



© Sid Roberts | Lake Haiyaha

20

22

Annual Report



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy



Alex Ho | Little Blue Lake

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As demonstrated by the mineral-rich green waters of Lake Haiyaha on the cover of this report, the only thing constant is change. Two years after the East Troublesome and Cameron Peak fires burned over 30,000 acres of Rocky Mountain National Park during a worldwide pandemic, we continue to navigate the fluid landscape of outdoor recreation and conservation.

In 2022, because of generous stakeholders like you, the Conservancy gave \$4.58 million in support to Rocky Mountain National Park and other public lands. The Next Generation Fund underwrote the cost of 58,553 visitor contacts, including the Junior Ranger program, Title 1 school visits to Rocky, in-school education provided by rangers, teacher education, and distance learning. Educational opportunities like these foster lifelong learning of the natural world and create the stewards of the next generation.

The 2022 Rocky Mountain Conservancy Conservation Corps was the largest corps in its history with 49 people completing the program across nine crews. Over the summer, Conservation Corps crews dedicated 19,450 hours in service to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Rocky Mountain National Park, including work on the Green Mountain Trail that reopened in 2022. In total, the corps improved 309 miles of trail and removed invasive plant species from 55 acres of public land.

Educational outreach and trail building may be the Conservancy's most visible initiatives, but there is hardly any aspect of Rocky and park service operations that aren't enhanced by your support and the Conservancy's philanthropy.

For example, the Conservancy funded a new search and rescue Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for the west side of the park (in

addition to the AWD search & rescue van funded in 2021 for the east side) as well as essential technical training and critical incident stress resources for Rocky first responders. The Conservancy also funded a diversity intern cohort to support young people from underrepresented backgrounds as they explore careers in outdoor recreation and conservation.

We invested \$98,000 for stabilization and engineering studies to preserve and restore the Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout on the west side, the only remaining fire lookout in Rocky. We also underwrote the cost of expanding tour hours and visitation, including providing more activities for families and children, at the Holzwarth Historic Site. Through the work of those in the Indigenous Connections program, including members of traditionally associated Tribes, five new visitor center exhibits were installed to reflect Native peoples contemporary and historical connection to park lands.

These highlights are just some of the work the Conservancy has done in the last year to fulfill its mission of promoting stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park and other public lands through education and philanthropy. Please read on to see the significant contributions made last year due to your support.

Warmly,



Estee Rivera Murdock

Estee Rivera Murdock
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Swift | RMNP Division Lead for interpretation, education, volunteers & museum program with an Indigenous Connections exhibit at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center

© Kim Swift | Indigenous Connections

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.9 MILLION



Provided in philanthropic support to Rocky Mountain National Park.

\$60 THOUSAND



Invested in Longs Peak Trail improvements from Lightning Bridge to Battle Mountain Junction.

\$90 THOUSAND



To assess trout populations and streams after 2020 wild fires.

PROJECTS

LAUNCHED DIVERSITY INTERN COHORT



To mentor underrepresented populations in park management.

5 INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS EXHIBITS



Installed in visitor centers across Rocky.

FUNDED



Cultural resource survey of Sun Valley.

SEARCH & RESCUE

\$135 THOUSAND



Spent on Search & Rescue.

PURCHASED



AWD Search & Rescue vehicle.

UPDATED



Equipment for east & west sides of the park.

SUPPORTED



Technical trainings including Team Avalanche Response, Technical Rescue, & EMS Refreshers.

142



Search & Rescue Incidents in 2022.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

\$98 THOUSAND



Spent on Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout Rehabilitation.

ANNOTATED



Biology museum collections, including plants, animals, and insects.

LAND ACQUISITION

\$115 THOUSAND



To enable the acquisition of the Young-Pierce property which will eventually be incorporated within park boundaries.



NPS Photo | SAR Training

“This was an amazing opportunity. Being a working mom, I put so much time and energy into my family and job. It’s nice to have a reminder that I am also an individual and can have my own hobbies. This was challenging and out of my comfort zone. It was a real growing experience, and it was really fun. It was so nice to be able to have a group of women to encourage you doing something difficult, to come alongside supporting you. It was a really great experience.”

Bettie

Women & Conservation



FIELD INSTITUTE

In 2022, the Conservancy moved Field Institute courses from a classroom-based model to a field-based model, and the Field Institute building was sold. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Field Institute classes on a wide range of topics are now available, including wildflowers, mammals, birds, cultural history, outdoors skills, photography, painting, and writing.

Field Institute buses transport students directly into the park, and the new model offers participants a day of personal engagement with talented instructors. The Conservancy’s Field Institute was started by Dr. Beatrice Willard in 1962 and is the longest-running national park field institute in the country.

BETTIE COURSES

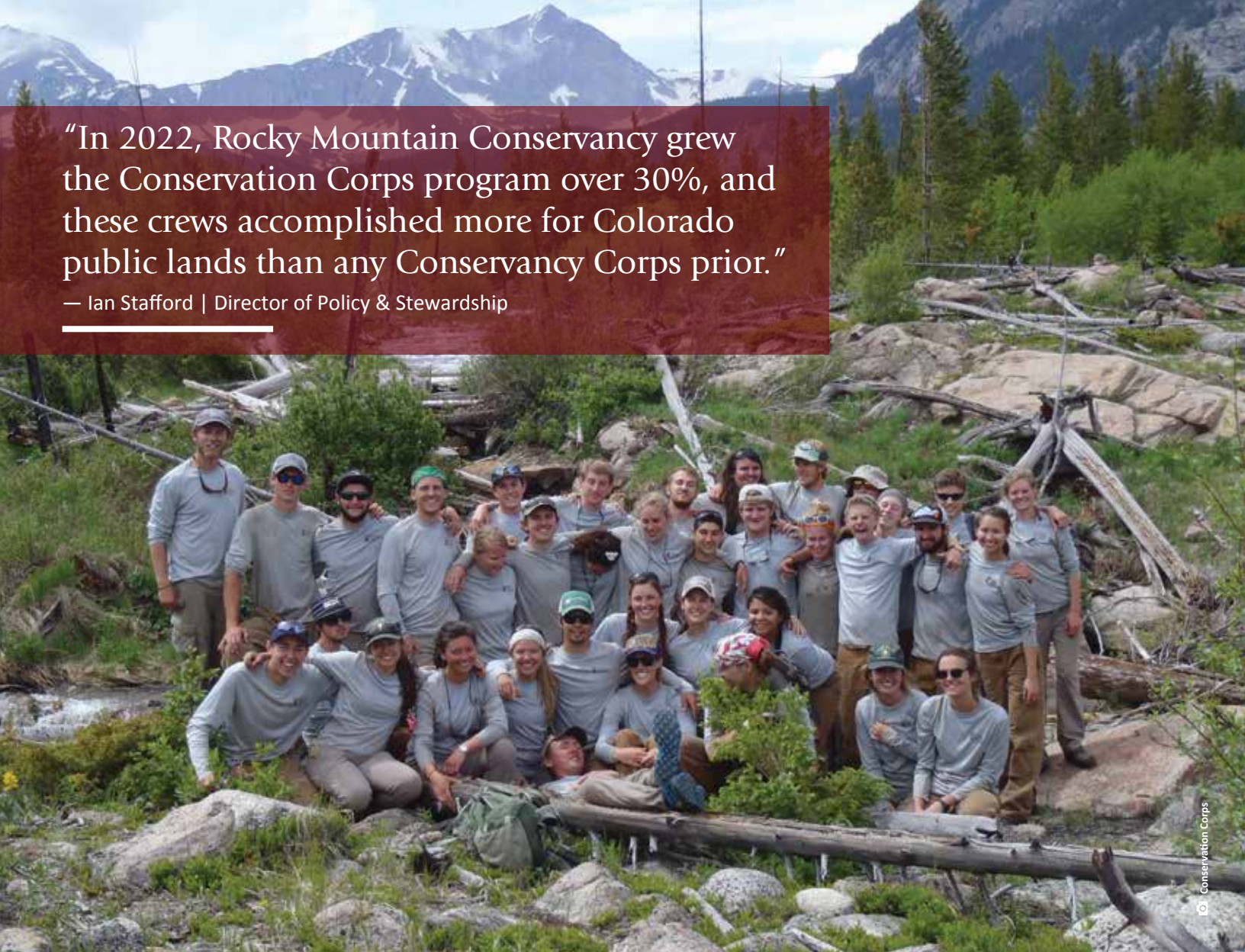
Named after Dr. Beatrice Willard (1925-2003), the Conservancy’s Field Institute started Bettie Courses in 2022 to empower women and those who identify as female to experience mountain travel and recreation with introductory courses on rock climbing, fly fishing, snowshoeing, winter recreation, and high-altitude hiking.

Dr. Willard, who went by the first name Bettie, was a beloved and respected ecologist who studied alpine tundra and land management planning in RMNP.

NEXT GENERATION

Through the Next Generation Fund, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy seeks to inspire future environmental champions and stewards by securing funds to support educational programs in Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding public lands, including:

- Conservancy Field Institute Programs for Youth
- Conservancy Outdoor Explorer Club
- RMNP Junior Ranger Program
- Heart of the Rockies Curriculum-Based Program
- On-sight Learning with RMNP Interp Rangers
- Conservation Corps
- High School Leadership Corps
- Internships & Fellowships



“In 2022, Rocky Mountain Conservancy grew the Conservation Corps program over 30%, and these crews accomplished more for Colorado public lands than any Conservancy Corps prior.”

— Ian Stafford | Director of Policy & Stewardship

CONSERVATION CORPS

In 2022, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps program hosted its largest ever Corps with 49 people completing the seasonal program. Nine crews worked across seven different project areas within Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. These crews worked on projects including trail maintenance, wildfire restoration and mitigation, historic preservation work at Moraine Park Discovery Center, erosion control in burn-impacted areas, removal of fallen trees from recreational resources, and more across Northern Colorado. Corps members came from 23 different states and all walks of life to gain workforce experience and provide nearly 20,000 hours of service across this beloved landscape.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

12
BRIDGES
constructed

35+
SIGNS
installed

309
MILES OF TRAILS
improved

55
ACRES CLEARED
of invasive species

463
FEET OF ROCK WALL
constructed

1064
TREES
cleared from trails

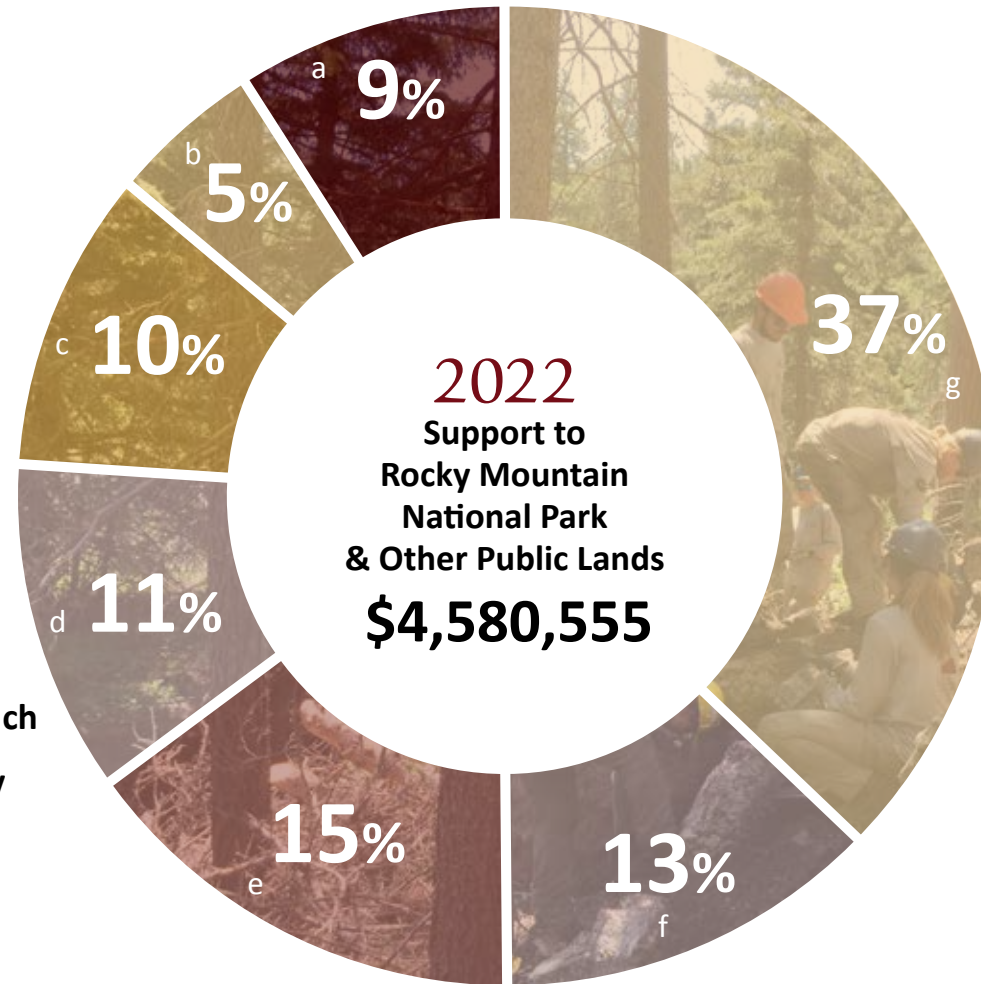
GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL
reopened to hikers

139
PILES
built for prescribed fire fuels reduction

LARGEST CORPS GROUP
in history

19,450
HOURS
of service dedicated to public lands, conservation, and restoration

BY THE NUMBERS



- a) Constituency Building**
- b) Other Public Lands**
- c) Youth, Education, and Outreach**
- d) Rocky Mountain Conservancy Conservation Corps**
- e) Park Improvement Projects**
- f) Land Protection**
- g) Visitor Services**

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

As of December 31, 2022

2022

2021

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 9,953,884	\$ 8,781,787
Investments	10,798,901	13,353,042
Accounts Receivable	69,525	44,210
Contributions Receivable	431,659	474,724
Prepaid Expenses	105,064	71,272
Inventory	1,425,304	892,072
Land Held for Donation	-	500,000
Property and Equipment	1,193,591	771,705
TOTAL ASSETS	23,977,928	24,888,812
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	401,780	286,599
Accrued Aid Payable	599,058	508,940
Accrued Expenses Payable	220,497	192,561
Deferred Revenue	-	-
Notes Payable	-	-
Custodial Funds	7,928	7,928
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,229,263	996,028
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted:		
Operating	4,331,705	3,989,671
Designated:		
Operating Reserves	600,000	700,000
Rocky Terraces	3,008,138	-
Quasi-Endowments	8,416,345	10,561,063
RMNP Funds	3,409,997	4,756,535
Temporarily Restricted	2,624,074	3,539,242
Permanently Restricted	358,406	346,272
TOTAL NET ASSETS	22,748,665	23,892,783
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	23,977,928	24,888,812



Adult Northern Pygmy Owl | Scott Rashid

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For a complete list go to: www.RMConservancy.org/2022-donors

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Rocky Mountain Conservancy Board of Directors

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1931, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy is a vibrant, growing organization with an active core membership community and more than 16,000 contributors, including individuals, corporations, local businesses, and foundations. The Conservancy's primary mission is to protect and conserve Rocky Mountain National Park through education programs, the Next Generation Fund, Search and Rescue support, historic preservation, funding critical research and habitat restoration, and more. Through unique hands-on learning experience, the Conservancy provides children's and youth programming in RMNP to create the next generation of park stewards and public lands advocates. We also work with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management partner agencies to provide educational services and support through on-site education retail sales. With support from thousands of members and donors, the Conservancy has raised more than \$35 million and completed more than 50 significant projects.

OUR MISSION

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy promotes stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park and similar lands through education and philanthropy.



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy

Nature. Pass it on.