

WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

2021 Annual Report

Letter from our Board President & Executive Director

As we reflect on this past year, one word is top of mind: gratitude.

First, a big thank you to all of you — our members and supporters who take action to advocate for public lands, attend our events, and participate in the community that makes our work possible. We are so appreciative of all of you who were able to support Wilderness Workshop financially in 2021. We are grateful for our network of conservation partners and allies at local, state, and national organizations. And finally, we want to share our deep gratitude for the public lands that sustain our ecosystems, wildlife, climate, and communities.

2021 was a big, bold year for Wilderness Workshop. Still grappling with the ongoing pandemic, we hired additional staff and took on new projects to ensure we will rise to the conservation opportunities in front of us and meet ongoing challenges head-on.

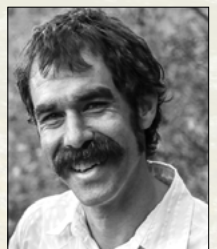
Our proactive protection campaigns — like work to protect the Crystal River (page 7) — engaged existing, passionate members and introduced us to new community members who know just how rare and precious a free-flowing river is in Colorado. Our longstanding defensive work to stop new oil and gas development had major successes this past year, and we are in a strong position to manage the critical challenges that lie ahead (page 4).

We launched the Colorado Wildlands Project (page 8) to protect Bureau of Land Management lands across Colorado's Western Slope, and we are excited the Project has quickly become a respected leader, building relationships and contributing meaningfully to wildlands conservation efforts.

Wilderness Workshop began nearly 55 years ago as an all-volunteer organization inspired by wilderness and rooted in our community. These values remain at our core today, and we are proud to report we now have fourteen professionals working to conserve and protect our public lands. This growth has allowed us to both protect an expanded geography of public lands and work to ensure all in our community engage and build connections with these beloved places. An annual report can only capture a small part of the wide-ranging work our team does every day, but we hope it serves as a source of inspiration and a recognition of your support of our work.

Yours in gratitude,

Allyn Harvey, Board President &
Will Roush, Executive Director



Cover Photo: Homestake Valley, the site of a potential dam and reservoir. Photo courtesy Steven DeWitt/Witness Tree Media

OUR WORK

From our home base in the Roaring Fork Valley, our team works to protect public lands and waters across Western Colorado – stretching from the Continental Divide to the Colorado Plateau and plenty of beloved places in between. This map highlights a selection of our key projects.



CORE ACT

Our advocacy for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act remained a key priority in 2021. The Act - which includes protections for 400,000 acres of public lands - again passed the House of Representatives and for the first time, had a hearing in the Senate. Now with both Colorado Senators in support, we're hopeful it will become law during the 117th Congress.

BERLAIMONT ESTATES

The White River National Forest issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this unpopular and ecologically disastrous proposal and is poised to approve a year-round, paved access road through critical wildlife habitat to facilitate sprawl. Thanks to our advocacy and public opposition, Colorado elected officials have urged the Forest Service to reconsider the decision and the project is in limbo.

ASPEN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Early in 2021, the White River National Forest released a plan to authorize logging and prescribed fire across 375,000 acres of aspen forest for decades to come. While we generally support prescribed fire, our team analyzed the project and determined it does not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act; we've asked the Forest Service to shelve the project.

NORTH FORK

The Gunnison National Forest is developing its forest plan that will determine use and development throughout the forest for the next 20+ years. We've identified six landscapes with important ecological values and are advocating for their protection as recommended wildernesses and special management areas in the final plan.

NORTHWEST COLORADO

The Bureau of Land Management proposed new oil and gas leases in Northwest Colorado; the lease parcels encompass wild public lands we are dedicated to protecting through our Colorado Wildlands Project. We activated our members to ensure these wildlands don't get sold to oil and gas companies, and are advocating for the agency to comply with President Biden's directive to pause all new lease sales.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR OTHER PROJECTS

1. **Stopping new Oil and Gas development**, page 4
2. **No new dams in the Homestake Valley**, page 6
3. **Crystal River Wild & Scenic Designation**, page 7
4. **Colorado Wildlands Project**, page 8

Some projects occur in multiple locations and have several locators.

DEFIENDE NUESTRA TIERRA

Defend Our Land

Our Defiende Nuestra Tierra (Defend Our Land) program celebrated its third anniversary in the summer of 2021! This program builds and deepens our relationship with members of the Latinx community, while activating our members and the public to make sure our elected officials and agency staff understand how much the Latinx community values public lands and their protection.



Top: Building Latinx community connections to the outdoors is part of the Defiende program and 2021 was a busy year! Here, students are exploring Glenwood Canyon, where Defiende partnered with Colorado Mountain College and their Upward Bound program on summer events.

Bottom row, left to right: Smokey Bear made an appearance at our annual Posada & Tree Cutting event with the White River National Forest! Participants at an event with the Aspen Art Museum, using the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness as artistic inspiration. Defiende supported the creation of the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program, rallying Western Slope nonprofits and businesses. Engaging in advocacy and policy work was a program priority in 2021, and Defiende gave virtual presentations and grew relationships with other nonprofits and key elected officials, such as Representative Neguse.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
should be enjoyed by all

We support the Outdoor Equity Grant Program

The outdoor grant businesses and organizations from the Western Slope support 100% OEG, which would create an Outdoor Equity Grant Program. It would support underrepresented youth and their communities by funding equitable access to outdoor experiences and education in our public lands and waters. Colorado provides abundant opportunities for residents and visitors to find connection to outdoor spaces through recreation. However, a lack of financial and economic resources often prohibits many children and their families from fully experiencing the amazing array of outdoor opportunities and activities in our state.

We are calling on the Colorado General Assembly to pass HB21-028 and for Governor Polis to sign it into law. The Outdoor Equity Grant Program would help restore recreational services, benefit public health and the economy and create an ethic of conservation and stewardship to protect our state's life-enhancing public lands.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit Falls • Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) • Aspen Expeditions • Aspen Outdoors • Aspen Valley Land Trust • Cumbres Trail • Colorado Mountain College • Defiende Nuestra Tierra • HEMAC • Mountain Park Conservancy • Mountain Park Outdoor Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Outreach • The Rabbit Program • The Civic Effect • Town of Vail • Type Outdoor Productions • West Elk State Park • Wilderness Workshop • YouthQuest • YouthOne
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All paid for by Aspen Center for Environmental Studies ©2021 Aspen Valley Expeditions, Aspen Valley Land Trust, Mountain Park Conservancy, Mountain Park Outdoor Volunteers, and Wilderness Workshop

SAVING MORE NATURE:
A live chat with Jim Ramey, Rep. Joe Neguse, and Beatriz Soto.

JUNE 3, 3:30PM ET

Watch it on Instagram live
@WildernessSociety

	JIM RAMEY Colorado State Director The Wilderness Society
	BEATRIZ SOTO Defiende Nuestra Tierra Director
	REP. JOE NEGUSE D-CO and District

OIL & GAS

Stopping new oil and gas development

We've had a busy year working to protect public lands and our climate from the impacts of federal oil and gas development. Most significantly, after years of litigation, we convinced the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to re-write two massive resource management plans governing oil and gas leasing across 2 million acres of Western Colorado!

In 2021, the BLM rescinded the oil and gas portions of the Grand Junction resource management plan after years of Wilderness Workshop's tenacious policy and legal work. This followed on the heels of a federal court rescinding the oil and gas portions of the neighboring Colorado River Valley resource management plan, also as a result of our legal work. The BLM's previous plans prioritized fossil fuel production over all

other values, such as conservation or recreation, on our public lands. Beginning in 2022, the agency will have to go back to the drawing board to consider a more balanced approach - one that we'll be fighting hard to ensure does not add to the climate crisis but instead contributes to the Biden-Harris administration's ambitious 30x30 (protecting 30% of lands and waters in the US by 2030) goals.

Our legal and policy team has been busy on many other fronts as well - we intervened in national litigation to defend the Biden-Harris administration's moratorium on oil and gas lease sales; challenged a drilling proposal for 35 new wells in the North Fork Valley; and continued our efforts to eliminate leases from roadless areas in the Thompson Divide.

Despite our progress with the BLM resource management plans, we've been disappointed by the pace of change under the Biden-Harris administration and even ended the year fighting potential new leasing in Northwest Colorado near Dinosaur National Monument. While a Department of the Interior report acknowledged something we've known for years - that the federal leasing program is antiquated, broken, and in need of holistic reform - the Department has been frustratingly slow to act and make much-needed reforms.

In 2022, we'll continue to hold the Administration accountable as we work towards a managed decline of fossil fuel production on public lands in Western Colorado.

“ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF U.S. EMISSIONS CAN BE TRACED BACK TO OIL, GAS, AND COAL DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS...TO PUT THAT IN CONTEXT: **PUBLIC LANDS WOULD RANK AS THE 5TH LARGEST SOURCE OF EMISSIONS IN THE WORLD AS THEIR OWN NATION.**”

– THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY REPORT



Looking towards the Raggeds Wilderness from near the Pilot Knob Roadless Area in the Gunnison National Forest, which we're working to protect from new oil and gas development. Photo courtesy Jon Mullen/ECOSTOCK.



WATER

Protecting ecosystems and wildlife habitat

While we often say Wilderness Workshop protects public lands, it's more accurate to say public lands *and waters*. Due to their outsized value, rivers and their adjacent riparian ecosystems are a critical part of our work to protect ecosystems and wildlife habitat. Our work to stop dams and protect rivers took off in 2021!

NO NEW DAMS!

A highpoint of our work fighting the proposed Homestake Dam and Reservoir - which would destroy rare fen wetlands and could inundate portions of the Holy Cross Wilderness - came when we organized a "Save the Homestake Valley Rally" in Red Cliff. With multi-generational community members marching in the street and creative signs on display, the energy was a sharp contrast to our disappointment from earlier in the year when the White River National Forest approved drilling test wells in the Homestake Valley.

Many long-time residents know that the front-range cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs have already constructed one reservoir and transmountain diversion in the Homestake Valley. The 1980s and 1990s saw another proposal - Homestake II - which was successfully defeated. Instead of prioritizing water conservation and other measures that would sustain water resources and ecosystem health, the Cities are determined to squeeze every last drop from the Western Slope. As we wait for a formal dam and reservoir proposal to be submitted to the Forest Service, we'll continue to work with the community to keep the pressure on and fight this short-sighted, ecologically disastrous project at every step.

Community Members, led by Wilderness Workshop's Director of Community Organizing Erin Riccio, marching at the "Save the Homestake Valley Rally" in Red Cliff.

KEEP THE CRYSTAL WILD AND SCENIC

Our team was proud to bring new momentum and expertise to community-driven efforts to designate the Crystal River, which begins in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and flows through both Marble and Redstone on its way to Carbondale, as a Wild and Scenic River. This designation, which would protect the river from any future dams and out-of-basin diversions, requires Congressional action, but is fundamentally rooted in community decision-making and input.

Wilderness Workshop has taken a leadership role in the Crystal Wild and Scenic Coalition, leveraging our deep community relationships and political savvy, as well as our connections with other conservation groups who have expertise with Wild and Scenic designations. We hosted a successful "Celebrate the Crystal" event in Marble in October and at the end of 2021, our petition supporting designation had 500+ signatures. Protecting the beloved Crystal River is clearly a local priority and we're looking forward to keeping the positive momentum going in 2022!



As we seek to address the climate and biodiversity crises, conserving wild rivers and the ecosystems they sustain is a crystal-clear win. Photo courtesy Samantha Sheppard.



COLORADO WILDLANDS PROJECT

Protecting BLM Lands

Colorado's 8.3 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered public lands make up one-third of the federal public lands in our state, yet only 8% of these lands are permanently protected through conservation designations, dramatically less than other public lands types in the state.

Colorado's at-risk BLM wildlands include a half-million acres of Wilderness Study Areas and over two million acres of additional wilderness-quality lands meriting wilderness designation or other permanent conservation measures. These diverse lands include the stunning redrock of the Dolores River, the sandstone canyons and rolling sagebrush

steppe of the Dinosaur region, and some of Colorado's most important wildlife habitat such as that found in Grand Junction's Book Cliffs. In addition to BLM public lands being underrepresented in the conservation system, these lands are critical for climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience.

The Colorado Wildlands Project works to protect wild public lands managed by the BLM. Powered with coordinated support from Wilderness Workshop and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Project is dedicated to the conservation, climate resilience and equitable management of our public lands.



COLORADO WILDLANDS PROJECT DONORS

The Colorado Wildlands Project is a special, self-funded project housed within Wilderness Workshop. To learn more visit cowildlands.org.

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- Paul M. Angell Foundation
- Currie and Tom Barron
- Steve Bonowski
- Kirkwood Cunningham
- Garbett Family Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Western Conservation Foundation
- Western Slope Conservation Center



Left: Dolores Point as viewed looking west from The Palisade Wilderness Study Area, which is managed by the BLM.

Above: Mule Deer are a common sight in landscapes the Colorado Wildlands Project is working to protect. Photos courtesy Jon Mullen/ Ecostock.

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Thank you to our generous community of supporters, business sponsors, and partners! Donors listed gave to Wilderness Workshop between January 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

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Wilderness Workshop is especially grateful for our Maroon Bells Circle members, who are donors giving \$2,000 and up to support our work. Maroon Bells Circle members enjoy updates from our team on our most critical projects, invitations to unique events, and special acknowledgment at Wild Feast, our annual benefit.

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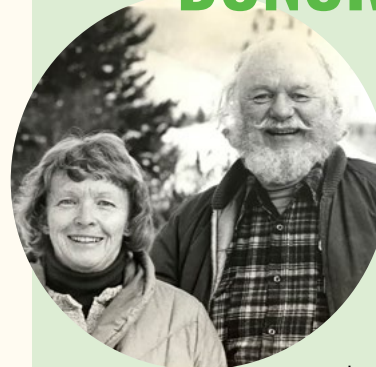
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DONOR SPOTLIGHT



HONORING JOY & SAM CAUDILL

Aspenite Bill Lipsey recently donated to Wilderness Workshop in honor of Joy & Sam Caudill. He offered these remembrances:

I arrived in Aspen in 1968 having accepted an unsolicited job offer from architect Sam Caudill. I had just experienced the Chicago Democratic convention chaos firsthand and was ready for something new and different. The offer included a ski pass and Friday afternoon pool sessions after tumultuous margarita lunches at Toros.

Joy & Sam knew how to work hard and have fun. Sam regularly drove his semi-restored Model T in the July 4th Parade and headed up the "Golden Canine Brigade" which always stopped in front of the Hotel Jerome to demonstrate their talent to all sit down at once. The Caudill's had a clear vision of their priorities: first & foremost, imbue their love & deep appreciation for nature in others, something their children have continued.

Sam spent many years serving on the Colorado Water Conservation Board; Joy expressed her love for the natural world with the same laser focus. In 1967, she along with Dottie Fox and Connie Harvey, founded Wilderness Workshop. For years, they patiently and tenaciously helped grow it into the highly respected environmental organization it is today.

From the Caudills I learned about a then-nascent movement known as "environmentalism" — a life-changing new word for a city boy. It put me on the path of designing and building some of the earliest solar houses in Colorado, as well as many great hikes and campouts.

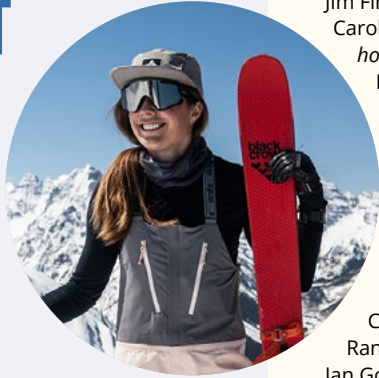
Thank you for allowing me to honor and remember Joy & Sam for their pioneering, inspirational, and tireless work on behalf of environmentalism. We need many more folks like them.

Photo Courtesy Chris Cassatt

NEW DONOR SPOTLIGHT

MAGGIE MELBERG

Maggie Melberg is a broker with Aspen Snowmass Sotheby's International: Melberg Properties. A new donor to Wilderness Workshop, we asked her to share why she's chosen to support our work.



Growing up in Woody Creek, I knew the Roaring Fork Valley was a special place, but it didn't really sink in until I moved out East for college and my first job. A deep connection to the outdoors is part of what called me back home, and now whether I'm backcountry skiing in the winter or biking in the summer, I know that public lands and waters are what makes the Roaring Fork Valley so extraordinary.

I love talking to new clients who are choosing a property because of the nearby protected public lands – I get to share my passion for a place I love, and I can tell them about an organization who's working hard every day to defend it: Wilderness Workshop! I'm proud to support the Workshop and excited about their growing team and critical work.

Maggie matched her gift to Wilderness Workshop through Sotheby's Matching Gift Program. If your employer has a matching gift program, let us know! Wilderness Workshop staff will happily assist with the paperwork and ensure you can maximize your donation! Email emily@wildernessworkshop.org with any questions.

An avid backcountry skier, Maggie is also a model for Strafe Outerwear. Strafe, based in Aspen, is a proud business supporter of Wilderness Workshop and provided financial and in-kind support in 2021.

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Lois Veltus
Theresa Voiner
Jeff Wadley
Carl and Ruth Walker
Howard Wallach
Tom and Donna Ward
Craig and Becky Ward
Bob and Jill Warner
Andrea West
Kim West
Julia Whipple
Philippa Whitcomb
Lara and Marc Whitley
Pierre and Beth Wille
Andre and Julie Wille
Lori Williams
Ronald Wolff
Claire Marie Wright
Eileen Wysocki
Shawna Yaussi
Aimee and Luis Yllanes
Robert Zupancic
Toni Zurcher

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Garrett Ahern, *in memory of John Muir*
 Casey Altman
 Ben Armstrong
 John Armstrong
 Hilary Back
 Camille Backman
 Sanne Bagby
 Carol Bayens
 David E Bentley
 Bryann Benton
 Leslie Blosmo, *in memory of Sean*
 Ray Bloxham
 Richard Boebel
 Liz and John Bokram
 Carly Bolliger
 Matthew bowles
 Eric Brendlinger
 Karen Bristol, *in memory of Bandit*
 Hilary Brock
 Rachael Bronk
 Kimbo Brown-Schirato
 Debra Burleigh
 David Burns
 Oni Butterfly
 Lee Cassin
 Todd Chamberlin
 Trish Chew
 Pam Chiaro
 Kendall Christianson
 Janet Chu
 Amber Clark
 Jane Click
 Sarah Coburn
 Ned and Jan Cochran
 John Colson
 Janice Cooper, *in memory of Roger Paris*
 Seth Cothrun
 Russ Crawford-Arensman
 Patti Cummings
 Owen Dahl
 Don Davidson and Sandy Simpson
 Jacqueline A Dearborn
 Katherine Delanoy
 Molly DeMarr
 Mary Dorais
 Rebecca Norman and Matt Dvorak
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 Ian Edlind
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 Annie Goodman
 Margot Graham
 Donna and Bernie Grauer
 Suzanne Gray
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 Shelly Gruner, *in memory of MaryAnn Welly*
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 Helen Hebert
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 John Hoffmann
 Rebecca Horton
 Dagmar Huber
 Kate Hudson
 Kate Hugo
 Michael Hurst
 Huey Mark Hurst
 Michael Hutton and PJ Wallace
 Mary Ann Inouye

Hannah Irwin
 John Isaacs
 Wayne Ives
 Jeff Jackel
 Suzanne Jackson
 Karen Jenneman, *in memory of my dad and Uncle Bob*
 Tracy Jennings
 Soren Jespersen
 Joanne Jimino
 Sarah R Johnson
 Suzanne and Elise Jones
 Susan Kaemmerlen
 Jacquelyn Kasabach
 John Kay
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 Debbie Kelly
 C Michael Kelly
 Michelle Keplinger
 Lee Kidder, *in memory of Rider Griswold*
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 Teri Lester
 Geoffrey Lester
 Carla Lewis
 Joel Lichtenwalter
 Denise Lock
 Kacey Locsin
 Sacha Logan
 Judith Lopez, *in memory of Duane Carr*
 Valerie MacDonald
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Sherry Schenk
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 Jason White
 Marilyn Whittaker
 Chris Williams
 Lee Wilson
 Tina Wilson and Tim Carter
 Sonja Winfield
 Michael Woodward
 Jim Woolaway
 Garry Zabel
 Jonathan Zucker

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 – December 31, 2021, *unaudited*

OPERATING INCOME

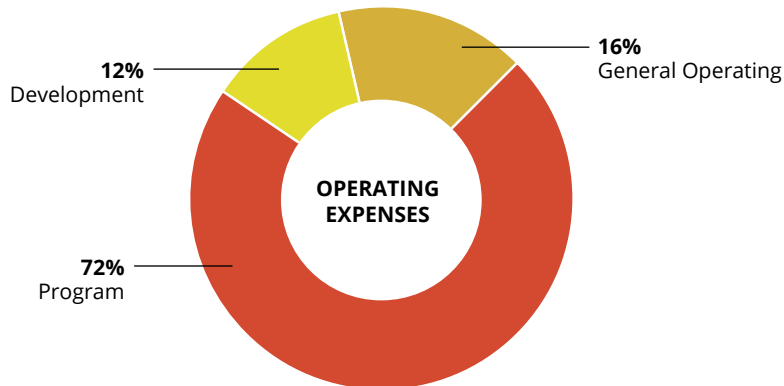
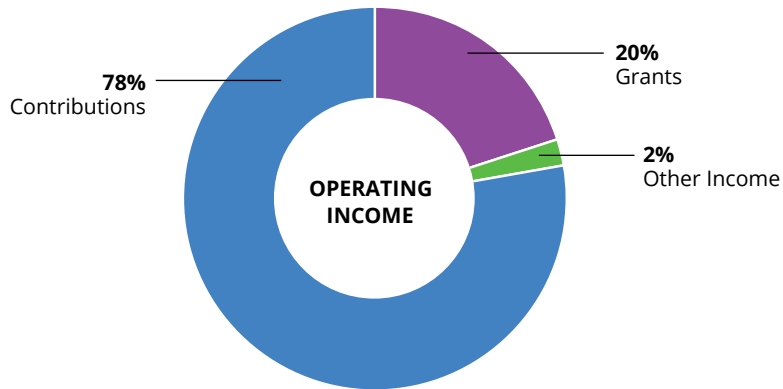
Contributions	\$1,217,170.02
Grants	\$308,063.11
Other Income	\$32,150.10

Total Income \$1,557,383.23

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program	\$950,343.28
General Operating	\$204,856.03
Development	\$162,237.52

Total Expenses \$1,317,436.83



BUSINESS SPONSORS

Thank you to the following businesses and nonprofits who supported us in 2021, financially or through in-kind donations and special discounts.

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\$5,000+

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An Aspen Affair, Suzanne Landman
Aspen Skiing Company
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Brass Anvil
Kasey Cox/Foxz Creative
Grassroots TV
Halcyon Productions
Idylwilde Brewing Company
Inkswell Screen Printers
Johnston | Van Arsdale | Martin
Marble Distilling Co.
Markussen Group, LLC
SocialLight Photo
Sopris Liquor & Wine
Strafe Outerwear
Sunlight Mountain Resort
The Village Smithy
Third Street Center
Two Leaves and a Bud

Mountain goats in the Tenmile Range of the Continental Divide. The Tenmile Wilderness is one of three new wilderness areas proposed in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act. Photo courtesy Jon Mullen/Ecostock.



STEWARDSHIP

Giving back to the land



Stewardship and restoration projects are a key way we enhance ecological integrity on public lands. They are also an important chance to partner with federal agencies and give volunteers a way to roll up their sleeves and give back to the places they love!

On one of several projects this summer, Wilderness Workshop partnered with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Independence Pass Foundation, and the White River National Forest on a restoration project along the Linkins Lake Trail and the upper section of the Lost Man Trail. Work on this busy section of trail off Independence Pass included trimming trees, installing and maintaining drainage structures along the trail, and installing 35 new steps.

WILDERNESS WORKSHOP IS A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION WORKING TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS OF COLORADO'S WESTERN SLOPE.

WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

Wilderness Workshop's mission is to protect and conserve the wilderness and natural landscapes of the Roaring Fork Watershed, the White River National Forest, and adjacent public lands.

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Thank you to all of our Board Members for their volunteer service.

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Michael Gorman
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JOIN OUR TEXTAVIST (TEXT ACTIVIST) PROGRAM

by texting "WILDERNESS" to 844-922-3977

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P.O. Box 1442 Carbondale, CO 81623
Offices in the Third Street Center
520 S. 3rd St., Suite 27, Carbondale
Tel (970) 963-3977
wildernessworkshop.org
info@wildernessworkshop.org

SAVE THE DATE
WILD FEAST

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10
THE ST. REGIS ASPEN RESORT - ASPEN, COLORADO

WILDERNESS WORKSHOP IS GRATEFUL
TO THIS YEAR'S PREMIERE SPONSOR



ST REGIS
ASPEN

TO JOIN THE HOST COMMITTEE OR BECOME A SPONSOR,
CONTACT PHILANTHROPY DIRECTOR EMILY HAY,
EMILY@WILDERNESSWORKSHOP.ORG



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