

THE ANNUAL REPORT EDITION OF WILDLANDS RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS DONOR NEWSLETTER

# Gaining Ground

Spring/Summer 2023

Heal the land. Build community.

You enabled WRV to engage over 350 Spanish-speaking volunteers and leaders in 2022



## INSIDE

Why you're a local hero to beavers and the wildlife they support

How you are addressing a West-wide tree shortage stemming from the 2020 fires



wlr.v.org



## What's Inside:

- Find out how you're easing the ponderosa pine shortage resulting from 2020's mega-fires ..... 1
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### ON THE COVER

**Spanish language Crew Leader Lupita Cardoza (second from left), Crew Leader Trainee Karissa Sanchezconcha, far right, and two other volunteers pose while removing invasive weeds from the Coal Creek Trail at a WRV Youth and Families project in partnership with Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza. Your contribution helps build Spanish-language engagement of volunteers for restoration and community building. WRV photo, 2022.**

This page: Volunteer and donor John Dawson collects native rabbitbrush seeds in Boulder County. Thanks to your support, WRV seed collectors collected millions of seeds on the day this photo was taken and more than 30 species in 2022. When Boulder County and other agencies need to restore habitat after floods, fires, or human impacts, they have access to seeds that are adapted to climatic conditions due to long evolution in our area. WRV photo, 2022.

# You Bring Back Native Trees with Your Donation

## Volunteers Collect Pinecones as Nurseries Scramble to Provide Trees for Burned Land

Thanks to you, WRV is giving nature a boost after the devastating Cameron Peak, East Troublesome, and Cal-Wood fires. These record-breaking fires of 2020 and others across the country scorched the earth and disrupted the natural cycle of regrowth. **Your support helps remedy the resulting shortage of ponderosa pine seedlings.**

Why ponderosa pines? Native to the western United States and especially suited to the Front Range, ponderosa grow well at various elevations, and resist high winds and even low-intensity forest fires due to their thick bark. But even ponderosa perish in high-intensity fires.



*You supported volunteers to collect ponderosa pinecones on City of Longmont property in September, 2022 to help with the dearth of ponderosa following devastating fires across the American West. WRV photo, 2022.*



*Volunteer pinecone collectors show off their haul. Kenzie Hartt is depicted at bottom right. These efforts were possible thanks to support from donors like you. WRV photo, 2022.*

WRV volunteers first gathered ponderosa pinecones in September and October of 2022. Harvesting too early or too late results in seeds that are either not viable or have already been dispersed. Volunteers harvest pinecones using pruning poles.

**“I love seeing the impact of my donations and my volunteering,”**

“We had to look carefully over each pinecone for coneworms,” recalls Kenzie Hartt, Wildfire Analyst at the Ember Alliance and a WRV donor and volunteer. “Cone worms can eat all the precious seeds we gather in a bag.” After a thorough check, pinecone seeds are dried in a special facility, thanks to the **partnership between WRV and the Cameron Peak Restoration Group, and grown in Colorado nurseries.**

Recently, Kenzie and fellow WRV volunteers planted ponderosa seedlings in a Cameron Peak burn scar. WRV uses research from Colorado State University that forecasts that in the future, the area will be better suited for ponderosa instead of the lodgepole pines that died in the fire.

Learning and adapting quickly to changing needs is possible thanks to resources provided by donors like you.

**“I love seeing the impact of my donations and my volunteering,” says Kenzie. We hope you do, too, because you make a difference in restoring forests through WRV. Thank you!**

# Learn It from Beaver

## Your Support Allows Beaver Mimicry Efforts to Benefit Wildlife and Clean Water

Awkward on land, supreme athletes in the water, **beavers engineer their environment**. Their dams slow water and benefit wildlife. In fact, beavers might be some of our best dam allies in creating wetter environments. As snowpack melts more and more quickly with climate change, slowing water flow high in the watershed can mitigate late summer and fall drought.

As snowpack melts more and more quickly with climate change, slowing water flow high in the watershed can mitigate late summer and fall drought.



*Volunteers and staff pose with an in-stream structure that was built with your funds to reduce risk of flooding and erosion in the Cameron Peak Fire burn scar. WRV photo, 2022.*

**You help WRV mimic beavers** by building Beaver Dam Analogs, Post-Assisted Log Structures, and other temporary woody creations in rivers and streams. Volunteers create structures from earth, posts, and willows in areas where streams have been unnaturally straightened by humans. These structures slow and spread out water. Slower water flow helps expand streamside forests that then support wildlife. Beaver-mimicking structures also retain sediment and woody debris

that add to the fertility of the land instead of dumping them downstream and causing problems for irrigators and municipal treatment plants.

“Beaver mimicry projects are minimally invasive and low-tech,” says WRV Rivers Project Manager Taryn Contento. “In 2023, we’re working up Buckhorn Canyon on Cascade Creek and



*CSU volunteers stand in/next to a stream in Campbell Valley, north of Fort Collins, where they built a beaver-mimicking structure to stop and slow erosion and improve water quality. Your gift supplied the tools, trained leaders, and direction. WRV Board member and Crew Leader, Pedro Lopez stands at right. WRV photo, 2022.*



*A formerly incised (deeply cut) stream in Campbell Valley where a volunteer-built temporary wooden in-stream structure slows the water, which drops sediment in the surrounding floodplain before moving downriver. Thanks to you and WRV volunteers, this important habitat connection in the Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains zone now better supports the native wildlife that have evolved here. WRV photo, 2022.*

on a private property near the Colorado-Wyoming border. Our partners want to create healthy streams and habitat for beavers. If we can create deep pools that protect beavers from predators while also spreading out water to grow more vegetation, we create healthier habitat. **Beaver ponds are also good for fish, frogs, birds, moose, and other wildlife.** Beaver mimicry projects are really about helping an entire ecosystem.”

We don't know if beaver populations will return to their earlier numbers, estimated to be tens or hundreds of millions before fur trappers nearly hunted them to extinction in the 1700s-1800s. **But beavers endure, the wildlife they benefit endure, and beaver engineering prowess inspires new solutions—thanks to you.**



*Volunteers pound logs vertically into a streambank in Campbell Valley before weaving willows between them and adding sod. This type of structure forces a stream to meander, rather than going straight downhill and dumping sediment on downstream users. WRV photo, 2022.*

# Supporter's Giving Leads To Deep Impact

Supporter Dave Allen's love of music has built relationships with WRV in many ways. Dave met WRV Program Manager Amy Ansari and former staff member Patrick Marti at an open mic event in 2016. He then joined a WRV seed collection project and was hooked.

Today, Dave donates regularly via payroll deduction at his company, IBM. "It was super easy to set up and comes out of my paycheck, so I never even miss it." Dave also inspired his family to donate to WRV. "It's important work supporting Mother Nature and helping people you don't even know," says Dave's father, Robert Allen. Dave's sister Linda Leslie also gives through her employer, John Deere. "They match our volunteer hours with cash donations." In 2021, Dave and Amy got married, you may know her as Amy Allen.



*Dave Allen serenades WRV friends at a fundraising event at Lone Hawk Farm. Dave's recurring donations supplement his dulcet tones to move WRV's mission forward. WRV photo, 2016.*

**"I...have a better appreciation now of what it takes to care for the land."**

Dave's volunteer assignments have included restoring habitat, playing music at WRV events, and even serving cake. "WRV has added a whole group of friends to my life," he says. "I also have a better appreciation now of what it takes to care for the land."

If you would like to make a recurring gift to support WRV's vital restoration work in Colorado, please visit: [wlr.org/support](http://wlr.org/support)

Many companies offer donations to match your gift! Learn more about that at: [doublethedonation.com/wrv](http://doublethedonation.com/wrv)



*Amy and Dave Allen pose during a WRV trail restoration project and private concert by Elephant Revival at Red Rocks Park, west of Denver. WRV photo, 2018.*

# YOUR INFLUENCE, YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

OFFICIAL 2022 RESULTS



**192** PROJECTS AND TRAININGS HELD



**32.8** MILES OF TRAIL maintenance, reconstruction, or enhancement



**11,430** native plants, shrubs and trees **PLANTED**



**826** YOUTH under 18 **ENGAGED**



**3,814** VOLUNTEER attendances



**\$1,016,296** VALUE of labor & expertise contributed to Colorado's **NATURAL HERITAGE**



**245** WATTLES and **CHECK-DAMS** installed in burn scars to reduce erosion



**737** FEET of boardwalk, bridge, puncheon, deck or turnpike **CONSTRUCTED**

**1.6** ACRES of streamside habitat **RESTORED**



**30** ACRES of **FOREST** thinned for habitat and reduced fire risk

**23** BURN ACRES seeded and/or mulched



**1.8** MILES of road **RECLAIMED**



**4,832** FEET of protective fence or barrier **BUILT** or repaired (mostly barbed wire fencing replaced with **WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY** fencing to protect wetlands from cattle)

YOU SUPPORT TEENAGERS TO  
CONNECT WITH NATURE

## ‘WYLD’ Provides Bridge for Next Generation Stewards

### Restoration-Based Learning Inspires Front Range Cohort

The increasing disconnection of young people from nature is a growing concern, contributing to physical and mental health challenges, and worsening environmental conditions. But thanks to you, the experiences of one group of high schoolers show that this trend is far from inevitable. Today’s youth are hungry for connection and passionate about making a difference. Your support makes WRV’s Youth Leadership Development (WYLD) program possible, which engages 15-20 teens from across the Front Range in environmental education and skill-building during the school year.

Your support allows WRV to provide this safe, fun space for teens to come together and express their passion, creativity, and joy.

WYLD was started in 2018 by three teenage WRV volunteers who wanted to create a program in which they could make a difference, learn more about environmental science, and know that their voices and decisions were valued. They designed and presented the program to our board and helped implement the first activities.



Donor support allowed WYLD participants to plant willow, cottonwood, chokecherry and currant at Lone Hawk Farm to restore streamside and wet meadow habitat and rebuild prairie soils that will sequester carbon. WRV photo, 2022.



WYLD students work with peers from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, The Greenway Foundation and Boulder County youth leadership programs to maintain native plantings along the St. Vrain Greenway in Longmont. WRV photo, 2022.

This past school year, WYLD participants included a diverse group of 19 high schoolers from Denver to Boulder County and Fort Collins. WYLD participants conducted a fire restoration project at Cal-Wood Education Center, where they planted dozens of native plants in the 2020 burn area and then camped out. They also maintained trails at Flagstaff Mountain in Boulder, restored streamside habitat along the St. Vrain in Longmont, explored careers in natural resources with representatives from 20 agencies and organizations, and



Volunteer WYLD program assistant and CU PhD student Asia Kaiser speaks with youth at the joint WRV, VOC, Greenways and Boulder County natural resources career exploration fair that your gift supported. WRV photo, 2022.

attended an Introduction to Applied Research in Conservation course with Colorado State University. WYLD participants learn from and are mentored by University of Colorado professors and graduate students throughout the program. In addition, they completed WRV’s restoration crew leader training and, for their final spring project, led a larger group of volunteers in a wetland restoration project at Lone Hawk Farm west of Longmont.

Your support allows WRV to provide this safe, fun space for teens to come together and express their passion, creativity, and joy. Seeing this next generation of land stewards in action inspires hope and optimism for the future! Your contributions to WRV and the WYLD program support the development of these young leaders.



# WRV's Financial Story 3/1/2022 - 2/28/2023

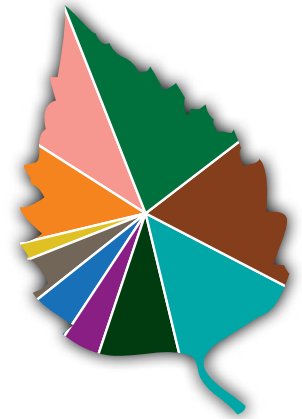
Thanks to your gifts, WRV completed 192 projects and training events in the past fiscal year, including 49 events that restored forests for the second year in a row. For a staff of 21, this was a major response to the fires of 2020.

Your support helped WRV weather a challenging economic year due to inflation. While WRV ended the year with a deficit, it is more than covered by many years of solid financial performance, especially the prior year.

You help WRV invest in professional staff. Public land agency partners tell us, and volunteer surveys show, that this investment provides volunteers and habitats with expert knowledge and consistency.

Support from people like you is crucial to recruit volunteers, build partnerships, train volunteer leaders, and turn every \$1 donated by an individual into \$8.76 worth of restoration and community building. Thank you for making this all possible!

| Operational Expenses          | Percent |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Natural Habitat               | 21%     |
| Sustainable Trails            | 18%     |
| Youth & Family                | 14%     |
| Healthy Forest                | 9%      |
| Native Seed                   | 4%      |
| Vital Rivers                  | 5%      |
| Training & Community Building | 5%      |
| Invasive Weeds                | 2%      |
| Administration                | 13%     |
| Fundraising                   | 10%     |



| Operational Revenue                   | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Individuals                           | 18%     |
| Government Fee for Service and grants | 27%     |
| Foundation & Grants                   | 29%     |
| Corporations                          | 3%      |
| Community Partners                    | 15%     |
| COVID-19 Relief                       | 6%      |
| Other                                 | 1%      |



Volunteers at Rocky Mountain National Park are shown hard at work removing canary reed grass to make room to plant native shrubs and trees in the Cameron Peak burn area. WRV has been working with the Park Service for many years to restore the over-browsed streamside forest habitat, thanks to support from people like you. WRV photo, 2022.

# Thank you, Sponsors, Partners, and Donors of Mar 2022 - Feb 2023!

## 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. Thank you!

### Individuals

#### \$10,000+

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Alan Carpenter  
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Kimberly & Stephen Keen

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#### \$100,000+

American Red Cross

#### \$25,000-99,999

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City of Longmont  
Justin Brooks Fisher Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
Park County Conservation Trust Fund  
Park County Land & Water Trust Fund  
Terra Foundation

#### \$10,000-24,999

Boulder County Parks and Open Space  
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks  
City of Denver - Natural Resources Division, Mountain Parks & Rec Div.  
Colorado Department of Agriculture  
EPA  
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers  
REI Co-Op  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
The Summit Foundation  
Thorne Nature Experience  
Town of Lyons Parks and Recreation  
University of Colorado, Boulder Office of Outreach and Engagement  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Western Digital  
Xcel Energy

#### \$2,500-9,999

Breeze Thru Car Wash  
Climax Molybdenum, a Freeport-McMoRan Company  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Colorado State University  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Community Foundation Boulder County  
CSU Environmental Learning Center  
Denver Foundation  
DTJ Design, Inc.  
Ecoinclusive Strategies  
Jax Mercantile  
Jefferson County Open Space  
National Environmental

Education Foundation  
One Tree Planted  
Overland Mountain Bike Association  
Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage & Trail Foundation  
The National Audubon Society  
Visintainer Sheep Co

#### \$1,000-2,499

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Bohemian Foundation  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Citrix  
First Congregational Church, Boulder  
Google  
High Line Canal Conservancy  
IBM  
King Soopers  
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
Starbucks Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy

#### Up to \$999

Ammonite Swirls  
Bootstrap Brewing

Boulder Phone  
Broken Compass  
Budhoe's Backhoe  
Cairn Landscape Architects LLC  
Caterpillar Foundation  
Ceres Finance Team  
Colorado Gives Foundation  
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DiNatale Water Consultants  
ENT Credit Union  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Boulder Lodge #9  
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Kaiser Permanente  
Lions Club  
Microsoft  
One Hope  
Otak  
Pfizer  
Pinnacle Assurance  
Ripley Design  
Trimble Inc  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
U. S. Bank Foundation  
United Healthcare Group  
Upslope Brewing Co.  
Vizient Inc  
Young Men's Service League



*Avid volunteer leader Dr. Nicole Mendoza recently included a gift to WRV in her estate plan. "It was easy. My employer offered access to legal services. Of all the nonprofits I've seen, WRV is the best run."*

*If you would like information on how to include WRV in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or another account, please contact Director of Development Sarah Egoif-Tarr at 303-543-1411, ext. 108, or sarah@wlv.org. And if you have already done so, please let us know so we may recognize you as part of our Heart and Soil Circle. WRV photo, 2023.*



At left, Nancy and Michael Linsley of Art Drenched Life *functional art* describe the installation they created and donated to WRV. Behind them on the northeast wall of WRV's Longmont office, you can see where the Linsleys crafted aspen trunks out of hand-made tiles, and affixed them to a blue-sky wall. To the right stands Bronc McLaughlin, the avid volunteer, leader, and donor who introduced the Linsleys to WRV. If you'd like to attend a free Wednesday tour of the new facilities, please call or email Sarah Egolf-Tarr at [sarah@wlrv.org](mailto:sarah@wlrv.org) or 303-543-1411, ext. 108. WRV photo, 2022.



What is Beaver Mimicry & How does WRV engage in it?  
WRV Rivers Program  
WILDERNESS RESTORATION SOCIETY

WRV Project Manager Taryn Contento addresses donors at the Heart and Soil Circle luncheon at WRV's Longmont facility. The Heart and Soil Circle is WRV's way of recognizing donors who have either made a legacy gift or contributed \$1,000 or more in a year. A legacy gift is made by naming WRV in a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other account. Heart and Soil Circle donors are vital to WRV's ability to meet our mission, today and in the future. If you'd like to learn more about this program, please call Sarah Egolf-Tarr, Director of Development, at 303-543-1411, ext. 108, or email [sarah@wlrv.org](mailto:sarah@wlrv.org). Thank you! WRV photo, 2023.

## Gaining Ground

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