

PROTECT • RESTORE • EDUCATE

YEAR-END REPORT



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation



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In this period of thankful reflection, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who have helped make Colorado Fourteeners Initiative into the thriving, innovative organization it is today.

We had a lot to be thankful for in 2025. With four new core staff members, four veterans, more than 30 seasonal staffers, and 545 volunteers, CFI had a wildly successful field season. Not only did we deploy four fixed-site teams—to Mounts Democrat, Shavano, Bierstadt, and Blue Sky—but we also sent two maintenance crews across the state to tend to seven other peaks. Highlights include opening both the lower reroute and the upper reroute up to roughly 14,000 feet on Mount Shavano, beginning a major restoration project on Mount Democrat, and upgrading the boardwalk on Mount Bierstadt.

Since its founding 31 years ago, CFI has been “A Partnership for Preservation.” On behalf of CFI’s board and staff, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of our vital mission. We would not be the successful organization we are today without everything you have done and continue to do for us!

Lloyd F. Athearn
Executive Director

Volunteer Trail Stewardship

\$316,990

In-kind value of trail stewardship volunteers



1,023

Total volunteer days



26

Most days of work completed by one volunteer this season

43

Volunteer projects held



10

Peaks where CFI hosted volunteer projects this year



2

Corporate volunteer groups who couldn't do trail work together because of "conflicts of interest"



On-The-Ground Work

2,700

Industrial screws that had to be manually unscrewed from the Mount Bierstadt boardwalk because power tools are forbidden in wilderness areas



366

Timber check steps installed (= 10 cords of firewood)



4

Women who comprised the crew on Mount Democrat, the first time CFI has fielded an all-woman, fixed-site squad





7 Consecutive night shifts worked by crews on Mount Bierstadt, a change in "office hours" made to accommodate daytime foot traffic

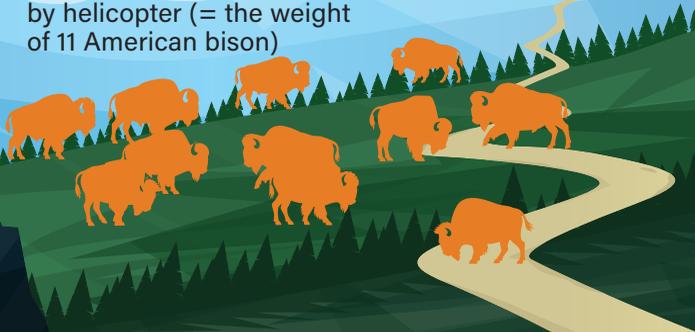
CFI's 2025 Season **BY THE NUMBERS**

32,500

Pounds of timber delivered to Mounts Democrat and Shavano by helicopter (= the weight of 11 American bison)

1.5

Total miles of newly constructed trail on Mount Shavano that CFI opened to the public



Sustainable Trails

81 vs. 16,750

Hikers who summited Grays Peak in 1925, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*

Hikers who summited Grays Peak in summer 2025, according to CFI's trail counters

951

Data points recorded on three peaks to assess grade and plan maintenance



4.3 vs. 21.4

Climbers per day, on average, who hiked Mount Lindsey in summer 2022-'23, when the mountain was closed to the public

Climbers per day, on average, who hiked Mount Lindsey in summer 2025, when it reopened under a waiver system



Hiker Education

16

Outreach events hosted by volunteers and staff



Views of CFI's newest video, posted on YouTube in September

Bouts of vomiting endured by a drone videographer on Mount Shavano while filming footage for CFI's YouTube channel

5,765

Hiker contacts made by Peak Stewards in the field

60

People who attended a three-day-long educational event about Leave No Trace principles



4,429

Likes—plus hearts and smiley faces—received by a photo of a mother-daughter climbing duo from China, who were climbing Mount Democrat barefoot



Miscellaneous

3

Bullet holes in the kiosk sign at Mount Massive's North Halfmoon Creek trailhead



4

Catalytic converters stolen from CFI's vehicle fleet in April (= \$16,743.87)



\$1,380

Cost to reshoe two horses and 10 mules to pack CFI out of its Mount Shavano camp



50

Percent turnover in CFI's core staff between the 2024 and 2025 field seasons

2

Speed camera tickets incurred by Mount Democrat crew members driving through Fairplay



0

Number of seasonal employees who quit during training, the first time in at least 10 years





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Front Cover: Working hard high on Mount Shavano
Back Cover: On the trail to Capitol Peak
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Scan the QR code to make a donation to CFI.

