



James T. Williams | InWildLight.com



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy

20
25
Annual Report



A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Each year, I am reminded that the strength of Rocky Mountain Conservancy is not only found in the landscapes we help protect, but in the community of people who care deeply that this place endures for generations to come.

From restoring critical wetlands in the Kawuneeche Valley and protecting vulnerable wildlife species, to building sustainable trails and expanding conservation career opportunities for young adults, your support in 2025 made this work possible.

With your partnership last year, Tribal youth reconnected with their ancestral lands at the inaugural Tribal Youth Summit, and urban youth from around Colorado had the opportunity to visit Rocky, many for the very first time. High school students gained leadership skills and confidence through hands-on projects with our High School Leadership Corps, and adults and families deepened their connection to Rocky through our Field Institute which combines volunteerism, outdoor education, and shared experiences in nature.



Scan this QR code to watch our 2025 project highlight video on YouTube

What inspires me most is that these efforts go beyond conservation; they create pathways for people to be stewards of our public lands. Together, we are investing in strengthening our park today and inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders to carry this work forward.

As you read this report, I hope you see yourself in the stories we share and the accomplishments we achieved together. The challenges facing our complex public lands continue to grow, but so does the dedication of this community. Because of you, we can meet this moment with a shared commitment to protecting Rocky for future generations.

Thank you for being an essential part of this work and for helping ensure that Rocky Mountain National Park remains a place of inspiration, discovery, and connection for all.

With gratitude,



Estee Rivera Murdock

Estee Rivera Murdock
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Conservation Starts Here



By the Numbers:



1 Bridge Built



40

Acres of invasive plants removed by hand



200

Rocks moved along the Twin Sisters Trail



8

Logs prepped for trails



498

Plants repotted

© Conservancy Photo

Growing the next generation of public land stewards

Check out the HSLC Yearbook!



With the support of our donors, the Conservancy's High School Leadership Corps (HSLC) continues to expand its impact. This unique program provides urban youth with hands-on conservation experiences in

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho National Forest, while also teaching important skills in communication and leadership.

In 2025, we introduced a new youth mentoring component aimed at returning HSLC participants. Four youth mentors were trained in leadership and conflict resolution. Once in the field, they planned daily activities and mentored first time participants.

Connecting Tribal Youth to their Ancestral Lands

In the summer of 2025, the park welcomed Tribal youth to Rocky for the first annual Tribal Youth Summit. This was an important opportunity for young people to reconnect with their ancestral lands and learn about the Nation-to-Nation consultation process. These consultations between Rocky and Tribal Nations ensure that Tribal input is considered before decisions are made on projects or actions affecting Tribal rights and resources.

During their visit, Elders shared cultural and ecological knowledge with this next generation, who learned about their cultural practices and language that are tied to the land, as well as the ecosystems, animals, and history of the land Rocky protects.

With your support, we are strengthening ties to these ancestral lands and building the next generation of public land stewards.



© Conservancy Photo

And Continues Here



Opening Doors to Discovery

While the mountain peaks of Longs and Meeker dominate the western horizon, for many youth in urban Colorado, visiting Rocky is only a dream. Our donors help remove some of the barriers youth face by providing charter buses for Title One schools to bring students to Rocky to participate in award-winning education programs and experience the landscapes Rocky is known for.

When they arrive, students are kitted out in appropriate clothing and equipment, like snowshoes, so they can fully discover all our park has to offer. In 2025, nine schools from Thornton, Commerce City, and Denver participated in the transportation program.



Field Institute

In 2025, the Field Institute Provided:



175 Programs
including stream ecology and fly-fishing; intro to outdoor climbing; and family story time



44 Bus Tours
including 11 elk tours



Winter Speaker Series
at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Check out the the Speaker Series videos!



Connecting Adults and Families to Rocky

Established in 1962, the Conservancy's Field Institute continues to provide educational experiences and volunteer opportunities that connect adults and families to Rocky's inspiring landscapes, ecosystems, and animals.

In 2025, nearly 3,000 people attended courses and popup events to learn more about our park.

Bettie Courses

Our Bettie Courses connect women to conservation efforts by creating a supportive space where they can ask questions, build skills, and connect through shared experiences in the outdoors. In 2025, the Field Institute launched several new programs that provided women with a variety of opportunities to thrive in the outdoors, including an overnight backpacking trip for four women who had never experienced back country camping.

Programs Offered:

- Via Ferrata led by KMAC guides (new)
- Stream ecology and fly-fishing
- Intro to outdoor climbing (new)
- Guided hikes

Supporting Volunteerism in Rocky

Conservancy staff work closely with the park to provide single-day volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals that greatly increase the park's work capacity. Volunteers join with park rangers and staff to undertake important habitat restoration projects throughout the park.

In 2025, Conservancy donors helped us hire a volunteer coordinator specifically to work with groups from organizations and businesses wishing to donate their time to preserve the park.

By the Numbers:



Over
2000

Willows planted to help wetland restoration in the Kawuneeche Valley



32 Volunteer events held in the park



6 Volunteers planted 400 seedlings on a 7-day backcountry trip with the park's forestry crew



Propagated Hundreds of native plants in the greenhouse



Revegetated Moraine Park Campground

Building Ecological Resilience



Conservancy Photo

Restoring the Kawuneeche Valley

2025 was a busy year for the Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative. This area of critical wetlands has been damaged by historical ranching and ditching practices, and the loss of willow stands. Willows play a crucial role in the valley's ecosystem for beavers and water quality but have been over-browsed by elk and moose in recent years.

Our partners maintained in-stream structures in Beaver Creek this year, which helped slow the flow of water and recharge the water table. This is critical to re-establish wetlands, and the impact was easy to see as water inundated land nearly the size of 2.5 football fields over the summer.

With the help of the Conservancy's Conservation Corps, more than 50 acres were treated to control invasive plant species, and volunteers planted nearly 2,000 willows and alders to re-vegetate around Beaver Creek. Together, these efforts will allow native plants to flourish and hopefully encourage beavers to return to the valley.

To further support plant life in the valley, partners also completed rare plant surveys, and park staff installed a temporary plant nursery to help propagate willow and alder saplings for future revegetation efforts. Learn more at www.KVCollab.org.

Wildlife Conservation

Conservancy donors funded two very important wildlife conservation efforts in 2025: the reintroduction of the boreal toad and the raptor monitoring program.

The boreal toad is listed as an endangered species in Colorado. Habitat loss and the presence of a chytrid fungus, which infects the toad's skin and has a high mortality rate, may have contributed to this status. The reintroduction program begins by determining that the fungus is not present in ponds, streams, and rivers. Several sites have proven to be successful in the survival of the boreal toad.

The raptor monitoring program focuses on raptors like the peregrine falcon, ensuring the birds are not disturbed during the nesting season. Raptors tend to nest in areas that are popular for climbing. By tracking active nests, park staff encourage responsible climbing and balance visitor access by implementing seasonal closures to protect nesting birds. Thanks to this program and volunteers from the local climbing community, the park saw 9 falcons fledge in 2025.



Boreal toads in a box.



Raptor monitoring

Leadership Through Service

Conservation Corps at Work

In 2025, 52 young adults participated in the Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Conservation Corps, supporting critical work in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

The completion of the Green Mountain Trail was a major achievement for the Corps, which has been working with park trail crews to restore the trail since the devastating 2020 East Troublesome wildfire. Over the years, crew members have moved fallen trees off the trail and constructed 1.5 miles of a new trail, which is drier, less steep, and built for sustainability, ensuring the trail will be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Corps also continued work along the Longs Peak trail, installing 650 feet of natural rock pavers to protect the trail from erosion.

By the Numbers:

 **9000** Invasive species removed

 **1093** Plants repotted or planted

 **243** Acres treated for invasive species

 **70** Miles of trail cleared and maintained

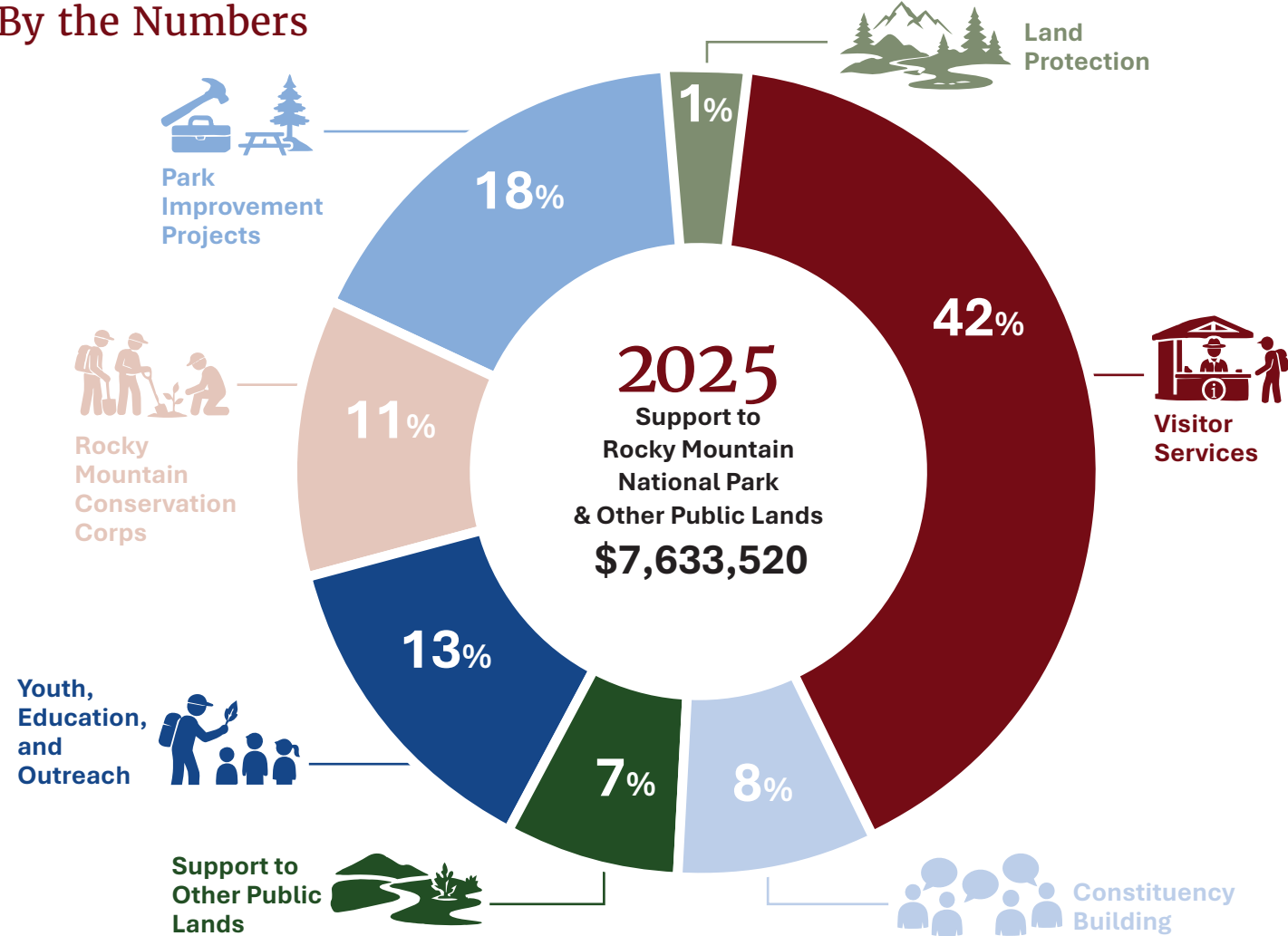
 **12** Check steps installed

 **8** Fallen trees removed from trails

Check out the
Corps Yearbook!



By the Numbers



Assets & Liabilities

As of December 31, 2025	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 8,000,874	\$ 8,467,879
Investments	16,515,533	14,570,700
Contributions Receivable	2,575,192	530,250
Prepaid Expenses	141,799	126,621
Inventory	1,517,724	1,111,428
Property and Equipment	3,866,977	4,043,379
TOTAL ASSETS	32,618,099	28,850,257
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	211,396	237,812
Accrued Aid Payable	1,060,018	1,172,366
Accrued Expenses Payable	269,694	303,689
Deferred Revenue	108,890	100,000
Custodial Funds	13,078	7,928
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,663,076	1,821,795
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted:		
Operating	8,086,203	7,783,267
Designated:		
Operating Reserves	600,000	600,000
Rocky Terraces	823,881	823,881
Quasi-Endowments	11,782,025	10,221,517
RMNP Funds	3,233,581	3,442,029
Temporarily Restricted	6,067,405	3,799,321
Permanently Restricted	361,928	358,447
TOTAL NET ASSETS	30,955,023	27,028,462
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	32,618,099	28,850,257



Our Donors

For a complete list go to: www.RMConservancy.org/annual-reports/2025-annual-report

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Everett Carlson Estate
Jane Stotts Estate
Kathleen Winder Estate
National Park Foundation
Stephen Paulson Estate

\$50,000 – 99,999

Marjorie M. Feik Estate
Lynne and John Geweke
Richard E. Hoffman, M.D. and Molly Hoffman
Anonymous
Susan “Simcha” Rudolph Estate

\$25,000 – 49,999

Carol and Ron Anderson-Lehman
James Colbert and Barbara Bly Colbert
Karla Henderson
Dean and Kathryn Johnson
Frank and Monty Kugeler
National Forest Foundation
Andrew and Margaret Theodos

\$10,000 – 24,999

AllTrails, LLC
Bluebonnet Fund
Ron and Joyce Brady
Anonymous
Elizabeth Caplan
Caruthers Family Foundation
Kate Colby
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Joyce and Mark Fleming
Liza Grant
The Gratitude Fund
Hallidie and Donald Haid
Hannah Huse Estate
Franklin M. Harold
Mary Lamy
Johanna B. Liebling
National Philanthropic Trust
Carol-Ann Olson
Maureen Parks
Franz and Carol Peterson
Lori J. Rapp
Anonymous
Alice Schwartz
James and Jan Swaney
Thomas O. Brown Foundation
Wagner Family Giving Fund
Wagner Family Trust
Joan Winstein
Kelly and Rich Woessner
Jennifer and Charlie Wood

\$5,000 – 9,999

Beth Abbott
Diann Admire
Rachel and Andrew Ames
Richard and Sarah Amos
Arc Thrift Stores
Anonymous
Sheryl Benzinger
Julie and Mike Betik
Bond Family Charitable Fund
Betty J. Ottesen Trust
Deb Bialeschki and Rhonda Mickelson
Coral and Richard Bishop
Walter and Marlene Borneman
Chris Bruell
Diane L. Carter
Yao Loong Cheung
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Trout Unlimited
Daffy Charitable Fund
Alan Folz
Grace Franklin
Nicholas Funsch
Diane and Stephen Goddard
Matthew and Marie Gordon
Dr. John A. Grant, Jr. and Eleanor Grant

Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Jessica Hanner
Dr. William Hays and Dr. Taru Hays
Robert and Ellen Hostetler
Dr. Laird Ingham, Jr. and Carol Ingham
Janet and Larry Kilgore
Scott and Loree Kohrs
Nancy S. Macky
Susan B. Mammel
Stephen Massad and Laura Devitt
Katherine McGee
Kent C. and Régine Mericle
Dana Miller
Mary and C.J. Miller
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund
KM and PE Naktenis Family Foundation
New Dogs Charitable Fund
Anita Prinzmetal
Raymond James Charitable
Sharon E. Rice
Rocky Mountain Gateway
Anonymous
Rotary Club of Estes Park
Anonymous

David Schlendorf
Nancy H. Shanks
Donald J. and Christine J. Steger
Dennis and Lynn Stepaniak
The Denver Foundation
The Graham Edwin and Sharon Janosik Mitchell Foundation
Barb and Milt Tokunaga
Ronald and Marilyn Tuttle
Van Liew Trust Company
Ben Walton
Wamego Community Foundation
Carol and Steve Watson
Wayne County Community Foundation
Dr. Ray M. Zeisset and Carolyn Zeisset

\$2,500 – 4,999

American Endowment Foundation
Geoff Ashby and Samantha Uriguen-Ashby
Ellen Coker and Larry DeMers
Athletic Brewing Company, LLC
Sue Baker
Christi and Curtis Burchard
Everett Carlson
Amy and Kevin Crossland

Greg and Peggy Danielson
Dawn Kaback
Marian Dines and Joanne Christensen
East Texas Communities Foundation
Laura and Jim Endicott
Lois Hansen Estate
First Sight Films, LLC
Deborah Friedman
Kenneth J. Gamauf
Gloria Gardiner
Lucille Glassman
Grand Traverse Reginal Community Foundation
Gertrude Grant
Gray Line of Colorado
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
John A. Grove
Halfdays
Kathy and George A. Hansen
Julie and Martin Harrington
Susan K Harris
Keith and Beth Heaton
Ernest and Mary Ann Horter
Leonor Johnson
Michael and Earleen Ligothe
Michael E. Lindsay
Bill McDonald and Jeff Barthen
Kurt Menning and Keiko McKibben
Ruth Medak

Miles M. and Bonnie B. Mewherter
Ken Miller
Mark and Janette Morgan
Robert E. Moore, Jr.
James and Sheila Murray
William J. and Anita V. Ondr
Parks Project, LLC
Paul R. and Kay Passmore
James M. and Faye Pruett
Susan Reeve
Katherine Reid
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Robertson
Anne and Douglas Rogers
Rose Community Foundation
Tom and JoEllen Ross
Elizabeth K. Schultz
Marcus Sessel
Victoria L. Stokke
Mark and Lyn Stoll
The Community Foundation of Louisville
Corporate Depository
Vicki Diane Schmidt Estate
David and Kathy Walker
Wild Tribute

\$1,000 – 2,499

Erin Abernathy
Abigail Adams
Doyeon Ahn
Deborah M. and
Raymond A. Akers
Heidi Albrecht
Cathy J. and Stephen
Alper
Richard A. and Sarah S.
Amos
Rick and Mary Andes
Arlene Aslanian
Edwin A. Austin
AYCO Charitable
Foundation
Vaughn Baker
Bank of America
Charitable Gift Fund
Sandra S. Basanavage
DeeDee and Kurt Baze
J.D. and Rose Marie
Benisek
Rodney Betsch
Christopher Black
Sandra M. Boatman
Linda K. Bourgeois-
Williams
Robert Bowles and
Michelle Keist Bowles
Richard Brandon and
Amy Skinner
Denise A. and Mark R.
Bretting
Kenneth A. and Susan K.
Brunk
Mark Bruno
David Burbidge and Jan
Waterhouse
Jan Burton

Lauren and R.W.
Cameron
Claire and John Caudill
Anonymous
Charbonneau Family
Fund
Don and Carole Cheley
Kathi and Christopher
Child
JoAnn Clark
Margaret Clark Golden
Jennifer and Raymond
Clarke
Michael and Shelley
Clayton
Clayton Charitable Fund
Colorado Gives:
Community First
Foundation
Community Foundation
of Greater Des Moines
Michael Conley and
Susan Steele
Kathleen M. Conway
Jerry Cox
Hutch and Kim Craig
Leslie F. and Robert R.
Cutler
Clark Cyr
Richard and Merry Davis
Timothy A. and Jane
Davis
Catherine and Gregory
Deines
Delaware County
Foundation
Sallie Dickinson
Katherine A. Dines
Richard and Cynthia
Dixon
Susan Gapter Dority and
Tom Dority

Dirk and Jeanie Draper
Robert and Jane Dunphy
Anonymous
Joan Eaton
Dale and Melinda
Egeberg
Pamela and Robert
Eichelberger
Lois and Bruce
Ellingwood
Steve and Elizabeth
Emmett-Mattox
Carolyn S. Ennis
Gary and Kathleen Falk
Byron and Molly Fanning
Tom and Jill Farber
Melinda Mayo Finley
Daniel and Tara Flynn
Anonymous
Bruce Friend
Eric Froehlich
Howard Fry, Jr.
GEODOT Fund
Carolann and John
Gerhard
Give Lively Foundation
Inc
Diane E. Godin
James Good and Linda
Koehn Good
Grand Lake Lodge
Patrick A. and Carla
Grant
Deirdre Grant-Mercurio
and James Mercurio
Tom Graves
Brenda Graves-Blevins
Colleen Greer and Deb
Peterson
Pamela S. Groves

Robert and Mary Ann
Gudmundson
Judy Gunkler and Bill
Rawsky
Anonymous
Richard and Barbara
Hamman
Dr. Ronald D. Harden
and Rita Harden
Kimberly Harris
Ryan Haulsey
Ellen Heath and Diane
Blaser
Tasha and Tony
Heatherton
Helen Thoele Family
Foundation UAD
Hendrickson DA Fund
Anonymous
Sara Herkes
Photography and Design
LLC
Julia Hershey
Jacquelyn M. Hertel
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J.
Hickey
Ana and David Hill
Gisela Hobman
Deanna Hollon
Honeywell International
Charity Matching
Kathryn Hornbein
James and Deborah
Horst
Vincent J. Houghtaling
Susan Hughes
James F. and Karen
Jenchura
Zachariah Jeyakaran
Kay I. Johnson
Richard K. Johnson

Celia Johnson
Frances S. Jones
Jon and Barbara Jung
Marc Katzin
Keeley Family Fund
Bernard Kelleher
Virginia H. Klenk
Darren Klinefelter
Jason and Jennifer
Kniesel
Earlene S. Knox
Deborah and Mike
Kocsis
Thomas and Barbara
Kostohryz
Michael Kruse
Carolyn Kuban and
George Banks
Mary Ann Kundtz
David Landers
James M. Lautner
Clayton A. and Rebecca
P. Lindwall
Marvin Lohmann
Michele Loudermilk
Trudi and Duane Lyda
Marcia Mabry
Rala Mandelson
Mangala Mali Krishna
Jayam
Lubomir and Yana
Manolov
James D. Marshall
Randall and Lisa
McAllister
Janice McClelland
Hugh and Cathey
McDermott
Frank Megorden
John Meier

Jennifer and James
Mieras
Scott Mikulak
Sherrie and Ron Miller
George D. Miller
Linda Mills
Jannell Mohn
Mollie Mitchell and John
Wilson Foundation
Marilyn Moon
Dr. Robert Moore
Mary Ann Morton-Bliley
Karina and Mindy Muro
Ann Marie and Dan
Murphy
Rachel Nakamura
Terry and Catherine
Nance
Kimberly Nash
James C. and Judith A.
Nelson
Linda K. and Henry
Neuman
Laura Page & Friends
Ricky and Vicki
Papineau
Parrish-Fay Family Fund
Robert A. Parsons
Paul and Diane Perry
Dr. James H. Pickering
and Pat Pickering
Felicia and Brian Pilgrim
Jane Post
Paul Pryzant and
Victoria Blanks
Brian and Carol Quinn
Terry and Jean Quinn

Radhakrishnan/
Mahalingam Giving Fund
John Raguse

Glenn and Cora Randall
Carol and John Redd
Mary and Bernie Riedel
Rocky Mountain Day
Hikes
Chris and Elizabeth
Rollinson
Nathan Rosenblum
Rachel Rucker-Schmidt
Mary Sampson
Allen and Mary Anne
Sanborn
Richard and Karen
Sandberg
Edwin R. Schrum
John W. Seeck
Jeffrey Sherman
Kevin Sherman
Darla Sidles and Mark
Collins
Richard and Betty
Simms
Eric Skelly
Caitlin Smallwood
Don C. and Jan Smith
Stuart and Elizabeth
Smith
Constance R. and
Richard Somers
Tracy and Rudolph
Spano
Abigail Sperry
Scott and Jeanne
Spreier
Anonymous
William and Mary Kay
Stoehr
Stephen M. Strachan
Dr. Francis W. Strehl
Christopher and
Caroline Stull

Charles D. Swaney
Suzanne Swanson
William E. Sweet III
Vickie and Alex Taylor
Keri Teague
The Northern Trust
Company
The Wildland Trekking
Company
Susan Thiel
Dr. Nancy P. Thomas
Margaret and Charles
Thornburg
Thrivent Charitable
Impact & Investing
Justina Tillwick
Joel Tjornehoj
Trailborn
Susan Trentel
Sean Tucker
Anthony and Ann Turner
Carole K. Tuttle
Twin Owls Productions,
Inc.
Deborah Tyler
John L. and Katherine J.
Vahle
John Vanier
Scott Vaughan
Jean and Pete Vegas
John and Evelyn Vittone
Celia and Steve
Voorhees
Mark A. and Jodi L.
Voyles
Cynthia and Harold
Walker
Roger A. Walton and
Helen T. Anderson
Wander Project



Thomas and Rachelle
Washburn
Linda and Tony Weber
Thomas J. Wedell
Weisman-Scarvalone
Family Fund
Brian and Karen
Wendling
Ginger Wentz
Mark and Kay Weston
Daniel and Joy Wilhelm
Jeremy Burmeister and
David Will
Suzy Winchester
Sharon and Clark J.
Winslow
Harold and Andrea Wolf
Hoyt H. Wood, Jr. and
Julie A. Wood

Gregory Woods
Xanterra Parks and
Resorts
Katherine and Mark
Young

Thank you to **ALL** our
donors!
For a complete list go to:
[www.RMConservancy.
org/annual-reports/2025-
annual-report](http://www.RMConservancy.org/annual-reports/2025-annual-report)

Our Mission

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy promotes stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park and similar lands through education and philanthropy.



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy

RMConservancy.org
(970) 586-0108