







Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation

In this season of thankful reflection, we at Colorado Fourteeners Initiative want to acknowledge the many people like you who have contributed their time, talents and donations to help preserve and protect the Fourteeners.

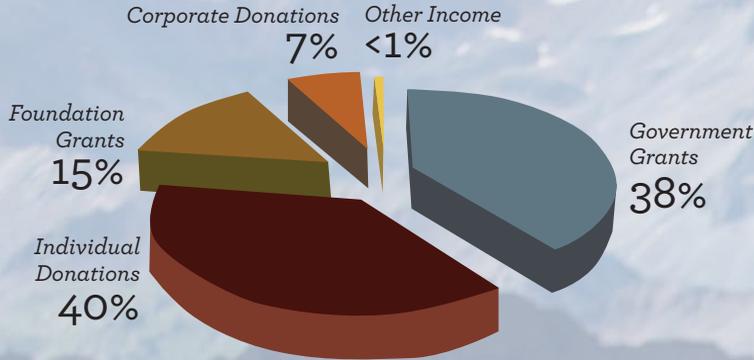
Our work would not be possible without your generosity.

On behalf of CFI's board and staff, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of our important mission.

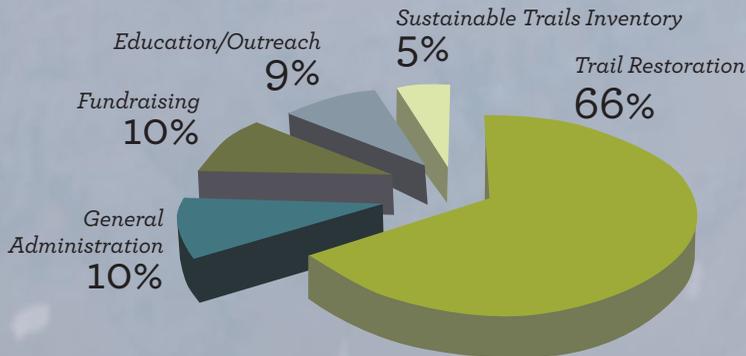
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lloyd F. Athearn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lloyd F. Athearn
Executive Director

2013 TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES: \$977,016



2013 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$915,202



2013 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- >> The 2013 cash surplus of \$61,814 allowed CFI to boost its balance sheet after many years with a meager cash cushion.
- >> For the first time in CFI's 20-year history gifts from individual donors in 44 states and the District of Columbia represented the largest share of total revenues.
- >> The fifth consecutive year of all-time-record individual giving topped \$390,800.
- >> CFI's first bequest gift allowed the organization to establish a \$110,000 cash reserve fund to help mitigate seasonal cash-flow issues.



2013 PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

- >> Three new 14er summit approach routes were reconstructed last year, including two routes on San Luis Peak (Stewart and Cochetopa Creeks) and Maroon Peak.
- >> A season-long project completed preliminary restoration work on the now-closed, user-created approach route on North Maroon Peak.
- >> Volunteers posted the best year ever in CFT's history by performing 1,330 volunteer days of trail maintenance, reconstruction and restoration through 53 projects on 19 peaks.
- >> The third year of GPS-based trail inventories completed Phase I of the Sustainable Trails Project. This involved doing foot-by-foot baseline inventories on 42 Fourteener summit routes - both previously constructed and user-created.



2014 SEASON UPDATE SHOWS SOLID PROGRESS

>> Mount Bierstadt's heavily used summit trail saw the first of two seasons of major reconstruction work. Several volunteer groups helped build a raised causeway through flat and frequently muddy sections in the opening mile.

>> The first of two seasons working on El Diente Peak's Kilpacker Basin route resulted in 1.21 miles of new trail being cut through the forest to better protect lush, ecologically sensitive alpine meadows and riparian areas.

>> CFI posted the second-best year ever for volunteer work, with 1,114 volunteer days being devoted to maintaining 14er summit trails. This work provided an in-kind value of \$223,691.

>> Volunteer of the Year Len Shipman rejuvenated the Peak Steward program that put in close to 60 days and contacted more than 3,500 hikers about Leave No Trace.

>> Educational kiosks were installed at Mount of the Holy Cross, East Cross Creek, Mount Yale and Mount Bierstadt.

>> Five new Leave No Trace-oriented videos were posted on CFI's YouTube channel, which now has more than 21,000 video views.

>> Infrared trail counters were placed in five locations accessing seven 14ers. Hourly data was collected that shows the amount of hiking use occurring on these peaks.

>> The three-season Sustainable Trails Program analysis estimated that more than \$24 million in future trail work is needed to build out and maintain summit routes on 42 inventoried peaks.



FUTURE PLANS TAKE SHAPE

>> Crews will be performing the second and final year of major trail reconstruction on Mount Bierstadt and El Diente Peak's Kilpacker Basin route.

>> CFI hopes to continue doing heavy trail maintenance on Mount of the Holy Cross and nearby Notch Mountain. Concentrated investment in this area is turning Holy Cross into one of the best-maintained 14ers in the state.

>> The Adopt-a-Peak program will expand in staff to two three-person crews to continue engaging more volunteers in trail maintenance and vegetation restoration work.

>> Sustainable Trails work will continue next season with a hoped-for expansion of infrared trail counters to 10 locations tracking hiking use on 12 14er routes. Accurately estimating hiking use patterns helps inform changing on-the-ground trail conditions.

>> Final planning and logistics will occur on Mount Columbia for what is hoped to be a 2016 launch of a five-year reconstruction and restoration effort on one of the most heavily impacted 14er trails in the state.

>> Educational efforts will expand through additional YouTube videos—ideally focused on the unique alpine wildlife found on the 14ers—and a concentrated Peak Steward educational presence on the highest use 14ers near Denver

>> Electronic signature collection will continue in hopes of getting a specialized Colorado license plate that raises awareness and funding for CFI's stewardship work on the 14ers.



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Cover Photo: Sunrise from San Luis Peak. Photo by Glenn Randall, www.glennrandall.com.
CFI completed two years of major trail reconstruction work on San Luis Peak, completing new sustainable summit routes in 2013 from both the Stewart Creek and Cochetopa Creek approaches. Despite being regarded as the least-climbed of the Fourteeners, these routes were experiencing significant erosion of soils and loss of alpine plants.



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