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Photo Credit: Amy Crossland

Rocky Mountain Conservancy Board of Directors Welcomes Amy Crossland

Estes Park, Colo. — The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is pleased to welcome Amy Crossland as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Crossland brings an enduring connection to Rocky Mountain National Park, deep ties to the Grand Lake community, and an extensive record of nonprofit service.

“Amy brings both heart and perspective to the board,” said Walt Borneman, Board President. “Her personal connection to the west side of the park, her family’s involvement with our conservation corps, and her lifelong commitment to service make her a tremendous addition to the Conservancy’s leadership.”

Crossland’s connection to Rocky Mountain National Park began in the mid-1980s when she first visited the Kawuneeche Valley. Although she has spent decades returning to the area, a recent tour of the exclosure at Beaver Creek helped her fully understand the scale of wetland degradation taking place in the Valley and the critical importance of restoration efforts Rocky Mountain Conservancy supports through the Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative.

“Seeing the impacts on the wetlands and wildlife was eye-opening,” Crossland said. “It’s such a vital landscape, not just for the park, but for everything downstream. The work happening there feels incredibly important.”

Originally drawn to Colorado as a college student, Crossland worked at Grand Lake Lodge and later transferred to Colorado State University, where she completed her degree. She recalls arriving in Grand Lake at age 19—after applying for the job by mail and with little idea of what to expect—and instantly falling in love with the landscape.

“That summer changed my life,” she said. “I found the place where I wanted to plant my roots.”

Crossland and her husband later raised their three sons in the Denver area but made a conscious decision to give their children the freedom to explore and connect with nature in Grand Lake. The family purchased a condo there when their children were toddlers, and Grand Lake has remained a central part of their lives ever since.

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One of Crossland's sons, Blake, participated in the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Conservation Corps Program, an experience she describes as transformative. Blake went on to serve as a crew leader, gaining leadership skills, technical experience, and a deep respect for the land—skills that later supported his work with Rocky Mountain National Park and continue to serve him in his current role at Winter Park Resort.

Crossland spends most of her time on the west side of the park and names Rock Cut as her favorite place inside park boundaries, particularly when changing weather reveals dynamic views of the peaks. She is especially inspired by the tundra ecosystem and the resilience of its tiny alpine plants.

She has devoted much of her professional life to volunteer service. Her experience includes mentoring first-time mothers, supporting patients through the American Red Cross, volunteering with Ronald McDonald House, assisting with equine-assisted therapy programs for children with disabilities, and supporting free dental clinics for underserved communities.

"I've always looked for ways to connect with people and contribute in meaningful ways," Crossland said. "Serving on the Conservancy board feels like a natural extension of that."

As a board member, Crossland looks forward to supporting the Conservancy's work in the park to help ensure that future generations experience the same senses of wonder and belonging in wild spaces that have shaped her own life.

Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Board of Directors provides strategic leadership, fundraising support, and organizational oversight for the nonprofit, which was established in 1931 and serves as the official partner of Rocky Mountain National Park. Through programs such as the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Conservation Corps, Field Institute, and extensive education and stewardship initiatives, the Conservancy supports the protection of park resources and connects people to meaningful experiences in nature.