



RMFI

2014 Annual Report

Rocky Mountain Field Institute

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

Photo courtesy of Justin Peterson, <http://www.lifeilluminatedphotography.com>

A Letter from the Executive Director



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

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

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

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

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

MISSION

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

VISION

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

GOALS

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

2014 Key Programs



VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

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



EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

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



RESTORATION RESEARCH

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

2014 Program Highlights



257
Workdays



2,352
Volunteers



22,632
Volunteer Hours



\$510,357
Volunteer Value



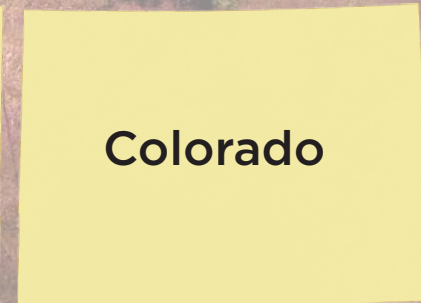
587
Log Erosion Barriers
*just one of many restoration treatments installed



575
Pounds Native Seed



Utah



Colorado

13
Project Sites in Colorado and Eastern Utah



Key Project Sites

GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK

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



Before and after restoration in Jaycee Plaza.



SHELF ROAD

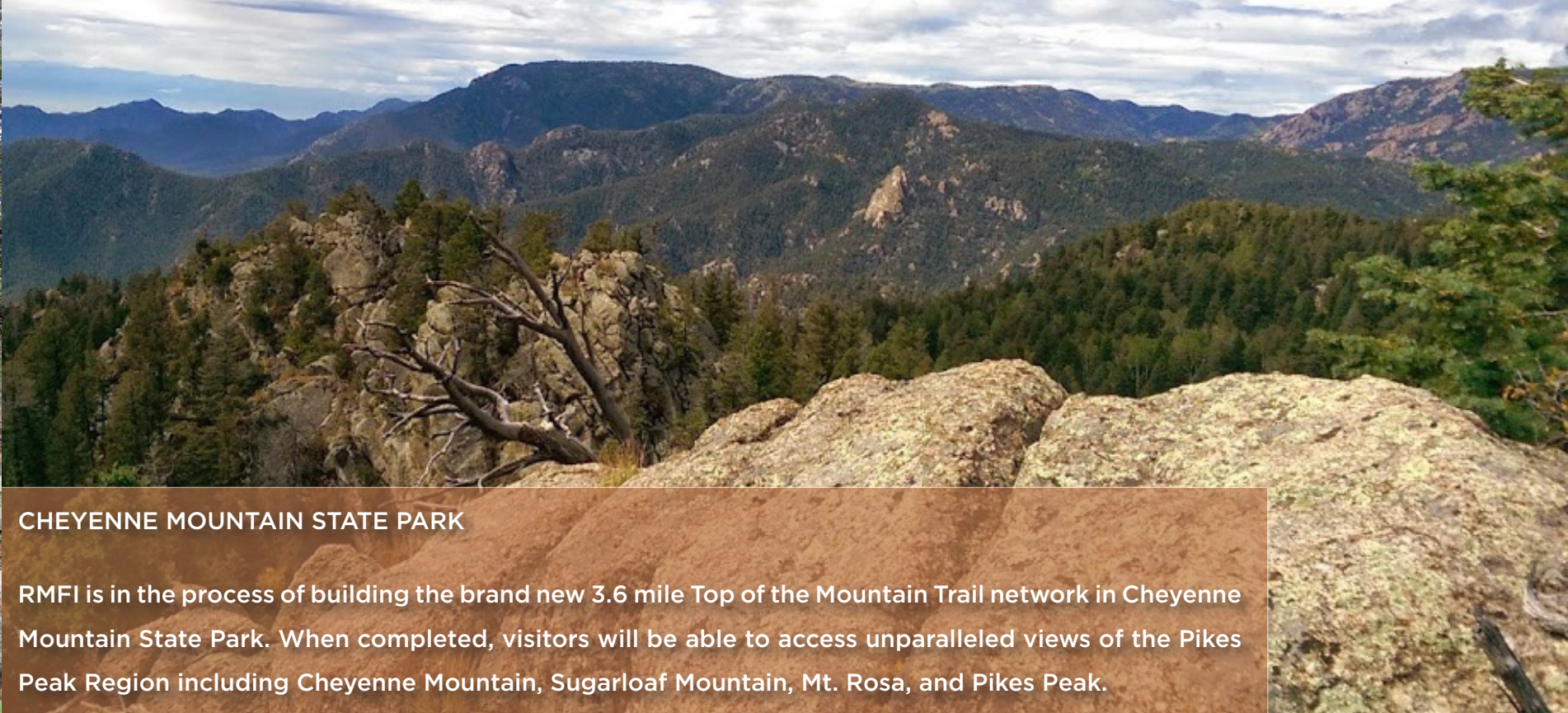
Since 1991, RMFI has maintained a sustainable trail network linking climbing areas, parking lots, and campgrounds. Over the last 14 years, RMFI has recruited, trained, and supervised over 1,000 volunteers who have contributed over 15,880 hours over the course of 82 work days valued at \$358,094.



Making sustainable climbing access with rock steps.



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



CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

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



Fire and flood mitigation in the burn scar.



WALDO CANYON AND BLACK FOREST BURN SCARS

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



SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS

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



Willow Creek Trail improvements.



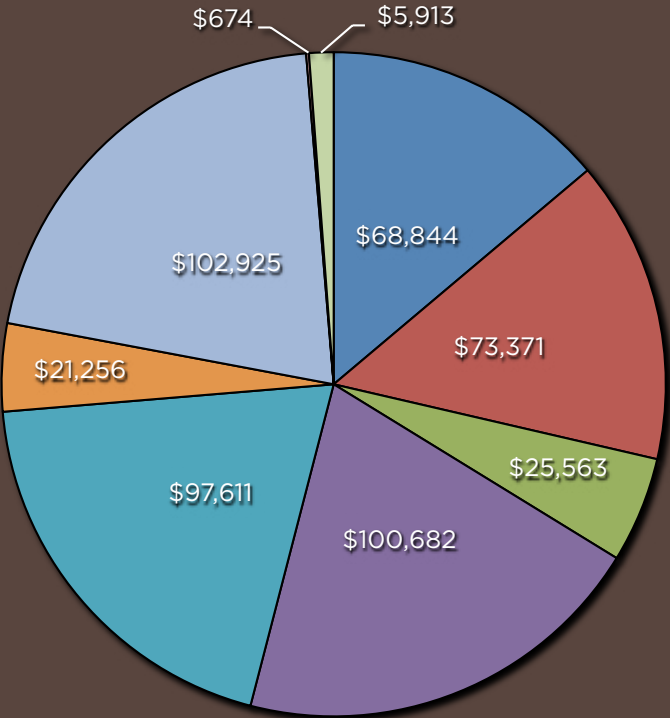
PIKES PEAK

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

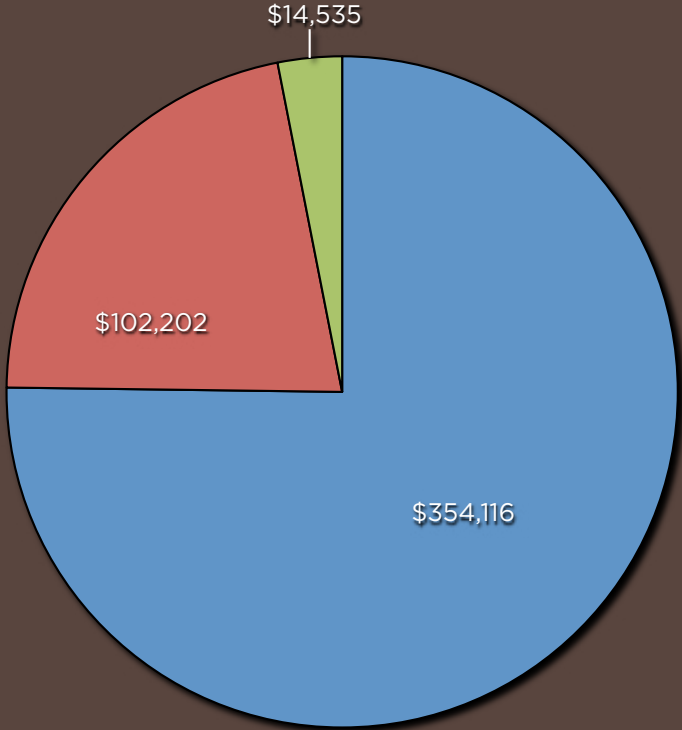


Re-introducing native vegetation in the Glen Cove Wetland to restore wetland function.

2014 Financials



Total Revenue: \$496,839

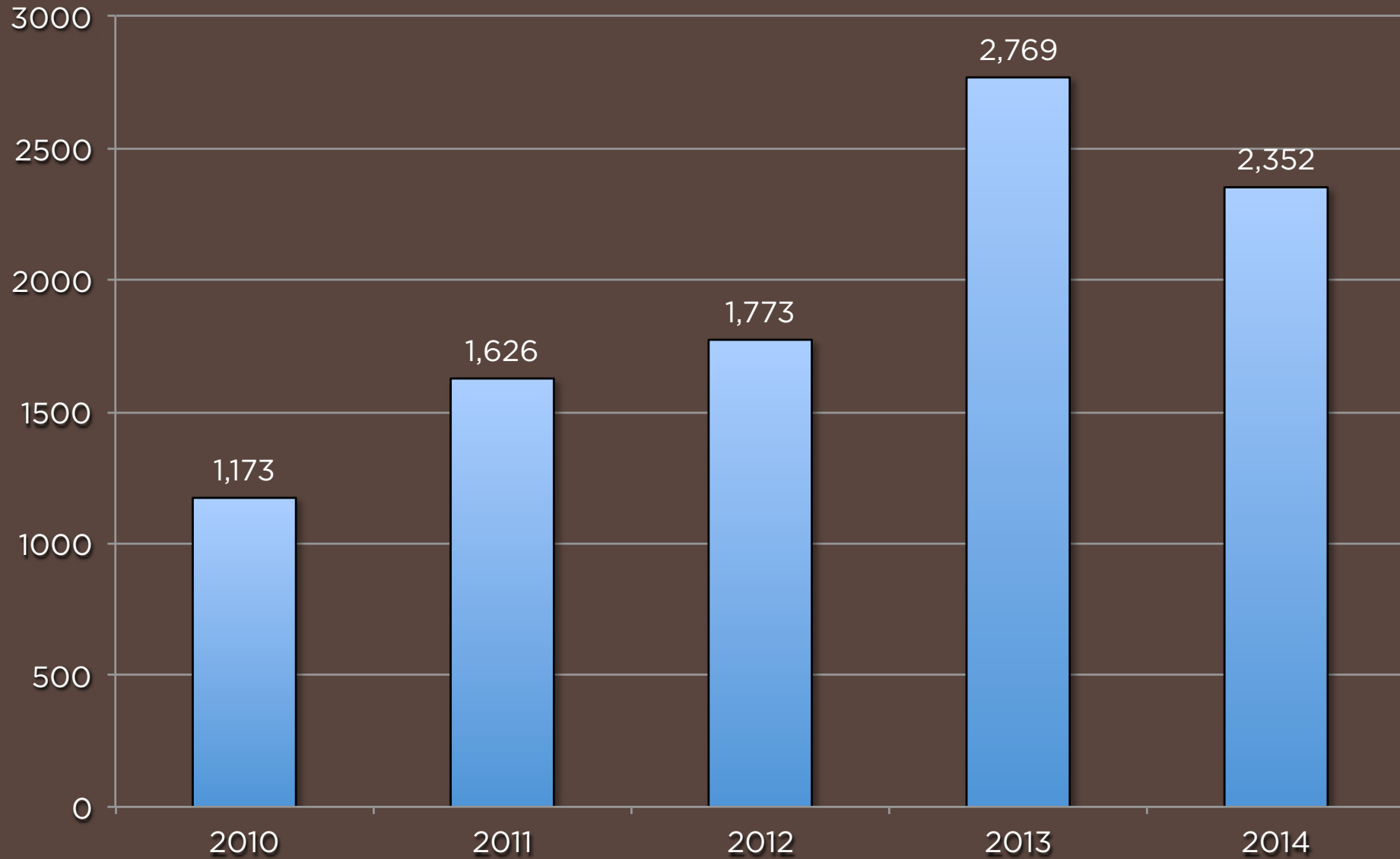


Total Expenses: \$470,853

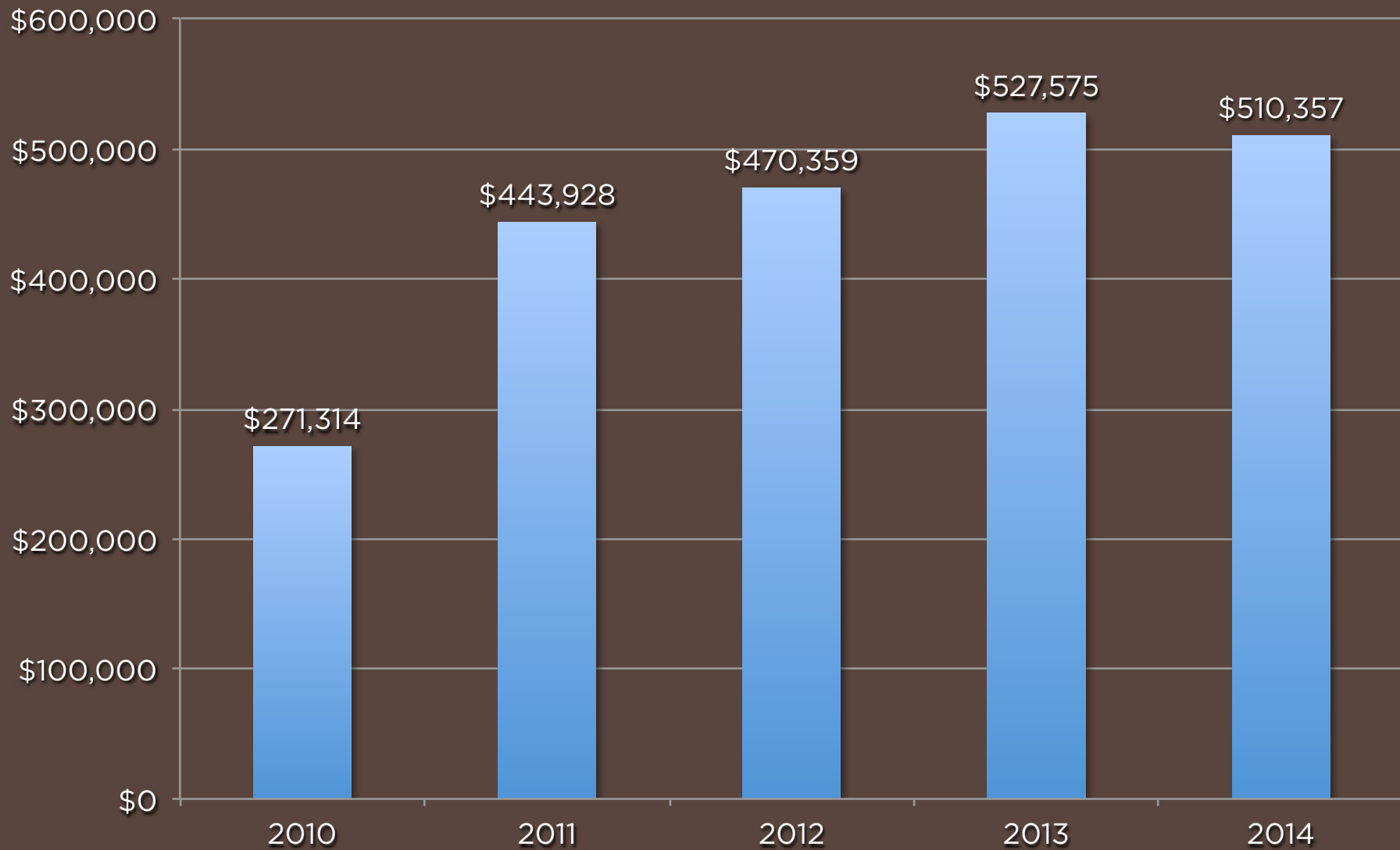
- Individual Contributions (14%)
- Corporate Contributions (15%)
- Organization Contributions (5%)
- Foundation Contributions (20%)
- Fee for Service (20%)
- Government Contracts (4%)
- Government Revenue (21%)
- Other Revenue (<1%)
- In-Kind Support (1%)

- Program (75%)
- Administration (22%)
- Fundraising (3%)

Volunteer Numbers: 2010-2014



Volunteer Value: 2010-2014



The RMFI Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian Kalmanowitz, *President*

Noel Roberts, *Secretary*

Lori Nicholson, *Treasurer*

Karole Campbell, *Member*

Emilie Gray, *Member*

David Havlick, *Member*

Tom Huber, *Member*

Mike Smith, *Member*

STAFF

Jennifer Peterson, *Executive Director*

Amber Shanklin, *Program Director*

Joe Lavorini, *Program Coordinator*

Molly Mazel, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Liz Nichol, *Office Manager*

FIELD STAFF

Lindsay Anderson, *Field Coordinator*

Julie Mazzola, *Field Instructor*

Aaron Mojica, *Field Instructor*

Andy Riter, *Field Instructor*

Mark Tatro, *Field Instructor*

INTERNS

Erin Burk

Jordan Clementi

Meghan Denny

Cody Duckworth

Lucy Hamamoto

Kym Littleton

Nina Lundstrom

Chris Myers

Jaxon Rickel

Jake Stein

Grantors, Contributors, and Sponsors

GOVERNMENT

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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

FOUNDATIONS

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

BUSINESSES

Adam's Mountain Cafe * Agilent Technologies

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

INDIVIDUALS

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

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

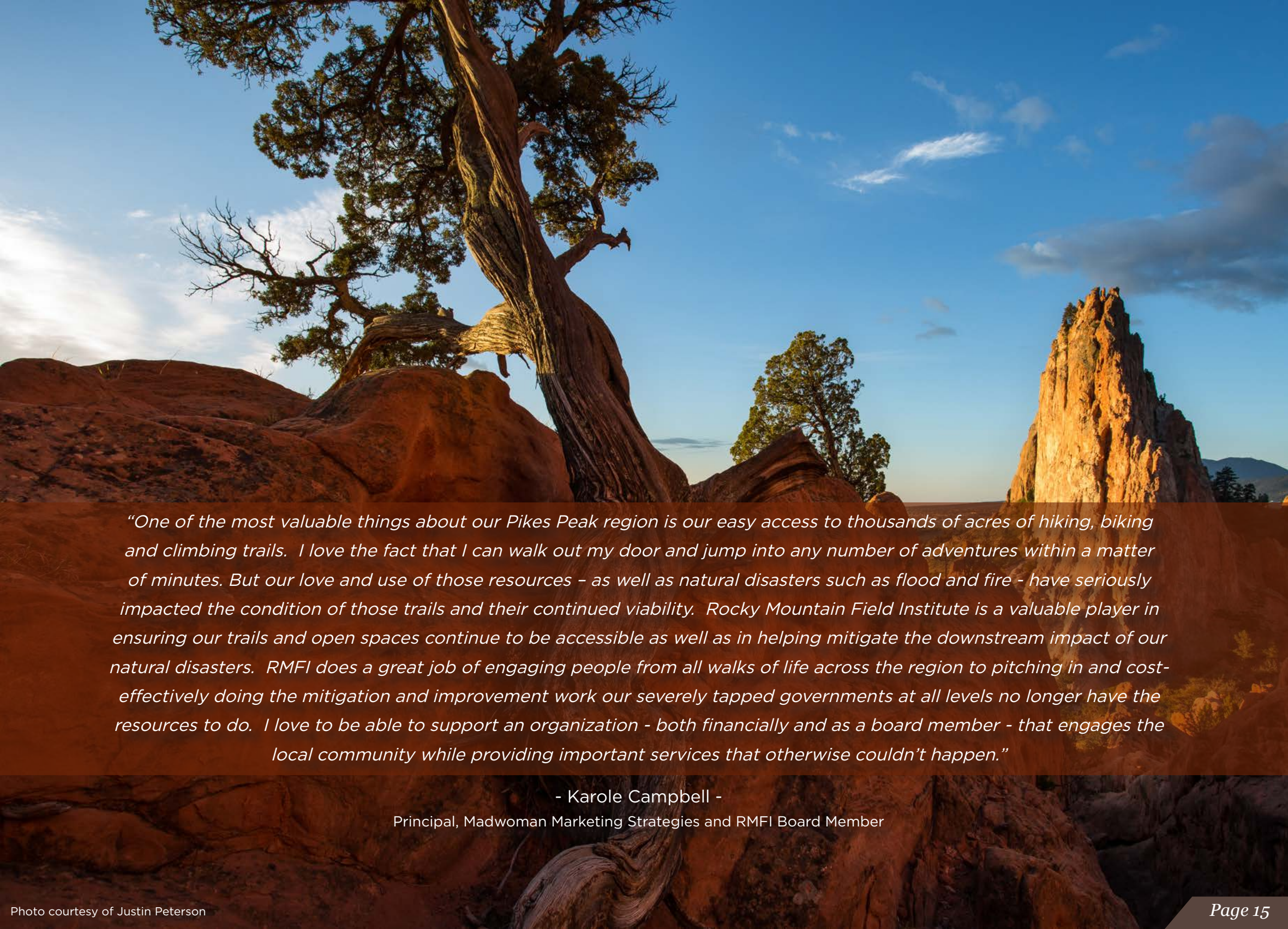
Cameron Moix * William Morris * Thomas Mulcahy
Carrie Myers * Christopher Nall * Sandy Negaard
Karl Nelson * Kirk Nelson * Stacy Hepp-Palos
David Nichol * Liz Nichol * Peter Nichol
Lori Nicholson * Darin Olson * Jan Ostrom
Karen Palus * Jesse Parker * Claudia Parks
Anna Parrish * Sheila Pereira * Eric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

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR 2,352 VOLUNTEERS!!



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

- Karole Campbell -

Principal, Madwoman Marketing Strategies and RMFI Board Member



RMFI

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