-77. Storms have been few and far between since last August, namely, two to three weeks apart and each with very little moisture. In addition it has been and continues to be abnormally warm meaning that whatever snow fell in one storm was mostly gone by the next. Consistent sub-freezing night time temperatures in Ouray did not arrive until early December and day time temperatures were mostly in the 40s. We had a scorcher high of 63F here in Ouray on December 29.

We are effectively in drought right now, the 3 inches of fresh snow notwithstanding, the only hope on the horizon being another storm system due in two days, the first successive storm within a two week

period from the previous since August. In comparison the 1976-77 drought was dryer than the present (one storm all Winter), and colder, much colder (-30F in Ouray in November). So cold that by this time municipal water systems began to freeze up all over Colorado-- Montrose, Gunnison, Aspen; the most extreme case being at Crested Butte where for a short period of time drinking water had be hauled in by truck since no snow and consistent -20F to -30F night time temperatures prevented water from flowing either below or above ground. In contrast, the present drought is downright balmy, with night time temperatures consistently 10-20 degrees above normal, at least in Ouray. The Ouray Ice Park has been able to make ice at night and is in business, but there is no back country skiing. Man proposes and nature disposes, only time will tell when the drought will break (In 1977 snow finally arrived in April).

For those who might be interested I have attached some pictures of the (lack of) snow and ice situation in and above Ouray as of yesterday morning, January 6. Light rain began in late afternoon, changing to snow by nightfall, resulting in the 3 inches of this morning. Hopefully next month's info email will show some white stuff on the hills.

Rick
HRH Trail Work Volunteers Coordinator

Trujillo

