Foundation Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone who participated in person and virtually at the 10th Mountain Division Foundation Directors Annual Meeting on Oct. 2 in Denver.

Details on the programs we will be supporting in 2022 will be available on our website by mid-October at www.10thmountaindivisionfoundation.org.

Treasures of the 10th

In September I traveled to Camp Hale to meet up with a dedicated group of supporters called the T&Ts, led by Allan Spies. Allan and the T&Ts engaged with the Foundation over three years ago to help replace deteriorating interpretive signs at the historic training ground of the WWII 10th Mountain Division. They raised thousands of dollars so we could initiate the replacement project.

As part of their annual golf gathering this year, I was finally able to meet them in person for a special Staff Ride tour, led by Dave Little, the Foundation’s Historian. They thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience. Dave rocks!

As I drove home that afternoon, one of the most glorious fall Colorado days I had experienced in years, I began to reflect on what I have come to know as “Treasures of the 10th.” For me, treasures can constitute people, places or objects, but the bottom line is they have value to individuals or communities.

Camp Hale is one of our most precious treasures. In this issue you will read about the Foundation’s role as a steward of this special place. As we approach our annual fundraising season, consider supporting the Foundation’s treasures, be it special projects at Camp Hale or the numerous programs we offer that support our active soldiers, veterans and sister organizations. Find a Treasure to support here.

Preserving Our Treasured Story: 10th Mountain Division Foundation Partners with Metcalf Archeological Consultants

Earlier this summer, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation Executive Committee hosted a presentation to consider partnering with Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. to support an Intensive Cultural Resource Inventory in Eagle and Summit Counties, Colorado.

Metcalf proposes to conduct an inventory of the Camp Hale-associated Ptarmigan Hill and Elk Ridge Training Range in the mountain counties.

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New Storyboards for Camp Hale

In late 2017, after the Foundation received numerous messages of concern about the now illegible interpretive panels at the main entrance Camp Hale and the nearby Highway 24 turnout, regional interpretive resources were solicited to establish a plan to replace the panels.

Led by Interpretive planner and designer Jackie Noble, Noble Erickson Inc., a plan to use new design standards and fabrication techniques was put into action. The project is now at the halfway mark. This project would not be possible if it was not for generous funding and agency partners.

Thank you to White River National Forest for their enduring partnership. Thanks also to our incredible funding partners, the Garrett Family Ever Forward Foundation and the T&Ts.

Preserving Our Story

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This 6.5-mile-long training range extends from Ptarmigan Hill on the north to Kokomo Pass. Metcalf’s inventory of approximately 3,000 acres would include Ptarmigan Hill and Elk Ridge from their crests to their bases.

The goals of this inventory are to investigate and document this mountain ridge’s extant material culture deposited during training of the 10th Mountain Division, the only mountain and cold terrain combat division in American history.

The stories of Blacks, indigenous, other people of color, and women who may have been connected to this training range and the 10th Mountain Division combat service will be researched and incorporated. This study will further illuminate the use of Camp Hale’s landscape in training soldiers for Cold War global conflict.

Additionally, this project will record all encountered cultural material over 50 years old, as per federal permitting requirements and following modern conflict archaeology emphasis on a landscape-based approach.

Read more about news from the 10th in our August Good Works newsletter