

ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECT RESTORE EDUCATE



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation



COVER: Wetterhorn Peak’s ridgeline at sunset. Wetterhorn has seen significant trail work over the past two seasons as part of the Lake City 14ers project. Photo by Hayden Boyle Photography. haydenboyle.com

This Photo: Pandemic year climbers gather on the summit of Little Bear Peak in late September.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The phrase “Be careful what you wish for” was especially on my mind last year. I was a history major in college and spent five years early in my career working in public health risk communications. Mention of the great 1918 flu pandemic was heard in both circles, and I occasionally wondered what it must have been like living through such a momentous, worldwide event. Now I know.


Managing the COVID-19 pandemic certainly was the biggest story of 2020 for Colorado Fourteeners Initiative. We had very little time to tweak field season plans when the virus hit in March, society shut down and myriad government agencies imposed restrictions on travel and work. CFI’s crews are about as socially distanced as one can possibly be. Remote basecamps with small crews working independently in the open air was the perfect antidote for a virus transmitted inside and in close quarters. However, it also meant cancelling virtually all volunteer trail projects. The intermixing of crews and volunteers was a risk we could not reasonably take.

The 14ers also turned out to be a much-sought-after refuge for people to get exercise and inspiration during the pandemic. Trailheads were swamped with vehicles sporting license plates from across the country. Record crowds showed up almost everywhere. Early on there was a fear that people wanting to social distance in the alpine would hike off trail, resulting in massive trampling of fragile alpine tundra ecosystems. Thankfully, that fear never seemed to materialize. And, with tons of people out hiking 14ers, it was the perfect setting for our Peak Stewards and trail crews to set all-time records educating passing hikers.

The other pandemic year revelation was the outpouring of generosity from our individual donors. After three years in the low \$500,000 range, individual gifts last year surged to more than \$686,000. The number and size of donations was overwhelming—literally. Due to local regulations, I was the only person allowed to work in the Golden office. That meant opening all the mail, depositing every check and signing all donation letters—always with some hand-scribbled note. I think sensation returned to my signing hand sometime in the spring.

The spirit of resilience and adaptability we try to foster at CFI paid off handsomely last year. Our trail crews produced remarkable work under trying circumstances, which is highlighted in this report. Guidance from a team of health professionals, including Volunteer of the Year Dr. Richard Hoffman, helped us navigate the season without a single positive COVID test. We pulled together and didn’t just survive, we thrived. But, as we look to the years ahead, I absolutely, positively will not wonder what it would be like having to endure a summer-long plague of locust.

Regards,



Lloyd F. Athearn
Executive Director

NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROTECT MOUNT COLUMBIA

Building out the network of sustainably designed, durably constructed 14er summit routes is CFI's highest priority. At the end of the 2020 field season, two new routes were added to the list: Mount Columbia and Mount Elbert (East Ridge). This makes 35 CFI-built routes on 33 peaks transporting hikers through fragile alpine ecosystems with little impact.

If the 2020 season were boiled down to a simple phrase, it would be "same peaks, just higher and harder work." In addition to the two new routes, intensive reconstruction efforts continued on Grays and Torreys Peaks, as well the four 14ers near Lake City (Handies, Redcloud, Uncompahgre, and Wetterhorn Peaks). Work was generously supported for a fourth year by the National Forest Foundation's "Find Your Fourteener" collaborative campaign.

Five seasons of Columbia crews will not miss working most days in the mountain's cold morning shadow due to its west-facing aspect.



Crew members use a griphoist to carefully lower a rock into place in a multi-step staircase.



Project leader Jenni Russell admires a long stretch of backwall.

MOUNT COLUMBIA

Seven skilled CFI leaders were hired to oversee a 10-person Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew performing work on the route, which pushed through incredibly steep terrain to 12,800 feet. The extreme side slope necessitated larger-than-normal structures to withstand the force of gravity and countless hiker footsteps. The crew completed 0.24 miles of new trail construction, quarried more than 2300 large rocks, built 765 square feet of backwall on the uphill side of the trail and 87 square feet of mono wall on the downhill side of the trail. The crew also built rock structures at four major switchbacks and finished construction of three rock staircases utilizing 114 cribbed rock steps.

Despite five seasons featuring some of CFI's most highly skilled leaders, the Columbia route still requires additional work. The project's complexity and volume of rocks that had to be moved—carefully and slowly using griphoists and tramlines—exceeded initially planned estimates. CFI hopes to return in the future to extend the route all the way to the connecting ridge at 13,600'. For now other routes are higher priorities.

MAJOR FUNDERS: *National Forest Foundation, Telluray Foundation, REI, Chrest Foundation, Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation, Gates Family Foundation.*



A hiker approaches a heavily armored, 13-step switchback staircase.

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROTECT MOUNT ELBERT

The USFS packstring hauls some of the 24 metal gabions that were installed on the route.



A section of the new trail incorporating filled gabions for the tread surface, as well as to protect the backslope.



The CFI crew uses rock bars to move a large rock on the upper bypass.



A multi-step staircase nears completion.

MOUNT ELBERT

The new East Ridge route was opened after completion of the third major reroute. This pushed the newly delineated route up to 12,000 feet. A four-member CFI team worked all season on the project, assisted for 12 weeks by a nine-member Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew. A RMYC teen crew spent eight weeks working on the “Cat’s Claw” restoration.

The combined crews constructed 0.26 miles of new trail. Staff quarried 3540 rocks that were used to install 145 cribbed rock steps, build 3918 square feet of various rock retaining walls and fill 24 metal gabions. Increasingly, the Forest Service is having CFI use metal gabion baskets to build retaining walls in areas where there is insufficient large rocks for natural rock structures. When filled, these baskets protect tundra beds from erosion and, in the case of one section on Elbert, create a raised section of trail to hike on.

Members of the Adopt-a-Peak crew, working with the RMYC team, cut an additional 0.24 miles of new tread on the standard Northeast Elbert route. Work included felling 121 trees and performing 1300 linear feet of corridor clearing. CFI will shift focus to the Northeast route in 2021 to put in three years of intensive reconstruction on this route, the first CFI built back in 1994.

MAJOR FUNDERS: *National Forest Foundation, Colorado State Trails, Great Outdoors Colorado, Gates Family Foundation.*

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROTECT LAKE CITY 14ERS



The Forest Service packstring hauls cut log steps to the Uncompahgre Peak worksite.

LAKE CITY 14ERS

The second of three planned seasons of intensive reconstruction work on four 14ers near Lake City saw progress on 4.12 miles of trail. Timber structures played a central role. Staff felled 69 trees and stripped 361 logs in the heavily beetle-killed forest. This allowed the two-person CFI Lake City crew, with support from a Southwest Conservation Corps youth corps crew and the Adopt-a-Peak team, to install 207 timber check steps and a timber retaining wall. The combined crews built 291 square feet of rock backwall, closed 1535 square feet of trail braids, and de-rocked 10,140 linear feet of trails. Though all routes saw work, Uncompahgre Peak was a main focus area. American Basin on Handies Peak saw its first surge of activity.

MAJOR FUNDERS: *Gates Family Foundation, Chrest Foundation, Colorado State Trails, National Forest Foundation, Telluray Foundation.*



Before/After. A switchback in American Basin is fortified with a rock step and backwall.



Members of the SCC youth corps crew install timber checks on the shoulder of Uncompahgre.



The Adopt crew installs a rock staircase high in Grizzly Gulch.



TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

PROTECT

GRAYS & TORREYS PEAKS

CFI staff fill gabion baskets with rocks to form a retaining wall.
Photo by Kellon Spencer Photography. kellonspencerphotography.com.



The completed section of gabion backwall protecting the tundra slope.



Some of the eight timber check steps installed.

GRAYS & TORREYS PEAKS

These two peaks near I-70 are among the most-climbed 14ers in the state. And it shows! Despite years of work—largely with volunteers—the route had an “F” grade in 2017, the worst of 35 constructed summit routes inventoried.

In the second season of intensive maintenance and reconstruction, CFI’s two-person crew was bolstered for five weeks by a Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew and five visits from the Adopt-a-Peak team. Due to the quantity of work needed and the lack of available rock source, a major focus of stabilizing the trail and backwall came through use of metal gabions filled with smaller rocks. CFI’s team hauled 69 gabions up to the area near the Y-junction between the two peaks. Staff devoted 549 hours to quarrying rocks, which filled 62 of the gabions and built 656 square feet of rock backwall. The crew also maintained 2.33 miles of trail, including de-rocking 7200 linear feet, delineating 4125 linear feet and clearing 1000 linear feet of the summit trail. Eight timber steps also were installed.

Significant work remains at extreme altitudes on the route. Some form of heavy lift capability is needed to haul large logs to the upper mountain. CFI staff continue to seek helicopter assistance from the National Guard, but the effort has been hampered by support for fighting wildfires across the West.

MAJOR FUNDERS: National Forest Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, REI, The Summit Foundation.



For a decade CFI has been tracking 14er trail conditions and hiking use levels to ensure the trail network is able to adapt to changing use impacts. Sustainable Trails efforts evolved in 2020 to accommodate a new counter location and reduced funding.

The number of compact trail counters deployed on 14er routes grew to 23 after the Forest Service let CFI take over tracking hiking use on Mount Bierstadt. The local Ranger District’s trail counter had been stolen early in the 2019 season and not replaced. CFI was able to obtain an unused counter from the Forest Service’s 14er program and found a better, more clandestine monitoring location that has not yet been found.

In mid-summer the 2019 hiking use report was released. This showed an 18 percent drop from 353,000 14er hikers in 2018 to 288,000 hikers in 2019. The heavy, lingering snowpack and avalanche-choked roads in 2019 delayed peak 14er hiking season by roughly a month compared to the drought year of 2018. Hiking use in June was 55 percent lower than the prior year. Late season use rebounded to match or exceed 2018 levels, indicating no diminished interest in 14er climbing.

Summer CLIMB intern Matt Albritton downloads data and clears one of the Mount Elbert trail counters.

SUSTAINABLE TRAILS PROTECT

Estimated Hiking Use on Colorado’s 14ers
Total Hiker Use Days: 288,000 (2019 Data)

Front Range	Best Est: 98,000
Longs Peak	10,000-15,000*
Pikes Peak	10,000-15,000*
Torrey Peak	20,000-25,000*
Grays Peak	10,000-15,000
Mount Evans	30,000-35,000#
Mount Bierstadt	30,000-35,000#

Tenmile Range	Best Est: 35,000
Quandary Peak	35,000-40,000*

Sawatch Range	Best Est: 78,000
Mount Elbert	15,000-20,000*
Mount Massive	5,000-7,000
Mount Harvard	3,000-5,000
La Plata Peak	3,000-5,000*
Mount Antero	1,000-3,000
Mount Shavano	5,000-7,000*
Tabogauche Peak	5,000-7,000
Mount Belford	5,000-7,000
Mount Oxford	3,000-5,000
Mount Princeton	5,000-7,000
Mount Yale	1,000-3,000
Mount Columbia	3,000-5,000
Missouri Mountain	3,000-5,000
Mt. of the Holy Cross	3,000-5,000
Huron Peak	5,000-7,000*

San Juan Mountains	Best Est: 30,000
Uncompahgre Peak	3,000-5,000
Mount Wilson	1,000-3,000
El Diente Peak	<1,000
Mount Eolus	<1,000
Windom Peak	1,000-3,000
Sunlight Peak	3,000-5,000*
Handies Peak	5,000-7,000*
Mount Sneffels	3,000-5,000*
Redcloud Peak	1,000-3,000*
Sunshine Peak	1,000-3,000*
Wilson Peak	3,000-5,000
Wetterhorn Peak	3,000-5,000
San Luis Peak	3,000-5,000

Mosquito Range	Best Est: 31,500
Mount Lincoln	20,000-25,000*
Mount Bross	20,000-25,000*
Mount Democrat	7,000-10,000*
Mount Sherman	7,000-10,000*

Elk Mountains	Best Est: 5,000
Castle Peak	1,000-3,000*
Maroon Peak	<1,000
Capitol Peak	<1,000
Snowmass Mountain	<1,000
Pyramid Peak	<1,000

Sangre de Cristo Range	Best Est: 10,500
Blanca Peak	1,000-3,000*
Ellingwood Point	1,000-3,000
Crestone Peak	1,000-3,000
Crestone Needle	1,000-3,000
Kit Carson Peak	1,000-3,000
Challenger Point	1,000-3,000
Humboldt Peak	1,000-3,000
Culebra Peak	<1,000
Mount Lindsey	1,000-3,000*
Little Bear Peak	<1,000

Approximation Notes

*Indicates data drawn from CFI TRAFx recorders, with data gap and early/late season infills from either previous years or nearby peak data. All other estimates are interpolated from a correlation between TRAFx data and reported 14ers.com peak use statistics.

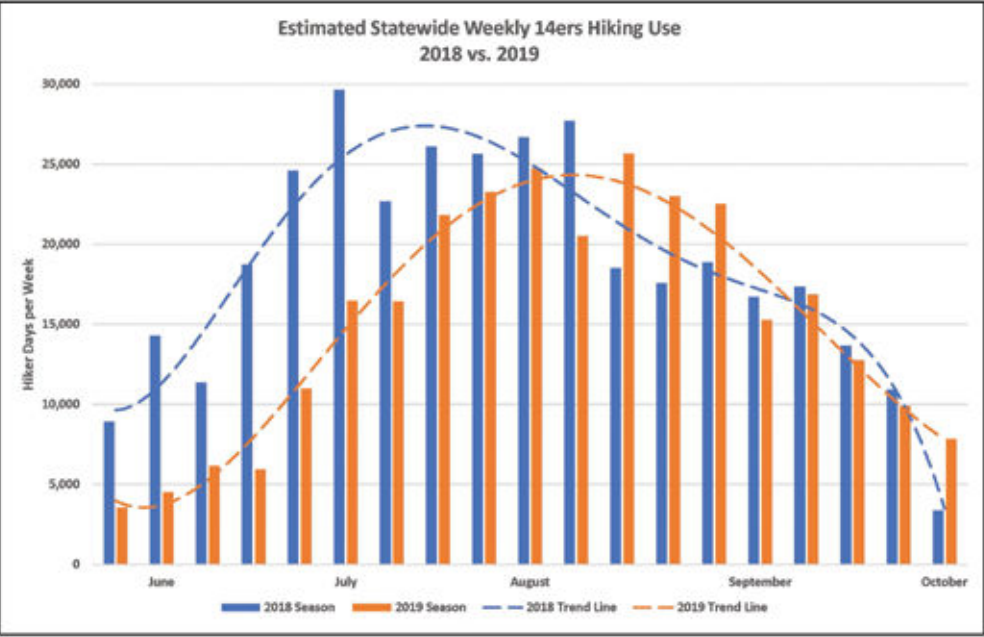
#Indicates National Park Service trailhead counter data adjusted for summit success rate based on prior studies.

R#Indicates US Forest Service counter with data gap and early/late season infills from either prior years or nearby peak data.

Range and overall totals are adjusted to account for the frequent practice of summing multiple peaks in one day.

After a second, two-year round of trail condition inventories concluded in 2019, CFI began to implement a new approach to data collection. With future funding unlikely to support a dedicated position for multiple seasons, staff plan to embed inventory work into existing positions and perform data collection after major trail investments were complete. Tom Cronin spent time late in the season doing a full inventory of the newly completed Mount Columbia and Mount Elbert (East Ridge) routes. This information will be analyzed to see how much the five- and four-year projects respectively improved on-the-ground trail conditions.

CFI’s rigorous efforts to understand use patterns and how they correlate with physical trail conditions continues to generate interest from funders and trail professionals. Executive Director Lloyd Athearn was invited to present information about the Sustainable Trails program to the Colorado State Trails Committee, a major funder of the organization’s work, and to explain how trail use and conditions help drive maintenance and reconstruction priorities.



“What exactly are you doing up in that tree?” asks a passing hiker as Lloyd Athearn downloads data from the Barr Trail counter on Pikes Peak.

STABLIZING & RESTORING RESTORE A VITAL PART OF STEWARDSHIP

Most of CFI's restoration work occurs in surges based on the timing of major trail reconstruction projects. Once a new, more sustainable trail bypass is opened, work begins to close, stabilize and restore the old, user-trampled route. This often results in long, multi-season restoration projects that take years to complete.

Volunteers install check dams on the upper slopes of the Mount Elbert "Cat's Claw."

Restoring the "Cat's Claw" on Mount Elbert's East Ridge began during the 2018 season. Work continued last summer pushing the restoration to the upper trail bypass. The season-long Elbert crew restored 3425 square feet of the multi-braided erosion scar, while the Adopt crew and two volunteer projects completed an additional 2425 square feet of restoration. Ten erosion mats and 82 restoration checks were installed to help stabilize the slope, while 4333 cubic feet of soil was hauled by hand to restore the contours of the slope. Reseeding occurred on 600 square feet to speed up recovery.

Alpine tundra is extremely slow growing. It can take years before significant progress is seen. Last summer staff photographed two large restoration projects conducted years before to see how well the areas have regrown. As the two before/after photo sequences show, the results are very encouraging.

Vegetation plugs transplanted in 2011 on the mile-long Mount Yale restoration area were solidly established nine years later. Small seedlings also had sprouted, though it will take decades before they are mature plants. On Mount Bierstadt, raised causeways and drainage structures placed in 2014 were doing their job of funneling hikers, while transplanted willows next to the trail were thriving. Despite more than 40,000 annual hikers, the trailside vegetation is better protected today than during the "mud pit" days six years earlier.



Over six years, willows have regrown and the elevated causeway is reducing impacts on the flat, wet, opening mile of the Mount Bierstadt summit trail.



BEFORE: In 2009 hikers had trampled a mile-long, denuded, deeply eroded path down the fall line on Mount Yale. AFTER: Nine years after a season-long restoration project occurred, plants are thriving and the old route is gradually disappearing.

MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH EDUCATE

During a pandemic in which people were most at risk being in enclosed spaces with others, record numbers of people nationwide surged outside to recreate in the fresh air on public lands. Colorado's 14ers were hit by this wave, with preliminary counts showing record hiking use last summer.

(L to R): Peak Stewards Mary O'Malley, Tom Swinehart, Steve Mollen and Von Campbell get ready for a day talking to hikers on Mount Bierstadt.



Custer County Search and Rescue Co-Captain Patrick Fiore highlights the common trouble spots on the Challenger-Kit Carson route in a new CFI mountain safety video.



Peak Steward and Board Member Priscilla Clayton carefully packs out a hiker's dog poop bag that was not picked up by the Poop Fairy.



Hikers stop and listen to a quick LNT talk by Peak Steward Todd Clayton.

The huge crowds on the 14ers created the perfect opportunity for CFI to scale up its on-mountain hiker education efforts. Volunteer Peak Stewards put in 152 days educating hikers on the 14ers about Leave No Trace practices and mountain safety issues. In the process, Peak Stewards made an all-time-record 10,298 hiker education contacts. CFI crews contacted a further 27,045 hikers (also an all-time high) who passed by their project worksites. Combined, these two approaches contributed to an all-time-record 37,343 total hiker contacts last year. This was 92 percent higher than the prior record season.

CFI also used its YouTube channel to reach hikers around the country about mountain safety issues. Eight new videos were released in 2020 that were viewed a combined 14,065 times. Five videos continued the general mountain safety theme that focused on decision-making issues like when to call for a rescue, whether a person calling for a rescue would be charged, and how use of technology and social media have changed hiker behaviors. Additionally, three videos in the "Intro to Class 3" series provided guidance for new climbers looking to make the leap from Class 1-2 trails and easy scrambling into the harder Class 3 scrambling terrain. Videos focused on Mount Sneffels, the Kelso Ridge on Torreys Peak and the Challenger Point/Kit Carson Peak massif. Total video views for the year were 109,384.

Due to the pandemic, usual in-person education and outreach activities like the REI "How to Climb a 14er" clinics were scrapped. Aside from a talk as part of the Collegiate Peaks Forum that was done in person in Salida's Riverfront Park, most organizational presentations were done via online conferencing. This still helped get out CFI's message, but in a less personal way.



Jerry Mack, Controller



Ben Hanus,
Field Programs Director



Tom Cronin,
Field Programs Manager



Matt Albritton, CLIMB Intern



Brian Sargeant,
Communications and
Development Manager



Hannah Clark,
Volunteer Coordinator



Miriam Venman-Clay,
Field Programs Manager

2020 CORE STAFF



Lloyd Athearn,
Executive Director

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Priscilla Clayton
Alex Hayes
Richard Heppe, MD
Rebecca Jewett
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Morgan Mahoney
Garett Mariano
Brad McQueen
Glen Mizenko
Tim Rampe
Stephen Ruyle, MD
Laura Schafer
Wagner Schorr-Ratzlaff, MD
Hunt Walker
Len Zanni

STELLAR TEAM ORGANIZATION



Members of CFI's Board of Directors and Staff on Mount Columbia's summit in early August after a celebratory climb of the new trail.



2020 SEASONAL STAFF

Front Row (L to R): Cassi Mason, Anthony Ondrus, Parker Smedley, Chey Rawfoot, Carlie Mason. Second Row (L to R): Tanner Hunt, Stephen Lokos, Alex Miller, Chris Pruden, Jenny Green, Olivia Carle, Sarah Barringer. Third Row (L to R): Dylan Summers, Addrie Moncayo, Zndrea Zelinski, Paul Timm, Jenni Russell, Megan Dunegan, Wes Chitwood. Back Row (L to R): Thomas Chesson, Parker Grimes, Eric McSwan, Greg Cronin.

2020 PROJECT TEAMS

MOUNT COLUMBIA CREW

Eric McSwan, Crew Leader
Jenni Russel, Crew Leader
Sarah Barringer, Crew Member
Nate Ventura, Crew Member
Jenny Green, Crew Member
Megan Dunegan, Crew Member
Stephan Lokos, Crew Member

MOUNT ELBERT CREW

Parker Grimes, Crew Leader
Chris Pruden, Crew Leader
Alex Miller, Crew Member
Parker Smedley, Crew Member

GRAYS AND TORREYS PEAKS CREW

Addrie Moncayo, Crew Leader
Anthony Ondrus, Crew Leader

LAKE CITY 14ERS CREW

Zachary Strickland, Crew Leader
Thomas Chesson, Crew Leader

ADOPT-A-PEAK MAINTENANCE CREW

Wes Chitwood, Crew Leader
Tanner Hunt, Crew Leader
Chris Villamil, Crew Member
Andrea Zelinski, Crew Member
Paul Timm, Crew Member
Cassi Mason, Crew Member
Carlie Harrison, Appelson Leadership Intern
Taylor Rainwater, Appelson Leadership Intern



2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

ADOPT-A-PEAK VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Ann Kampf (Silverthorne, Colorado)

PEAK STEWARD OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Lowry (Buena Vista, Colorado)

OUTSTANDING AGENCY PARTNER

Jason Robertson, USFS Regional Deputy Director of Recreation, Lands & Minerals (Golden, Colorado)

CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

1stBank (Lakewood, Colorado)

FOUNDATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Aspen Skiing Company Environment Foundation (Aspen, Colorado)

OUT OF STATE AMBASSADOR

Scott Skinger (Barrington, Illinois)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Patrick and Kayla Loecker (Aurora, Colorado)



2020 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: RICHARD HOFFMAN, MD

Last year Colorado Fourteeners Initiative named Richard Hoffman, MD, the organization's 2020 Volunteer of the Year for his many years of loyal and generous financial support, as well as for offering his epidemiological expertise to guide CFI safely through the COVID-19 pandemic.

A long-time mountaineer, Dr. Hoffman has climbed 37 of Colorado's 14ers, but has gone deep on a few that provide more interest and challenge. He has 20 summits of Longs Peak, 25 of Evans and 9 of North Maroon. Farther afield he has summited the Matterhorn in Switzerland (5 times), Kilimanjaro, Mont Blanc, Monta Rosa, Mount Rainier and the Grand Teton.

Hoffman's philanthropy shows a similar propensity for breadth and depth on the projects that interest him. He is among the elite group of donors having donated for 22 of the organization's 26 years in operation. He also has been exceedingly generous, making in 2017 a five-year, \$150,000 pledge to support CFI's Mount Columbia project.

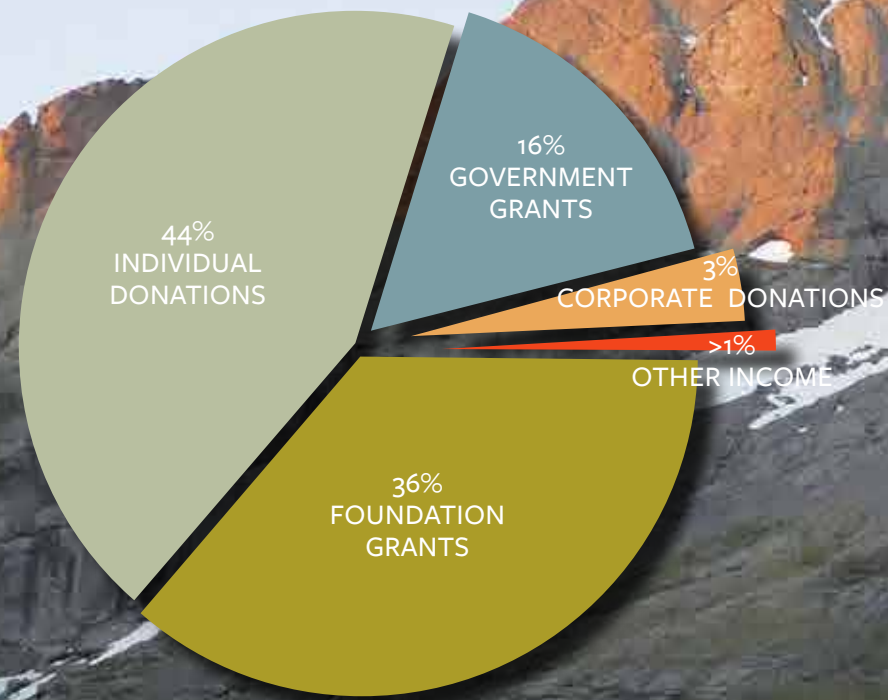
Hoffman's professional background as an epidemiologist also proved quite helpful as CFI designed protocols to keep staff safe during the early months of the rapidly unfolding pandemic. Hoffman worked a combined 23 years as a public health epidemiologist, including five years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 15 years as Colorado's State Epidemiologist and three years as Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. He spent a further nine years consulting before retiring in 2012.

Richard Hoffman views work on the Mount Columbia trail in 2018.

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

FINANCES

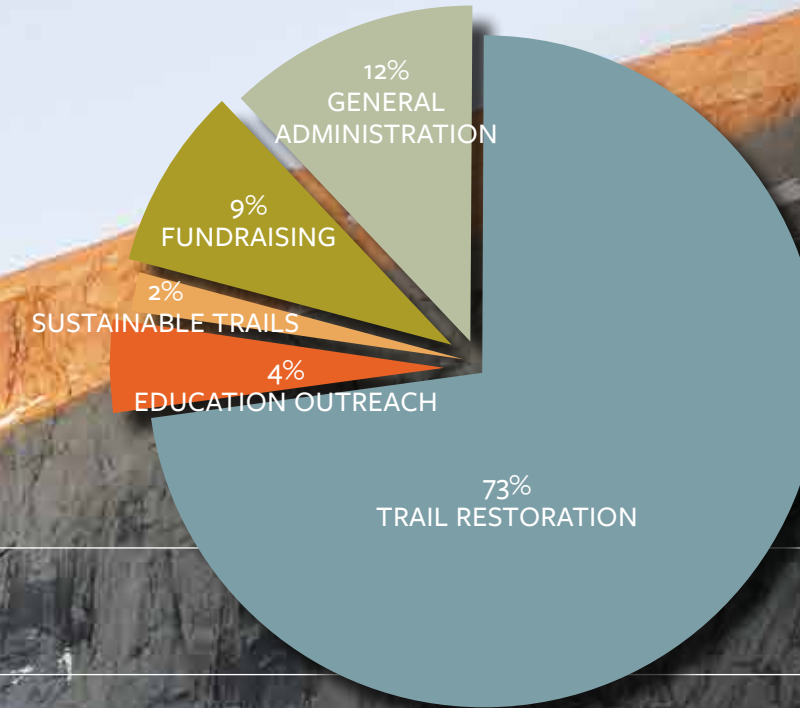
The COVID-19 pandemic generated extreme financial uncertainty throughout 2020. Spring's market meltdown combined with the pandemic's sharp economic contraction raised concerns about potential impacts on fundraising. In April, CFI obtained a \$167,600 Payroll Protection Program loan to ensure all core staff could be retained even if fundraising suffered. Thankfully, individual 14er enthusiasts gave at record levels and foundation giving stayed robust, allowing CFI to end the year as one of the most successful ever financially.



OPERATING REVENUE \$1,575,048

Total operating revenues were \$1,575,048, up \$28,526 compared to 2019. This was the second-highest revenue total ever and the third consecutive year with revenues over \$1.5 million. Donations from individuals surged to an all-time-high \$686,287, an increase of \$139,919 (25.6%). Individual donations, which represented 44 percent of total revenues, have been the largest revenue category for four out of the past five years. Foundation grants totaled \$571,940, the highest in CFI's history, and represented 36 percent of all revenues. The National

Forest Foundation's "Find Your Fourteener" campaign was the largest foundation donor. Government grants generated \$255,856 in revenues, which was down 27 percent for the year. The pandemic hit corporate donations hardest, resulting in a 68 percent one-year drop to \$49,499. Due to scrapping almost all volunteer trail projects, in-kind value from donated volunteer labor was only \$17,936. While this in-kind support can help match some grants, accounting rules prevent it from being included in reported revenues.



OPERATING EXPENSES \$1,425,743

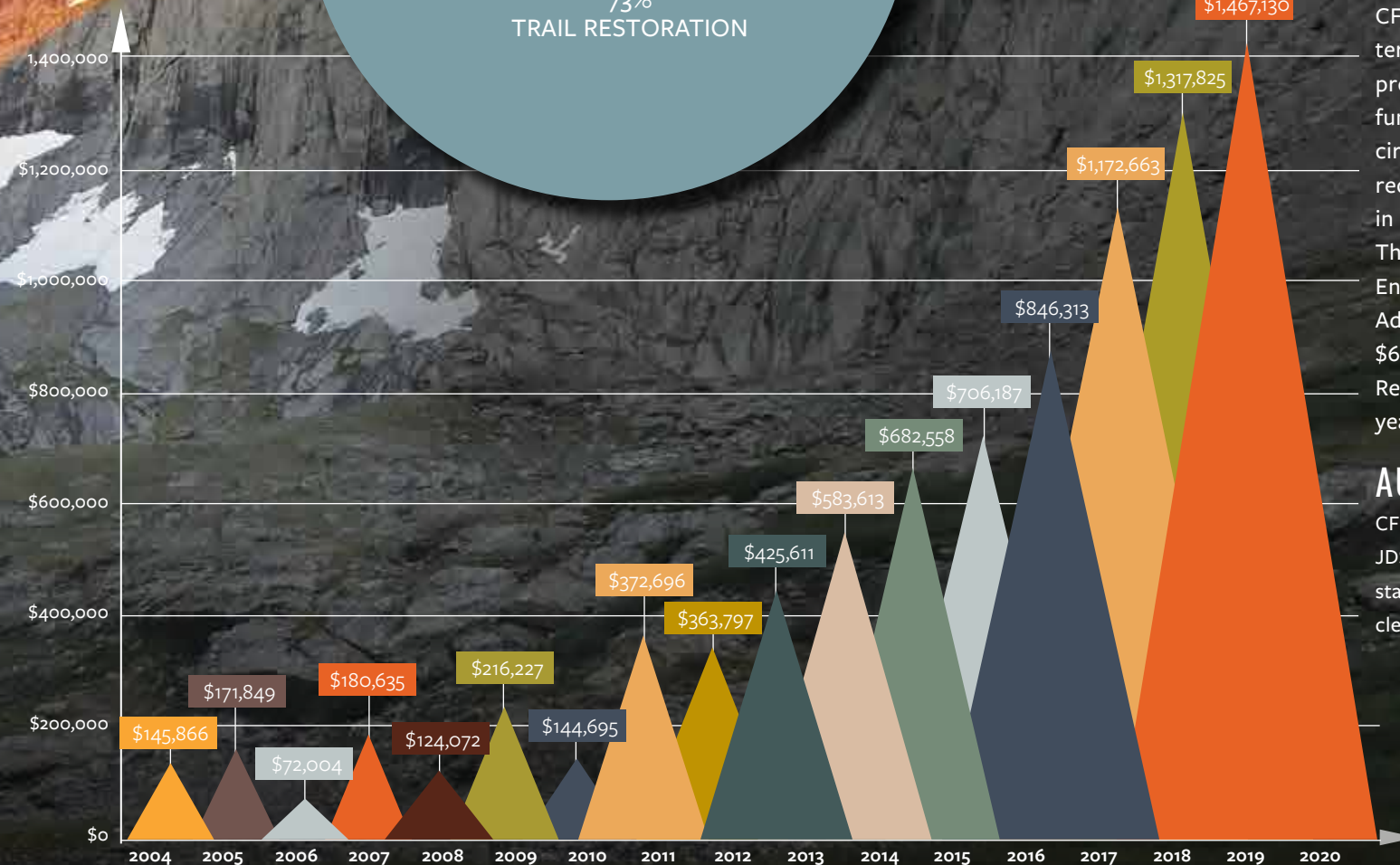
Total operating expenses hit an all-time high of \$1,425,743 last year, which was up \$24,383 (1.7%) compared to 2019. Programs accounted for \$1,128,675 (79%) of total expenditures, with fundraising (\$125,170) and administration (\$171,898) representing 9 percent and 12 percent of expenses respectively. Trail restoration again led all programmatic categories with \$1,039,532 in spending, while hiker education and outreach (\$62,108) and Sustainable Trails (\$27,036) were both in single percentage digits. Fundraising remained unchanged as a percentage of the total budget, while administration increased to 12 percent due to the administrative burden posed by pandemic regulations.

NET ASSETS \$1,467,130

CFI continued to grow its long-term assets to provide stability to programmatic funding and reserve funds in the event of unforeseen circumstances. CFI's general endowment received \$50,962 in donations and \$44,388 in earnings, ending the year at \$102,777. The Kimberly Appelson Memorial Endowed Fund, which helps support two Adopt-a-Peak interns, ended the year at \$62,789. The Board-established Mathews Reserve Fund was valued at \$137,177 at year end.

AUDIT

CFI received a clean, GAAP-based audit from JDS Professional Group for its 2020 financial statements. This marks the 12th consecutive clean audit for CFI's financial reporting.





Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation

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A marmot keeps a watchful eye
out on Mount Lindsey.
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