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- Have successfully completed the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps' largest season in program history, by providing 48 Corpsmembers across 9 separate crews the opportunity to develop as future conservation professionals.
- Worked in partnership with Rocky Mountain National Park staff to complete our first full season of volunteer programs since 2019. These events got 100+ volunteers out in the park and Estes Valley public lands to provide stewardship assistance.

Recent Accomplishments and Current Activities

- From late-May until September 30th, 48 people representing 23 different states took part in the 2022 Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps (RMC-CC). In its 19th season, the RMC-CC program was the largest Corps program the conservancy has ever held, and provided an overwhelming impact across Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. Working across 60+ different project locations, Crews worked to provide critical stewardship assistance across projects including trail restoration, reopening recreational access to fire-impacted areas, creating defensible space for future wildfire protection, providing upkeep to Park Service buildings, installing erosion control hardware, expanding access to trails to accommodate a wider-variety of recreational users, and many more project focuses.
 - A few project accomplishments from the 2022 season
 - Provided trail maintenance to more than 265 miles of trail
 - Opened 500+ miles of USFS road throughout Sulphur Ranger District
 - Cleared 1064 trees from trails
 - Built 45+ structures to allow for safe hiking along wetlands and stream corridors
 - Surveyed habit of 300+ acres of Rocky Mountain National Park
 - Constructed 139 slash piles for prescribed burns in the winter
 - Across all Corps crews, RMC-CC was able to provide 19,450 service hours
- Partnered with the Yosemite Climbing Association to host the Rocky Mountain Facelift volunteer event across the Estes Valley. Working with over 10 partners, we were able to put together a program in a relatively short period of time that brought out 70+ volunteers to work at Lily Lake/Twin Sisters, Thumb Open Space, and along Lake Estes/Big Thompson River Walk. Throughout this event, we were able to remove 300+ lbs of trash, establish a Search & Rescue trail at Thumb Open Space, widen the Thumb trail for a ¼ mile to better accommodate hand cycle access, and provided reinforcement to 40 ft. worth of switchbacks.
- To partner the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps program, we also hosted two successful High School Leadership Corps programs during the summer. This

program provided 9 local high school students with the opportunity to come and live in Rocky Mountain National Park, meet and work with park staff, and gain professional development. During their 11-day program, High School Leaders got to work with 4 different departments of the park (Vegetation, Trails, Fire, and Education), as well as getting a resume development course with park staff to understand how to gain employment in the federal government.

Upcoming Activities and Projects

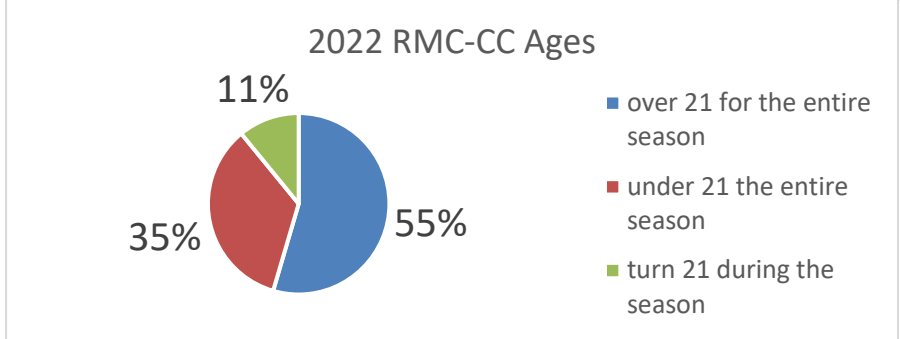
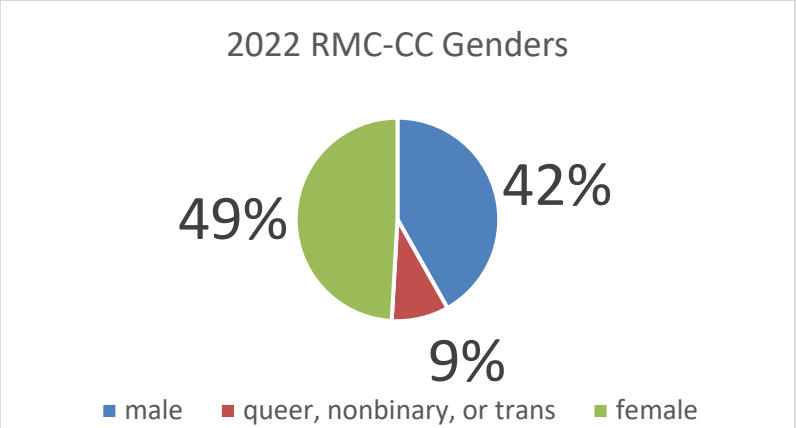
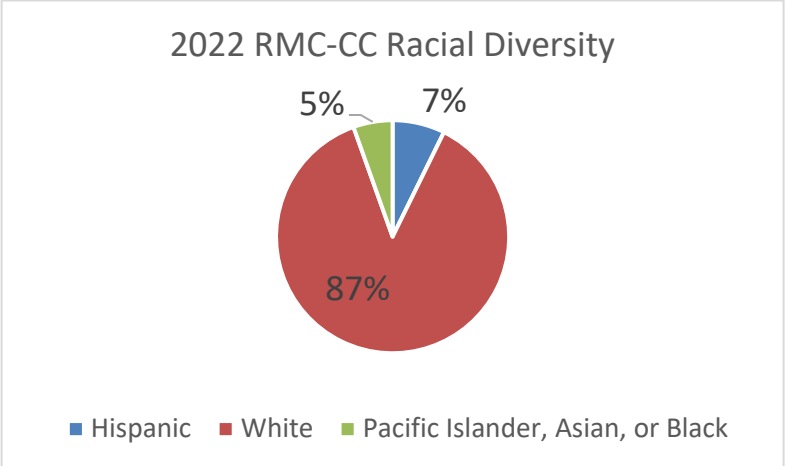
- In order to provide guidance in Rocky Mountain Conservancy's involvement in the policy space, we will be developing a policy platform document that can be shared amongst staff and board members to provide an overview for our approach to policy issues. The hope is that this internal-facing document will be able to provide a high-level understanding of how the Conservancy will be involved in policy areas that will increase funding for public lands, increase access and inclusion within the Park Service, and address workforce housing in gateway communities. Creating this document will ensure that we're able to understand and speak on policy with partners and future funders.
- Continuing to work with the RMNP Park Planner to identify land acquisition projects. These conversations over this summer have been highly beneficial, and have progressed to the point that RMC is working in collaboration with University of Colorado-Boulder's Masters of the Environment program to recruit a group of graduate students to provide more in-depth research in potential areas adjacent to the park. The development of this data would be utilized for RMC, and would allow RMC to gain access to more information to better identify future conservation projects.
- Beginning the recruiting process for the 2023 Conservation Corps program to begin recruiting for the 2023 season. The 2023 season will see the Conservation Corps recruit 54 Corpsmembers to work across 8 different crews, as well as provide support to the RMNP Greenhouse program. Crews in 2023 will be focused on the following topics...
 - 5 trail crews (RMNP and US Forest Service based)
 - 1 Historic & Preservation crew (RMNP based)
 - 1 Vegetation crew (RMNP based)
 - 1 Erosion and rockwork crew (US Forest Service based)
- In 2023 we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps. As we move towards this occasion, the Stewardship Team will be working closely with Mia Axon and Madison Abbott (Member and Donor Services Manager) to curate events that draw attention to the 20 years of accomplishments our Conservation Corps program has been able to achieve.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Due to recruitment issues, RMC-CC was not able to hold a formal Extended Crew season that would have had a trail crew work from mid-August until mid-October. These recruitment issues stemmed from the fact that a large portion of our Corpsmembers in

2022 had to return home or school once the season concluded. This issue is being addressed as the Stewardship Team preps for the 2023 season, intentionally prioritizing people who want to partake in both sessions of the season. We had funding for this program provided by New Belgium Brewing, which has already been approved to be shifted to the 2023 calendar. The RMC Stewardship team is adjusting its recruiting strategies to ensure this issue does not take place in 2023, and all commitments will be seen to completion.

- Across all Stewardship programs (Conservation Corps, High School Leadership Corps, and Volunteer Programs) we are wanting to diversify our recruitment efforts to expand on our inclusive practices. Ian Stafford (Director of Stewardship and Policy), Carlie Bangs (Education Director), Nathan Morrow (Stewardship Field Manager), and Steven Ochoa (Diversity Internship Program Coordinator) have begun meeting regularly to ensure our practices are unified and reaching as many people as possible. This will only serve to benefit our respective programs and the organization, as it will increase the diversity of people recreating and building meaningful connections with their public lands



Program Financials

- We are in the midst of completing grant reporting to the National Park Foundation. In early 2023, we will be reapplying to National Park Foundation funding, as well as working closely with Mia Axon to identify new funding streams through additional foundations.
- To close the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps season, there was a lot of feedback from Corpsmembers on the lack of pay and feeling underappreciated. This resulted in doing in-depth research across appx. 25 Conservation Corps programs to identify where RMC-CC program compensation should be. This has been reflected in our 2023 budget.
 - 2022 Conservation Corps living stipends
 - Crew Leader - \$400 per week
 - Crew Member - \$300 per week
 - 25 Corp Program Averages
 - Crew Leader - \$550 per week
 - Crew Member - \$390 per week + Food while they're working
 - Proposed 2023 RMC-CC living stipends
 - Crew Leader \$500 per week+\$40 weekly food stipend
 - Crew Member - \$400 per week+\$40 weekly food stipend