



RMFI
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

2016 Annual Report

The Nonprofit Steward of Public Lands in Southern Colorado

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By all accounts, 2016 was an historic year for RMFI. In meeting new and developing stewardship needs in our backyard, we estimate to have grown by nearly 120% with the addition of 8 new projects and the doubling of our seasonal field staff. To support this growth, we acquired additional office space, a project vehicle, tools and equipment, and looked hard at ways to increase our organizational efficiencies, which we were able to accomplish in several areas.

With your support, we launched, continued, or completed some of our most exciting projects to date. Highlights include constructing new trails in Ute Valley Park and the Bear Creek Watershed; continuing our multi-year effort to reconstruct the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristos; beginning new stewardship projects at properties acquired through the City of Colorado Springs' Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) program; beginning a new willow propagation and planting program to restore critical riparian areas in the Waldo Canyon burn scar; completing much-needed trail improvements in North Cheyenne Cañon, Palmer Park, Garden of the Gods Park, Barr Trail, and Red Rock Canyon Open Space; completing our 15th annual Earth Corps field studies program and 5th annual Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training, and so much more.

We also worked hard to achieve Guidestar's Platinum level of transparency and effectiveness, the highest level possible, and also continued implementation of our 5-year strategic plan, which was created in 2015. In addition, we were the recipient of a second mystery donation from our "Mystery Friend" and are in the process of working with one of our key supporters to establish RMFI's first endowment. Exciting things lie ahead for RMFI in 2017, and we are well positioned for the many challenges and opportunities surely to come our way.

We hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report, which details our many accomplishments in 2016. Thank you all for your continued support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Peterson
Executive Director

STEWARDSHIP

RMFI actively engages community volunteers and youth corps crews to protect our most treasured natural landscapes in Southern Colorado.

EDUCATION

Through experiential education opportunities, RMFI is helping foster an ethic of environmental responsibility and training the next generation of conservation leaders.

RESEARCH

RMFI monitors the effectiveness of restoration and erosion control treatments at many project sites to better understand our impacts on ecosystem health.

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.*

2016

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT SITES

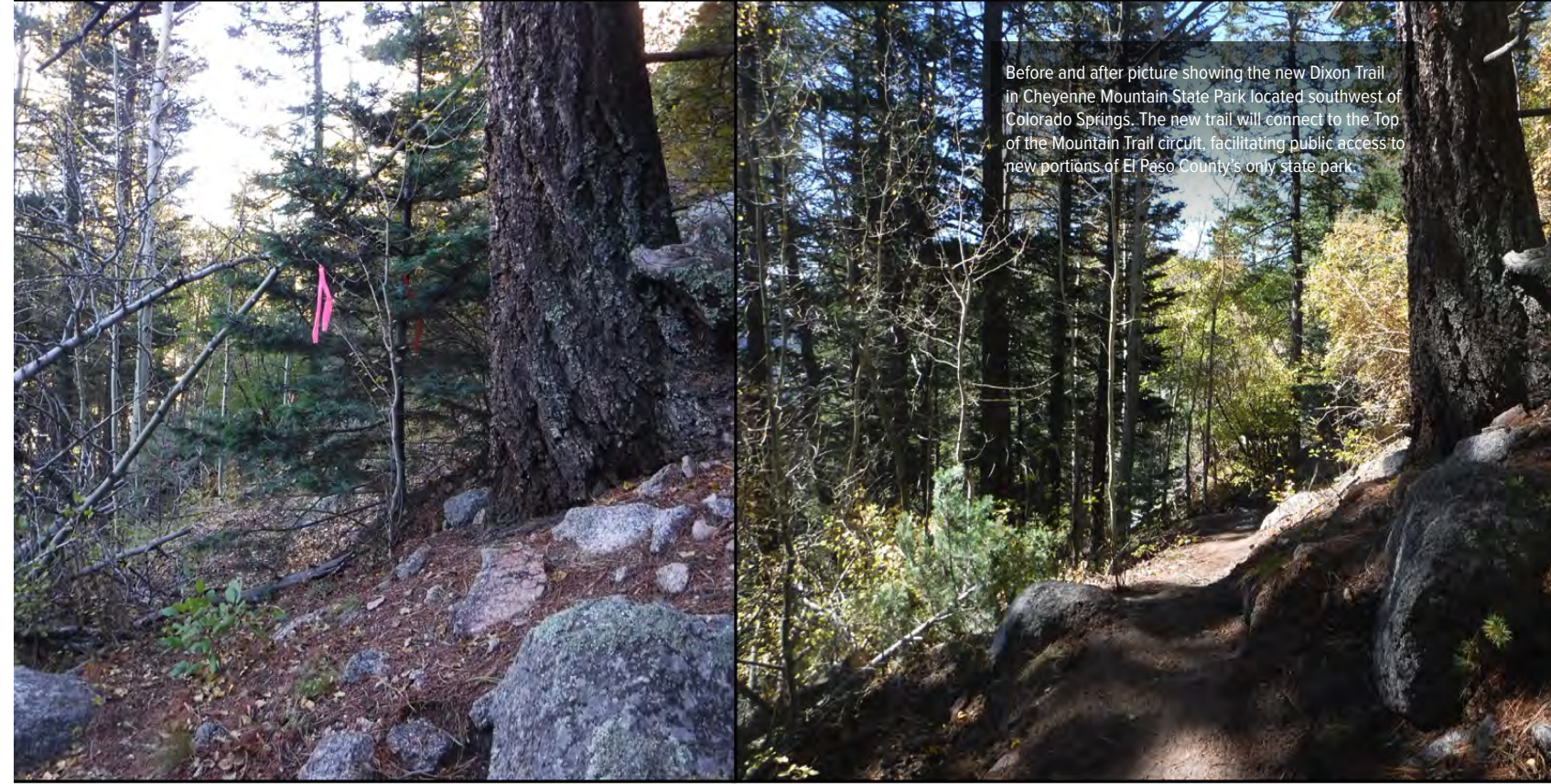
For the past 34 years, RMFI has accomplished its mission by completing key environmental projects in recreational areas throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. RMFI has received national, state, and local recognition for trail construction and restoration that is widely regarded as some of the finest work of its kind accomplished in the region. Our project docket is diverse and growing. A brief snapshot of our key project sites in 2016 is included below.

BARR TRAIL: In partnership with the Cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, RMFI continued its stewardship work along the Incline Connector Trail and the lower 3 miles of Barr Trail. The primary focus of work this year was completing trail improvements to increase trail sustainability including drainage improvements, erosion control, gully restoration, and fencing/signage installation.

BLACK FOREST REGIONAL PARK: RMFI partnered with El Paso County to continue post-fire stabilization efforts in areas of the park impacted by the Black Forest Fire in 2013. Work focused on slope stabilization, revegetation, and erosion control.

BEAR CREEK WATERSHED: RMFI expanded its involvement in habitat protection efforts in the Bear Creek Watershed at 3 separate locations through sediment mitigation and trail construction/maintenance projects. All work efforts focused on protection and enhancement of areas within the Watershed Influence Zone for the threatened greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish. RMFI completed construction of the new 0.89-mile Buckhorn Connector Trail, closed and restored nearly 1 mile of redundant social trail, and maintained sediment detention structures along Bear Creek.

BLODGETT PEAK OPEN SPACE: In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs, RMFI returned to Blodgett Peak Open Space, which was partially damaged in the Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012, to implement new stewardship projects. Work objectives focused on completing trail maintenance, construction, and restoration projects within the open space in accordance with the park management plan.



Before and after picture showing the new Dixon Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park located southwest of Colorado Springs. The new trail will connect to the Top of the Mountain Trail circuit, facilitating public access to new portions of El Paso County's only state park.

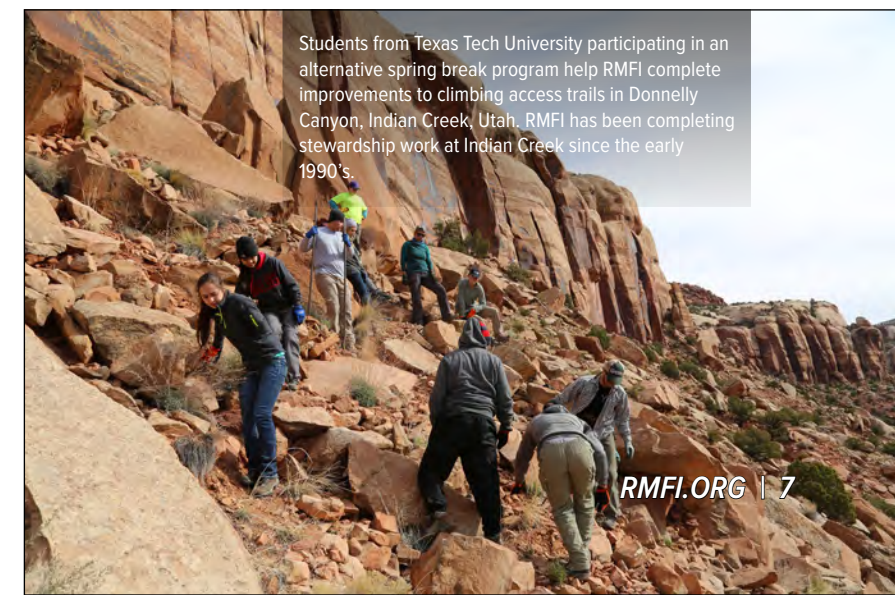
CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK: RMFI began construction on the new, highly anticipated Dixon Trail that will connect the newly built Top of the Mountain trail network (completed by RMFI in 2015) to the southern portion of the state park. When completed, the trail system will provide unparalleled views of the Front Range and will open up new public access to the southwestern part of Colorado Springs.

GARDEN OF THE GODS: RMFI completed its 19th year of stewardship work in the Garden of the Gods Park. Work objectives largely focused on implementing conservation objectives in the southeastern part of the park and completing critical trail improvements in the central part of the park. Prairie grasslands, Piñon-Juniper hills, historic structures, sites of archaeological interest, climber access trails, and multi-use trails define these portions of the park.

HIGH DRIVE: RMFI's efforts along High Drive focused on decreasing sediment deposition into Bear Creek to protect valuable habitat for the greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish. RMFI closed and restored a number of social trails leading to the creek as well as built buck and rail fencing to control off-trail recreational access to areas contributing upland sediment to the creek.

INDIAN CREEK CANYON (UTAH): RMFI partnered with the Bureau of Land Management, Access Fund, Boulder Climbing Community, Texas Tech University, and the Petzl Foundation to complete improvements to existing climbing access trails in Donnelly Canyon, the most visited area at Indian Creek. Work involved realigning access trails to more sustainable locations, defining the trail corridor, building rock steps, and restoring redundant social trails.

KIT CARSON PEAK & CHALLENGER POINT: In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, RMFI continued its progress on the multi-phase, multi-year project to reconstruct the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. RMFI spent a total of 62 days on the project between July and September 2016 with the help of the Southwest Conservation Corps, Volunteer Vacation participants, and undergraduate student participants in RMFI's field studies course, Earth Corps. Work included new trail construction, restoration of undesignated campsites and social trails, and trail maintenance.



Students from Texas Tech University participating in an alternative spring break program help RMFI complete improvements to climbing access trails in Donnelly Canyon, Indian Creek, Utah. RMFI has been completing stewardship work at Indian Creek since the early 1990's.



Before and after picture showing the new Buckhorn Connector Trail in the Bear Creek Watershed located west of Colorado Springs. The new trail facilitates sustainable access to the watershed, which is home to the threatened greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish.



Before and after picture showing repairs to a timber staircase along the Silver Cascade Trail in North Cheyenne Canyon Park. This trail sits above the very popular Helen Hunt Falls. It is estimated that over 150,000 people hike the Silver Cascade Falls Trail each year.

PALMER PARK: In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the Guardians of Palmer Park, RMFI completed critical trail improvements to the historic cobbled Edna Mae Trail, a popular trail for cyclists, hikers, and trail runners. Years of heavy use and heavy precipitation in May 2015 displaced many of the historic pavers and stone steps and caused deep incision of the trail. RMFI worked to reconstruct cross-trail drainage, rock steps, and pavers along key portions of the trail to improve overall sustainability, user experience, and safety.

PIKES PEAK: In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Forest Service, RMFI continued its

stewardship work on Pikes Peak to mitigate erosion and sedimentation originating from the Pikes Peak Highway. Work objectives included completing erosion control and gully stabilization to reduce sediment entering the streams and wetlands on Pikes Peak, restoring wetlands buried by sediment to enhance wildlife habitat and improve water quality, and conducting research to monitor the effectiveness of work completed under the project for use in other mountain areas impacted by erosion from stormwater runoff.

PINERIES OPEN SPACE: RMFI partnered with El Paso County to complete trail corridor clearance and hazard tree removal during the winter of 2016. The Pineries Open Space was damaged in the Black Forest Fire of 2013. The 2016 work complemented stabilization and restoration work completed by RMFI in the open space in 2015.

RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE: In May 2015, portions of Colorado Springs received upwards of 12 inches of rain. The historic precipitation event caused an earthen dam in Red Rock Canyon Open Space to collapse, which resulted in major damage to portions of the park. In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, RMFI completed improvements to climbing access trails damaged in the rains, and also closed and restored a number of redundant social trails.

SILVER CASCADE TRAIL: In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, RMFI completed critical trail repairs to the popular Silver Cascade Falls Trail in North Cheyenne Cañon. Work included repairing existing trail structures and adding new trail structures that helped to improve overall hiker safety as well as enhance trail stability. RMFI constructed timber



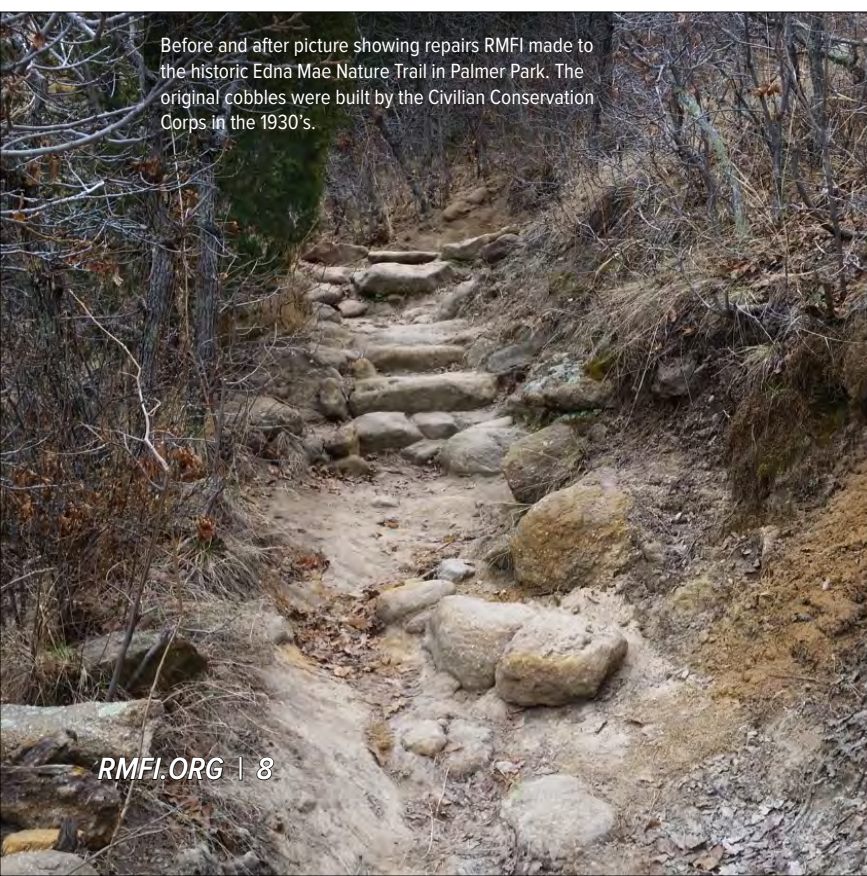
Mile High Youth Corps, RMFI staff, and U.S. Forest Service personnel help carry down potted willows to plant in a damaged riparian area within the Camp Creek Watershed. This drainage was severely damaged in the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012.

box steps, box culverts, and water bars, and made repairs to existing structures to help improve drainage, hiker safety, and trail sustainability.

STRATTON OPEN SPACE: RMFI began new stewardship projects at Stratton Open Space in partnership with the City of Colorado Springs. Work involved social trail closure, the installation of subsurface stabilization timbers to restore incised trail sections, installation of log sills, drainage structure improvements, repair of existing trail and tread, and the construction of two timber drop structures.

UTE VALLEY PARK: RMFI began new stewardship projects in Ute Valley Park in partnership with the City of Colorado Springs. Work objectives focused on completing trail maintenance, construction, and restoration projects within the open space in accordance with the park management plan. RMFI staff also began construction of the new 3.0-mile multi-use Eastern Loop Trail in the newly acquired 200-acres of Ute Valley.

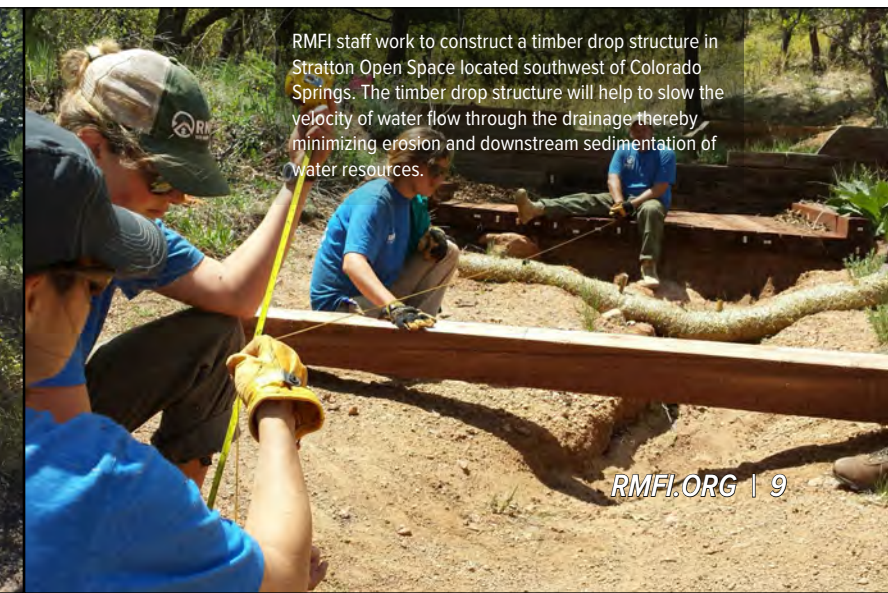
WALDO CANYON BURN SCAR: RMFI continued perennial post-fire restoration work in the Waldo Canyon burn scar in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Work efforts in 2016 focused on new initiatives to enhance natural resiliency in the watershed. RMFI, Mile High Youth Corps, and volunteers planted nearly 1,000 rooted willow saplings in a reach of the Camp Creek drainage that was badly damaged in the Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012. RMFI also worked with the Mile High Youth Corps to complete complementary stabilization and restoration work in the surrounding landscape through construction of erosion control structures and native species revegetation.



Before and after picture showing repairs RMFI made to the historic Edna Mae Nature Trail in Palmer Park. The original cobbles were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.



Volunteers from Keysight Technologies, a local company based in Colorado Springs, help to narrow an over-widened trail segment in Ute Valley Park that caused excessive impact to the surrounding area. Volunteers narrowed the trail segment by transplanting native vegetation into the widened path to better define the trail corridor.



RMFI staff work to construct a timber drop structure in Stratton Open Space located southwest of Colorado Springs. The timber drop structure will help to slow the velocity of water flow through the drainage thereby minimizing erosion and downstream sedimentation of water resources.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

WILLOW PROPAGATION PROJECT

In 2016, RMFI began a new willow propagation project in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service with the goal of facilitating resiliency in critical riparian areas. The project was funded in part by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, and the Waldo Waldo, Inc.

The Waldo Canyon Fire burned over 18,000 acres west of Colorado Springs in 2012. The fire affected 4 major watersheds in and around Colorado Springs: Fountain Creek, Camp Creek, Douglas Creek, and Monument Creek. Approximately 41% of the area burned (7,586 acres) was classified as low severity burn, 40% (7,286 acres) was classified as moderate severity, and 19% (3,375 acres) was classified as high severity burn. Of the lands burned, approximately 14,422 acres (79%) were located within the National Forest System, 3,678 acres (20%) were on private lands, and 147 acres (<1%) were on Department of Defense lands.

Riparian areas provide critical ecosystem services. Riparian vegetation including grasses, forbs, and woody plants growing along the edges of ephemeral and perennial drainages is critical for controlling erosion, improving water quality, and providing habitat. Willows are among the most common woody plants found in riparian areas. They are an important source of food and cover for wildlife and their roots help stabilize streambanks minimizing wind and water erosion.

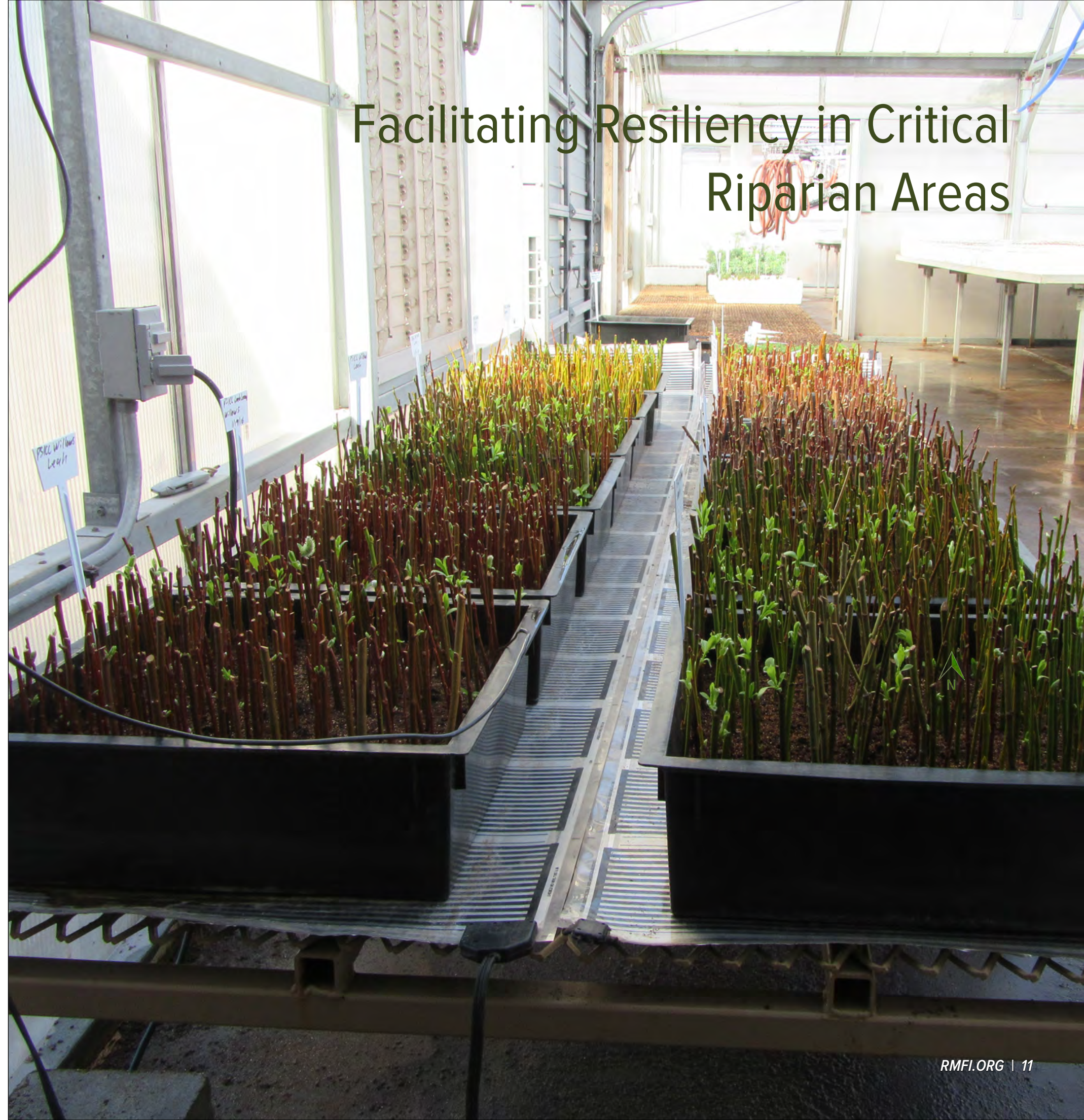
As a result of the Waldo Canyon Fire, a substantial amount of riparian vegetation was lost, which has significantly impacted erosion rates and watershed health. Even before the fire, the drainage riparian areas were in decline as the willows and aspen were being encroached on by later successional evergreens after years of lack of natural fire process. Willows are commonly used in a number of recovery and resiliency initiatives including post-fire conditions. Traditional methods involve strategic harvesting of dormant willow stems from vigorous healthy willows. Dormant cuttings are then driven into the ground, where they will sprout shoots and roots during the growing season. Once established, willow cuttings form a web of fibrous roots that can provide highly effectively soil stabilization.

Survival of willow cuttings depends on a number of different factors. Low survival rates of stakes are often observed in areas where the water table fluctuates resulting in poor soil moisture during the growing period. Monitoring of willow transplants in the Hayman and Waldo Canyon burn scars has revealed an estimated 10% survival rate.

RMFI's willow propagation project seeks to maximize survival rates and accelerate watershed resiliency by growing dormant willow cuttings in pots in a nursery through the winter months. This approach allows the cuttings time to establish a resilient root structure that should increase survival rates when transplanted on site.

In January 2016, RMFI staff along with U.S. Forest Service personnel harvested approximately 300 willow cuttings from the Crowe Gulch Picnic Area off the Pikes Peak Highway. The

Facilitating Resiliency in Critical Riparian Areas



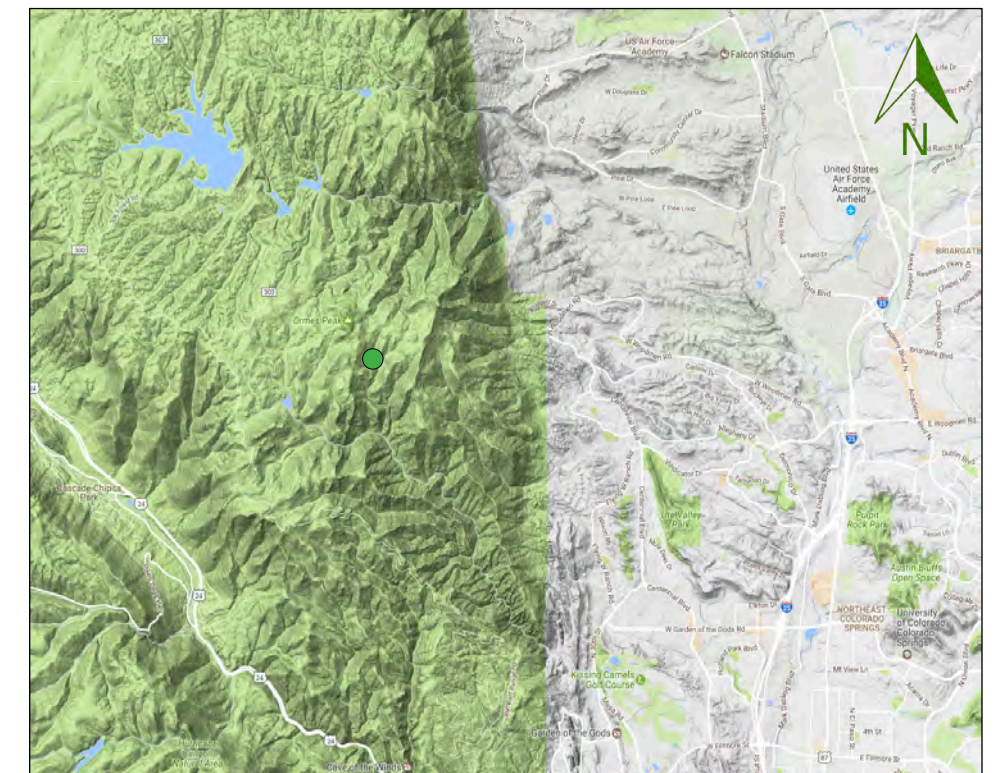
Facilitating Resiliency in Critical Riparian Areas



cuttings were shipped to the Charles E. Bessey Nursery in Halsey, Nebraska where the cuttings were propagated into approximately 1,000 willow plants. The plants were tended for nearly 4 months to allow their root structures to adequately develop and mature. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the plants were trucked back to Colorado Springs for planting.

On May 31, 2016, RMFI staff along with members of the Mile High Youth Corps, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and community volunteers transported the willows from the staging area off of Rampart Range Road to the planting area within the Camp Creek drainage of the Waldo Canyon burn scar. Approximately 200 willows were planted within the drainage on this day. Mile High Youth Corps crews completed planting the next day, and spent an additional 2.5 weeks in the burn scar completing complementary erosion control and stabilization work to enhance watershed health and function.

Stay tuned as we will be monitoring the effectiveness of this project well into 2017 and beyond. And, we are excited to announce the Colorado Water Conservation Board will be supporting an expansion of our willow propagation program in the Waldo Canyon Burn Scar in 2017-2018.



Willow propagation project location.

2016

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Environmental education lies at the heart of RMFI's mission, providing the "why" behind the on-the-ground work. RMFI believes the protection and restoration of our public lands lies in cultivating an ethic of public lands stewardship. We cultivate this ethic by not only actively engaging volunteers and youth conservation crews in our work, but also by educating them on why the work is important and how it fits in with the broader landscape as well as by leading training courses that equip participants with tangible hard and soft skills.

EARTH CORPS: Earth Corps is a field studies program run by RMFI in partnership with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs to provide motivated, environmentally conscious students the opportunity to live and learn in the incredible natural classroom of the Colorado Wilderness. The program began in 2002 as a way to integrate key lessons in environmental studies with the completion of multiple critical environmental restoration projects. Earth Corps attracts exceptional students from across the nation to participate in this unique service learning opportunity.

In 2016, Earth Corps students lived, worked, and learned for 30-days in Willow Lake Basin located at the base of Challenger Point and Kit Carson Peak, two iconic 14'ers in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Students gained field experience in restoration ecology by helping with the highly technical summit trail reconstruction project to Kit Carson Peak. Visiting professors and industry experts provided lectures in the field covering topics such as geomorphology, botany, hydrology, land/recreation management, environmental policy, ethics, and other aspects of environmental studies. Upon successful completion of the program, each student received 4 credit hours from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Osprey Packs, a Colorado company based in Cortez, generously donated day packs to participating students, and Thanasi Foods, a Boulder, CO-based company and maker of BIGS Sunflower Seeds, generously donated nutritious snacks for the duration of the program.



Participants in the 2016 Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training learn the techniques behind transplanting native vegetation for restoration purposes. Participants also learned about trail construction and maintenance techniques, tools and safety, and outdoor leadership skills.

DIRT CAMP: For the second consecutive year, RMFI partnered with the Catamount Institute, to host a weeklong "Dirt Camp" for 10-12 year olds in the Garden of the Gods Park. Students helped RMFI restore social trails in the park while also learning from Catamount Institute staff about vermicomposting, fossils, soil chemistry, landscape ecology, and geology. Catamount Institute is a Colorado Springs-based environmental education nonprofit with a mission to develop ecological stewards through education and adventure. RMFI and the Catamount Institute have partnered for several years on a variety of educational and stewardship initiatives, and will partner again in 2017 for the third edition of "Dirt Camp."

PIKES PEAK REGIONAL CREW LEADER TRAINING: The Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training (PPRCLT) debuted in 2012 after severe budget cuts to the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department necessitated an increase in city-wide volunteer engagement and training initiatives. The annual training is accomplished through a collaborative partnership between RMFI, the City of Colorado Springs, the Trails and Open Space Coalition, and Friends of the Peak, and is designed to empower motivated community members with the skills and opportunities to lead safe and effective volunteer projects within our region's parks and open spaces.

The 2016 program marked the fifth edition of the training, which hosted 35 participants over April 22-24 at the Bear Creek Nature Center. Participants received both classroom and hands-on instruction divided into three major components: soft skills/leadership, trail maintenance, and restoration. After finishing the course, participants go on to complete their certification process, which requires they lead 2 volunteer stewardship workdays in partnership with either RMFI or Friends of the Peak who act as mentoring organizations. Once the certification process is complete, individuals become qualified to lead volunteer stewardship workdays at their favorite park or open space in conjunction with the local "Friends" group.

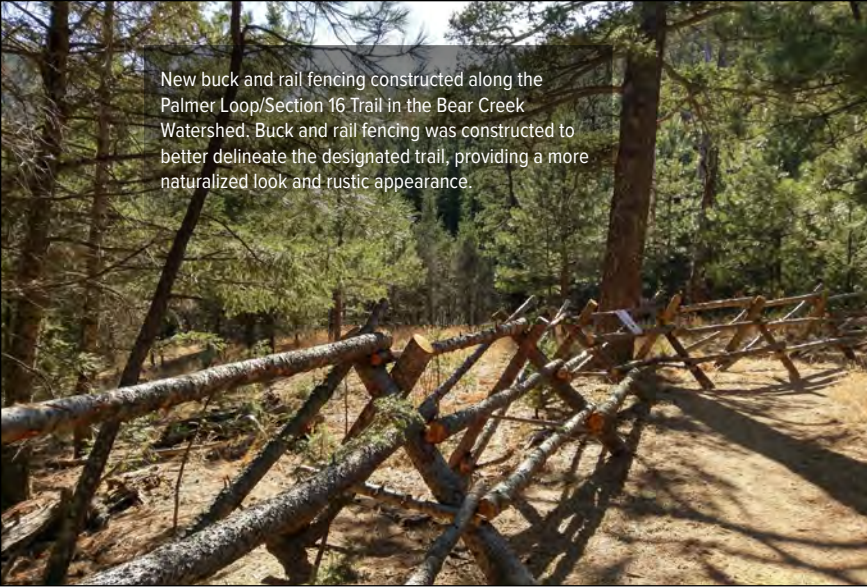
Since 2012, 162 individuals have been trained through this program, which has significantly helped to increase the capacity of full-time stewardship groups like RMFI as well as local, regional, and state land management agencies to engage more volunteers, further leverage resources, and have greater on-the-ground impact.



Dr. Ross McCauley, Associate Professor of Biology at Fort Lewis College, lectures to Earth Corps students about plant adaptations in the Rocky Mountains. In 2016, students received lectures from nearly a dozen industry professionals and renowned experts in geography, botany, natural resource management, environmental leadership, and biology.



Students enrolled in the annual "Dirt Camp" work with RMFI staff to complete social trail closure and restoration in the Garden of the Gods Park. This camp is run in partnership with the Catamount Institute and actively engages 10-12 year olds in hands-on stewardship projects and environmental education lessons.



New buck and rail fencing constructed along the Palmer Loop/Section 16 Trail in the Bear Creek Watershed. Buck and rail fencing was constructed to better delineate the designated trail, providing a more naturalized look and rustic appearance.

ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES: RMFI is a leader in offering technical training opportunities for volunteers, crew leaders, and partner organizations relating to advanced trail and restoration techniques. In 2016, RMFI led three advanced training opportunities focused on trail finishing techniques, construction of buck and rail fencing, and tool maintenance. In total, RMFI engaged an additional 22 community volunteers, many of them crew leaders certified through the Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training.

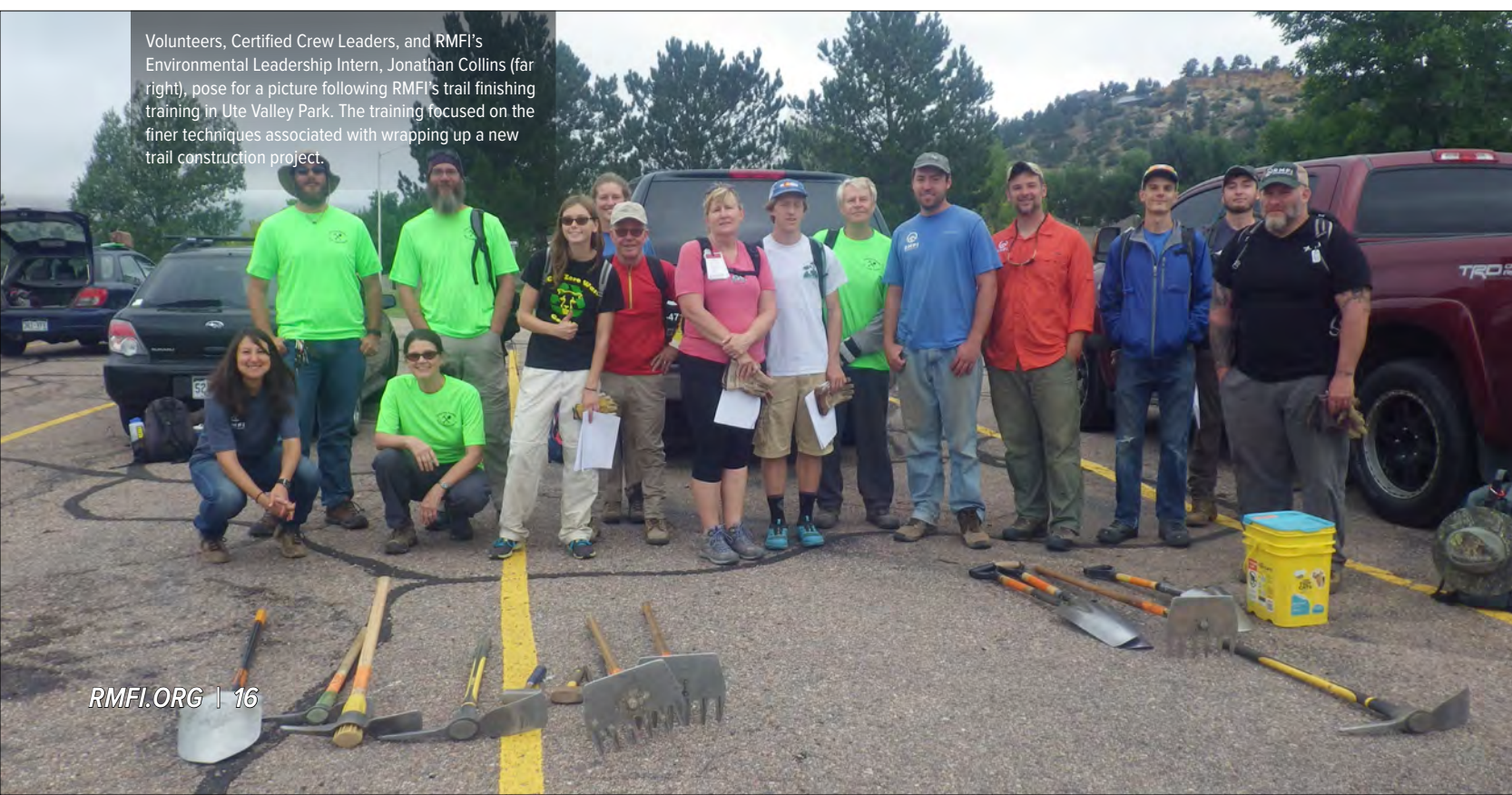
The trail finishing training was held in August 2016 in partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and Friends of

Ute Valley, and focused on the nuances of completing the final touches of new trail construction. Volunteers worked to wrap up the new Ridge Trail located on the eastern side of Ute Valley Park, fine tuning specific pieces of the trail.

In October 2016, RMFI led a training on buck and rail fence construction along the Palmer Loop/Section 16 Trail in the Bear Creek Watershed. Seen in the picture above, buck and rail fencing is a specialized type of fence that can be constructed with on-site timber using hand-tools (provided land manager's approval for harvesting), presents a more rustic appearance, and is included in more and more of the region's parks' master plans as an option. Buck and rail fencing is particularly effective in areas where thinning of dense forested areas can produce fencing components, and is helpful for effectively delineating designated trail corridors.

In November 2016, RMFI led a workshop on trail tool maintenance and repair at the RMFI office. The end of the season is a great time to catch up on maintenance and repair of hand tools. Throughout the training, RMFI covered the basics of how to inspect tools, sharpen tools, repair tools, mark tools, and prepare them for off-season storage.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIP: RMFI's Environmental Leadership Internship (ELI) gives motivated undergraduate and graduate students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience co-leading field-based trail and restoration projects throughout the Pikes Peak Region. Student interns play a dynamic and integral role in the planning and implementation of RMFI's projects.



Volunteers, Certified Crew Leaders, and RMFI's Environmental Leadership Intern, Jonathan Collins (far right), pose for a picture following RMFI's trail finishing training in Ute Valley Park. The training focused on the finer techniques associated with wrapping up a new trail construction project.



Members of a Southwest Conservation Corps crew work to construct the new summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristos. The youth corps crew worked with RMFI for 2 hitches (18 days) on the project in 2016 and will be back in 2017 for 4 hitches.

RMFI hosted three ELI's in 2016: Tracy Jacobs, Austen Hawley, and Jonathan Collins. These interns honed environmental stewardship and leadership skills as they assisted RMFI field staff with project implementation. The intern's primary responsibility was to coordinate with RMFI field instructors and assist with planning and leading volunteer days on various trail and restoration projects. While on-site, the ELI assisted RMFI field instructors and engaged volunteers in project tasks, oversaw safety and project goals, and carried out education objectives.

WORK STUDY INTERNS: RMFI works with Colorado College to provide work study internships for students needing to meet their financial aid requirements. Interns work with RMFI on a variety of different projects throughout the semester including data entry, marketing and outreach, and events management. In 2016, RMFI had two work study students, Katherine Guerrero and Kaitlin Sherbert, who helped RMFI create an Earth Corps marketing video and field season recap video, enter volunteer data into our content management system, and assist with various events including the Earth Month Fashion Show and Greenie Awards and the Waldo 5K.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS: For the past decade, RMFI has been partnering with AmeriCorps-affiliated organizations that provide service opportunities, education, and job training to young adults aged 16 to 24. This mutually-beneficial working relationship with these teams enables us to accomplish impressive on-the-ground results via the dedicated multi-day and multi-week crews they provide while our expert field staff mentor the young participants with real-world on-the-job experience in conservation and public land stewardship. In addition, RMFI staff incorporate valuable educational lessons into each work week to give crew members additional skills and experience. Conservation crews spend a minimum of one week with us on any given project, enabling us to work efficiently with trained and knowledgeable work crews at our project sites that are less-accessible for our single-day Community Volunteer Stewardship Program.

In 2016, RMFI contracted with both the Southwest Conservation Corps and Mile High Youth Corps to complete critical trail and restoration projects at Kit Carson, Waldo Canyon, Barr Trail, Bear Creek, Cheyenne Mountain State Park, and Pikes Peak. In total, we engaged 89 youth conservation corps members who contributed nearly 6,200 hours of labor toward important projects in Southern Colorado.



Members of a Mile High Youth Corps crew pose near Robber's Roost on top of Cheyenne Mountain. The youth corps crew worked with RMFI for 3 weeks in the summer of 2016 to construct the new Dixon Trail, which will connect the southern end of Cheyenne Mountain State Park to the new trail circuit at the Top of the Mountain.

2016

RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

RMFI conducts effectiveness monitoring research of restoration and erosion control techniques we have implemented at our various project sites. All of our research is geared toward gaining a better understanding of how our work is positively impacting the environment. As part of our commitment to further education within the restoration field, RMFI also partners with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Colorado College to provide student research internships.

CITIZEN SCIENCE MONITORING PROGRAM: In 2016, RMFI began development of a new citizen science monitoring program to offer an additional avenue for community volunteers to engage with RMFI. Citizen science is the involvement of the public in community-driven scientific research. The new program should be completed in 2017 and will initially focus on approximately 5 monitoring locations. Citizen monitors will work with the program coordinator to collect data on vegetation, trail characteristics, and the success of restoration efforts to learn about trends and changes over time. Please contact RMFI if you are interested in getting involved!

MONITORING OF TRAIL AND RESTORATION TECHNIQUES: Because RMFI has a defined regional presence, we have the ability to complete post-project monitoring to assess effectiveness of all treatments implemented at all project sites. Consequently, we are able to refine techniques from year to year based on observations and lessons learned from each field season.

In 2014, RMFI began implementing a new trail maintenance technique, which involved the installation of subsurface stabilization structures to stabilize the trail tread and bring incised trail sections back up to grade. This technique was first utilized on Barr Trail after trail runners noted in a user survey that above-ground timber steps obstructed their stride. Consequently, RMFI experimented with subsurface stabilization structures to determine whether they'd have the same functionality as above-ground structures. Repeated photographs and numerous site visits in 2015 and 2016 revealed tremendous success with the subsurface structures, even with the highly-erosive Pikes Peak Granite and high recreational use on Barr Trail. In 2015, RMFI utilized subsurface stabilization



Before and after pictures of a closed and restored social trail in Garden of the Gods Park. Social trails are often user-created, meaning they do not incorporate the natural features of the landscape and are not designed for sustainable use. RMFI will continue monitoring the success of its closure and restoration efforts at all project locations.

structures on an incised section of the Ute Trail in Garden of the Gods Park. The particular trail segment that was treated was incised by more than 2 feet in some places and also experienced high recreational use. Monitoring visits to the area in 2016 revealed the structures were continuing to function as intended. The technique has since been replicated on other trail segments in the Garden of the Gods Park and Stratton Open Space.

In 2016, RMFI also experimented with a new trail feature in the Garden of the Gods to better accommodate uphill bicycle traffic along a trail segment that already had timber steps installed. RMFI worked along an approximate 100-yard segment of the Ute Trail just north of the Ute Memorial to install sub-steps along both bottom corners of each timber step. Ease of use by cyclists was then monitored over a short period of time and feedback was solicited among the bicycling community. Feedback to date has been positive and informative, with some suggesting the feature should be built along a greater width of each main step. The durability and use of the sub-steps will continue to be monitored and the feature may be replicated in other project sites where applicable.

A major focus for RMFI at several of its project locations in the Pikes Peak Region is social trail closure and restoration. In 2016, RMFI closed and restored nearly 5.5 miles of social trails in over a dozen local parks and open spaces. RMFI continues to experiment with different methods to deter use of areas under restoration. The primary goal for restoration is to integrate the disturbed area back into the surrounding landscape through "natural landscaping." This process includes mimicking the natural vegetation, contour, and microhabitat of the adjacent undisturbed area. In other cases, deadfall and different types of fences provide visual obstructions to block off access.

Monitoring site visits in 2016 to assess effectiveness of social trail closure techniques and public adherence to closures revealed mixed results. In several areas, all closures had been respected by users and revegetation efforts were beginning to take hold in the restored areas. However, in areas where the social trails had been popular destinations for users prior to their closure, RMFI observed evidence of continued use. Because social trail closures not only involve physical closure of the trail, but also behavior change among the user, it often takes time and multiple closure efforts before the closures persist. RMFI also observes user patterns



Circled in yellow, these sub-steps installed along a 100-yard section of the Ute Trail in the Garden of the Gods Park help facilitate uphill bicycle (and unicycle) travel. RMFI first experimented with this feature in 2016 and will continue to monitor their effectiveness for use in other applicable project locations.



Before and after pictures of subsurface stabilization structures that were installed along a deeply incised section of the Ute Trail in Garden of the Gods Park. These subsurface stabilization structures help stabilize trail tread and bring incised trail sections back up to grade, but without any above-ground timbers to obstruct users' strides.



A site visit to the Glen Cove Wetland along the Pikes Peak Highway revealed high survival rates of willow stakes that had been planted in the wetland during revegetation projects. RMFI has completed numerous restoration projects at impacted areas along the Pikes Peak Highway since 2002.

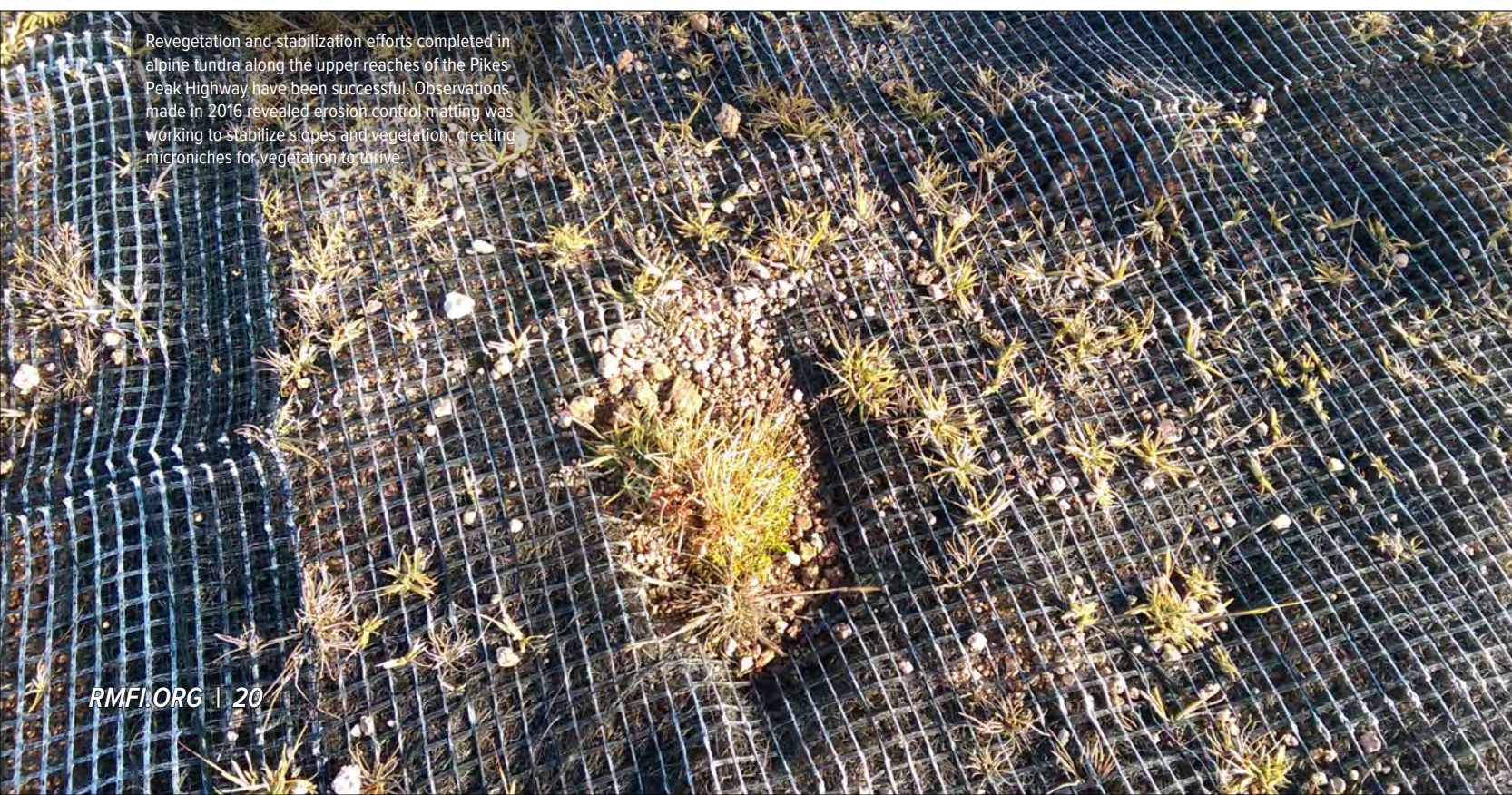
to make informed decisions about how best to manage the development of undesigned trails

PIKES PEAK EROSION CONTROL AND RESTORATION RESEARCH PROJECT: Erosion control and restoration projects on Pikes Peak were initiated by RMFI in 2002 after the Sierra Club successfully settled a lawsuit against the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Forest Service alleging violations of the Clean Water Act under Section 401. Since that time, the City of Colorado Springs has been diligently working to address the stormwater runoff by paving the highway and constructing erosion control structures to reduce sediment and attenuate stormwater flow.

Since 2005, RMFI has completed more than a dozen restoration projects within the North Crystal Creek, Ski Creek, Glen Cove Creek, Severy Creek, Tin Barn, and West Fork of Beaver Creek basins. The projects have resulted in extensive stream channel restoration and stabilization, restoration of forest lands, and restoration of numerous wetlands that had become inundated with several feet of sediment. Effectiveness monitoring is continuing for each project, and is designed to meet the following objectives:

- Assess the effectiveness of rock cross vane structures to provide grade control in high gradient, ephemeral first order streams.
- Assess the effectiveness of vegetation treatments to restore degraded areas found in zones from the montane to the alpine.
- Assess the effectiveness of restoration techniques to restore degraded wetland areas.

Site visits, repeat photographs, and measurements completed in 2016 revealed tremendous success at all project locations. Impacted areas of alpine tundra along the upper reaches of the Pikes Peak Highway that had been previously treated with erosion control matting and revegetated with an alpine seed mix and transplanted bunch grasses is recovering with great success. Survival rates of transplants were well above 80% and natural reseeding processes were also occurring. Access roads into the Tin Barn Wetland that had been closed and restored were all stable with sufficient vegetation establishment observed. In addition, sedge plugs, spruce saplings, and native grass seeds that had been transplanted into the Tin Barn Wetland itself were thriving. Banks around the wetland that had been stabilized with contour logs as well as a headcut that was restored were all functioning properly.



Revegetation and stabilization efforts completed in alpine tundra along the upper reaches of the Pikes Peak Highway have been successful. Observations made in 2016 revealed erosion control matting was working to stabilize slopes and vegetation, creating microniches for vegetation to thrive.



OCTOBER 2013



MAY 2016



SEPTEMBER 2016

A three-year photo series showing the impact of RMFI's restoration work in the Camp Creek drainage of the Waldo Canyon burn scar. Site visits to the area in 2016 revealed tremendous vegetation growth and continued stabilization of hillslopes that were once devoid of vegetation. RMFI's work is helping to improve downstream water resources and enhance watershed health and function.

Work in Glen Cove Wetland was completed in 2008, and largely focused on removing sediment that had deposited in the wetland and stabilizing the gully channel entering the wetland to minimize additional sedimentation. Over 763 feet of channel was stabilized with retaining walls and check dams. The banks of the gully were also seeded with a native seed mix and covered with erosion control matting. Observations in 2016 revealed high revegetation rates and continued stabilization of the channel.

The Severy Creek Wetland is the largest ongoing restoration site of the Pikes Peak Watershed and Erosion Control Project. The wetland covers approximately 14.6 acres of land within the Severy Creek Basin on the northeastern flank of Pikes Peak. Like other wetlands along the Pikes Peak Highway, many tons of sediment have buried the fragile peat soils and their associated plant species. Over the last 5 years, RMFI has worked to restore areas of the Severy Creek Wetland affected by the growing alluvial fan and mitigate the potential threat of additional sedimentation into un-impacted areas. Work has largely focused on stabilization, erosion control, and revegetation of denuded areas with native species. RMFI completed high priority stream stabilization work with an AmeriCorps crew in 2012 and ran a 1-week long Volunteer Vacation program to revegetate and stabilize key areas of the wetland, alluvial fan, and stream channel in 2013. RMFI ran another 1-week Volunteer Vacation program to transplant approximately 630 native bunchgrasses and cinquefoil shrubs just west of the wetland. Between 2014 and 2016, RMFI worked with Mile High Youth Corps, volunteers, the Sierra Club, and Friends of the Peak to collect native seed and redistribute the seed across the wetland, and also worked to revegetate bare areas with native willows, cinquefoil (shrub form), fescue, trisetum, and phlox. Site visits to the area in 2016 revealed impressive restoration success in the wetland, although some willow casualty was observed from over-winter and elk browse. This area will be a major focus of work objectives during the 2017 field season.

WALDO CANYON BURN SCAR MONITORING: On June 23, 2012, the Waldo Canyon Fire broke out just west of Colorado Springs. Seventeen days later the fire had burned over 18,000 acres. The loss of nearly 350 homes made it the second-most destructive wildfire in the state's history (the Black Forest Fire of 2013 currently ranks first). RMFI has been involved in post-fire restoration efforts in the Waldo Canyon burn scar since 2012. RMFI's efforts have largely focused on erosion control and stabilization projects in Blodgett Peak Open Space, Camp Creek, Wellington Gulch, Waldo Canyon, and Williams Canyon. Thousands of log-erosion barriers and other grade control structures have been built by RMFI in the burn scar, and hundreds of pounds of native seed have been spread to encourage revegetation of bare hillslopes. Site visits completed in 2016 to areas of the Camp Creek drainage revealed significant vegetation growth and enhanced stabilization throughout the drainage. RMFI has spent extensive time within Camp Creek restoring an access road that was utilized in the construction of sediment detention basins within the drainage, constructing log-erosion barriers and other grade control structures, and reseeding impacted areas. A riparian area within the drainage is also the site where RMFI planted nearly 1,000 willows in early June 2016. Survival rates of the willows appeared very high, and quantitative measures will be completed on the willow project in spring 2017. The signs of regrowth in the burn scar are very encouraging!

2016

VOLUNTEER AND WORK STATISTICS



2,006
VOLUNTEERS



444
WORKDAYS



14,499
VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$376,381
VOLUNTEER VALUE



597
YOUTH AGES
8-24



89
CONSERVATION CORPS
MEMBERS



71
COMMUNITY GROUPS
AND SCHOOLS



18
PROJECT
SITES



11
ACRES OF NOXIOUS
WEEDS REMOVED



87
POUNDS OF
NATIVE SEED



28,664
LINEAR FT. OF SOCIAL
TRAIL RESTORED



8,667
LINEAR FT. OF
NEW TRAIL BUILT



13,193
LINEAR FT. OF
TRAIL MAINTAINED



1,000
WILLOWS
PLANTED



1,006
STABILIZATION/EROSION
CONTROL STRUCTURES
BUILT



4,999
VEGETATION
PLUGS TRANSPLANTED

North Cheyenne Canyon Park, Justin Peterson

2016

PROJECT SITES: SOUTHERN COLORADO AND EASTERN UTAH



EASTERN UTAH:

1. Indian Creek Canyon

SOUTHERN COLORADO:

1. Barr Trail
2. Bear Creek Watershed
3. Black Forest Regional Park
4. Blodgett Peak Open Space
5. Cheyenne Mountain State Park
6. Garden of the Gods Park
7. High Drive
8. Kit Carson Peak/Challenger Point
9. North Cheyenne Canon Park
10. Palmer Park
11. Pikes Peak
12. Pineries Open Space
13. Red Rock Canyon Open Space
14. Shelf Road Recreation Area
15. Stratton Open Space
16. Ute Valley Park
17. Waldo Canyon Burn Scar

2016

FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As a community-based nonprofit, RMFI relies on the generous donations from individuals, businesses, organizations, and others to make the work we do possible. To raise awareness and support for our mission, we participate in a number of different community events each year that are not only a lot of fun, but help us connect with passionate members of our community who want to support our cause. Take a look at some of our event highlights from 2016!

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL: Since 2005, Mountain Chalet, a locally owned and operated outdoor equipment store, has been hosting the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival as a fundraiser for RMFI. The event showcases phenomenal short films focused on exploration of remote landscapes and mountain cultures to adrenaline-fueled action sports. In 2016, the event was expanded to two nights and still sold out both nights. The proceeds raised from the event support RMFI's mission of conserving and protecting treasured public landscapes in Southern Colorado.

BIKES, BLUES, BREWS, AND BBQ: This year marked the first year of this event in partnership with the Buffalo Lodge Bicycle Resort located in beautiful Manitou Springs, Colorado. The event showcased barbeque from Smokin' J's BBQ; live music by the Tribe, the Jamsmith Band, and the Justus League; and beer from New Belgium and Tommyknocker. Proceeds from the event beer sales benefited RMFI's trail and restoration work in Southern Colorado.

BREWERY BENEFIT NIGHTS: Besides beautiful scenery, Colorado Springs has over 20 local breweries that all give back to the community in some way. In 2016, RMFI partnered with Bristol Brewing and Great Storm Brewing on their beer benefit nights, which return \$1 from each beer sale to the participating nonprofit. Beer and trail work just seem to go together, and both events were great opportunities to tell our story, garner additional support for our mission, and meet new community members interested in volunteering with us and supporting our cause.



A close-up shot of RMFI's table at the first annual Bikes, Blues, Brews, and BBQ event held on October 1, 2016 at the historic Buffalo Lodge Bicycle Resort located in beautiful Manitou Springs, Colorado. The event featured local barbeque, live music, and beer, and benefited RMFI's trail and restoration work in Southern Colorado.

EARTH MONTH FASHION SHOW AND GREENIE AWARDS: This event first began in 2009 in celebration of Earth Month and as a way to recognize local "green" individuals and businesses, showcase sustainable fashion, and raise awareness and financial resources for a local environmental nonprofit. Since that time, this annual "green carpet" event has grown to be one of the most unique and preeminent events in Colorado Springs and has raised over \$380,000 for 3 nonprofit organizations. For the past 4 years, RMFI has been the beneficiary of this amazing event, which has supported our important conservation and stewardship work in the Pikes Peak Region. The event epitomizes the philanthropic spirit of Veda Salon and Spa whose mission is to care for the world we live in and in the ways we give back to society.

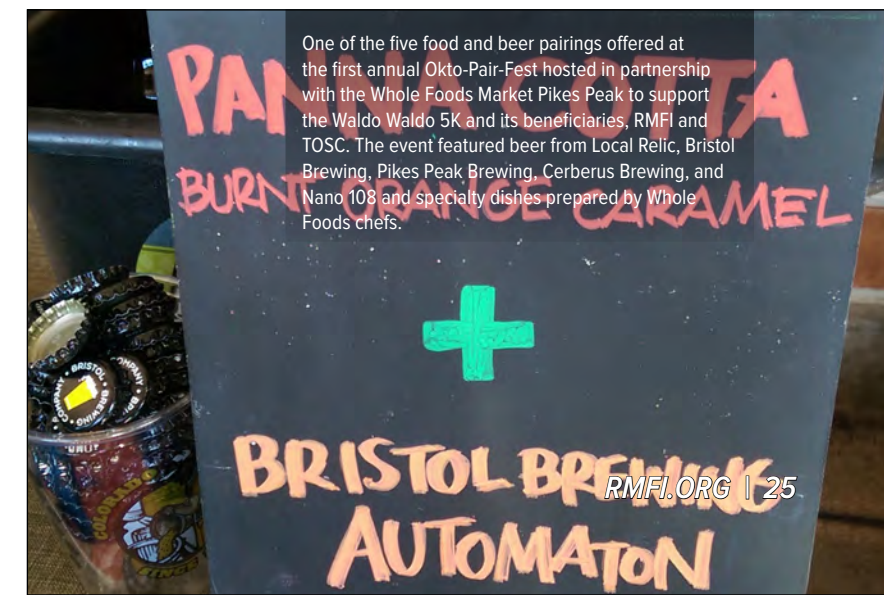
INDY GIVE! 2016: Give! is an annual philanthropic platform that encourages everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back and get involved with local nonprofits, with a particular emphasis on catalyzing philanthropy among those 36 years old and younger. Over the last 7 years, Give! has helped more than 200 local nonprofits, including RMFI, raise over \$8 million from over 20,000 donors in the Pikes Peak region. As part of Give! 2016, RMFI participated in a number of fundraising events including Bikes and Brew, The Snow Ball 2, and the Bristol Give! Happy Hour.

OKTO-PAIR-FEST: Whole Foods Market Pikes Peak teamed up with the Waldo Waldo 5K and its beneficiaries, RMFI and the Trails and Open Space Coalition, to host the first annual Okto-Pair-Fest. The event featured craft brews from Local Relic, Bristol Brewing, Pikes Peak Brewing, Cerberus Brewing, and Nano 108, which were paired with specialty dishes from in-house chefs at Whole Foods. All proceeds benefited the Waldo Waldo 5k.

WALDO WALDO 5K: The Waldo Waldo 5K was set up as a response to the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012. The 5K raises money for The Waldo Waldo Fund, a fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, which supports natural disaster and fire recovery efforts as well as trails and open space maintenance in Colorado Springs and the surrounding community. Money is granted from this fund to the primary event beneficiaries, which include RMFI and the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC). This year marked the 5th year (and largest year in terms of attendance) of the event, which has now raised over \$100,000 for TOSC and RMFI.



Runners take to the streets of downtown Colorado Springs for the 5th annual Waldo Waldo 5k benefiting RMFI and the Trails and Open Space Coalition. In 2016, a record 3,524 Waldos and Wendas participated in the event, making it the biggest year of the race to date.



One of the five food and beer pairings offered at the first annual Okto-Pair-Fest hosted in partnership with the Whole Foods Market Pikes Peak to support the Waldo Waldo 5K and its beneficiaries, RMFI and TOSC. The event featured beer from Local Relic, Bristol Brewing, Pikes Peak Brewing, Cerberus Brewing, and Nano 108 and specialty dishes prepared by Whole Foods chefs.

2016

RMFI STAFF

As a full-time professional environmental stewardship organization, RMFI relies on its experienced staff to carry out the organization's mission of completing high-quality, volunteer-based trail and restoration projects in coordination with local, regional, state, and federal land management agencies. Our staff have dozens of years of collective experience and are a critical part of the organization. Our 2016 staff roster is below along with their answers to the question, "What 3 items would you take with you if you were deserted on an island."



Name: Jennifer Peterson
Title: Executive Director
Started with RMFI: September 2014
3 Items: Chips/salsa, fishing pole, and my cat, Lilly.



Name: Joe Lavorini
Title: Program Director
Started with RMFI: April 2009
3 Items: Tenkara fishing rod, a smart and willing companion, and my 1976 Myron Cope's The Official Terrible Towel.



Name: Andy Riter
Title: Program Coordinator
Started with RMFI: June 2013
3 Items: Scuba gear & compressor, a good long book, and a few woodworking handtools.



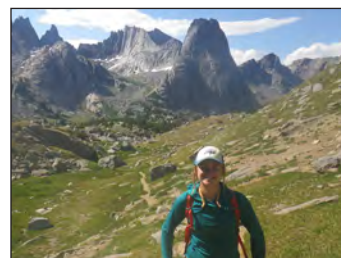
Name: Molly Mazel
Title: Volunteer Coordinator
Started with RMFI: March 2014
3 Items: A library, a pair of bongo drums, and my canine life mate, Lucky.



Name: Liz Nichol
Title: Office Manager
Started with RMFI: January 2003
3 Items: Pocket knife, pillow, and a partridge in a pear tree.



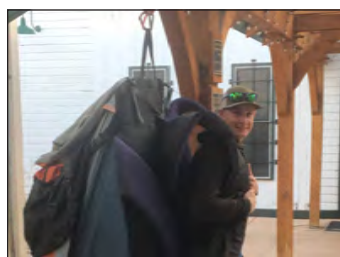
Name: Kelly Kaufmann
Title: Field Coordinator
Started with RMFI: April 2015
3 Items: Pizza, boat, and a fashionable yet sensible sun hat.



Name: Holly Newell
Title: Field Coordinator
Started with RMFI: March 2016
3 Items: Duct tape, a multi tool, and a notebook with a picture of my dogs on the cover.



Name: Mark Tatro
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: September 2014
3 Items: My dog, Maggie (for entertainment), my cat, Maple (for her hunting prowess), and my hat (for the sun).



Name: Chris Ullom
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: May 2015
3 Items: A River Runs Through It, my dog, Kaluah, and my running shoes.



Name: Donnie Ferns
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: April 2016
3 Items: A bag of wild berry Skittles, a toothbrush, and a personal locator beacon.



Name: James Osaer
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: April 2016
3 Items: Crank Yanker, boogie board, and my dog, Hope.



Name: Kate Bauder
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: April 2016
3 Items: My dog, Scout, a surfboard, and a device to play music.



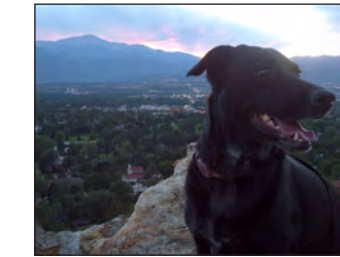
Name: Alex Hladky
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: April 2016
3 Items: Climbing shoes, an acoustic guitar, and Extrovert IPA.



Name: Evan Cox
Title: Field Instructor
Started with RMFI: June 2016
3 Items: A boombox, 100 ft. of Paracord, and my hammock.



Name: Sigrid Meadows
Title: Administrative Assistant
Started with RMFI: November 2016
3 Items: A large computer, a very large solar charger and hope that satellite technology can locate me!



Name: Lucky
Title: Office Dog
Started with RMFI: March 2014
3 Items: Food (lots and lots of it. I love food), rabbits (the fast ones, but some slower ones would be good, too), and my human best friend.



Name: Haley Leslie-Bole
Title: Field Instructor
With RMFI: April-November 2016



Name: Justin Meyers
Title: Field Instructor
With RMFI: April-May 2016



Name: Sam Weiss
Title: Field Instructor
With RMFI: June-July 2016

STUDENT INTERNS

- Jonathan Collins, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Katherine Guerrero, Colorado College
- Austen Hawley, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Tracy Jacobs, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Kaitlin Sherbert, Colorado College
- Madeleine Tucker, Colorado College

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

- Rich Broyles
- Carol Large
- Lori Lilly
- Pete Rodas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ian Kalmanowitz, *President*
- Lori Nicholson, *Treasurer*
- Emilie Gray, *Secretary*
- Eric Billmeyer, *Member*
- Karole Campbell, *Member*
- Lee Derr, *Member*
- Heidi Sinclair, *Member*
- Mike Smith, *Member*
- Randy Smith, *Member*



In May 2016, RMFI board and staff took a field trip to the Garden of the Gods to learn more about our history of working in the park. We were able to visit key project sites that we'd worked at years ago, and also visited new project sites for potential future work.

2016

RMFI FALL SHINDIG

Each year, the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center hosts RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG, which recognizes RMFI's many volunteers, funders, supporters, and other folks who make our work possible. The 2016 ShinDIG was a wonderful event that featured live music from The Mitguards, a wonderful meal from the Picnic Basket, an awards ceremony, and photo contest display of finalists from RMFI's 4th annual NATURE! Photo Contest.

FALL SHINDIG SPONSORS:

Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center
Kirkpatrick Bank
The Mitguards
Ian and Carrie Kalmanowitz
Mountain Chalet

Picnic Basket Catering
Pocket Pals Trail Maps
Tim Davis Art Images
Justin Peterson Photography
Rick and Cheryl Walker

AWARD WINNERS:

Funder of the Year: *Chelise and Jeff Foster, Waldo Waldo 5K*
Stewardship Partner of the Year: *Friends of Cheyenne Canyon*
Land Management Partner of the Year: *Loretta McElhiney, Colorado Fourteener Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service*
Volunteer Group of the Year: *Colorado College*
Volunteer of the Year: *Tracy Jacobs*

NATURE! PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS:

Restoration: George Lee, Dean Waits
Mountains: Andrew Ketsdever (Staff Pick), Chuck Rasco
Flora/Fauna: Andrew Ketsdever, Justin Peterson (Grand Prize Winner)
Interaction: David Deitemeyer, Mary Ellen Lee



Rock Star Volunteers being recognized at RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG in November 2016. Rock Star Volunteers are those who have volunteered with RMFI 5 times or more during the year. In 2016, we ended up with 43 rock stars, the most in the organization's history. We simply couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers - thank you!

RMFI Fall ShinDIG, Justin Peterson

2016

ROCK STAR VOLUNTEERS

RMFI's volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. Each and every year, we actively engage and educate thousands of community volunteers who literally give their blood, sweat, and tears while helping us complete impactful trail and restoration projects throughout Southern Colorado. Rock Star Volunteers represent those who have volunteered with RMFI 5 or more times throughout the year, and are listed below. Thank you, rock stars!

ROCK STAR VOLUNTEERS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sam Belew | 23. Joshua Hutchison |
| 2. Alan Bridges | 24. Tracy Jacobs |
| 3. Rich Broyles | 25. Izzy Lackner |
| 4. Bruce Cary | 26. George Lee |
| 5. Liberty Christianson | 27. Lori Lilly |
| 6. Jonathan Collins | 28. John Magliano |
| 7. Daniel Downs | 29. Joel Marx |
| 8. Denise Downs | 30. Taylor Metzger |
| 9. Steve Driska | 31. Michael Montgomery |
| 10. Carter Eng | 32. Albert Nelson |
| 11. John Etzel | 33. Eric Peterson |
| 12. Ethan Flanagan | 34. Brian Picklesimer |
| 13. Michael Flanagan | 35. Tyler Polk |
| 14. Thomas Geoghan | 36. Lucas Rolo |
| 15. Aiden Giuffre | 37. Mike Scott |
| 16. Tristan Giuffre | 38. Kaitlin Sherbert |
| 17. Jamie Goins | 39. Greg Speights |
| 18. Katherine Guerrero | 40. Dan Stabler |
| 19. Austen Hawley | 41. Nathalia Tappan |
| 20. Paul Hiszem | 42. Madeleine Tucker |
| 21. Joshua Hudgins | 43. Don Tullos |
| 22. Nick Huffman | 44. Bob Weggel |



The finalists of RMFI's annual NATURE! Photo Contest on display at the RMFI Fall ShinDIG in November 2016. The photo contest features photos in 4 categories: Restoration, Mountains, Flora/Fauna, and Interaction, and is run as part of the annual Indy Give! campaign. Proceeds support RMFI's conservation and stewardship projects in Southern Colorado.

RMFI Fall ShinDIG, Justin Peterson



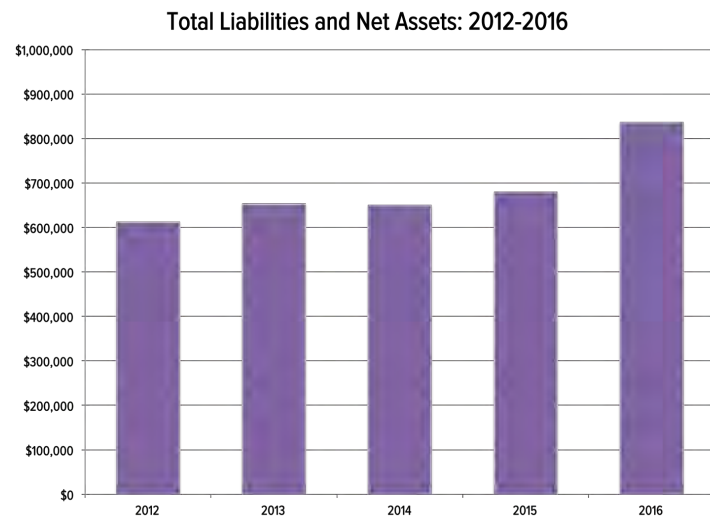
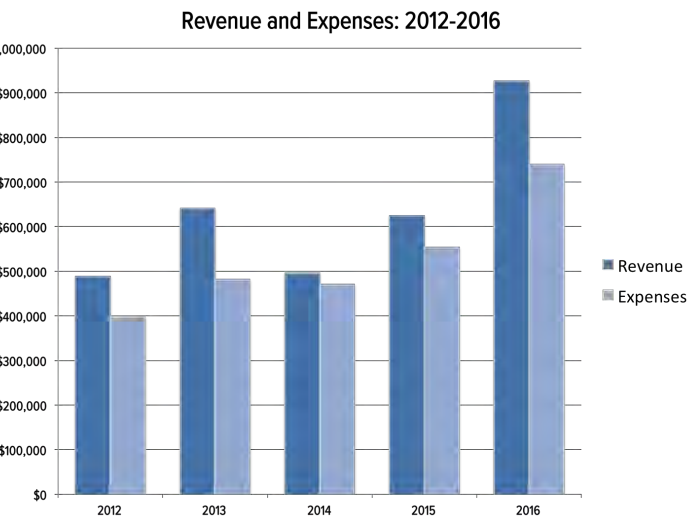
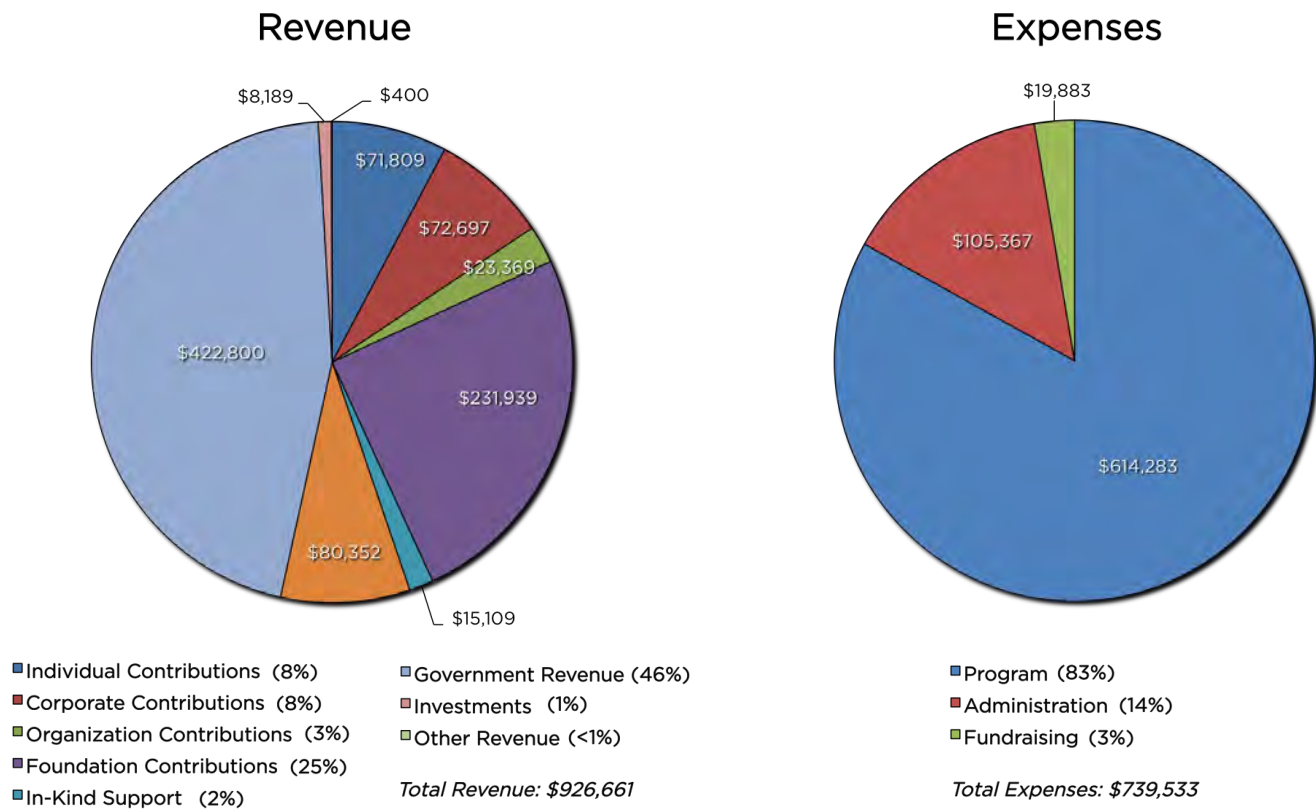
RMFI Program Coordinator, Andy Riter (right), poses with members of the Friends of Cheyenne Canyon who were awarded the 2016 Stewardship Partner of the Year at the annual RMFI Fall ShinDIG.

RMFI Fall ShinDIG, Justin Peterson

2016

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RMFI finished 2016 with a strong financial performance throughout the year. Both revenue and expenses were the highest in the organization's history due in large part to an increase in demand for our services. RMFI was also awarded a multi-year stewardship contract through the City of Colorado Springs and expanded its role at several projects sites, which necessitated an increase in staff numbers and the acquisition of additional office space, project equipment, and supplies. We are well-positioned for another busy field season in 2017, which will be supported through a combination of grants, government agreements, and donations.



RMFI staff pose with the \$10,000 check and letter from our "Mystery Friend." RMFI was the recipient of this generous donation in both 2015 and 2016 along with more than a dozen other local nonprofit organizations.

2016

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

GUIDESTAR PLATINUM DESIGNATION: In 2016, RMFI achieved Platinum status through Guidestar, the highest level of recognition possible. Guidestar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Their mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. By achieving Platinum status, RMFI is demonstrating its commitment to the highest level of transparency possible with regard to its staff, board, program outcomes, and financials.



MYSTERY DONOR: In December 2016, RMFI was a lucky recipient of an anonymous \$10,000 donation from our "Mystery Friend" who also gave an anonymous donation to RMFI for the same amount in 2015, and who has also given similar anonymous donations to more than a dozen local nonprofit organizations over the past 2 years. To this day, no one knows who the donor is, but all are forever grateful for their generosity and the impact they have made in the community.

ROBERT J. WEGGEL ENDOWMENT: In December 2016, Robert "Bob" Weggel, a longtime RMFI volunteer, donor, and supporter, announced his desire to establish the organization's first endowment, The Robert J. Weggel Endowment. The endowment will help support RMFI's ongoing and important conservation and stewardship work in Colorado. Bob received a B.S. degree in physics from MIT and studied applied mathematics on the graduate level at Harvard. From 1966 to 1996, he was an analytical engineer and applied mathematician at the Francis Bitter National Magnet Lab at MIT, where he became the assistant head of the Magnet Technology Division in 1992. From 1996 to 2002, he was a Senior Research Engineer at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he continued to design magnets. He has lectured at dozens of international magnet conferences and has written a hundred peer-reviewed journal articles. He brings to the board of the Chemical Sensitivity Foundation the perspective of a spouse of an MCS patient, and for several years he helped his wife Diane edit the newsletter of the Massachusetts Association for the Chemically Injured. He is also a former treasurer of the New England Chapter of the Sierra Club.



Robert J. Weggel.

GRANTORS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND SPONSORS

GOVERNMENT

Bureau of Land Management
 City of Colorado Springs
 City of Manitou Springs
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 Colorado Parks & Wildlife
 El Paso County Parks
 USDA Forest Service
 USDI Bureau of Land Management

ORGANIZATIONS

Barr Trail Mountain Race
 Broadmoor Garden Club
 Colorado Springs Philharmonic
 Colorado Publishing House
 Community First Foundation
 Leadership Pikes Peak
 Fountain Valley School
 Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
 Friends of Garden of the Gods
 Pikes Peak Fund
 Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc.
 RMFI Board of Directors
 Shift Thrift Store
 Texas Tech University
 The Mitguards
 Trout Unlimited-Cheyenne Mountain Chapter

United States Air Force Academy

FOUNDATIONS

AmazonSmile Foundation
 Clif Bar Family Foundation
 Community First Foundation
 El Pomar Foundation
 Garden of the Gods Foundation
 George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
 Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
 Kirkpatrick Family Fund
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 National Forest Foundation
 Petzl Foundation
 Pikes Peak Community Foundation
 Black Forest Fire Emergency Relief Fund
 Catalyst Fund
 EM & FE Everett Charitable Trust
 Indy Give! Fund
 Pikes Peak Conservation Fund
 Waldo Waldo Fund
 T. Rowe Price Foundation
 The Cornell Douglas Foundation
 The Lewis Family Foundation

BUSINESSES

24 Hour Fitness



Garden of the Gods, Justin Peterson

Accolade Fitness
 Adventure Miniature Golf & Batting Cages
 Adventures Out West
 American Adventure Expeditions
 Angler's Covey
 Axe and the Oak Distillery
 BIGS
 Boondock's Food & Fun
 Bristol Brewing Company
 Browns Canyon Rafting
 Burrowing Owl
 Cavender's
 Challenge Unlimited
 Cheryl Walker
 Cheyenne Mountain Resort and Country Club
 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
 CityROCK Climbing Center
 Colorado College
 Colorado Mountain Brewery
 Colorado Ski Furniture
 Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
 Colorado Springs Visitors Bureau
 ConocoPhillips
 Crazy Otto's Diner
 Dart Warz
 Deb Komitor Gallery
 Denver Art Museum
 Echo Canyon River Expeditions
 Farmers Insurance
 First Ascent Mountain School
 Fossil Brewing Company
 Front Range Barbeque
 Front Range Climbing Company

Galleries of Contemporary Art
 Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center
 Ghost Town Wild West Museum
 Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
 Great Storm Brewing
 Harris Corporation
 Il Vicino Wood Oven Pizza
 Iron Springs Chateau
 Jake and Telly's
 Johannes Hunter Jewelers
 Kirkpatrick Bank
 Kum & Go
 LexisNexis
 Lexus of Colorado Springs
 Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway
 Manitou Brewing Company
 Manitou Springs Adventures
 Mike's Camera-Colorado Springs
 Mountain Cellars
 Mountain Chalet
 Mountain Equipment Recyclers
 Mountain Shadows Management, LLC
 Natural Grocers
 New Belgium Brewery
 North Pole - Santa's Workshop
 Old Town Bike Shop
 Orange Leaf
 Osprey Packs
 Patagonia
 Phil Long
 Picnic Basket Catering
 Pikes Peak Mountain Bike Tours
 Pikes Peak-America's Mountain

Pizzeria Rustica
 Pocket Pals Trail Maps
 REI, Inc.
 Royal Gorge Rafting
 Sam's Club
 Something New Boutique
 SRAM
 Starbucks Coffee Company
 Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center
 Summerland Gardens
 TECC Painting
 The Antlers Hotel Colorado Springs
 The Boeing Company
 The Broadmoor
 The Egg and I
 The Famous Steakhouse
 The Mission Continues
 The Principal's Office
 The Village Merchants
 The Wild Goose Meeting House
 Trader Joe's
 Veda Salon & Spa
 Walmart
 Walter's Bistro
 Western Fireplace Supply
 Whole Foods - Pikes Peak
 Yarid's Shoes
 ZZE Plasma Creations

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
 Christopher Aaby
 Mitchell Ackerman
 David Adair



Indian Creek, Utah, George Lee

Angelina Adams
 Daniel Allen
 Gayle Allen
 Willie Allen
 Jillian and Gabe Alvarado
 Michael and Janelle Anderson
 Russell Asleson
 Barbara Barnhart
 Grouch Beckenhaupt
 Donna Becker
 Paul Beineke
 Samrawit Belew
 Ethan Beute
 Lynn and Liz Bevington
 Jeff Bieri
 Shana and Kip Biese
 Eric Billmeyer
 Grant Birkinbine
 Tim and Margaret Black
 Wayne and Pamela Bland
 Ally Bolger
 Kent Borges
 Kenneth and Judy Bowen
 Tony Bowerman
 Robert Boyd
 David Brackett
 Katherine Brady
 Edward Bray
 Steven Bremner
 Gary Brewington
 Alan Bridges
 Kate Bridgman
 Dale and Howard Brooks
 Keith Brown
 Kristin and Ed Brown

Nathan Brown
 Rich Broyles
 Tracy Bules
 Jack Busher
 Gary and Krista Butterworth
 Daniel Byrd
 Elizabeth Campbell
 Stephanie Cantu
 Joshua Carr
 Angela Case
 Dee and Diane Cavanaugh
 John Charland
 Kevin and Meredith Childs
 Jerry Clark
 Ralph Clark
 Todd Clayton
 Elliot Cohen
 Kathleen Cook
 Mark Copley
 Eric Corwin
 Brooke and Scott Cote
 Charles Cromwell
 Douglas Cunningham
 Justin Curnow
 Lorna Cwiak
 Stephen Dalfollo-Daley
 Paola Daley
 Susan Davies
 Dr. Erin Davis
 Tim Davis
 David Deitemeyer
 Diane Delano
 John and Jan Demmon
 Lee Derr
 David Deuble

Birgitta De Pree
 Stephanie DiCenzo
 Debbie Divine
 Clarissa Dominguez
 Bill and Cynthia Doty
 Cheryl Doughty
 Daniel Downs
 Denise Downs
 Theodore Dresie
 Steve and Janie Driska
 Nora Duane
 L Ducett
 Alison Dunlap
 Kathy Eans
 Steve and Monika Eckmann
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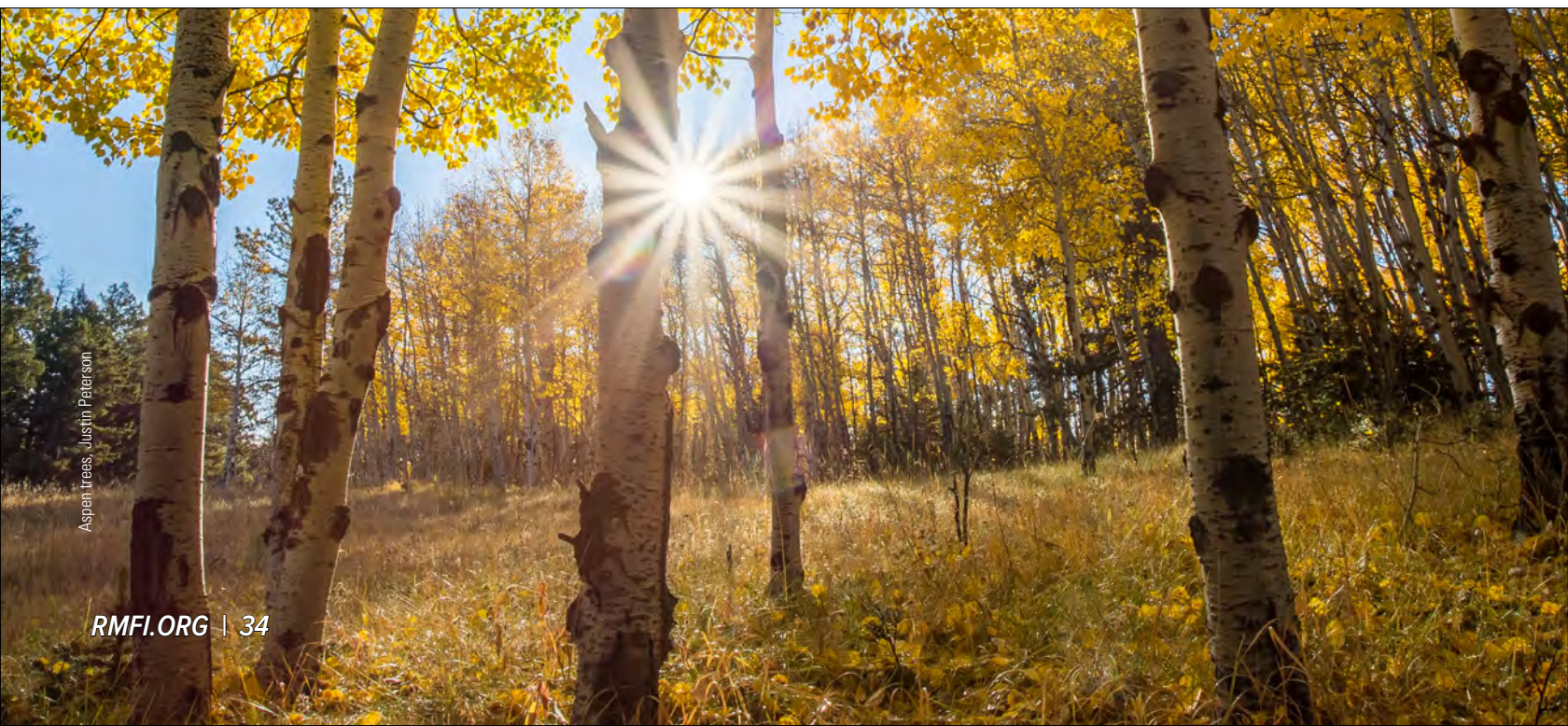
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Bear Creek Watershed, Jennifer Peterson



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