“It probably seemed liked a great offer, 160 acres for just a small ling fee. But like most great offers, there was a catch. Homesteaders had to live on their land for 6 months of every year for 5 years. They had to build a home and improve the land. That’s just what several families and one woman agreed to do in an area now known as Lion’s Gulch. The Grif th, Brown, Irvin, Engel, Laycock, Boren and Hill families and Sarah Walker moved here between 1889 and 1923. 15 miles of trails now wind between what was once a neighborhood of homesteads.

The trailhead for Homestead Meadows is at Lion Gulch on Highway 36 between Lyons and Estes Park. Thousands of people drive by this parking area on the side of the road every day and probably have no idea why there are so many cars parked here. ... This was such a fascinating place, we spent quite a bit of time exploring the buildings and trying to imagine life here.”

Today, Homestead Meadows remains an invaluable public resource and a beautiful reminder of times past. The area was not settled by miners, which makes it unusual among ghost towns in Colorado; instead, farmers and ranchers – both men and women – staked claims here. With every year that passes, the buildings continue to deteriorate.

Volunteers joined HistoriCorps this July to save this incredible site for future generations. Our primary focus was
on the Laycock cabin, which is pictured on this page. Volunteers also receive privileged auto access to the site.

Several photos of Homestead Meadows and its residents, both current and historic, can be found here. Some are shared here as well. Enjoy!

**SCOPE OF WORK:** Volunteers worked with HistoriCorps field staff to learn and improve their skills at the following preservation tasks:

1. Reinforce timbers to support remaining roof and wall: 35%
2. Install new roofs: 35%
3. Remove dilapidated roof and wall framing: 30%

**WHERE:** The jobsite and campsite were both in Homestead Meadows. The site is accessed via a short drive on private land.

**Location of jobsite:** [Google Map](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Homestead+Meadows/@40.619846,105.438483,12m/data=!3m1!1e3), and the map to the left.

**AREA TOURISM:** Homestead Meadows is near Estes Park, CO, the gateway community of Rocky Mountain National Park! Incredible scenery and outdoor activities were abundant onsite and nearby.

- HistoriCorps is a service learning partner of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture committed to the preservation and stewardship of significant resources on public lands.