



**RMFI**

# *2014 Annual Report*

**Rocky Mountain Field Institute**

719-471-7736 | 815 S. 25th Street, Suite 101 | Colorado Springs, CO 80904



# A Letter from the Executive Director



It has long been a dream of mine to represent an organization whose mission and passion is the conservation and stewardship of public lands. Joining the Rocky Mountain Field Institute in 2014 as Executive Director fulfills this dream. The organization's dedication to the conservation and protection of Southern Colorado's majestic landscapes is truly admirable and a passion shared by all of our employees, partners, funders, and volunteers. The generous support of all over the past year has made it possible for us to provide tremendous and well-needed ecological and social benefits in our community and region.

2014 was a year of transition for RMFI. With the sudden passing of our founder, Mark Hesse, and the transition to a new Executive Director, the year was certainly not without its challenges. Nonetheless, we managed an amazingly productive field season jam-packed with several high-impact restoration projects. In total, we ran 257 workdays with 2,352 volunteers who generously gave 22,632 hours of their time worth an estimated \$510,357!

With the help of our amazing volunteers, we were able to conduct fire and flood mitigation in both the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest burn scars, host the first public workday to protect the infrastructure of the Waldo Canyon Trail, restore alpine wetlands on Pikes Peak, begin construction of a brand new trail circuit at the top of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, begin a 3-year project to reconstruct the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Ridge in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, stabilize eroding hillslopes and close non-designated trails in Garden of the Gods and on Barr Trail, and create sustainable climbing access trails in several popular climbing areas including Shelf Road, Indian Creek, and Turkey Rocks.

Also in 2014, RMFI was able to hire its first ever full-time volunteer coordinator, Molly Mazel. Molly has been a tremendous asset to our organization and we are so incredibly excited to have her on board.

2015 promises to bring new challenges, successes, and adventures. We are well-positioned to tackle whatever the future might bring and look forward to continuing to foster a regional legacy of conservation, stewardship, and volunteerism. I invite you to take a look at the rest of our annual report to find out what kept us busy in 2014.



# MISSION

Rocky Mountain Field Institute promotes the conservation and stewardship of public lands in the Southern Rocky Mountain region through volunteer-based trail and restoration projects, environmental education, and restoration research.

# VISION

Rocky Mountain Field Institute is committed to protecting and enhancing the ecological health of our land and water resources by completing projects focused on watershed restoration, forest health, and sustainable recreation areas. By prioritizing the involvement of community volunteers and youth, Rocky Mountain Field Institute envisions a world where our work fosters vibrant and healthy natural systems that are respected and cared for by the public.

# GOALS

- To complete exemplary public lands protection projects focusing on watershed restoration, forest health, and sustainable recreation areas.
- To foster an ethic of public lands stewardship by engaging a broad spectrum of the community in hands-on volunteer stewardship and experiential education opportunities.



# 2014 Key Programs



## VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

RMFI believes the future protection and restoration of our public lands lies in cultivating an ethic of public lands stewardship. Our Community Volunteer Stewardship Program is the largest of RMFI's programs and empowers local volunteers and community groups to complete technical trail construction and restoration work. These workdays not only accomplish impressive on-the-ground results, but foster an ethic of environmental responsibility and action.



## EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Environmental education lies at the heart of RMFI's mission. In addition to incorporating educational lessons in volunteer workdays, RMFI works closely with AmeriCorps and also runs a college-accredited education program, Earth Corps, for undergraduate students. Earth Corps students spend 30+ days completing an environmental project in a Colorado wilderness area while studying the environmental science and land management issues of the project site.



## RESTORATION RESEARCH

RMFI monitors the effectiveness of restoration and erosion control techniques implemented at our various project sites. We have been especially interested in assessing the effectiveness of our fire and flood mitigation treatments installed in the Waldo and Black Forest burn scars. All of our research is geared toward gaining a better understanding of effective restoration treatments that benefit the environment and watershed health.



# 2014 Program Highlights



**257**  
*Workdays*



**2,352**  
*Volunteers*



**22,632**  
*Volunteer Hours*



**\$510,357**  
*Volunteer Value*



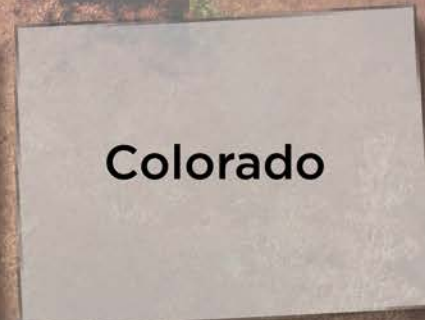
**587**  
*Log Erosion Barriers*  
\*just one of many restoration treatments installed



**575**  
*Pounds Native Seed*



**Utah**



**Colorado**

**13**  
*Project Sites in Colorado and Eastern Utah*

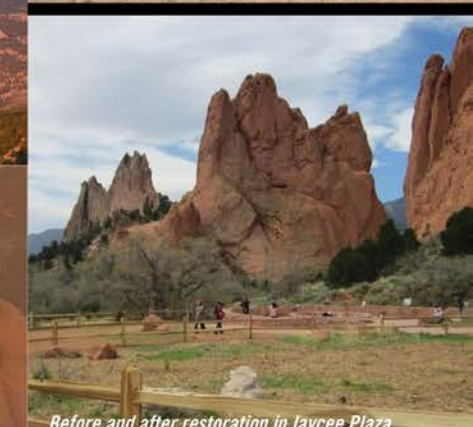




# Key Project Sites

## GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK

RMFI has been conducting trail and restoration work in the park since 2002. Over the past 12 years, RMFI has recruited, trained, and supervised 13,813 community volunteers who have contributed 60,624 volunteer hours over the course of 457 work days valued at \$1.37 million.



*Before and after restoration in Jaycee Plaza.*



## SHELF ROAD

Since 1991, RMFI has maintained a sustainable trail network linking climbing areas, parking lots, and campgrounds. Over the last 14 years, RMFI has recruited, trained, and supervised over 1,000 volunteers who have contributed over 15,880 hours over the course of 82 work days valued at \$358,094.

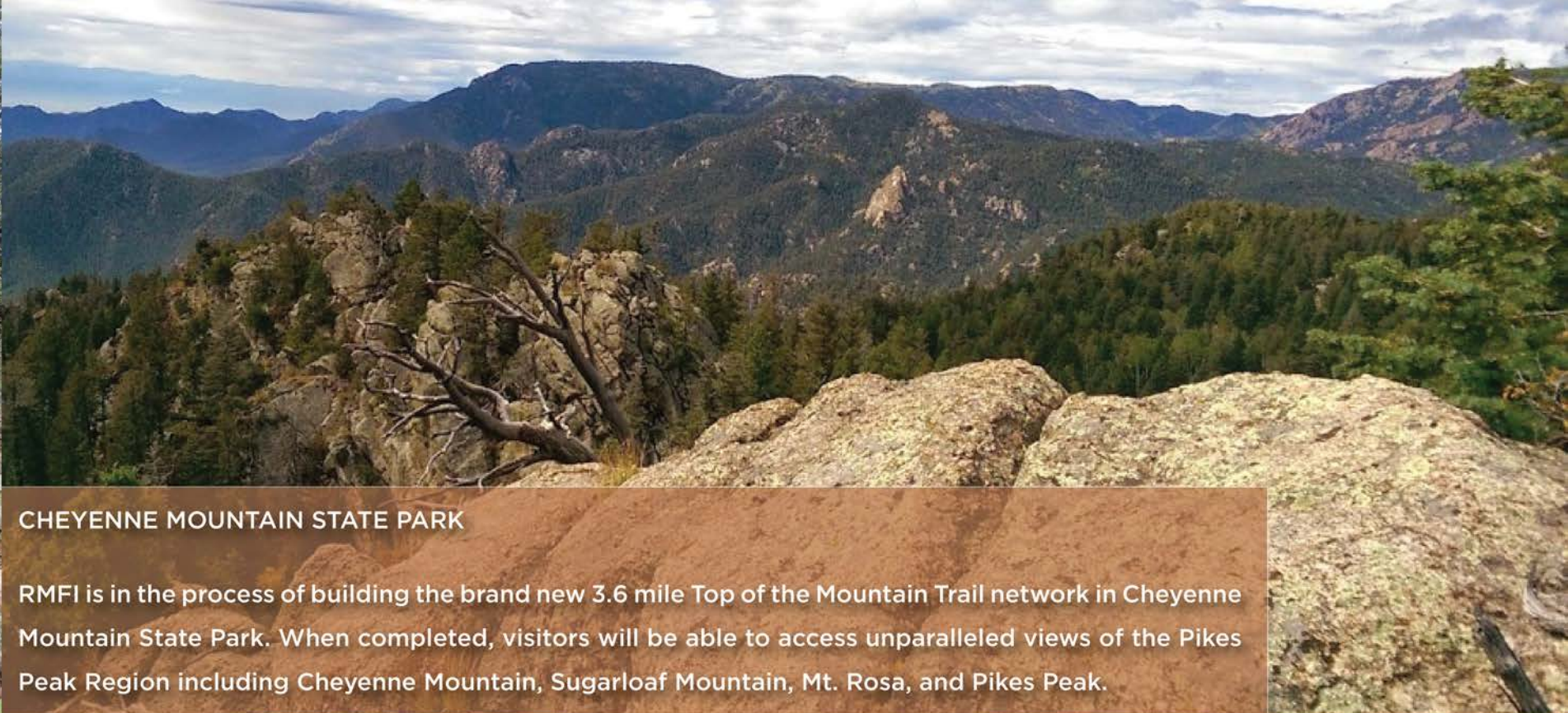


*Making sustainable climbing access with rock steps.*





*Constructing the new Top of the Mountain Trail using best practices.*



### CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

RMFI is in the process of building the brand new 3.6 mile Top of the Mountain Trail network in Cheyenne Mountain State Park. When completed, visitors will be able to access unparalleled views of the Pikes Peak Region including Cheyenne Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain, Mt. Rosa, and Pikes Peak.



*Fire and flood mitigation in the burn scar.*



### WALDO CANYON AND BLACK FOREST BURN SCARS

The Waldo Canyon and Black Forest burn scars are visible reminders of the destruction that occurred in June 2012 and 2013. RMFI is committed to restoring both of the burn scars by revegetating bare slopes and minimizing the impacts from flooding and debris flows.





### SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS

In 2014, RMFI began a project to reconstruct the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point. Once constructed, this properly designed trail will provide sustainable access to 14,000 foot peaks and protect sensitive alpine ecosystems through mitigation of erosion and recreational impacts.



*Willow Creek Trail improvements.*



### PIKES PEAK

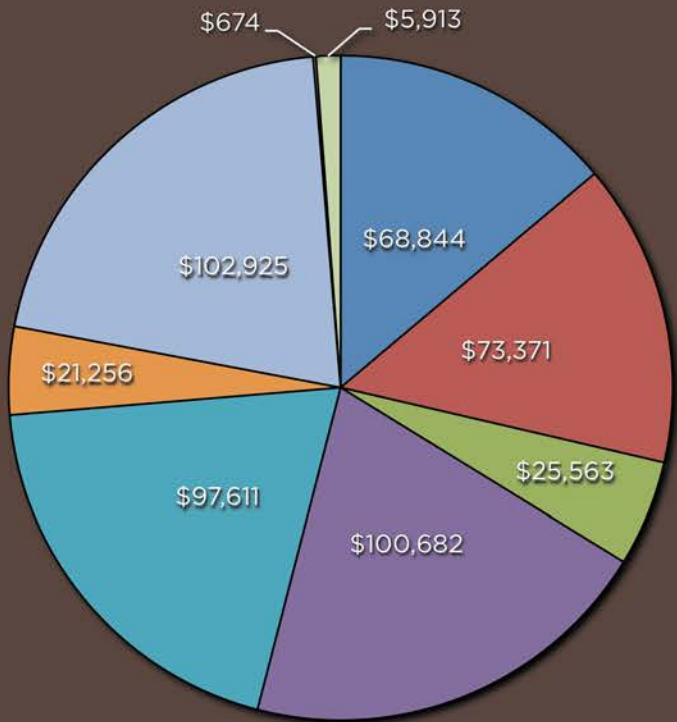
Since 2006, RMFI has worked with the Pikes Peak Group of the Sierra Club, the USDA Forest Service, and the City of Colorado Springs to address severe sedimentation and erosion impacts in unique and sensitive wetland habitat caused by stormwater runoff from the Pikes Peak Highway. We've also worked closely with the Cities of Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs to mitigate impacts from recreation and erosion on Barr Trail.



*Re-introducing native vegetation in the Glen Cove Wetland to restore wetland function.*

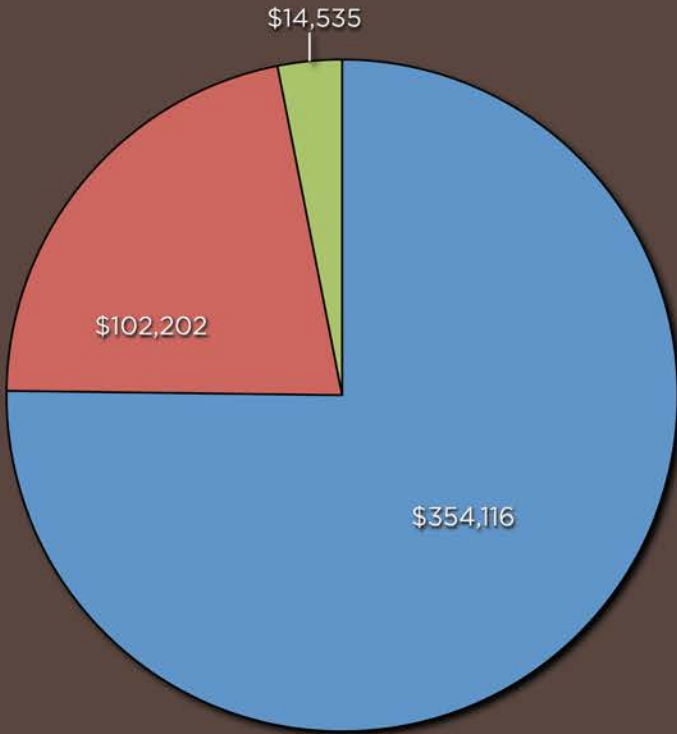


# 2014 Financials



- Individual Contributions (14%)
- Corporate Contributions (15%)
- Organization Contributions (5%)
- Foundation Contributions (20%)
- Fee for Service (20%)
- Government Contracts (4%)
- Government Revenue (21%)
- Other Revenue (<1%)
- In-Kind Support (1%)

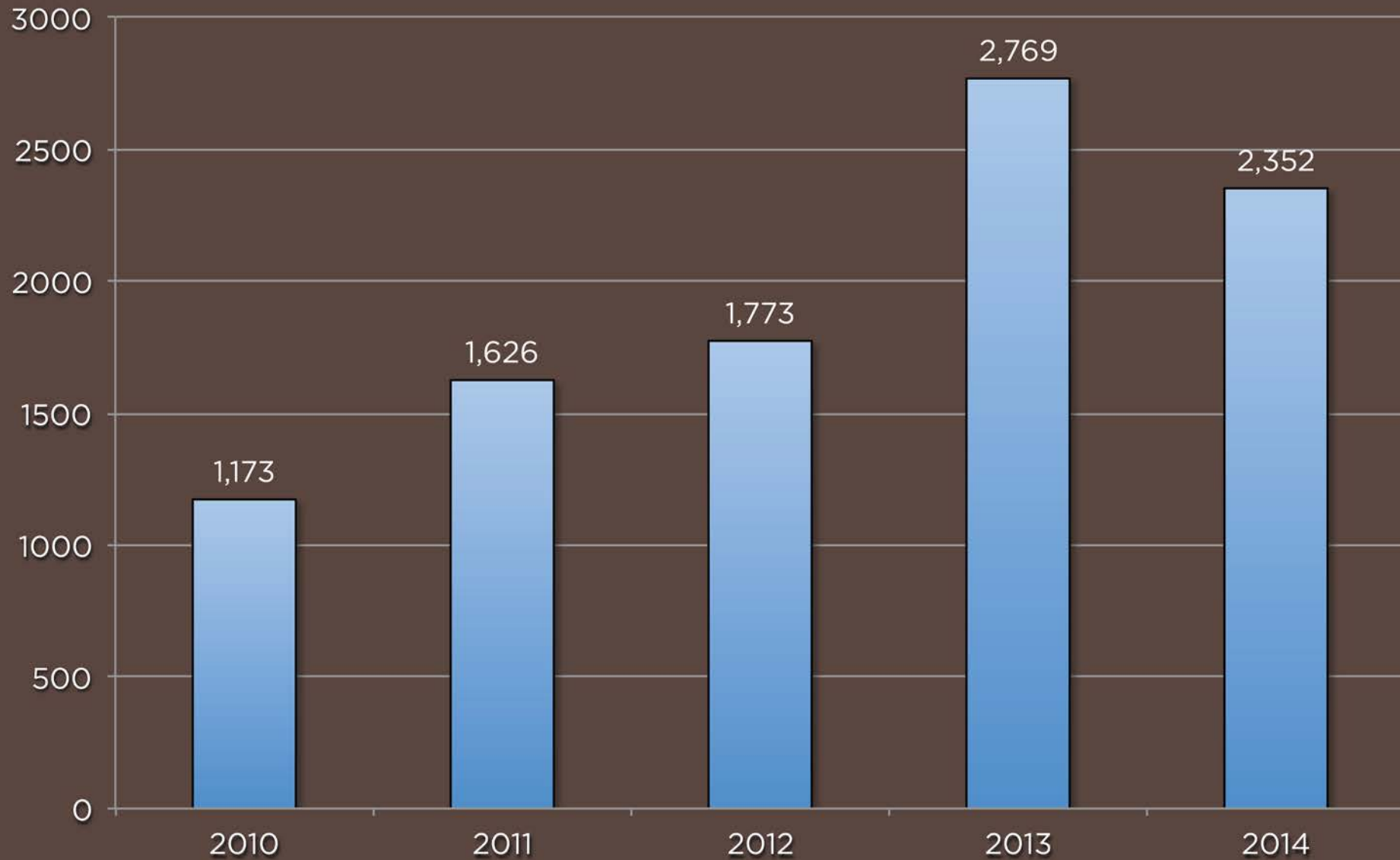
**Total Revenue: \$496,839**



**Total Expenses: \$470,853**

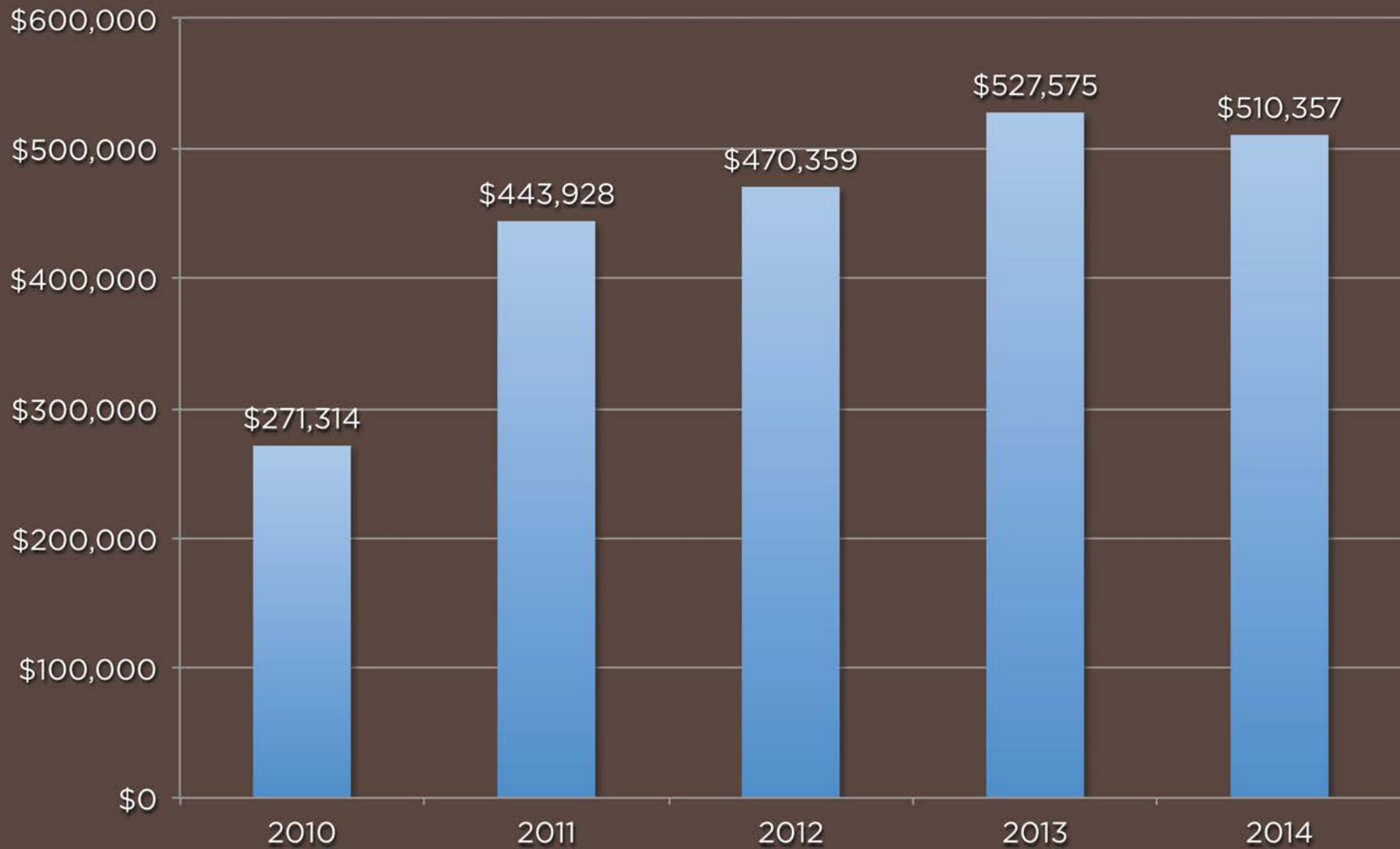


# Volunteer Numbers: 2010-2014





# Volunteer Value: 2010-2014





# The RMFI Team

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ian Kalmanowitz, *President*

Noel Roberts, *Secretary*

Lori Nicholson, *Treasurer*

Karole Campbell, *Member*

Emilie Gray, *Member*

David Havlick, *Member*

Tom Huber, *Member*

Mike Smith, *Member*

## **STAFF**

Jennifer Peterson, *Executive Director*

Amber Shanklin, *Program Director*

Joe Lavorini, *Program Coordinator*

Molly Mazel, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Liz Nichol, *Office Manager*

## **FIELD STAFF**

Lindsay Anderson, *Field Coordinator*

Julie Mazzola, *Field Instructor*

Aaron Mojica, *Field Instructor*

Andy Riter, *Field Instructor*

Mark Tatro, *Field Instructor*

## **INTERNS**

Erin Burk

Jordan Clementi

Meghan Denny

Cody Duckworth

Lucy Hamamoto

Kym Littleton

Nina Lundstrom

Chris Myers

Jaxon Rickel

Jake Stein



# Grantors, Contributors, and Sponsors

## GOVERNMENT

City of Colorado Springs \* City of Manitou Springs  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Combined Federal Campaign  
El Paso County Parks  
USDA Forest Service  
USDI Bureau of Land Management

## ORGANIZATIONS

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center  
Friends of Garden of the Gods  
Friends of the Peak \* Pikes Peak Fund  
Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund  
Rocky Mountain Field Institute Board of Directors  
The Access Fund \* The Mitguards

## FOUNDATIONS

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Community First Foundation  
El Pomar Foundation  
Garden of the Gods Foundation  
Hans Joerg Wyss Foundation  
National Environmental Education Foundation  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation:  
    The 2014! GIVE Campaign Fund  
    The Pikes Peak Conservation Fund  
    The Trust for Community Parks Fund  
    The Waldo Waldo Fund  
Public Lands Foundation  
T. Rowe Price Foundation

## BUSINESSES

Adam's Mountain Cafe \* Agilent Technologies

Angler's Covey \* Balance and Live  
Beaumont Products, Inc. \* The Boeing Company  
Bristol Brewing Company \* Coaltrain Liquor  
Colorado Wealth Management of Raymond James  
Core Power Yoga \* Fin-Up Habitat Consultants  
Front Range BBQ \* Good Earth Garden Center  
Goodyear \* Hewlett-Packard \* Kirkpatrick Bank  
La'au's Taco Shop \* La Bella Vita Ristorante  
LexisNexis \* Manitou Auto Service  
Mountain Chalet \* Mountain Equipment Recyclers  
Plaza 21 Liquor \* Radiantly Raw Chocolate  
Pocket Pals Trail Maps  
Recreational Equipment Incorporated  
Sharing Inner Health \* Starbucks Coffee Company  
Steve Wood Art \* Summerland Gardens  
Tayco \* Terra Verde \* The Boeing Company  
The Colorado Institute of Massage  
The Principal's Office  
The Wild Goose Meeting House  
Trinity Brewing Company \* Veda Salon & Spa  
Venice Olive Oil Company \* Vitamin Cottage  
Waldo Waldo, Inc.

## INDIVIDUALS

Christopher Aaby \* David Adair \* Dana Adoretti  
Daniel Allen \* Z. Benek Altayli \* Jason Alwine  
Alicia Archibald \* Kyle Baker \* Mary Baldwin  
Andrea Barker \* Sarah Barlow  
Robyn Baumgartner \* Grouch Beckenhaupt  
Jose Bermudez \* Eric Billmeyer \* Margaret Black  
Wayne Bland \* John Bobbitt \* Kent Borges  
Steve Bremner \* Aaron and Heather Briggs  
Mike and Tanja Britton \* Mary Brown \* Drew Cahill  
Karole Campbell \* Sara Carlson  
Melissa Chambless \* Meredith and Kevin Childs  
Julie Christopher \* Lauren Collier \* Barbara Corwin  
Brooke Cote \* Teresa Cotten \* Michael Cotton  
John Crandall \* Lorna Cwiak \* Emily Danti  
Allan Davidson \* Susan Davies \* Erin Davis

Michelle Decker \* Patricia Deeds-Starr  
John Demmon \* Lee Derr \* Jim DiNapoli  
Sandy Disney \* Clarissa Dominguez  
Brian Dominic \* Lynne Downs \* Steven Driska  
Elke Duerring \* Brian Dziekonski \* C. Edwards  
Bob Falcone \* Ben and Karol Finch \* Lenore Fleck  
Nancy Fortuin \* Dan and Marilyn Foster  
Johnny Garcia \* Henry Gertzman \* Paul Gesterling  
Michelle Ghrist \* Connie Gibbons \* Torie Giffin  
JA Gordley \* Emilie Gray \* Mary Gronberg  
Noel Gugliotta \* Judy Hagge \* Harry Hamill  
John Harner \* Teri Harper \* Becky Harrison  
Andrea Hassler \* Adele Havlick \* David Havlick  
Tim Havlick \* Jontell Hefferman  
Laura Hemsworth \* Jonathan Hill \* Lyda Hill  
Randi Hitchcock \* James Hlavaty  
Brenda Holmes-Stanciu  
Bill and Janice Hornbostel \* Robert Hostetler  
Bill Houghton \* Jeffrey Hovermale  
Jeremy Howard \* Tom Huber \* James Jackson  
Rebecca and Winn Jewett \* Cheryl Johnson  
Stephen Jones \* Ian and Carrie Kalmanowitz  
Lisa Klages \* Veronica Koch \* Deb Komitor  
Crissy Koons \* Tim Kranz \* Bob Kulakowski  
Deborah LaBarre \* Keith LaNoue \* Andrew Latrell  
Vickie Laughlin \* Amy Lavorini \* Joe Lavorini  
Kay Marie Lavorini \* George Lee \* Linda LeMieux  
Henrietta Levis \* Brian Lewis \* Nancy Lewis  
Robert Linscheer \* James Lockhart  
Carol Lubell \* Annalyn Luikuo \* Helen M.  
Wendy Mack \* Nancy Maday \* Deb Mahan  
Pam Maier \* Vicky Manlove \* Douglas Martin  
Erik Mattson \* Molly Mazel \* Norah Mazel  
Nikki McComsey \* Justin McDonald  
John McDonough \* Mary McGill \* Allison McGuire  
Matthew McKinley \* Paul Mead \* Andrea Meadows  
Christopher Menzel \* Jessica Meiris  
Michael Merrifield \* Ash Merscher \* Sondra Meyer  
Cameron Miller \* James Mininger \* Debra Mitguard



Cameron Moix \* William Morris \* Thomas Mulcahy  
Carrie Myers \* Christopher Nall \* Sandy Negaard  
Karl Nelson \* Kirk Nelson \* Stacy Hepp-Palos  
David Nichol \* Liz Nichol \* Peter Nichol  
Lori Nicholson \* Darin Olson \* Jan Ostrom  
Karen Palus \* Jesse Parker \* Claudia Parks  
Anna Parrish \* Sheila Pereira \* Eric Perramond  
Jennifer Peterson \* Bill and Dorothy Peterson  
Justin and Suzanne Peterson \* Brian Picklesimer  
John Pierce \* Allison Plute \* Caleb Poe \* Dale Poll  
Andrew Riter \* Regina Rohr \* Bill Ruskin \* Jay Savary  
David and Carol Schell \* Matthew Schniper  
Lisa Schott \* Judy Sellers \* Jake Sere  
Amber Shanklin \* Deborah Sheinman \* Kristin Skoog  
Eric Sleeper \* Lisa Sloan \* Jean Smith \* Mike Smith  
Phyllis Smith \* Kennon Snead \* Braden Snead  
Kim Snowdon \* Cassidy Snyder \* Lynn Sommers  
Julie Sprinkle \* Tamera Stahly \* Annmarie Stanley  
Chad Stockinger \* Jennifer Straight \* John Stansfield  
Janet Strouss \* Darcy Struckhoff \* Jennifer Sundman  
Julie Sussman \* Cory Sutela \* Leland Tatum  
Casey Tencick \* Mike Teter \* Susan Thompson  
Alana Thrower \* Barbara Toberg  
Coreen and Shanti Toll \* Sarah Troemel \* Allison Tyler  
James Van Hoy \* Roger VanDamme  
Darrell VanOrmer \* Bob Wagstaff \* Cheryl Walker  
Melissa Walker \* Jack Wallick \* Julie Weil  
John Weiss \* Leslie Wolken \* Stephen Wood  
Sherri Woods \* Kristin Woodward \* Tom Yukman  
Joseph Zaremba \* Katie Zimmerman

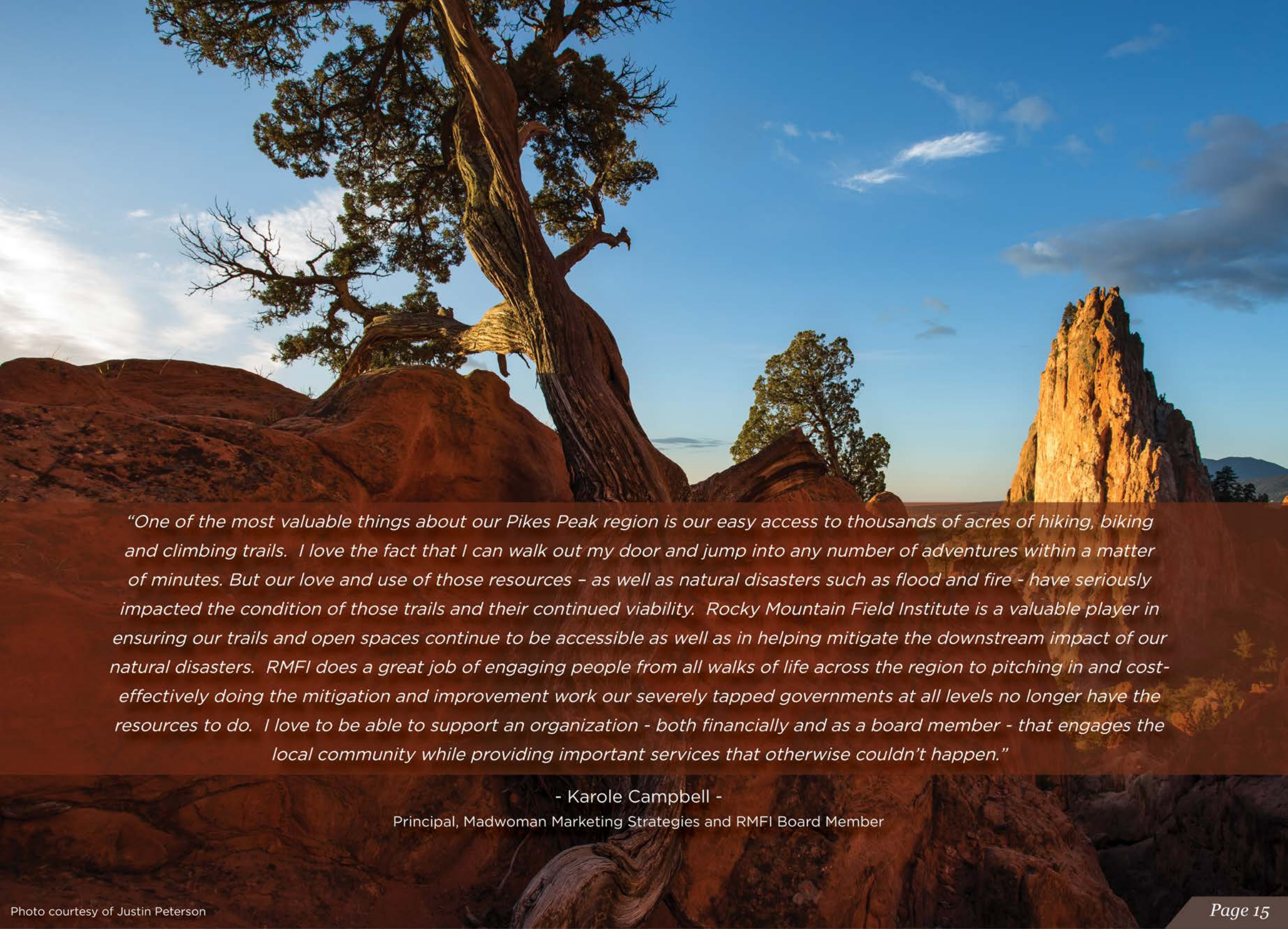
#### **VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

76th Space Control Squadron  
American Alpine Club \* AmeriCorps  
Atlas Preparatory School \* Bonefish Grill  
Boulder Climbing Community \* Catamount Institute  
Cheyenne Mt. Zoo Crew  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
Colorado College Environmental Action Club

Colorado College New Student Orientation  
Colorado College Outdoor Education Program  
Colorado College Women's Basketball Team  
Colorado College Women's Soccer Team  
Colorado Springs Early Colleges  
Colorado Springs School 8th Grade  
Colorado Springs School Upper School  
DeLaSalle High School \* Everest University Online  
FedEx \* First Presbyterian Church \* Fort Carson  
Fountain Valley School \* Friends of the Peak  
Highlands Ranch Church of Latter Day Saints  
Liberty High School  
Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates \* Mesa University  
Mile High Youth Corps \* Montrose High School  
Mortar Board  
Norte Dame Alumni Club of Colorado Springs  
North Middle School Junior High School  
Peterson Air Force Base  
Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance  
Pikes Peak Community College \* Ruth Washburn  
Salem Lutheran Church \* Seeds Community Cafe  
Shriever Air Force Base \* Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
Starbucks Coffee Company \* The Access Fund  
TRACKS Home-School Program  
Trails and Open Space Coalition  
United States Air Force Academy  
United States Olympic Committee  
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs  
University of Denver \* UpaDowna  
VMware \* Wells Fargo  
West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science  
Wide Open West \* Zurich Insurance Group

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2,352 VOLUNTEERS!!**





*“One of the most valuable things about our Pikes Peak region is our easy access to thousands of acres of hiking, biking and climbing trails. I love the fact that I can walk out my door and jump into any number of adventures within a matter of minutes. But our love and use of those resources – as well as natural disasters such as flood and fire – have seriously impacted the condition of those trails and their continued viability. Rocky Mountain Field Institute is a valuable player in ensuring our trails and open spaces continue to be accessible as well as in helping mitigate the downstream impact of our natural disasters. RMFI does a great job of engaging people from all walks of life across the region to pitching in and cost-effectively doing the mitigation and improvement work our severely tapped governments at all levels no longer have the resources to do. I love to be able to support an organization – both financially and as a board member – that engages the local community while providing important services that otherwise couldn’t happen.”*

*- Karole Campbell -*

*Principal, Madwoman Marketing Strategies and RMFI Board Member*





**RMFI**

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rmfi@rmfi.org  
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## 2014 Annual Report



*RMFI staff take part in the annual Waldo Waldo 5K. RMFI was honored to again be a beneficiary of the 2014 race to help support our restoration efforts in the Waldo burn.*