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October 30, 2009

Action Committee for Eldorado
4890 Riverbend Road
Boulder, CO. 80301

Chris Archer and ACE Board Members:

I am writing again this year to thank you for your generous donation of \$10,000 to fund a Trail Crew to build a climbing access trail to Shirttail Peak at Eldorado Canyon State Park. I know this new trail to Shirttail Peak will be physically very difficult to construct, but, were it not for this donation – it would be financially impossible.

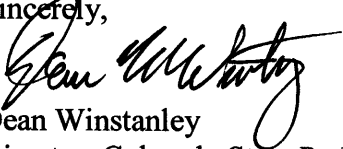
I understand from Ben Pedrett, the park manager, that we are intending to hire a trail crew this fall to begin this difficult work; it sounds more likely that the work will extend into the spring and perhaps even into next summer. Ben assures me, this work will be of the highest quality and they will not sacrifice this standard or crew safety for perceived progress. As you all know, when working on rock steps of this magnitude some work goes quickly while other rocks can be very difficult to place.

No matter how long this project takes, I'm sure you and the entire climbing community of Eldorado Canyon will be proud of this improved access for many years to come. I understand that Mike McHugh, park resource technician, and Steve Muehlhauser, climbing ranger, began this project with members from the Mile High Youth Corps in early August. I had the opportunity to attend the Conservation Alliance volunteer project on August 21, 2009 at Eldorado Canyon where they continued work on this project. I think it's a great example of cooperation and partnership between park staff, youth corps, volunteers from the outdoor industry, and non-profit organizations like ACE, that are dedicated to minimizing climbing impacts through the stewardship of natural resources at Eldorado Canyon State Park.

These partnerships have always been extremely important to our agency, but in economic times like these, it's imperative to keep projects like this moving forward. I know your organization has donated over \$195,000 since 1993, and I'd like to thank you for these efforts. Your annual fund-raising events not only bring financial resources that would not be possible, but also instill a stewardship ethic and sense of community at this beautiful park.

Again, I thank you for this donation, your fund-raising efforts, and all the hard work you have done on behalf of Eldorado Canyon State Park.

Sincerely,



Dean Winstanley
Director, Colorado State Parks