

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

2020 Board of Directors



Lee Derr, President, has been informed by natural systems and landscapes his entire life; whether the pastoral nature of his grandfather's farm in deep soiled Pennsylvania or hiking and canoeing, as a young man, within the basin and range of the Rocky Mountain West. As a result, Lee followed his passions in science and the outdoors toward a B.S from the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at Colorado State University. Employment at the Keystone Science School and Colorado Outdoor Education Center preceded a 35-year career in public and private K-18 science education. A Colorado College M.A.T. in Integrated Natural Sciences was added along the way. Currently, Lee is a faculty member at Colorado College as a Science Curriculum Specialist and Teacher Candidate, and M.A.T. Supervisor. Additionally, Lee has assisted with open space preservation in Southeastern Colorado through conservation easement monitoring with the Palmer Land Trust.



Jeff Mohrmann, Vice President, currently works at Morgan Stanley as a Financial Advisor. Jeff received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2004, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He obtained his law degree from Lewis and Clark College of Law, graduating in 2008. Jeff is active in the non-profit community, having served on several boards and advisory committees. He is currently a member of the Trails, Open Space and Parks Working Committee and the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, and volunteers his time with the El Paso County Bar Association Pro Bono Project and the Military Pro Bono Project. Jeff spends much of his free time exploring Colorado and the West via trail running and biking.



Jim Smith, Treasurer, is the owner of Mountain Chalet, Colorado's oldest specialty outdoor retailer, based in downtown Colorado Springs. Pursuing his passion for outdoor retail, Jim and his wife, Elaine, purchased Mountain Chalet in 2015. Previously, Jim was the VP of Strategic Development for Vail Resorts where he directed the evaluation of targeted ski resort acquisitions and strategic alliances, including financial and market feasibility, and synergy analysis. Serving as the VP of Real Estate for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Jim executed resort and community planning, development, construction, and asset management and directed overall strategic development. As VP of Development for Katell Properties, one of Los Angeles County's largest development firms, Jim led the development and asset management activities for a \$140mm real estate commercial portfolio. He is a board member for the Outdoor Industry Association, a nonprofit organization based in Colorado dedicated to the

conservation and stewardship of public lands in Southern Colorado. Jim holds a BS in Accounting from Syracuse University, a MBA from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Master of Real Estate Development from the University of Southern California. When not in the shop, Jim enjoys telemark skiing, rock climbing, fly-fishing, and trail running.



Jason Alwine has been a resident of Colorado Springs since moving to Colorado in 2001 after graduating from Ball State University. He is an urban planner and landscape architect with a private consulting firm providing design services in comprehensive land-use planning, urban design and landscape architectural services. Jason has managed and participated in multi-disciplinary design teams on a variety of public- and private-sector project types from conceptual planning through construction documentation for various sized projects. Jason is actively involved in the community serving as former Chairman of the Colorado Springs Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Working Committee, former Chairman of the Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates Trails Committee as well as a Certified Trail Crew Leader. Jason is an avid mountain biker and loves spending time outside exploring the trails this city and state have to offer.



Chris Lieber is pleased to bring his professional experience as a landscape architect and passion for the outdoors to the RMFI Board. Mr. Lieber is a long-time Colorado Springs resident and former manager of the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program for the City of Colorado Springs. He currently is a principal at N.E.S. Inc. Beyond his professional life, he enjoys serving in a volunteer capacity within the Colorado Springs community and adventure travel with his family, including cycling across the U.S. on a bicycle built for four.



Melissa McCormick has spent most of her career working for state and local parks in Maryland and Colorado. She holds a B.A. in Biology and a(n) M.S. in Forestry with a concentration in recreation. She is an avid backcountry traveller (foot and paddle), Leave No Trace Trainer and Certified Interpretive Guide, and has served as a volunteer ski patroller and Girl Scout leader. Melissa first became interested in sustainable recreation while working for the Boy Scouts of America at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and she began volunteering for the local chapter of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy during graduate school. Inspired by their summers in New Mexico, Melissa and her family moved to Colorado Springs in 2013. In addition to sustainable recreation, Melissa is interested in conservation of native plant communities, noxious weed management and ecological restoration. She is currently working to build a native gardening business.



Mike Smith enjoyed a 35-year career with the U.S. Forest Service and had the good fortune to manage an array of resource programs during his tenure with the Forest Service. For varying time periods, he was responsible for the timber, fire, range, wildlife, watershed, heritage resources, scenic byways, visitor information, environmental education, and wilderness programs. A highlight of his career was managing the Sangre de Cristo, Greenhorn Mountain, and Spanish Peaks Wildernesses. He also served on the board of directors for the Society for Wilderness Stewardship and the Canon City Area Recreation and Park District. He was a founding board

member for two non-profit National Scenic Byway organizations and currently serves on the board of directors for the Fremont County Sanitation District. Additionally, he is an intermittent employee for the Canon City Fire Protection District working local and national wildland fire incidents on an "as needed" basis.



Lily Weissgold is currently a junior at Colorado College pursuing dual degrees in Microeconomics and Environmental Policy. She hails from Burlington, Vermont where her love for the outdoors was fostered at a young age. Growing up in Burlington also sparked her interest and passion in community engagement. Throughout her time in Colorado Springs, Lily has had the opportunity to intern and volunteer for many wonderful organizations throughout the city. In addition to her service on the RMFI board, she serves on the TOPS working committee for the City of Colorado Springs. In her spare time, she enjoys baking bread, exploring the city parks system, and reading.