

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2018

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Celebrating a Colorado National Forest Through Music

FORT COLLINS, CO -- The hills are (almost) alive with their very own music. Nonprofit organization, Sustain Music and Nature, is sending a band out to the Roosevelt National Forest to create a song and music video inspired by the peaks and valleys of this 1,271 square mile public resource. The Burroughs are the lucky band who will spend June 30th through July 4th immersed in all the national forest has to offer. The nine piece soul band hails from Greeley, Colo., and are one of the top acts in the state. Known for their “sweaty soul music” and penchant for getting people up and dancing, they’ll be using their talents to create a song inspired by their stay at the Roosevelt National Forest.

The Burroughs’ trip is part of a series of songwriting retreats organized by Sustain Music and Nature. The Songscapes program partners bands with public land areas to create new music inspired by American landscapes. It’s an effort to generate new audiences for our public lands while bringing awareness and understanding of the benefits these lands provide and the role of everyone in their care. National forests provide a wealth of public benefits including recreation opportunities, habitat for wildlife, water and more. Songscapes aim to use the emotional power of music to highlight public lands to audiences that might not otherwise be aware of the beautiful places they own as citizens, and their role as good stewards.

The Roosevelt National Forest provides 814,000 acres of opportunity for play, discovery and engagement. It includes National Forest System lands along the east side of the Continental Divide in Larimer, Boulder and Northern Gilpin counties. The Roosevelt National Forest is managed by the U.S. Forest Service alongside the Arapaho National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland (collectively known as the ARP).



It was originally part of the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 but was renamed by President Herbert Hoover to honor its founder in 1932. Sustain is happy to highlight the Roosevelt story, as TR's great-great-grandson, Simon Roosevelt, is an advisory board member for the nonprofit.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is partnering with the Forest Service and Sustain to help set the backdrop and context as The Burroughs explore their national forest. The NFF, in partnership with the Forest Service, encourages the band to help serve as ambassadors to public lands through their music, to encourage the public to enjoy what is all theirs, to discover the many benefits that are derived from national forests and grasslands and to engage in the stewardship of these special places. These lands are all yours. Go Play, Go Discover and Go Beyond.

Colorado State University's Mountain Campus will act as basecamp for The Burroughs during their retreat. Located at 9,000 feet and surrounded by Roosevelt National Forest, it's a gorgeous spot to venture out from for daily hikes, fly fishing, and master naturalist-led educational trips. Band members will be fully immersed in the beauty of the national forest, which will be documented by a videographer and showcased in a music video. Once The Burroughs have created their song, it will be recorded at a Front Range recording studio, and released alongside the music video this fall. Proceeds from song sales will support the band, Sustain and local group stewardship efforts through the National Forest Foundation.

In the spirit of Northern Colorado collaboration, Fort Collins-based luthier, Cloverlick Banjo Shop, is creating a drum out of local wood for The Burroughs to play in their national forest song. In May, luthier Mark "Rooster" Austin accompanied Kelley Branson and Billy Riley of the local Boy Scouts council to Ben Delatour Scout Ranch over near Red Feather, Colo. They found a perfect piece of beetle-killed ponderosa pine harvested and milled at the ranch, which will be turned into a snare drum.

"We just recently relocated Sustain to Fort Collins and we've been amazed by how the community has come together to support this Songscape project. The Roosevelt National Forest is so loved by folks here, and we're excited to shine light on this public land area to our national audiences," says Sustain co-founder, Betsy Mortensen. "I fell in love with the Roosevelt National Forest while I was a Warner College of Natural Resources student at Colorado State University, and I hope this Songscape will help others appreciate this public gem and pay attention to the issues facing their national forests."

This Songscape was made possible in large part by a Muse grant awarded by Bohemian Foundation. Bohemian Foundation is based in Fort Collins, CO as a private family foundation that supports local, national and global efforts to build strong communities. Muse supports music-related organizations and activities in Northern Colorado in order to strengthen community through music.

Songscape: Roosevelt National Forest is the sixth Songscape project following an April retreat at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, with Americana cellist, Ben Sollee. A Fort Collins release show for Songscape: Roosevelt National Forest is scheduled for National Public Lands Day on September 29, 2018.

Please contact Sustain's co-founder, Betsy Mortensen, with any questions and to arrange interviews with The Burroughs and/or Sustain. E-mail: betsy@sustainmusicandnature.org or 860-462-3038

To learn more about the project visit the Sustain website:

<https://www.sustainmusicandnature.org/songscape-roosevelt-national-forest>

Project Page: <https://bit.ly/2JsLdg3>

Sustain Music and Nature: <http://bit.ly/2veGpBi>

The Burroughs: <https://bit.ly/2su0Xpl>

Roosevelt National Forest: <https://bit.ly/2xGoLLO>

Colorado State University Mountain Campus: <https://bit.ly/2srS0gb>

National Forest Foundation: <https://bit.ly/1X69O7Y>

About The Burroughs

Steeped in classic soul standards and outfitted with modern flair, The Burroughs are a nine piece band with a powerhouse sound that has been electrifying audiences across Colorado and beyond. Since 2013, the band has lit up stages with their trademark brand of “Sweaty Soul Music,” quickly earning their rightful place as one of the best live bands in the region. The Burroughs’ full-length studio album, *Got To Feel*, harnesses the energy of their live shows and combines it with thoughtful songwriting and superb musicianship to culminate in a new sonic frontier for the band. Produced and engineered by Colin Bricker of Mighty Fine Productions in Denver, CO, the album released on January 9, 2018. Music and tour info through: <http://www.theburroughssoul.com/>

About Sustain Music and Nature

A new nonprofit working to elevate the music industry’s role in promoting environmental responsibility and awareness. Sustain has two programs: Songscares and Green Roster. Songscares pair bands with public land areas to create music inspired by protected landscapes. Green Roster is a community of bands, luthiers, and recording studios that pledge to uphold environmental practices in their businesses. Learn more at: <http://www.sustainmusicandnature.org>

About The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

Headquartered in Fort Collins Colo., and managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the forests and grassland encompasses 1.6 million acres. Boundaries extend north to the Wyoming border, south of Interstate 70 to Mount Evans, west across the Continental Divide to the Williams Fork area and includes short grass prairie 30 miles east of Fort Collins. It includes National Forest System lands in Larimer, Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, and small portions of Park and Jefferson counties. The ARP is one of the most visited National Forests and Grassland in the country. Visitors come to enjoy the variety of recreation opportunities and visual splendor of the region. In addition to recreation the ARP is a vital source of water, wildlife and fish habitat, wood, forage for grazing, minerals and energy. The Roosevelt National Forest, originally part of the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve, was first named the Colorado National Forest in 1910 and was renamed by President Herbert Hoover to honor President Theodore Roosevelt in 1932.

Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/arp

About Colorado State University's Mountain Campus

Nestled in a beautiful, secluded mountain valley at an elevation of 9,000 ft. (2,743m) lies Colorado State University's 1,600-acre Mountain Campus. As a site for student learning, conferences, workshops, meetings, and retreats, the Mountain Campus offers a unique opportunity to leave the hectic pace of urban life behind and be immersed in the natural world of the Rocky Mountains. The Mountain Campus exists to serve the Colorado State University community and the surrounding region for academic field studies, educationally focused conferences and mountain research. The campus is open from Mid-May to Mid-October. Visit: <http://www.mountaincampus.colostate.edu/>

About the National Forest Foundation

The National Forest Foundation promotes the enhancement and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest System. By directly engaging Americans and leveraging private and public funding, the NFF improves forest health and Americans' outdoor experiences. The NFF's programs inform millions of Americans about the importance of these treasured landscapes. Each year, the NFF restores fish and wildlife habitat, plants trees in areas affected by fires, insects and disease, improves recreational opportunities, and enables communities to steward their National Forests and Grasslands. In partnership with the Forest Service, the NFF has developed the "It's All Yours" campaign an outreach and engagement campaign that promotes play, discovery and stewardship on National Forests. Learn more at www.nationalforests.org and www.ItsAllYours.us.