



RMFI

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that I present to you our annual report for 2023. As we take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements, challenges, and aspirations, I am filled with gratitude for the collective efforts of our dedicated team, volunteers, donors, and supporters.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in advancing our mission of conserving and protecting public lands in Southern Colorado. Through a collaboration of efforts and unwavering commitment, we have laid the foundation for a stronger and more cohesive organization. We improved several operational efficiencies, including moving our office to a more conducive location, modernizing our technology, automating processes, and bringing on five new board members. All these milestones have enabled our staff and volunteers to spend more time in the field doing impactful hands-on work. In fact, during 2023 we served on public lands for over 546 days at 18 unique locations.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of our Rocky Mountain Field Institute family. Your passion, dedication, and hard work have been instrumental in our success. Whether you are on the front lines cutting trail, behind the scenes managing operations, volunteering with us, serving on our board, or providing support through your generous contributions, you play a vital role in our collective impact.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters. Your belief in our mission fuels our work and inspires us to strive for excellence every day.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Rocky Mountain Field Institute and the special places we serve. Together, we are making a difference!

Sincerely,



Jolie NeSmith

OUR CORE VALUES

Excellence in programs. We are committed to providing the highest standard of programming for our project partners, supporters, and participants.

EXCELLENCE

Achieving the highest quality results possible and taking pride in the work completed.

INTEGRITY

Doing what is right, even when no one is watching, and being true to RMFI's mission.

STEWARDSHIP

Caring for and responsibly managing natural, human, and material resources.

COMMUNITY

Bringing people together while creating a sense of belonging, connection, and shared purpose.

INCLUSIVITY

Respecting and valuing all people and their experiences, skills, and insights.

OUR MISSION

Rocky Mountain Field Institute conserves and protects public lands in Southern Colorado through volunteer-based trail and restoration projects, environmental education, and restoration research.

OUR VISION

Rocky Mountain Field Institute envisions a world where our work fosters vibrant healthy natural systems that are respected and cared for by the public.



2023 PROJECT LOCATIONS

For the past 42 years, RMFI has accomplished its mission by completing a wide variety of important trail and restoration projects in recreational areas throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. RMFI has received national, state, and local recognition for its stewardship work that is widely regarded as some of the finest work of its kind accomplished in the region.

Our stewardship model centers on community engagement as a means of connecting people to the outdoors, providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, and fostering an ethic of environmental responsibility and stewardship. From recreational trail work to watershed protection and forest mitigation, our work keeps Colorado's great outdoors great.



ALPINE

Devils Playground Reroute – Pikes Peak
Broken Hand Pass – Sangre de Cristos



MONTANE

Bear Creek Watershed
Gray Back Peak Trail
Guffey Gorge
Pancake Rocks Trail



FOOTHILLS

Austin Bluffs Open Space
Barr Trail
Black Forest
Blodgett Open Space
Garden of the Gods Park
Palmer Park
Red Rock Canyon Open Space
Shelf Road Recreation Area
Stratton Open Space
University Park - UCCS
Ute Valley Park



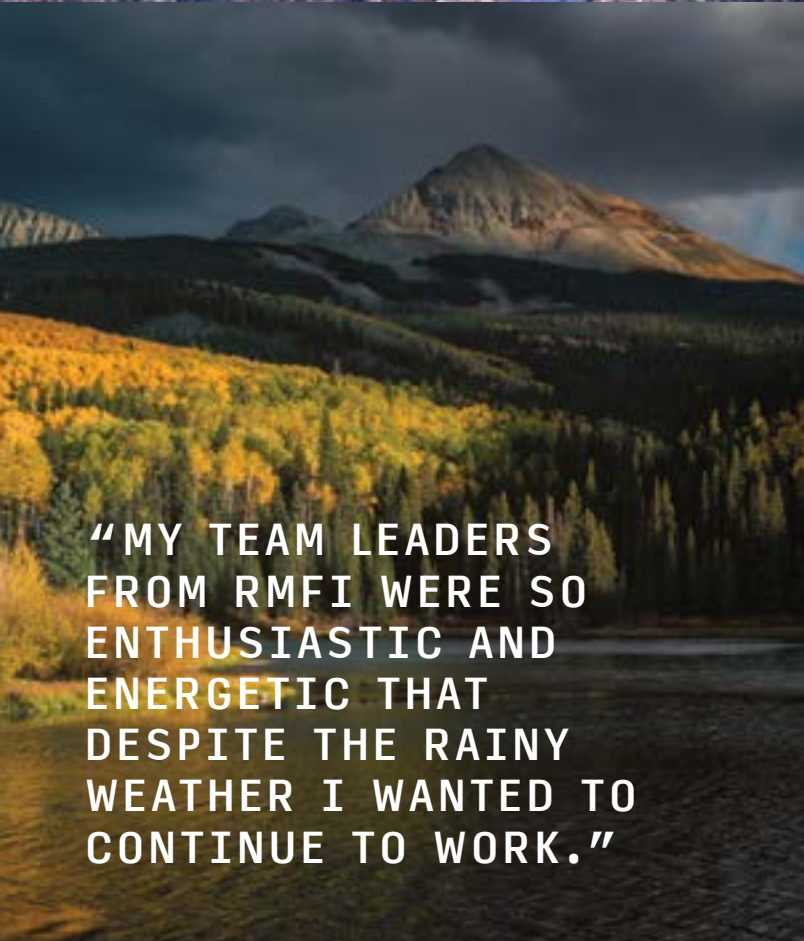
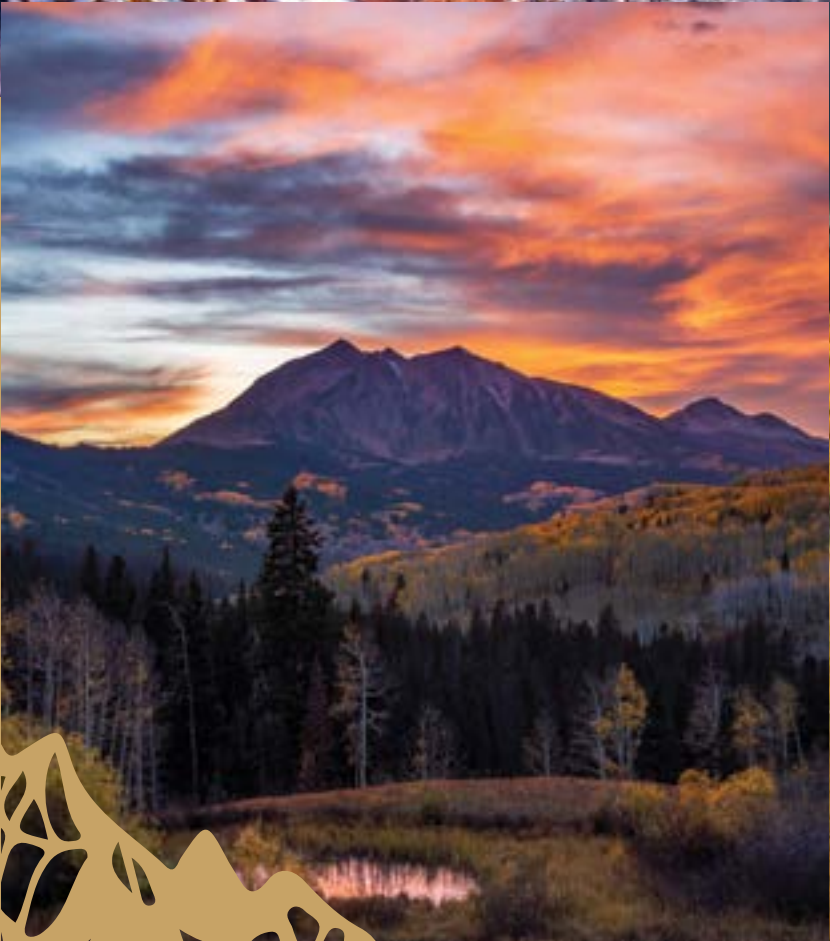
TRAIL ASSESSMENT AND CONDITION SURVEY LOCATIONS

Backdoor – Pikes Peak RD
Indian Cave – Pikes Peak RD
Lovell Gulch – Pikes Peak RD
Platte River – South Park RD
Platte Springs – South Park RD
Rampart Reservoir – Pikes Peak RD
Ridge Crest – Pikes Peak RD
Mt. Rosa – Pikes Peak RD
Salt Creek – South Park RD
Schubarth Spur – Pikes Peak RD
Schubarth Trail – Pikes Peak RD
Signal Butte – Pikes Peak RD
Stanley Canyon – Pikes Peak RD
Stanley Rim – Pike San Isabel NF
Trout Creek – South Park RD
Twelvemile Lake – South Park RD
Ute Creek– South Park RD
Mount Elbert – Leadville RD
Mount Shavano – Salida RD
Barr Trail – Pikes Peak RD
Broken Hand Pass – San Carlos RD
Devil's Playground – Pikes Peak RD
Black Cloud– Leadville RD



“RMFI IS A VITAL PARTNER AND RESOURCE IN OUR TRAIL BUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THEIR EXPERTISE IS INVALUABLE.”

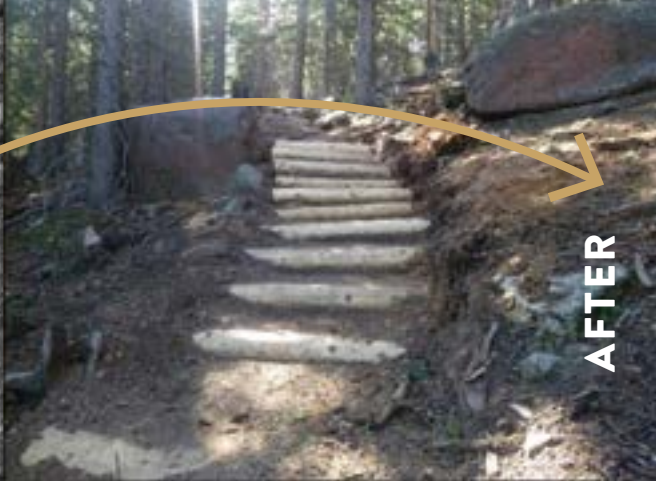
BOB FALCONE AKA HIKING BOB



“MY TEAM LEADERS FROM RMFI WERE SO ENTHUSIASTIC AND ENERGETIC THAT DESPITE THE RAINY WEATHER I WANTED TO CONTINUE TO WORK.”



BEFORE



AFTER



STAFF

Jolie NeSmith, *Executive Director*

Carl Woody, *Program Director*

Kristen Cahill, *Finance and Operations Director*

Otzma-Bie Paz, *Program Manager*

Elizabeth Barber, *Program Manager*

Calla Balliett, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Arlo Herder, *Crew Leader*

Thomas Orfan, *Crew Leader*

Cassandra Rogers, *Crew Leader*

Oliver Watkins, *Crew Leader*

Albert Chern, *Field Crew Technician*

Allison Wyszynski, *Field Crew Technician*

Anna Pepper, *Field Crew Technician*

Audra Burrall, *Field Crew Technician*

Austin Killen, *Field Crew Technician*

Benjamin Wood, *Field Crew Technician*

Bronson Rivera, *Field Crew Technician*

Collin Oosse, *Field Crew Technician*

Elena Neimeyer, *Field Crew Technician*

Fedilu Rose, *Field Crew Technician*

Gabriel Garcia, *Field Crew Technician*

Grace Wotell, *Field Crew Technician*

Jace Basford, *Field Crew Technician*

Jennifer Sullivan, *Field Crew Technician*

Justin Brinegar, *Field Crew Technician*

Kelly Malone, *TRACS Technician*

Mikayla Manyin, *Field Crew Technician*

Nicole Box, *Field Crew Technician*

Robert Schwartz, *Field Crew Technician*

Bree Horner, *Intern*

Vinny Paddock, *Intern*

Leah Stevens, *Intern*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Mohrmann – President

Alex Lippert – Vice President

Priscilla Marbaker – Treasurer

Karen Shuman - Secretary

Melissa McCormick

Nicole Montenegro

Anna Parrish

Megan Winnicker

RMFI ANNUAL SHINDIG FUNDRAISER

Rober Weggel Funder of the Year:
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION (TOSC)



Mark Hesse Stewardship Partner of the Year:
MOUNTAIN CHALET



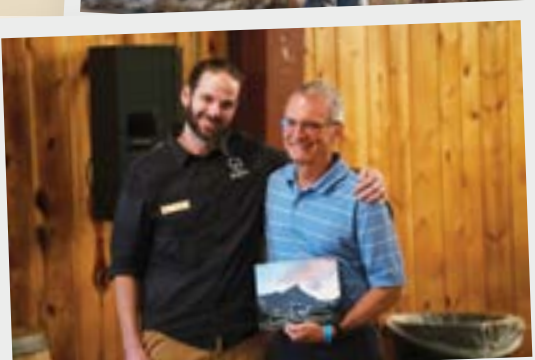
Volunteer Group of the Year:
COLORADO OFF ROAD ENTERPRISE (CORE)



Land Management Parter of the Year:
BERNARD “SNOOK” CIPOLETTI, SENIOR PARK RANGER – GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK



Volunteer of the Year:
DAVE GUHL



THE ROBERT J. WEGGEL FUND

Robert “Bob” Weggel has long been an avid hiker and backpacker, having trekked two hundred miles to gaze enraptured by Mt. Everest and its vicinity and summited Mt. Whitney and all but nine of Colorado’s 14ers—the first in 1970, the most recent at age 73. He’s also an avid conservationist and trail builder, specializing in rock steps, stepping stones and soil-retention walls. RMFI’s Volunteer Vacation program hosted him in 2006 at South Colony Lakes and subsequently at Lake Como, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne Mountain. In gratitude, in March of 2017 he established RMFI’s first Endowment Fund to help support its conservation and stewardship work.

Bob earned a B.S. degree in physics from MIT, followed by graduate work at Harvard. For thirty-six years he designed magnets for the National Magnet Laboratory at MIT; 1980s editions of The Guinness Book of World Records cite him as co-designer of a magnet that generated the most intense continuous magnetic field in the world. He now is contributing to expeditiously bringing to our energy-hungry world abundant, economical, environmentally-benign electric power from thermonuclear fusion.

The Robert J. Weggel Fund for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute will help ensure the organization’s long-term financial viability and sustainability. If you’d like to learn more about the Fund and how you can contribute to it, please contact RMFI at 719-471-7736, or rmfi@rmfi.org.

ROCKSTAR VOLUNTEERS

Carlo Beckman

Larry Bogue

Gary Carollo

Jami Casciari

Uriel Corza

Kathleen Cunico

Justin Curnow

Dan Downs

Denise Downs

Katie Gray

Nadine Lambert

Marzena Matecki

Eric Olson

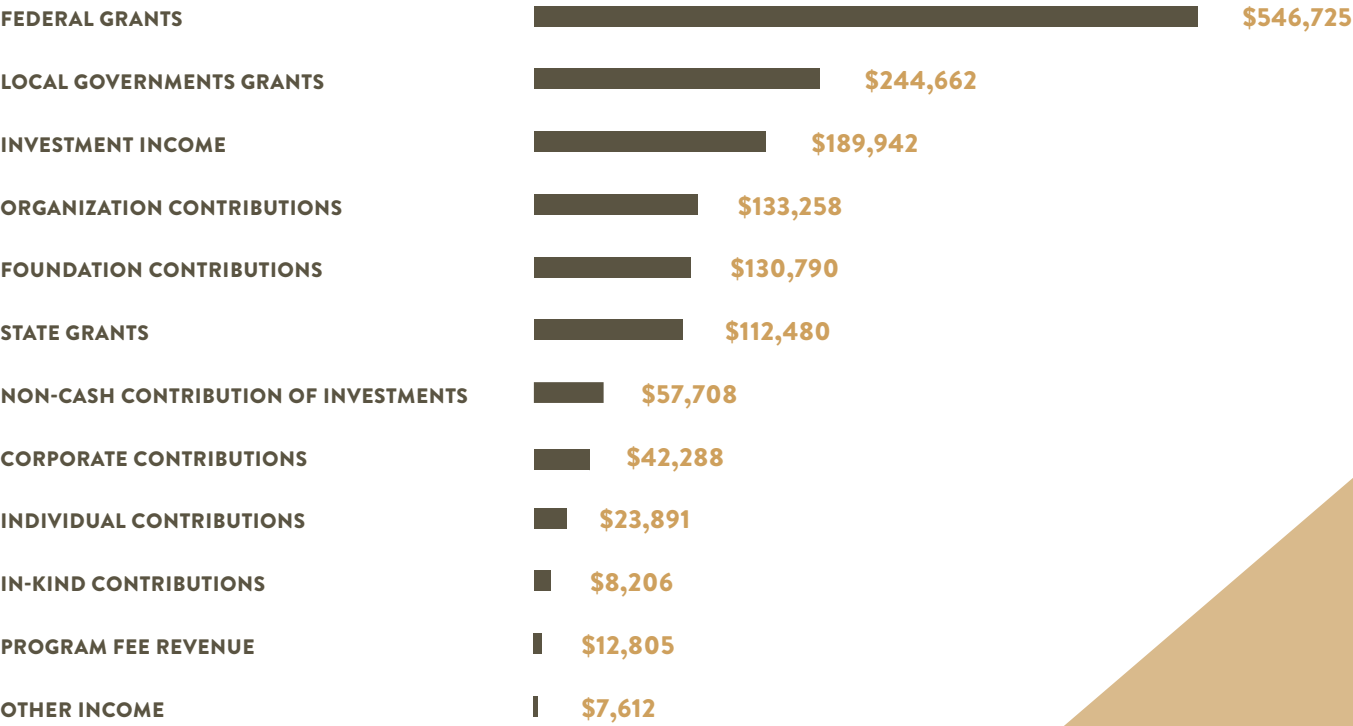
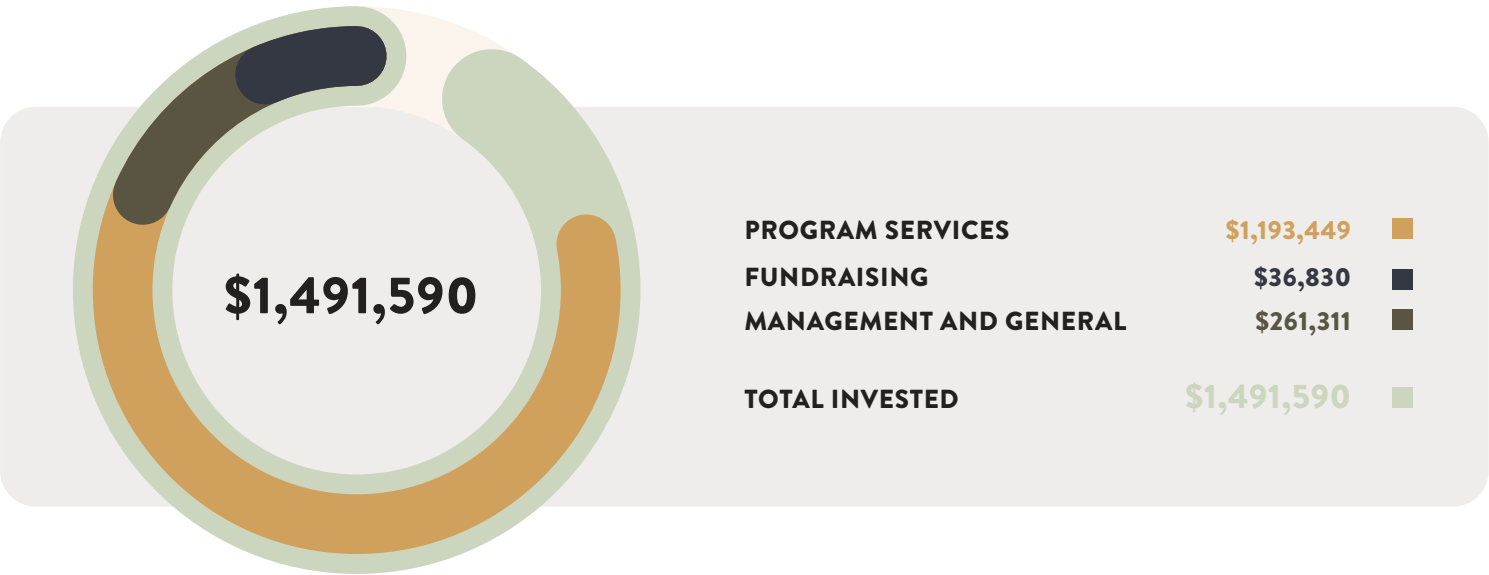
Kaleb Palmer

Stephen Parnell

Mike Scott

Sam Steinhacker

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES

\$1,510,367

THANK YOU TO OUR



VOLUNTEERS!

- Aravaipa - Colorado

Aspen Valley High School

Cheyenne Mountain State Park Trail Dogs

CIVA Charter School

CO 4x4 Rescue and Recovery

Colorado College Break Out

Colorado Early Colleges

Colorado Off Road Enterprise

Community Prep School

COS I Love You

CU Boulder - Theta Tau Engineering Society

Doherty High School

Ent Credit Union

EverOak Wealth Co.

FedEx
- Globe Charter

Manitou Springs Elementary

Meadows Park Community Center

Scout Troop

MITRE Corp

Peak Education

Philips

Space Force -Host Aviation Resource Unit-HARM

The Colorado Springs School

UCCS Honors Program

UCCS Restoration Geographies Class

U.S. Air Force Academy

Western Digital

Young Men's Service League

↑↑↑
**PLANTED
OVER
300
TREES**

for burn area restoration
in Black Forest

**546
WORKDAYS**

Planned and completed over
546 workdays at 18 unique
public land locations in
Southern Colorado

🌱
**UTILIZED
65 LBS
OF NATIVE SEED**

**180
DRAINS**

constructed and maintained

300

native transplants
in restoration projects

**67
TONS**

of rock to complete
stewardship projects



28,659

boots-on-the-ground labor hours

369

erosion control check dams
and log barriers

**875
VOLUNTEERS**

Actively engaged over 875 volunteers who contributed
nearly \$170,000 in in-kind labor.

2,230'

of retaining and back structural walls

83

sub-surface stabilization structures

ON-THE-GROUND IMPACTS

21,120'

Closed and restored over 21,120 feet of
social trails.

**14 STORIES
300 OF STAIRS!**
rock and timber steps

GRANTORS, CONTRIBUTORS & SPONSORS

We’ve made every effort to ensure all of our donors are acknowledged in this report. Please let us know if we’ve made an error. We appreciate your support and understanding.

GOVERNMENT

- BLM-Colorado
- City of Colorado Springs
- City of Manitou Springs
- Colorado Office of Economic Development
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Watershed Assembly
- El Paso County Parks
- Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- USDA Forest Service

ORGANIZATIONS

- Friends of Garden of the Gods
- Center for Spiritual Living Colorado Springs
- Colorado Gives Fund
- Community Shares of Colorado
- Friends of Garden of the Gods
- Give! Pikes Peak
- Trails and Open Space Coalition
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
- RMFI Board of Directors

BUSINESSES

- Kinship Landing
- NES Inc
- Western Digital
- Beyond Cleaners LLC
- Bristol Brewing Company
- Colonel Mustards Sandwich Emporium
- Colorado 4x4 Recovery
- colorADo Adventure Hostel
- Colorado Brewing Co
- ENT Credit Union
- Frontstream
- King Soopers
- Mandeville Real Estate
- Mountain Chalet
- Mountain Equipment Recyclers
- North Drinkware
- Nor’wood Limited
- Pocket Pals Trail Maps and Outdoors LLC
- Rocky Mountain Recreation
- Scheels
- Mountain Chalet
- NES Inc
- Vizient Corporate
- WaterStone
- Core Commercial Brokerage Co.
- Osprey Packs
- Galvanize Recycling
- Stargazers Theatre & Event Center
- Fossil Brewing Co.
- Conoco Phillips
- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Bloom Foundation
- Community First Foundation
- Kirkpatrick Family Fund
- Louise Arnold Maddux Foundation
- Lyda Hill Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- The Lewis Family Foundation
- Wyss Foundation



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Continued

INDIVIDUALS

Christopher Aaby
Ruth Adele
Donnell Allen
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Anonymous
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Margie Arnold
Baret Bachmeier
Ruth Ann Baldwin
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Renee Barall
Casey Barbee
Jim Beckenhaupt
Brian Becker
David Bemis
Michelle Bennewitz
Megan Beute
David J. Bieda
Lindsay Blanchard
Jennifer Bliss
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Don White
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Megan & Alex Winnicker
Jasmine Wolcott
John Wolford
Laurie Wood
Bronwyn Woodward
Carl Woody
Nethery Wylie
Dudley Yeoman
Timothy Yeomans

RMFI.ORG/DONATE



BECOME A
GUARDIAN OF
PUBLIC LANDS!

ESTIMATED OPERATIONAL COSTS
FOR RMFI CREWS

- \$53.50 Personal protective equipment for one person
- \$450 Food for a 5-person crew while working an 8-day hitch
- \$1,580 Set of tools for a 5-person crew leading volunteers
- \$30k 4-wheel drive truck to transport tools and crew to job site

THE BENEFIT OF VOLUNTEERS

- ✓ Volunteers become stewards
- ✓ Giving back to our public spaces ensures they will be there for the next generation
- ✓ Volunteers in Colorado are valued at \$31.51 an hour
- ✓ Volunteering is a great way to meet new people
- ✓ Volunteering can have many health benefits, including improved physical and mental health, and a reduced risk of some physical and mental health problems



RMFI

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

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