

Gaining Ground

Fall 2020

Healing the land. Building community.

Thanks to you, volunteers are building habitat links on farms for Boulder County wildlife



INSIDE

You're a **LIFESAVER**
to grassland songbirds
Find out how you helped
restore an **ICE AGE RELIC**

wlr.v.org



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ON COVER

Garden enthusiast Dillan Horan, 13, poses with an artichoke blossom he was given while volunteering at a WRV sustainable agriculture project.

Thanks to your support and the work of passionate volunteers, WRV piloted this new initiative working with local farms in 2020.

The primary aims are to rebuild soils, support pollinators, and improve farmed land to connect otherwise small islands of habitat on either side.

Dillan volunteered on one of eight WRV ag projects in 2020. He and other volunteers planted more than 400 shrubs to attract pollinators, stabilize soil, and serve as nursery plants for the more than 700 tender native plant seedlings they also planted. Dillan emerged a vocal ambassador for WRV.

Karli Horan photo, 2020.

WRV IS NOT SHUT DOWN! You supported WRV to develop new safety protocols in order to continue to carry out our mission safely during a global pandemic! Here, a volunteer carries tiny tundra transplants to their new home at Summit Lake Park while wearing a bandana to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Volunteers also kept a 6-ft distance, and all indoor activities were canceled or moved online. New handwashing supplies and innovative touchless coffee stations made projects healthy and happy. WRV photo, 2020.

Summit Lake: You Helped Bring an Ancient Arctic Plant Refuge Back From the Brink!

Over a decade of support from volunteers and donors helped ancient soils and an ice-age plant community thrive again.

To follow a botanist's dream

It was Bill Weber, world-renowned Colorado botanist, who first imagined Summit Lake Park as a public treasure for the Denver area. It offers the study of arctic plants without a costly trip to the Arctic Circle. In 1964, he nominated it

for the newly-minted Natural History Landmarks program. But before the advocacy of Weber and others, human use had begun to harm the park. In 2010, WRV volunteers followed on his dream by starting a decade-long restoration of the rare, popular mountain landscape. Your support, and the care and energy

of hundreds of volunteers helped bring the ecosystem back from the brink. This was a daunting feat at high elevation.

Summit Lake is a scenic and botanical gem. It features the highest-elevation lake in Colorado, accessible by a paved highway. Over the years, visitors built fire rings, and walked off-trail. They even backed pickup trucks to the margin of the alpine lake to angle for stocked fish. Visitors were unaware of the risk they posed to a community of plants that exists nowhere else in the lower 48.

In a 2012 interview, Weber said of Summit Lake, "You have no idea how rare that particular ecosystem is in North America...The loss is that we will be losing a piece of history that we have not yet fathomed. Rare ecosystems in Colorado should be the point of conservation."

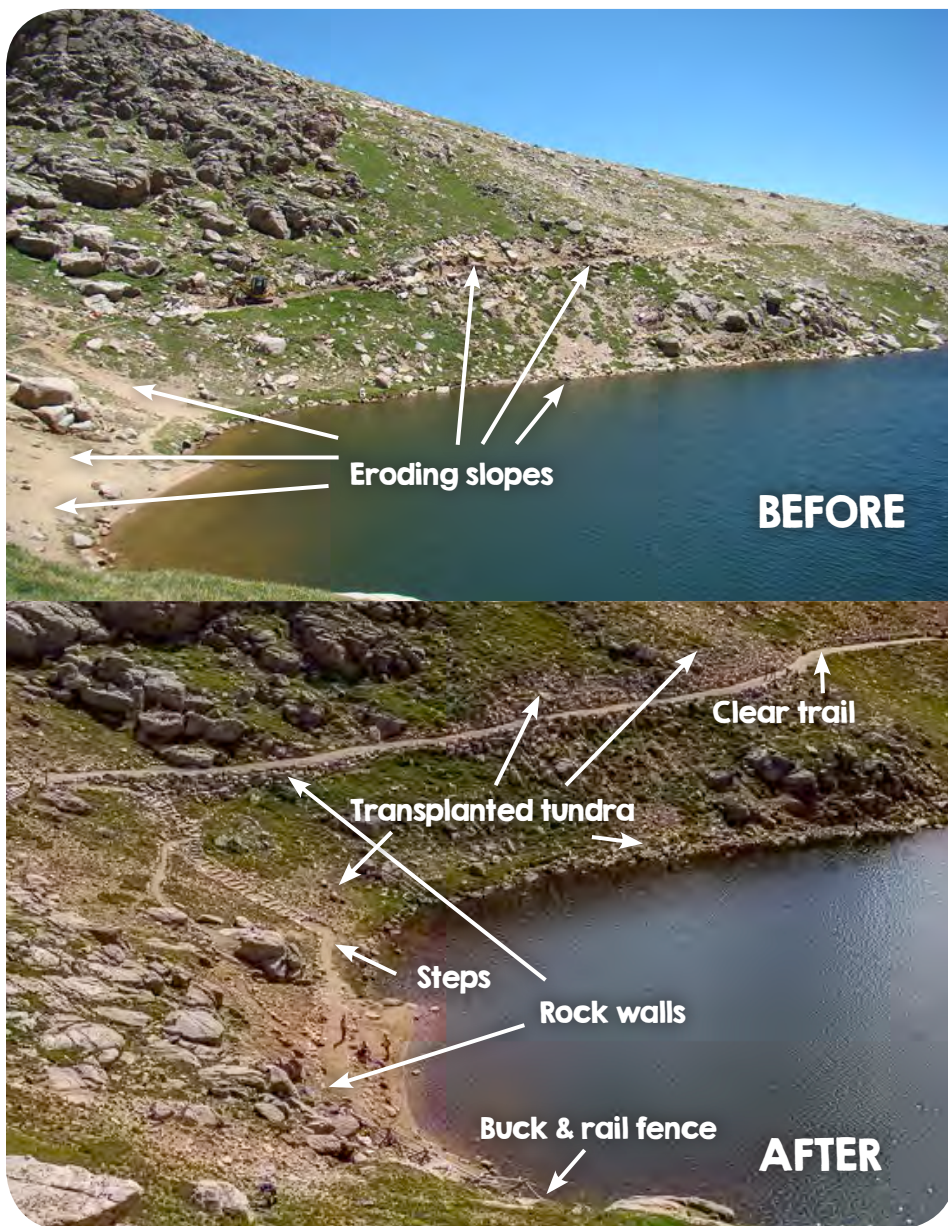
Wild icon designated for restoration

“Driving up to Summit Lake, you see aspens, then krummholz, then bristlecone pines. As you wind higher, the view swings from southeast to southwest. You see marmots, elk, bighorn sheep, and raptors. Then the view gets bigger in every direction, with an ocean of clouds down below, snaking up the valley. The road tops out below the 14,000-foot peak. It goes from the subalpine to the ridiculous!”

— Liz Kellogg,
WRV Volunteer Crew Leader.

Liz has volunteered at the Summit Lake Park project for its entire history.

To the east of the lake, permafrost keeps soils wet during the short growing season. Wildflowers and other alpine tundra fill the park. Many of its species are not found elsewhere outside the Arctic Circle. The rare plant community is a relic leftover from the Ice Age. It is the reason for the Park's designation



YOUR IMPACT: Top, Summit Lake, 2010. Photo taken as heavy equipment began to establish an official accessible trail alignment. Denver Mountain Parks Photo. Below, Summit Lake, 2019, during restoration project; WRV photo.

as Colorado's first National Natural Landmark. But that's not all! Summit Lake Park hosts populations of alpine wildlife, including ptarmigan, bighorn sheep, elk, and rosy finches. Rare butterflies and crane flies also live here.

You helped people in the Denver area connect with nature

Today, the park often serves as visitors' first or only experience in alpine tundra.



You supported WRV and partners to design the Summit Lake trail to a new standard. The Forest Service's Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines were created for ADA-compliant trails. WRV photo, 2011.

Studies show connecting with natural areas like Summit Lake Park provides many benefits. These include positive mood, self-acceptance, improved ability to concentrate, and more. Likewise, the feeling of connection has benefits for the land.

and one way to get people to understand is to get them to experience it."

WRV and partners had a choice: prevent visitors from hiking to the overlook, or build a better trail. They chose to build a wider, better-supported trail in a more sustainable alignment. In fact, they chose to make it ADA-accessible. The new trail alignment avoids the rare plant community. Volunteers built buck & rail fencing to show visitors where they can walk – and areas they need to avoid.

"It has huge use – tons of visitors! At the same time, it's a unique, fragile ecosystem," says Jarret Roberts, former WRV staffer and central figure in Summit Lake's restoration.

"If you can get those things to work in harmony, you can get people interested in the alpine without degrading it. People protect what they understand,

Reciprocity between humans and nature is a central reason WRV exists. It also motivated the restoration of Summit Lake Park.



Your help protects these tiny, sensitive plants at Summit Lake in an ice-age era arctic refuge. Photos from top to bottom: Island koenigia, or *Koenigia islandica*, by Tab Tannery, 2012. Bristly haircap moss, or *Polytrichum piliferum*, by Kirill Ignatyev, 2012. Urn haircap moss, or *Pogonatum urnigerum*, by Miiga Silfverberg, 2007.

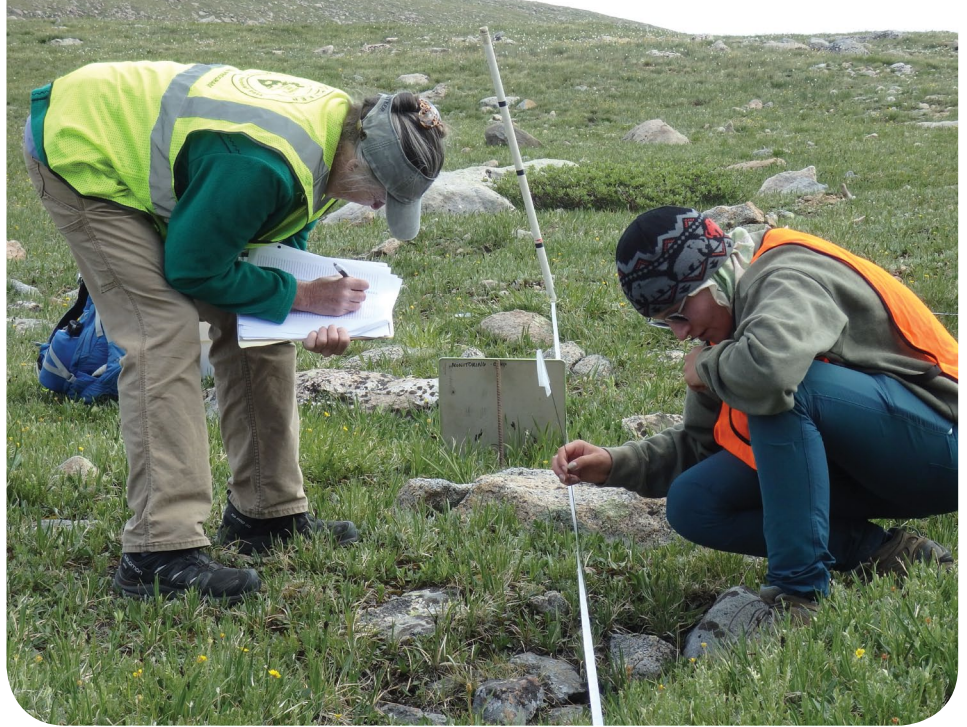


Wielding rock bars just below 13,000 feet elevation takes a lot of energy. Volunteers move boulders into place to support the tundra above and below the new trail. WRV photo, 2011.

Alpine climate challenges plants and restorationists alike

Slow-growing tundra plants at Summit Lake must complete their entire life cycle in a few short weeks. That is the same window available for restorationists who want to make a difference here! “Spring” arrives in early July, with “fall” in mid-August. In September, the road to Mt. Evans closes.

Bob Finch, Director of Natural Resources with the City of Denver, is Summit Lake’s chief steward. He reflects, “having groups of volunteers come up to work is efficient. We could never do it with staff given the drive-time, since the season is so short. Putting 50 people to work at the same time makes a big difference.”



WRV volunteers monitor tundra at Summit Lake during WRV’s tenth year stewarding the fragile ecosystem. WRV photo, 2019.

You helped future restoration by funding tundra research

Jarret conducted studies with WRV as part of concurrent coursework at CU Boulder. He and volunteers gained new understanding – rock cover helps transplanted alpine grasses survive and thrive.

According to volunteer Liz Kellogg, “it took years to figure out how to plant them so they wouldn’t get squeezed out. That’s exactly what would happen. You’d come back up the following year

and see the whole plug was out of the ground and desiccated. We lost a lot of them that way. We’re not having near the mortality now that we did in the early years. It boils down to little rocks, and lots of them, to build a little wind break and weigh down the plants.”

Native seed collectors heed the call

In 2013, Colorado Native Plant Society

member, Mo Ewing, posed the question, “why aren’t we using ecotypic (locally adapted) plants?”

The question inspired an effort headed up by seed collectors such as Liz.

“We started out working on those beautiful moss champions (a tundra plant) with tweezers in a 40-mph wind! The seeds are like an insect wing. You had to be crawling! They are only ½ inch tall,” says Liz. Volunteers gathered seeds in paper bags. Liz cleaned the seeds using kitchen strainers at her home.

Volunteers cast some of the seed on the ground in trampled areas. City of Denver greenhouses propagated the rest. The same volunteers cared for the seedlings, and later returned to transplant them.

You can see the change...from bended knee

Other volunteers measured the effectiveness of the project by choosing transects and taking baseline photos. In some cases, an alpine plant might take 200 years to grow six inches. As Bob Finch put it, “[the change] is noticeable once you get on your hands and knees. We’re seeing seeding and recruitment, and signs that things are better.” Monitoring can also identify new sources of disturbance, or errant behavior by visitors.



Your help supported an innovative program to germinate seed collected at Summit Lake. Volunteers cared for the seedlings and transplanted them to give the tundra a head start. Left to right: Sandy Wilson, Liz Kellogg, and Nancy Martin. WRV photo, 2015.

Bob concludes the decade's efforts a success. "We caught it at a real tipping point. It made the park more resilient to human use. We restored habitat and aesthetics."

To all the volunteers who hauled rocks up the saddle, and all the donors who dug deep to support WRV: It was worth it! You are saving this spectacular place for all the people who will enjoy it in the future!

Thanks to supporters like you, WRV developed new strengths

WRV hired seasonal staff for the Summit Lake Trail project, as well as Youth Corps, for the first time in its history. It was the first of many larger, longer-term, complex projects that WRV took on. These set WRV up to help after the 2012 fire and 2013 floods. Those capacities will be needed after the mega wildfires of 2020.

Epilogue

In March of 2020, the botanist who dreamed up Summit Lake Park died peacefully in his sleep. Bill Weber lived to be 101 years old. His vision helped inspire hundreds of restorationists, and his memory lives on.

The same year, volunteers cared for Summit Lake without its usual entourage. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Denver Mountain Parks closed motorized access to the Park. "We had special access," said Jackie Curry, WRV Projects Coordinator. "Hikers and cyclists were there but not motorized vehicles. It was unfortunate that it had to be closed. But because it was, there was a fighting chance for the new plants to establish before winter." Volunteers enjoyed an intimate campout under a full moon. Perhaps Weber's spirit was there, looking over his ancient, arctic, alpine splendor.



You supported WRV volunteers to carefully plant tiny alpine starts grown out from seeds collected at Summit Lake in prior years. WRV photo, 2020.

HISTORY OF THE LAND: MOUNT EVANS & THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE

WRV staff and volunteers have thought carefully for many years about how to preserve the special features of Summit Lake Park. Only recently have we stopped to consider the history of the names in the surrounding landscape. Summit Lake Park exists in the shadow of Mount Evans. The peak's namesake, John Evans, was responsible for one of the most shameful events in U.S. history: the Sand Creek Massacre.

As Lakota author Vine Deloria, Jr., put it in his book, *God is Red*, "A society that cannot remember and honor its past is in peril of losing its soul." WRV staff know that silence around our history continues to hurt people today, and in that spirit we acknowledge this event.

John Evans served as the territorial governor of Colorado starting in 1862. He appointed Reverend Chivington to be Colonel of an infantry regiment of the U.S. Army. Chivington later led 800 troopers to slaughter 230 peaceful Arapaho and Cheyenne people.

The men attacked mostly women, children, and elders camped at Sand Creek at dawn on Nov. 29, 1864. Tribal members had given up hunting weapons in exchange for government protection. Troopers even murdered some who waved

white flags under an American flag. They burned the camp and mutilated the dead.

Instead of punishing the Troopers for disobeying orders, Evans decorated Chivington and his men for their "valor in subduing the savages." While Congressional and military committees admitted guilt, Evans continues to be honored. These honors remind Native Americans of a gruesome history. Public denial and erasure of the story behind the name adds insult to injury.

Part of stewarding the land is understanding our heritage, both

natural and cultural. Restoration work often seeks to undo the damages of the past and position the land for a more sustainable future. While WRV can't heal a memory such as this, our efforts to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community means acknowledging our own silence, recognizing our history, and working to bring a more positive chapter to Summit Lake and all the places we work. For more detail on these efforts and how you can get involved, please see our Inclusiveness Plan at wlrv.org or reach out to Rachel Brett at rachel@wlrv.org.



Part of The Sand Creek Massacre, painting on elk hide. By Northern Arapaho artist Eugene J. Ridgely, Sr., 1994.



Nature enthusiasts Dr. Kelly Schoeppler (left) and Dr. Noelle Northcutt (right), on top of Muir Pass, Sierra Nevada, along the Pacific Crest Trail. Personal photo, 2016.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

After Life-Changing Hike, Noelle and Kelly Act to Mend Nature

IMMERSION IN NATURE MOVES DOCTOR DUO TO GIVE BACK

If you went looking for Dr. Noelle Northcutt as a child, you would have likely found her playing outdoors along the Middle Bosque River in Texas. But as an adult, long years in medical school took her away from outdoor pursuits for far longer than she liked. So, in 2016, she and her wife, Dr. Kelly Schoeppler, set out on a long hike—2,650 miles long, to be exact! For 158 days, they hiked from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail. Immersed in nature every day, they became keenly aware of their impacts on the trail and the planet.

They resolved to change their lives to reduce environmental impacts when they returned home.



WRV donors Kelly and Noelle stop to pose in King’s Canyon National Park during their 158-day hike. Personal photo, 2016.

“We had intentions to change our lives in ways that were difficult to meet. So, we looked for local organizations that share our values around protection and stewardship of the planet. That’s when we found WRV,” Noelle said. “We can’t volunteer much, because our work schedules don’t align well, but we are donating to WRV!”

When asked why they choose WRV, Noelle shared that the idea of restoration is a good fit with what she and Kelly value. “People are a part of nature, but we also have impacts on it.

In nature every day, they became keenly aware of their impacts on the trail and the planet.

So, repairing damage in places important to people just makes sense to us.”

Since becoming a monthly donor in early 2019, Noelle has also donated four gift memberships. She likes using philanthropy to spread the word about restoration.

“The idea of philanthropy being associated only with members of a wealthy class makes me uncomfortable. Philanthropy should be available to anyone! Even the smallest gifts are meaningful.” She continued, “I want the money to contribute to a legacy that matters to me – caring for the environment that I’m leaving behind.”

Like you, Noelle and Kelly turned their values into action by donating to WRV. Thank you!



Kelly and Noelle returned from their 2,650 mile hike resolved to reduce their environmental impacts. Personal photo, 2016.

Your Support Helps William Vieth Restore Balance after Fires

For WRV's Rivers and Forests Program Manager, This Time It's Personal

Natural disasters touch different people in different ways. For WRV's William Vieth, the effect of the Cameron Peak wildfire on his three dogs, Cobb, Zelda and June, brought the incident home.

"We all experience the effects of fires burning next door," says the Healthy Forests and Vital Rivers Program Manager. William's home, which is outside LaPorte, was only a few minutes from the fire's perimeter. "You could look out your window and see ash falling like snow."

One week while the fire raged, William took his dogs out for a walk. They came back and coughed for several hours. "I felt like the world was burning down around my family, and I would do anything I could to help."

For his canine companions, life goes on pretty much unchanged. But Northern Colorado's wildfires have shifted William's workplace priorities.

William is now focusing on post-fire restoration.

His plan: Deploy volunteer teams of 25 people in burned areas as soon as it is safe to do so. His goal is to have teams seed damaged areas with quick-growing native grasses, wildflowers, and other vegetation. Volunteer sawyers will cut dead trees and place them across drainages to catch ash and soil and prevent streams from choking with sediment.

William knows how important it is to act quickly. WRV can help reduce flooding and mudslides that follow high-intensity fires like Cameron Peak.

You could look out your window and see ash falling like snow.

"The fires kill the vegetation that holds soil in place," says William. "The following year, as snow melts and rain falls, it scours the soil and sends it down our streams. It reduces water quality for our communities downstream. The mud and sediment kill wildlife and put us at risk for catastrophic flooding."

WRV undertook many restoration projects following the High Park fire. Thanks to your support, we have made stream restoration a priority ever since. William joined the staff in 2017 to lead forest-thinning and post-flood efforts.

William's dual degrees in Range and Forest Management and Philosophy from Colorado State University inform his view of the fires.



You supported WRV's habitat restoration efforts in 2020. Here, William Vieth gives instructions to a group of volunteers (over 12 feet away) in Moffat County. Cathy Tate photo, 2020.

"Our species' response to natural disasters is part of a bigger picture of stewardship... No place on earth is unaffected by human actions," he says. "If we don't counterbalance that by being stewards of this planet, then things are going to continue to decline."

William will spend the next few weeks securing funds and organizing projects. The purpose is to address fire damage within the Cache La Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds. WRV has posted a "call list" for project volunteers. Folks can sign up on the WRV website to be alerted by email or phone when dates and locations for volunteer events have been secured. Project work could begin by the end of the year, weather permitting.

"We've done it before, it's timely, and it's right up our alley," says William. "This work is the greatest need Colorado has right now."

You restored local grasslands - and not just for the birds

Thanks, weed warriors, seed collectors,
and donors! You took a stand against
the global decline of grassland birds!

Boulder County hosts unique grassland habitat that two decades of work have restored. Your support empowered volunteers to make a difference!

Beloved bird species refuge in unique grassland community

The lilting song of western meadowlarks is so widespread as to be considered common. Yet, the meadowlarks' songs and others like them are in danger of disappearing. Grassland birds have lost significant habitat to farms and development. Less than 0.1% of native prairies remain intact today. That's despite having once blanketed a third of North America. Worldwide, birds that depend on grasslands are declining steeply.



WRV volunteers walk lines across hundreds of acres, shovels and garbage bags in hand. They are searching for any Med sage plants that may have germinated. This unprecedented collaboration is possible thanks to your support. WRV photo, 2019.



Western meadowlarks are widespread. But their populations are declining, as are other grassland birds. You have supported WRV volunteer activities to care for western meadowlark habitat. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service photo, Rick Bohn, 2015.

But around Boulder, in an area where rocky soils were spared the plow, you and many volunteers stepped in. That's why this common story of depletion has a hopeful trajectory.

City and County governments took action to preserve this landscape. Unusual soils and weather patterns provide the conditions for species that converge here from all over the Great Plains. This unique oasis attracts and shelters critters not found elsewhere—including birds.

But, designating land as Open Space is only an early step in fostering habitat for a wide array of creatures. Your help was still to come.

Invasion of the habitat snatchers

As you know, the loss of land to big box stores and housing developments fragments habitat. This leads to the loss of native plants that serve important roles in grassland bird habitat. But development isn't the only culprit. By the early 2000s, many Boulder-area grasslands had been overrun by Mediterranean sage. This invasive plant is particularly destructive: it thrives and dominates because grazers can't eat it. Each "Med sage" plant produces up to 100,000 seeds that spread far and wide as tumbleweeds. The plants form dense stands that exclude plants needed by birds and other species. Med sage is such a threat that the state designated it as a "List A" noxious weed. This is the plant-equivalent of the FBI's most wanted list.



Above: City of Boulder Beech Property, July 1995. Note white flowering Med sage weeds. Below, same property in June of 2013. Note: the habitat is transformed back to native prairie species thanks to YOU. Photos thanks to City of Boulder.

Eric estimates the joint undertaking removes 90-95% of Med sage each year across a patchwork of 3,000 acres.

But, he says: “We would lose ten years of progress if we missed even a single year.” Those words motivated staff members to persist despite difficulty in 2020. WRV had to cancel some projects due to group size restrictions to stop the spread of COVID19. But we still made sure not to allow Med sage to spread, either!

You have made possible a multi-jurisdictional effort with many landowners and managers. That’s important when infestations cross boundaries into different properties.

From weeding to seeding

Removing invasive plants is only half of the equation in restoring habitat. Native seeds are also needed to replant prairies and other habitats. The success of reseeding depends on collecting seeds nearby. That’s because plants adapt to local conditions over many generations. You assisted more than 5,300 WRV volunteers to hand-collect millions of seeds since 2002. The seeds were then cleaned and multiplied to sow untold acres.

Lynn Riedel, Plant Ecologist at the City of Boulder, says seed collecting is popular among volunteers.

“Everyone’s hunter-gatherer instincts kick in... People can feel they are doing something very meaningful,” she says.



Grasshopper sparrows nest and return to a City of Boulder-restored property year after year. This is a sign that restoration practices work. There is hope for grassland birds, thanks to your help. Hans de Grys photo, 2014.

Eco-posse to the rescue

With your help, WRV rose to the Med sage challenge. We have come together to stop the plant’s devastating march across many jurisdictions. Over the course of 18 years and 37 weed pulls, your support helped over a thousand volunteers learn to recognize Med sage. They labored to mitigate the danger it poses. Some volunteers return each year as “weed warriors.” They are champions of native habitat for birds and other creatures.

“An extensive eradication effort like this doesn’t happen very often,” notes Eric Fairlee, former Integrated Pest Management Coordinator with the City of Boulder. Eric is an ecologist and one of the lead partners in the effort.

Over time, the community effort morphed from weed pulls into “search & destroy” missions. Each year there is more searching, and less finding and destroying. Yet, vigilance was and continues to be necessary.



On left, Carrie Cimo, Boulder County Volunteer Coordinator for Plant Ecology. Here, she poses with enthusiastic WRV volunteers after a successful yarrow harvest at Peck Garden. Your support helped WRV preserve and restore native plants for the support of local wildlife populations. Many volunteers in this photo have collected seed with WRV for years. WRV photo, 2019.



A seed collection volunteer enjoys her time collecting native sedges to help restore City of Boulder habitat.

Restoration practices work. There is hope for grassland birds thanks to your help.

At seed collection projects, Lynn and others give educational talks. They teach volunteer seed collectors about Boulder's unique grasslands. And, about the birds and other life they support. Over 70 people have each volunteered 10 or more times at seed-related projects out of 273 that WRV has held. Some return to sort through and clean the seed, ensuring its high quality. Some even grow plants at home to increase the number of seeds for sowing in restoration projects. They leveraged your help countless times.

WRV donors, seed collectors and weed warriors have made a difference for grassland habitat. And that makes a difference for the birds and wildlife that thrive there.

WRV weed and seed programs have partnered with some of the most forward-thinking agencies in the country. These groups take leadership when it comes to habitat health. Boulder County Parks & Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks, NOAA – U.S. Department of Commerce, Colorado Department of Agriculture, City of Longmont, Jefferson County, Lory State Park, U.S. Forest Service, Denver Mountain Parks, REI, National Forest Foundation, USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service, and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

Thank you, Sponsors, Partners and Donors Nov 2019- Oct 2020!

Your generosity allows us to build community and heal the land!

We are deeply grateful to all supporters – you are vital to WRV's success! We pore over these details to get everything right, but if you notice an error, please let us know by calling 303-543-1411, x108.

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You supported WRV volunteers to maintain some of the most popular Wilderness access trails in the United States, and keep the trailside plants and animals happy. Here, Kevin the llama and John Korfmacher the volunteer transport trail tools for volunteers up to high elevation work sites. WRV photo, 2020.

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 Mark Latchaw
 Sandra Laursen
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 Sonya Le Febre
 Alice Lecinski
 Lynette Leka
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 Elizabeth Slokar
 Diane & Rob Slutz
 Corbyn Small
 Jane Smith
 Jessica & Kandler Smith
 Susan Solick
 Lyra Mayfield & Charlie Stein
 Douglas & Patricia Stephen
 Bob Sturtevant
 Drs. Katie & Paul Suding
 Mick Syzek & Diana Dwyer
 Thurmes Family
 Jeff & Joan Tilford

Sheila Todd
 Robert Van Dop
 Luke Vesely
 Loretta Vibberts
 Mark Waddell
 Christi Brockway & Ashley Waddell
 Steve & Carol Way
 Robin Welsh
 Richard West
 Audrey Wheeler
 Kevin Wheeler
 Caitlin White
 Wynne Whyman
 Megan Wilder
 Kirk Mackenzie Wilkinson
 Mark Willuhn
 Patricia Wilson
 Robyn & Jeremy Winick
 Amy Yarger
 Annie Zaino
 Barbara Zana
 Rebecca Zitterich
 Anonymous (29)

We also thank the 290 households who gave up to \$99 over the past 12 months. See WRV's Annual Report for a full list of contributors at all levels for each calendar year.



You supported WRV volunteers to restore beaver habitat in beloved Moraine Park of Rocky Mountain National Park. Here they express their enthusiasm. WRV photo, 2020.

Organizations

\$100K+

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
 Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Recreational Trails Program
 United States Small Business Administration

\$25K-99,999

Colorado Department of Agriculture
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 Jefferson County Open Space
 National Forest Foundation
 Park County Land & Water Trust Fund
 Thorne Nature Experience
 Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest & Pawnee National Grassland

\$10K-24,999

Audubon Rockies
 Boulder County Parks & Open Space
 Bureau of Land Management
 City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks
 City of Denver Parks & Recreation, Denver Mountain Parks
 City of Loveland, Open Lands & Trails
 Colorado Parks & Wildlife
 Colorado Watershed Assembly
 Finish Line
 Park County
 REI
 RiversEdge West
 Rocky Mountain National Park
 Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
 Xcel Energy

\$2,500-9,999

Aggregate Industries
 Chaffee Common Ground
 City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Program
 City of Longmont
 Climax Molybdenum, a Freeport-McMoRan Company
 Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
 Colorado Young Leaders
 Community Foundation Boulder County
 Denver Foundation
 First Congregational Church of Boulder
 GE Foundation
 Horne Family Foundation
 Jax Mercantile
 Larimer County
 Overland Mountain Bike Association
 Patagonia, Boulder
 Shupe Homestead
 University of Colorado, Boulder



Your help came in handy for volunteers constructing an ADA-accessible boardwalk through Beaver Creek wetlands near Fairplay. Someday this trail will connect Fairplay to Breckenridge. Here, volunteers reflect on a day's work well done. WRV photo, 2020.

\$1K-2,499

- Ball Corporation
- Bio-Logic, Inc.
- Bohemian Foundation
- City of Lafayette
- Colorado Mountain Club - Boulder Group
- Community Shares of Colorado
- Fancy Tiger Crafts
- Friendship Fund
- Green Machines of Boulder ATMs
- Hewlett Packard
- Lucky's Market Fort Collins
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
- Odell Brewing Company
- The April Fund
- The Nature Conservancy

We also thank the 15 groups who gave up to \$999 over the past 12 months. See WRV's Annual Report for a full list of contributors at all levels for each calendar year.



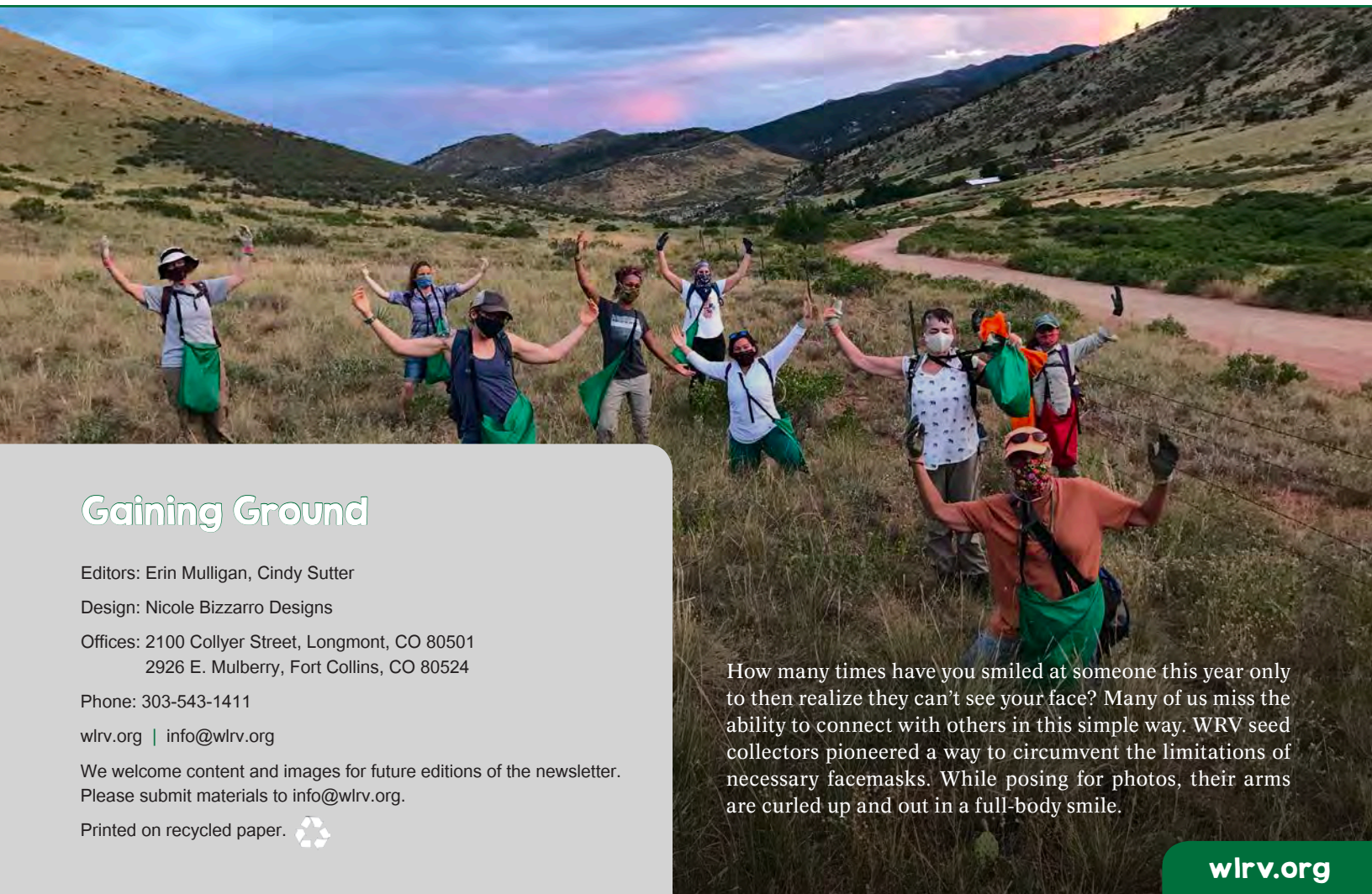
Your support helped these Mile High Youth Corps Alumni, along with dozens of other volunteers, thin unnaturally dense forests on Denver Mountain Parks properties on National Public Lands Day. Their work will help native species and human communities alike. Left to right, Caitlin Agin, WRV staffer Jackie Curry, and Sarah Seibold. WRV photo, 2020.



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Gaining Ground

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We welcome content and images for future editions of the newsletter.
Please submit materials to info@wlrv.org.

Printed on recycled paper. 

How many times have you smiled at someone this year only to then realize they can't see your face? Many of us miss the ability to connect with others in this simple way. WRV seed collectors pioneered a way to circumvent the limitations of necessary facemasks. While posing for photos, their arms are curled up and out in a full-body smile.

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