

2022 IMPACT REPORT



MAKING OUR SHARED OUTDOORS INTO COMMON GROUND





Letter from our Executive Director

RFOV's service area spans a one-hundred-mile corridor from the alpine splendor of Independence Pass to the buttes of the middle Colorado Watershed. And, though we are a small population, we present wide disparities in wealth, education, political orientation, and ethnicity. Yet with these differences, we all share the land in common. With over 85% of Pitkin County and 60% of Garfield County designated as public lands, we all rely on and benefit from the trails, open spaces, and waterways that define our region.

For RFOV to create opportunities for people with different backgrounds and interests to work together collectively toward a common goal is truly profound in this era. The words of one volunteer: "Learning we all come from different walks of life but are here to help with making our outdoor experience better" is a testament to the diversity of our volunteer and partner community.

When I'm out on a project, I frequently find myself working with a volunteer who may challenge one of my opinions. To engage in real dialogue, human to human, with someone whose beliefs differ from mine is rare. Ultimately, we end up doing so much more than repairing a trail, planting a tree, or mitigating fire danger. We build a stronger community able to work together in the face of future challenges.

In 2022, RFOV purposefully expressed the goal of making our shared outdoors into common ground. We placed more emphasis on creating an inclusive and welcoming space in our staff and crew leader training and actively worked with organizations and groups that represent a more diverse audience. While we have a long way to go toward being a more inclusive and equitable organization, we are committed to this work.

Thank you to all RFOV volunteers, partners, and supporters for continuing to show up and care for our shared outdoors. It is through our collective efforts that we make our world a better place.

With gratitude,

Rebecca Schulz





OUR VISION

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers is a diverse and engaged community of outdoor stewards working collectively for the benefit of our public lands.

OUR MISSION

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers promotes stewardship of our public lands by engaging our community in education, restoration and conservation projects.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

RFOV believes that we can only care for the places we care about by first caring for the people that visit and live in our shared outdoors. To this end, RFOV is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community of staff, board, volunteers, and partners regardless of any social, economic, or other barriers that might limit engagement in stewardship of our public lands. And as the needs of our region evolve, we will adapt by engaging directly with the communities RFOV serves, working collectively for the public good.

The full RFOV DEI statement and set of current initiatives is available at <https://www.rfov.org/dei>.

RFOV STAFF

Tyler Arsenault, *Crew Member*

Jennifer Brown, *Administrative and Development Coordinator*

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Jack Douglas, *Program Coordinator*

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Claire Woodward, *Field Coordinator*

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Calen Vickers, *Crew Leader*

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SEASON AT A GLANCE

Thanks to YOU,
here's what was
accomplished this year!

1,304 volunteers worked on **67** project sites for a combined total of **10,084** hours dedicated to stewardship.

That's the equivalent of one person working full time for almost 5 years. And we've done that collectively in just 6 months!



"What connected me with RFOV was partly a desire to join a nature-based volunteer organization, partly a desire to answer this question: "Who the heck takes care of all these trails?" I was hooked after my first project. And I quickly developed an even greater appreciation for all that goes into protecting our precious public lands, and keeping them accessible and enjoyable. RFOV is one of the most professional, organized, nicest and generous outfits I've ever been involved with. When I complete a project with RFOV, I feel like I should pay them for the wonderful experience they just provided me."

— John Westropp,
RFOV Volunteer and
Rookie of the Year



140

DAYS IN THE FIELD



85

PROJECT PARTNERS

12



**TRAINING DAYS FOR
STAFF, PARTNERS,
AND VOLUNTEERS**



896

**PIZZA SLICES
CONSUMED**



SUSTAINABLE RECREATION

 <p>43 MILES OF TRAIL WORKED</p> <hr/>  <p>791 DRAINAGE STRUCTURES BUILT/MAINTAINED</p>		 <p>386 STEPS INSTALLED</p> <hr/>  <p>3,570 CUBIC FEET ROCK WALLS BUILT/MAINTAINED</p>
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HEALTHY LANDSCAPES

 <p>43 ACRES RESTORED</p>		 <p>11,615 FEET OF FENCING REMOVED</p>	 <p>902 NATIVE PLANTS & TREES PLANTED</p>	 <p>1,077 POUNDS OF TRASH CLEANED UP</p>
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FIRE ADAPTION

 <p>13 FIRE-RELATED FIELD DAYS</p> <hr/>  <p>.5 ACRES IMPACTED BY FIRE RESTORED</p>		 <p>8.8 ACRES OF VEGETATION THINNED</p>
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YOUNG STEWARDS PROGRAM

	 <p>30 YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROJECTS</p> <hr/>  <p>679 STUDENTS EDUCATED</p>	 <p>1,500 YOUTH VOLUNTEER HOURS</p>
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Young Stewards Program

Since 2012, RFOV's Young Stewards Program has continued to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our region's youth and foster the next generation of young stewards.

So far this year, we have reached 679 students through programming ranging from 5-day, camp-style Adventure Stewards for middle school students, to campus-based Spruce Up Your School days, to Service Learning Projects on the trails, to our newest addition, Youth in Nature.



"I'm learning new stuff and how to be present where I am. The service project was my favorite because we were working together and we got to be in different roles. Time went fast and it was exciting to see how much we got done."

— Youth in Nature participant



Here is a window into one day in May, spent with the entire Basalt Elementary School 4th grade:

As we prepared for Spruce Up Your School program day, unloading and organizing gloves and tools outside the school, the wood chips arrived! Students from across the playground stopped what they were doing to watch the truck tip slowly backwards. They cheered as the avalanche of over a ton of earthy wood chips poured out onto the grass!

After our Intro & Safety Talk, students put on gloves and were ready to break into teams. The “blue team” began by filling wheelbarrows with wood chips, “red team” created new rock-rings around trees and “green team” started off weeding inside the school vegetable garden.

By the end of the day, students had mulched around nearly a dozen trees, each with a new or improved rock ring, completely weeded their school garden and learned about everything from decomposition to tree ID. We saw worms and centipedes in the soil, pointed out different types of rock, and worked together to accomplish the goal of giving back to one their favorite outdoor spaces – school grounds!

The O in RFOV refers to anywhere outdoors – not only trails or deep in the Wilderness. Our shared outdoors can be anywhere people spend time enjoying nature, including right outside the cafeteria doors. It was such a pleasure to watch these students support each other, exhibit great teamwork and come together to fulfill the programs namesake – to spruce up their school!

SPOTLIGHT: **YOUTH IN NATURE**

A key goal of RFOV’s strategic plan is the continued development of high-impact programming for youth, where RFOV works with a single cohort of students over weeks, months or throughout the academic year.

This year, RFOV helped to launch an exciting new program for high school students, Youth in Nature. Made possible through generous support from the Jonathan D. Lewis Foundation, this year-long empowerment program combines stewardship education, civic engagement, hands-on learning, and connection with local public land. A cohort of eleven 10th -12th graders from five area high schools (Aspen to Silt) will learn about and give back to an amazing network of nonprofit partners while building connections with each other and the outdoors.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION in area schools in spring 2023, with applications opening in January for the 2023/24 program. For more information, please visit www.rfov.org/yin.





Wilderness Stewardship

Thanks to funding received through a US Forest Service grant via the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020, RFOV was able to build upon our legacy of working in some of our region's most remote locations with the creation of our first professional wilderness trail crew.

Our three trail crew members, Calen Vickers, Tyler Arsenault and Shaw Hughes, diligently tackled pressing deferred trail maintenance work on 8-day shifts across the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness area's most popular trails. Working through snow, rain, and glorious alpine sunshine over these long hitches, the crew was dedicated to increasing the durability of these trails and educating passing hikers and backpackers on RFOV's mission and how to volunteer.

RFOV also engaged volunteers with this top-priority work when they joined the trail crew for three overnight backcountry projects at deferred maintenance worksites across the Maroon-Snowmass Wilderness. Throughout these 2 and 3-day projects, volunteers helped to create

steps, turnpikes and retaining walls, developing an appreciation for the endless work required to maintain our beloved wilderness trail systems.

The entire RFOV team is inspired and proud of the wilderness stewardship we were able to accomplish through the efforts of our enterprising trail crew and the dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time this season. However, staff and volunteers are well aware that this work is never finished. With this point in mind, we seek increased financial support to increase the size of our trail crew and offer even more incredible backcountry volunteer projects next season. We hope you will consider joining us in our wilderness stewardship efforts in 2023!



56 DAYS IN THE FIELD



1,000 STAFF HOURS COMPLETED



240 VOLUNTEER HOURS COMPLETED



200 ROCK STEPS INSTALLED



6,500 CUBIC FEET OF RETAINING WALLS INSTALLED



180 DRAINAGE FEATURES INSTALLED OR MAINTAINED



20 TREES BUCKED FROM TRAIL



6 FIRE RINGS DECOMMISSIONED



16 MILES OF TRAIL MAINTAINED

“On top of the memories of our many struggles and successes, I have two major takeaways from working every day among cloud shrouded mountains. First, this community is ravenously supportive and passionate about giving back to the public lands that we all love. Second, that the love we share for our home is infectious! True, the mountains do most of the work all on their own, but it is all of us who provide a positive example of stewardship and the framework for others to join us in our labors of love. Those of us who call this corner of the world home know the truth of it. It is the reason we are all here. Love of the natural world is what binds us to this place and to each other. It is the foundation of our community.”

— Calen Vickers, RFOV Trail Crew Leader

SPOTLIGHT ON

CAPITAL CREEK VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Over two-days in August, six volunteers and four RFOV staff worked to complete a much needed turnpike to minimize the effects of water damage and harden the trail.



An Investment in Community-Powered Stewardship

This past year, RFOV was awarded our biggest grant ever from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) - \$298,000 over two years. As part of their Stewardship Impact program, GOCO recognized the valuable role that RFOV plays in stewarding our natural resources and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

What really spoke to GOCO was how community-centered we are as an organization and our focus on collaboration. We are honored to have received this grant and have been hard at work to increase our capacity to respond to the growing stewardship needs of our region.

With GOCO funds, we were able to hire Jack Douglas as Program Coordinator to focus specifically on supporting and growing our group projects and Adopt-a-Trail program. Understanding that volunteering on a weekend or evening is not accessible to many, our group projects allow employees to schedule a project during the work day, bringing new volunteers to our organization and removing barriers to participation. This season, we had 25 Adopt-a-Trail groups and hosted 68 group workdays.

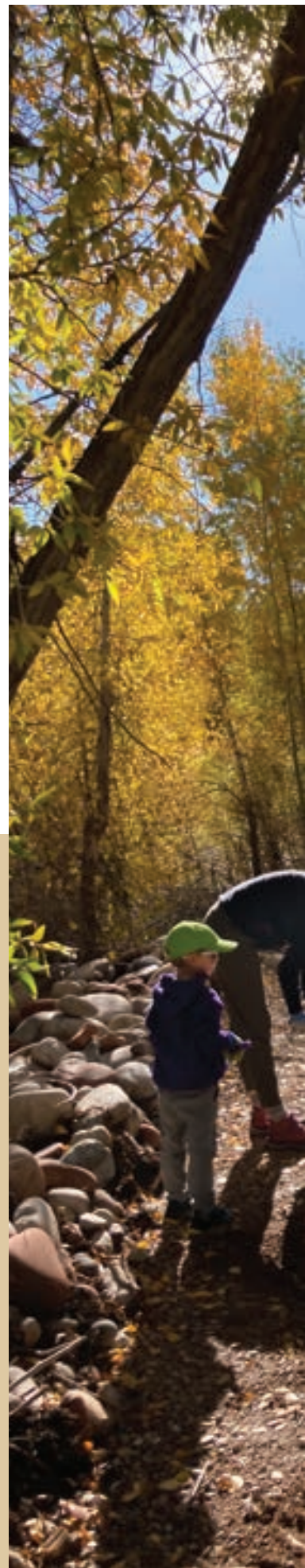
GOCO funds have also allowed us to increase the number of trainings we offer to our staff, partners and super volunteers. This year, we hosted cross cut saw, chainsaw, advanced rock skills, sustainable trail design, and fire restoration trainings - skills that will make us better equipped to take on more diverse stewardship projects.

These efforts all work toward implementing our five-year strategic plan. Expressed in the plan is the dual goal of supporting land managers to create healthy and resilient landscapes while finding more ways for our community to participate in meaningful stewardship projects.

A good example of this effort is the Ponderosa Trail in downtown Basalt.

In 2021, RFOV started working with the Town of Basalt to envision a more accessible trail along the river. RFOV engaged Challenge Aspen and Ascendigo Autism Services to brainstorm trail features that would enhance the experience for differently abled individuals. In the spring, RFOV staff started to lay the groundwork, working independently for several days. In June, the project officially launched with a large community volunteer event. Volunteers installed fence posts and laid crusher fine to delineate the path. Throughout 2021 and 2022, we returned with groups like Design Workshop, Basalt Chamber of Commerce, and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to do some finish work and complete other aspects of the project. In 2022, RFOV extended the trail all the way to HWY 82. And in 2023, we aim to help with fire mitigation.

As we move toward a more integrated project approach like the Ponderosa Trail, we hope to deliver high quality, tangible, and lasting work while ensuring that we engage volunteers in the most effective manner. Not only does this strategy result in greater impact on the land, but volunteers see the work unfold over time, becoming increasingly invested and committed to its future care.





BEFORE —————> **AFTER**

“Working with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers gives me a chance to give back to the places that bring me so much joy. Not only is it an organized and focused group that guides volunteers to the best way to have an impact - but it is also a unified community that shares a collective passion to protect the places we play for future generations to come. The Roaring Fork Valley has some of the best recreation in the country and it’s able to maintain the quality and accessibility thanks to the folks at RFOV. I now recreate differently when I’m running down through the wilderness in Independence Pass, hiking to Capitol Lake, or biking around Mushroom Rock - because this organization has taught me how to recreate responsibly and be a steward for my local outdoor community. I was able to learn that through the education of RFOV and by spending time in the Rocky Mountain dirt and working with my neighbors. I’m forever thankful for what this organization does and the service that they do which enables the opportunity for locals and tourists to have lasting memories and transformative experiences.”

— Jake Wheeler, RFOV Volunteer

Thank you to the 1,304+ Community Members that Volunteered in 2022!



Helen Carlsen
LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Helen's smile and work ethic exude the spirit of RFOV. The value of her 25 year of service to this organization is immeasurable. Helen has served RFOV in almost every role—volunteer, project ambassador, crew leader, Board Director, and project selection committee member. We couldn't have done it without you, Helen!



Jamin Heady-Smith
LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Since 2006, Jamin has been part of the fabric of RFOV. From serving on the Board of Directors for nine years, including Board Chair, to giving his time to train new Crew Leaders every year, Jamin has helped make RFOV what it is today. Thank you for a lifetime of service to our organization.



Ted Behar
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We recognize Ted Behar for his overall contribution to the RFOV mission and his embrace of our values during this project season. Ted's devotion to stewardship inspires others - we're grateful for his service.

"My life in this valley has been enriched in countless ways by my involvement in RFOV. What a pleasure and privilege it is to be provided the opportunity to give back. Try it, you'll never look at a trail or landscape the same again!"



Bob Sorrell
MOST ACTIVE
VOLUNTEER



John Westropp
ROOKIE
OF THE YEAR



Emily Noble
MOST ENTHUSIASTIC
VOLUNTEER



Carlos Herrera
MOST ENTHUSIASTIC
VOLUNTEER



THE
 “V”
 IN RFOV
 STANDS FOR
 VOLUNTEERS



“I used to live in the city, in close contact with the asphalt, the smog and the concrete. Sometimes I would go out to the countryside to camp by a river. Being in nature was a dream. But since I came to Colorado, to Carbondale, I started to experience the outdoors on a more regular basis, to the point that that dream became a reality. Being able to experience and enjoy the outdoors, the four seasons from my own backyard is part of my existence now. To appreciate the magic and magnificence of mother earth is priceless. This is why finding RFOV, an organization and its people that share some of my same feelings, committed to protecting and helping the very resources that bring solace to our souls for this and future generations, has been something highly significant and life changing for me.”

— Carlos Herrera, Most Enthusiastic RFOV Volunteer



Thank you to our sponsors, members, and partners!

As a community-powered organization, your gifts make our work possible.

👉 Gave last five years ★ New donor 🏠 Realtors for Stewardship

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.

\$100,000 +

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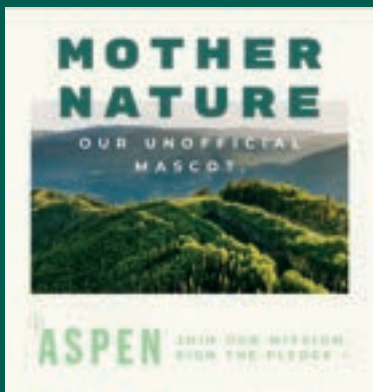
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 Melinda Payson
 Julia Peairs ★
 Karen Peirson ★ 🏠
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 Bruce Pearson & Donna Phelps 🍷
 Donna Phelps & Bruce Peterson
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 Mike & Laura Pritchard 🍷
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 John W. Putnam 🍷
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 Rita Ries ★
 Mike Riessen 🍷
 Clark Rieves
 Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
 Jessi Rochel
 Polly Ross
 Tom & Katie Rubel
 Joanne Rubinoff 🍷
 Meredith Sagara



SCAN & SIGN!



The Aspen Chamber Resort Association (ACRA) is making a donation to RFOV for every signature to the Aspen Pledge. ACRA has committed to donate up to \$50,000. Please visit <https://aspenchamber.org/pledge> and take the Pledge!

Joshua Saslove ★ 🏠
 Michael Sawyer 🍷
 Eric Sayre ★
 Michael Scanlon 🍷
 Sumner Schachter
 Peggy Scharlin ★ 🏠
 Suzanne Scheer 🍷
 Rebecca Schild & Chris Barlow
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 Brett Schollmann ★
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Gerry VanderBeek
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 Richard Wells
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 & Gary Tennenbaum 🍷
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IN-KIND DONORS

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 Brickhouse
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 New York Pizza
 Odell Brewing Co
 Paonia Soil Company
 Peppinos
 Red Mountain Wine & Spirits
 Slow Groovin
 Tasters
 Topo Designs
 White House Pizza
 Whole Foods
 Zheng Asian Bistro

Please look for
 our Annual Report
 in early 2023 for
 our yearly financials.



ADOPT-A-TRAIL

We're grateful for the organizations and businesses
 that have taken their stewardship commitment
 a step further by adopting a trail this year!

Aspen Cycling Club
 Aspen Jewish Congregation
 Aspen Rotary Club
 Aspen Snowmass Sotheby's Int.
 Realty
 Aspen Times
 Backbone Media
 Basalt Bike & Ski
 Brittanie Rockhill
 Carbondale Community School
 Carbondale Rotary
 Dirt Service Center
 Engel & Volkers

Independence Run & Hike
 Osmia Organics
 Ragnar Events
 Riley Warwick
 Roaring Fork Cycling
 Roaring Fork Waldorf School
 Rotary Club of Snowmass Village
 Ski.com
 Slifer Smith & Krista Klees
 Two Leaves & a Bud
 Wilderness Workshop

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

COMMUNITY BUILDER \$10,000 +



BRIDGE BUILDER \$6,000 – \$9,999



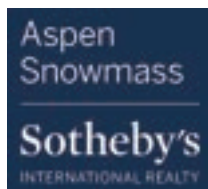
TEAM BUILDER \$3,000 – \$5,999



AMBASSADOR \$1,500 – \$2,999



REALTORS FOR STEWARDSHIP \$1,500 – \$6,000



Krista Klees at Slifer Smith



The RFOV mission is centered on the promotion of stewardship of our public lands – lands that inherently belong to everyone.



DONATE TODAY!

Your donation to Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers supports the trailwork, restoration, and stewardship education that makes our community resilient, vibrant, and beautiful.



As such, all of us have a role to play in their care. Therein lies the strength of the RFOV community-based stewardship model. Together, we are creating a more resilient, diverse, and engaged community where both people and nature thrive.

Whether you are a partner, volunteer, member, business sponsor, or young steward, RFOV relies on the generous support of the entire community. Your donation will continue to help us unite our valley in caring for our shared outdoors. Thank you for joining us in this important work.

With gratitude,

The RFOV Team

ROARING FORK OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS

520 South Third Street, #32 | Carbondale, CO. 81623

[rfov.org](https://www.rfov.org)

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