

Ian Stafford, Director of Stewardship and Policy, Nathan Morrow (Stewardship Field Manager)

- The 2023 Conservation Corps slots have been approved by AmeriCorps, with partners all confirmed, and projects beginning to take shape. The 2023 season will have 9 crews take place, with 26 Corpsmembers working in Rocky Mountain National Park and 27 Corpsmembers on Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. There will be two sessions of the High School Leadership Corps to partner the Conservation Corps and provide assistance in late-June and late-July
- 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 nearby public lands to provide stewardship assistance.

Recent Accomplishments and Current Activities

- Worked in tandem with the Rocky Mountain National Park Volunteer Office to cohost our annual Food Drive to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For the second year running, donations were provided to The Community Cupboard Food Bank out of The Old Gallery in Allenspark, CO. Through this food drive, we were able to collect 364 lbs. of food that will support 20-30 families in the Allenspark area.
- The 2023 Conservation Corps staffing is underway. As of the end of January we have extended offers to 15% of the slots we have available for the 2023 season. Recruiting of the Corps is up by 62% year-over-year. Recruiting efforts have taken place online through the same channels as 2022, but there has been an increase of advertising at local universities, community colleges, and through partner organizations at Environmental Learning for Kids and Thorne Nature Center.
- The High School Leadership Corps is planning on having 2 sessions take place in 2023. The two 11-day sessions will take place...
 - June 20th - June 30th
 - July 17th – July 27th

These programs are expected to be filled with 7 individuals for each program. In order to bring a diverse group of participants, RMC is going to work with Environmental Learning for Kids' "Urban Rangers" program and Thorne Nature Center's "Nature Kids" program. We are also working on recruiting from Estes Park High School, through tabling and local NGO programs between Fort Collins, Denver, and outreach to Fraser Valley-based schools.

Upcoming Activities and Projects

- In late-February, we will bring on a group of 3 graduate students from the University of Colorado at Boulder's Masters of the Environment Program to helm a GIS project. This project will focus on creating a database of inholdings, and properties that are adjacent

to the park so RMC can have a tool for future land conservation work. Partnering with RMC on this, will be the Park's Planning Office. They are planning on digitizing their Land Protection Plan, which will help the Park prioritize projects in the future.

- Preparing for the 2023 season, we are expecting recruiting and planning with Park Service and Forest Service partners to ensure we are prepared coming into the season. We will house the following crews for the 2023 season...
 - Moraine Trail Crew (National Park Service)
 - Kawuneeche Trail Crew (Colorado River District National Park Service)
 - Vegetation Crew (National Park Service)
 - Historic Preservation Crew (National Park Service)
 - Sulphur Trail Crew (US Forest Service)
 - Canyon Lakes (US Forest Service)
 - Boulder Trail Crew (US Forest Service)
 - Greenhouse Internship (Single-person assignment, National Park Service)
- With the assistance of the philanthropy team, we are beginning the process of developing a Conservation Corps focused appeal for members and donors to celebrate the Corps' 20th anniversary. To partner the appeal letter, we are also planning the addition of a write-up in each quarterly throughout 2023. The articles will explore a different historical aspect of the Conservation Corps and provide a greater context to the program's history. Lastly, we are also going to plan on organizing at least 2 in-person events to help invite larger donors to celebrate the Corps.

Challenges and Opportunities

- With Moraine Park Campground being closed for the 2023 season, this will cause a major headache for the Conservation Corps program. Traditionally, Moraine Park Campground has housed the entire Conservation Corps program for the Orientation Week, Education Week, and Closing Week programs that bring the entire Corps together. The Park is tight on space this year for camping, so finding space to host these programs will be a challenge programmatically.
- Due to issues with supply chain costs and inflation gear costs have gone up between 10-20% for gear such as backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, and other critical gear that the conservancy utilizes across Stewardship programs.

Program Financials

- Partnering with Mia Axon, we've been able to submit grant requests for over \$65,000 worth of funding to help support our conservation corps and volunteer programs for the 2023 season.
- In the fall of 2022 RMC contracted Pinnacle Valuation & Consulting LLC. to provide a property appraisal and conservation appraisal for the Cowley Property located adjacent to the Pierce-Young Property. The thirty acre, which is split in two with the Pierce-Young Property came in at a valuation of \$345,000 "as-is" and an appraisal of \$355,000 if the

property had no structure on it. The Cowley cabin is in dire condition, and is not close to any type of habitable condition.

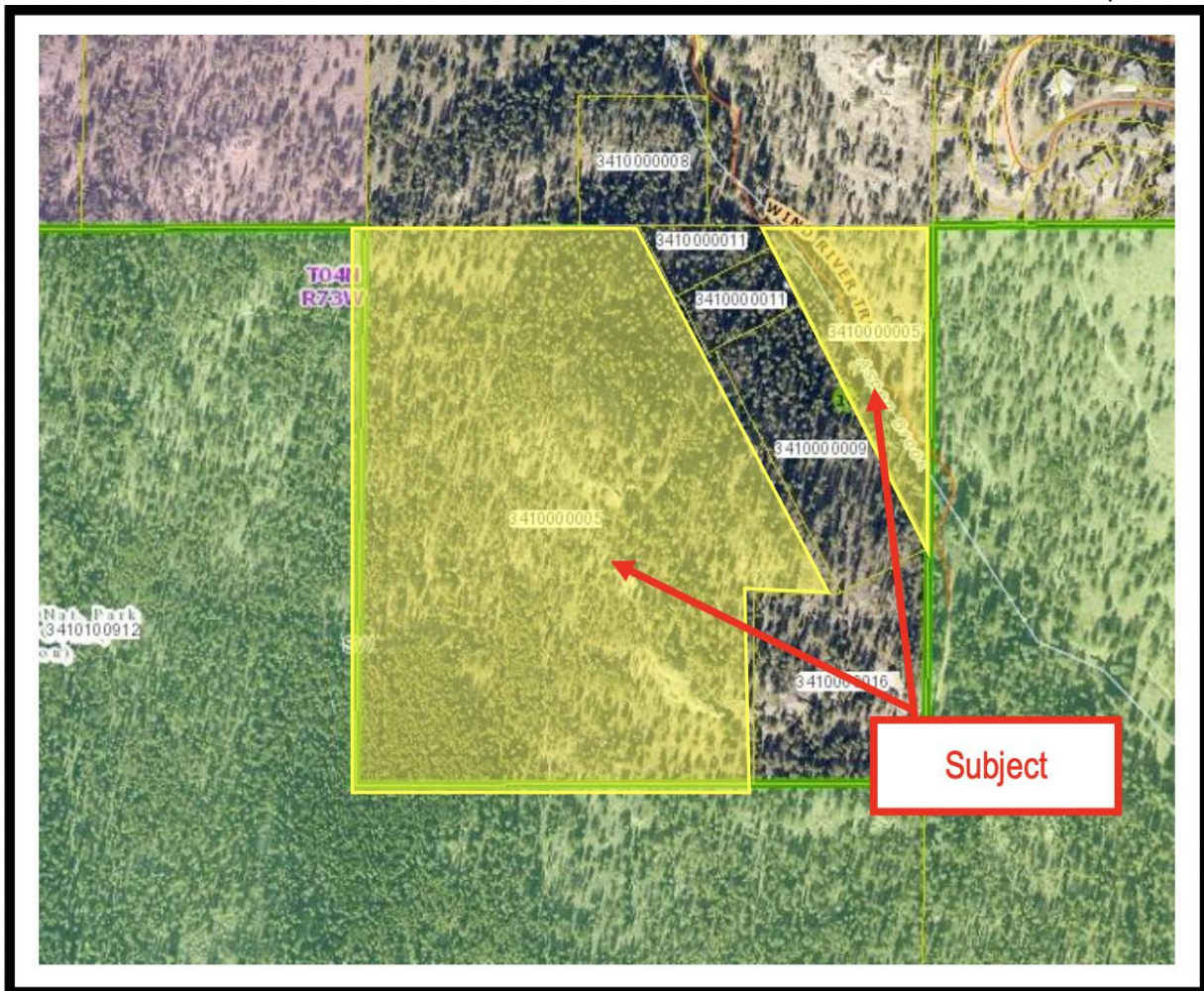
The Cowley family received this appraisal in late-October and are fully understanding of the outcome of this. They have chosen not to pursue an additional appraisal of the property, and are prepared to move forward with a sale if the Conservancy makes an offer.

Cowley Property Map...

Cowley Property 1660 WIND RIVER TRL
ESTES PARK, CO 80517

30 acres (2 parcels - 3.45 acre and 26 acre)

Cabin (on small parcel), Aspen Brook trail from Lily Lake behind small parcel



Food Drive Outcomes

3:42 PM Fri Jan 20 98%

Search Facebook

Peggy

The Old Gallery 5h · 🌐

We are so grateful to the employees and volunteers of Rocky Mountain Conservancy and Rocky Mountain National Park who donated 360 pounds of food to our Food Bank! Pictured L to R are Community Volunteer Ambassador RMNP Jordan Downie, Director of Stewardship and Policy RMC, Public Affairs Specialist and Ranger RMNP Jamie Richards and Allenspark Community Cupboard Volunteer Allison DeBaise. THANK YOU!



You, Barbara Coles and 3 others

Like Comment Share

Home Friends Watch Marketplace Notifications Menu

