



The Rocky Mountain Conservancy (formerly the Rocky Mountain Nature Association) was established on July 8, 1931, making it one of the oldest national park cooperating organizations in the nation. Its nonprofit, corporate charter was issued on June 20, 1955. The IRS tax-exempt identification number is 84-0472090.

Board of Directors

Walter Borneman, Estes Park (President); Greg Danielson, Niwot (Vice President); Diane Goddard, Estes Park (Treasurer); Christina Kraft, Estes Park (Secretary); Brian Ross, Denver (Past President); Amy Crossland, Grand Lake; Rich Fedorchak, Estes Park; Liza Grant, Denver; Laurie Mathews, Denver; Claudine Perrault, Estes Park; Darla Sidles, Arizona; Zachary Wiebe, Fort Collins.

Mission Statement

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

Organization

Governing the Conservancy are Articles of Incorporation (1955), Bylaws (revised February 2025), and agreements with agencies of the U.S. Government and State of Colorado. The Conservancy is governed by a Board of Directors, which sets policy, approves annual budgets, and supervises the Executive Director. The Board includes a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The primary agent of the Conservancy is the Executive Director, Esther Rivera Murdock (as of April 2017).

Origins

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy began by assisting the National Park Service in the realm of publishing educational materials, offering educational seminars, assisting with research, and providing financial support to the park. Started by local citizens and Rocky Mountain National Park's Chief Naturalist, the Conservancy was established in Estes Park, Colorado, July 8, 1931, as the Rocky Mountain Nature Association.

What We Do

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy assists with natural and cultural history education through the development of interpretive publications for visitors, field classes and award-winning publications. It operates interpretive sales areas throughout Colorado and Wyoming, including those in Rocky Mountain National Park and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The Conservancy works in partnership with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Conservancy also promotes membership and advances stewardship for public land.



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Rocky Mountain National Park Fund

Projects Completed or Underway

Starting in 1982, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy engaged in special fundraising projects to benefit Rocky Mountain National Park. Its first project was the acquisition of the Jennings Tract, located in the Kawuneeche Valley. At the National Park Service's request, in 1986, it created the Rocky Mountain National Park Associates, a separate nonprofit organization working in partnership to benefit the park with projects of long-term significance. On December 1, 2005, the Associates merged with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and became the Rocky Mountain National Park Fund, a philanthropic arm under the Rocky Mountain Nature Association umbrella intended to benefit Rocky Mountain National Park. In 2014, the organization was renamed the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Each year, the Conservancy gives millions of dollars in support to Rocky. Significant recent projects include:

Land (and Water) Protection:

Jennings Tract purchase, \$78,000; 1985
Baldpate purchase, \$20,000; 1990
Roessler Tract purchase, \$415,000; 1998
Adams Tract purchase, \$280,000; 1999
Lily Lake Water Rights, \$60,000; 2020
Sleepy Hollow, \$315,248; 2002
Enos Mills easement, \$54,136; 2002
Miller Tract purchase, \$1.02 million; 2002
Fahy Tract purchase (west side), \$846,000; 2005
Kueker Tract purchase (west side), \$600,000; 2007
Owen-McMahon Tract (west side), \$300,000; 2008
McGowan Tract, \$18,100; 2009
Johnson Property (west side), \$400,000; 2013
Cascade Cottages, \$3.2 million; 2016
Wild Basin Willow Carr, \$300,000; 2017
Brand Land, \$500,000; 2022

Visitor Centers & Exhibits:

Kawuneeche Visitor Center addition, \$228,755; 1990
Moraine Park Museum exhibits, \$244,000; 1993
Lily Lake Visitor Center exhibits, \$158,700; 1993
Beaver Ponds boardwalk signs, \$10,000; 1994
Fall River Visitor Center construction, \$2.43 million; 2000
Fall River Visitor Center exhibits, \$533,693
New Kawuneeche Visitor Center exhibit design/construction, \$400,000; 2019-2021
Beaver Meadow Visitor Center Auditorium Audio/Video, \$101,000; 2023

Improvements & Special Projects:

HQ irrigation system, \$4,295; 1994
Greenhouse, \$84,328; 1995, \$14,000; 2016
North Long's Peak bridge, \$5,975; 1999
Seminar Center, \$926,000; 2000
Adams Falls overlook, \$91,000; 2001
Endovalley picnic area, \$62,700; 2004
Lily Lake restroom, \$65,447; 2004
Automatic External Defibrillators, \$66,000; 2006
Timber Creek Amphitheater, \$531,000; 2006
Fall River Visitor Center maintenance, \$39,900; 2006 – 2008
Lily Lake Fishing Pier, \$30,000; 2011
Museum Storage Units, \$50,000; 2019
Bear Proof Food Storage Lockers, \$63,000; 2020-2021
Search & Rescue Vehicle, \$81,000; 2022
Accessible Picnic Area Tuxedo Park, \$40,000; 2020
Boreal Toad Reintroduction, \$15,000; 2019
Chasm Junction backcountry toilets, \$35,000; 2020
High Resolution GIS for park plows; 2020
Simulated Beaver Structure Project, \$64,000; 2020-2022
Law Enforcement Dispatch System, \$150,000; 2022
Accessibility Evaluation and Transition Plan, \$150,000; 2023
Museum Projects, \$201,000, 2022-2023
Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative, \$1,153,900; 2020-2025
Dark Sky, \$25,000; 2024

Trail Construction & Rehabilitation:

Beaver Ponds Boardwalk, \$35,000; 1985
Coyote Valley, \$109,764; 1994
Lily Lake, \$225,507; 1997, \$109,000; 2016
Sprague Lake, \$249,280; 2000
Sprague Lake Boardwalk, \$35,000; 2023
Bear Lake, \$234,290; 2000
Lily/Storm Pass, \$136,000; 2001
Mills/Black Lake, \$205,000; 2002
The Loch/Sky Pond, \$342,311; 2006
Lake Irene, \$122,000; 2006
Alberta Falls—Lake Haiyaha Loop Trails
Rehabilitation, \$420,000; 2009-2012
Trail Livestock, \$154,000; 2021 - 2025
Fall River Connector Trail, \$120,000; 2021
Longs Peak Trail, \$460,000; 2020-2025
Alluvial Fan Trail, \$25,000; 2021

Educational Support & Programs:

Bailey Research & Education Fellowships,
\$220,000; 1994 - 2025
RMC Conservation Corps, \$4,560,000; 2003 -
2025
High School Leadership Corps, \$333,000; 2017
- 2025
Olson Fellowships, \$145,000; 2004 - 2025
Greenhouse Interns, \$256,500, 2013 - 2025
Next Generation Fund, \$4,175,000; 2006 -
2025
Field Institute Bus, \$62,000; 2011(retired)
Field Institute ADA Bus with Wheelchair Lift,
\$128,000; 2024
Aid to NPS and other agencies, \$3,661,700;
2006 - 2025
Tribal Consultation and Collaboration & Native
American Projects, \$256,700; 2018-2025

Historical Preservation & Restoration:

Shadow Mountain Lookout, \$43,814: 1996
William Allen White cabins, \$140,884: 1998
Quarters 48, \$160,000; 1997
Quarters 48 Flood Restoration, \$50,000, 2014
Never Summer Ranch cabins, \$86,000; 1999
McGraw Ranch cabins, \$167,090; 2002
Wigwam Tea Room, \$58,000; 2005
Outbuildings, \$59,000; 2007
Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout Assessment,
\$100,000; 2019
Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout Design and
Compliance, \$253,000, 2020-2023
Cascade Cottages Campground Design,
\$119,000; 2022-2024