



**INDEPENDENCE PASS  
FOUNDATION**

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



# dear friends

**ONCE AGAIN I AM PLEASED AND PROUD** to report to you another year of work and success in the fulfillment of our Mission on Independence Pass. Our board members have been actively involved in the board meetings and in the field on the Pass working on projects that are an important part of restoring wilderness areas adjacent to the Pass corridor. A note of thanks to the many volunteers who took the time to help make our projects successful. We are grateful for our partnerships with the community, which are key to getting projects going and completed. A special note of thanks goes to Karin Teague, our Executive Director, who, with the assistance of Field Ecologist and board member Emily Maynard, did the heavy lifting of organizing volunteers, coordinating with our partners, involving the board members, being the eyes and ears of the Foundation on the Pass, and performing a myriad of tasks right down to pulling weeds!

The mission of the Independence Pass Foundation is to restore and protect the ecological, historical, and aesthetic integrity of the Independence Pass corridor and to encourage stewardship, safety, and appreciation of the Pass.



See you on the Pass, either helping out or just enjoying the special place that is our backyard.

Photo by Gregory Pickrell

I encourage you to go to our website, which lists the many projects that we have worked on this year and those who helped us. The photos are worth the look.

After assessing the impacts of additional traffic and use up the Pass, we have engaged in several efforts to mitigate those impacts. These included new educational and information signs at Lincoln Creek, the introduction of wag bags at the base of the heavily used climbing areas, and increased, regular maintenance work at the Lost Man and summit restrooms.

Trail restoration to prevent erosion and resource degradation, removal of significant debris from cabin sites on lands to be traded to the Forest Service for inclusion in the wilderness, and working on the removal of the remains of the snow fencing in the wilderness off the top of the Pass are just a few of the matters we have undertaken.

Of course, many of these efforts could not be done without the support that you and our community provide. We are most appreciative of your donations of funds and time. We are proud that we have a broad base of support in the community; thank you.

See you on the Pass, either helping out or just enjoying the special place that is our backyard.

All the best,

Boots Ferguson, President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Boots Ferguson, President  
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Debbi Falender, Co-Treasurer  
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Brandon Cooper  
Bill Gruenberg  
Gail Holstein  
Adam McCurdy  
Liza Mitchell  
Ann Mullins  
James Peterson  
Jim Stark

## STAFF

Karin Teague, Executive Director  
Emily Maynard, Summer Field Ecologist

## 2022 PARTNERS

Aspen Center for Environmental Studies  
Aspen Community School  
Aspen Country Day School  
Aspen Global Change Institute  
Aspen Middle School  
City of Aspen  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
EcoFlight  
Jaywalker Lodge  
Pitkin County  
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office  
Roaring Fork Conservancy  
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers  
US Forest Service  
Ute Mountaineer  
Wilderness Land Trust

all photos Karin Teague unless otherwise noted



# project accomplishments

**FOR OVER 60 YEARS**, the Continental Divide south of the summit of Independence Pass has been marred by a 12-foot-high, steel behemoth. It was the prototype for a snow fence that was intended to run along the Divide and adjacent ridges of Mountain Boy, capturing snow through the winter and allowing for more gradual runoff through the summer. When it was determined the snow fence wouldn't work as designed, the project was called off—but not until the prototype was built, and the materials for the entire fence had been airlifted or driven in (this occurred before the Wilderness Act was put in place).

Since that time, IPF has been doggedly removing those materials—primarily rebar, metal cable, and aluminum panels—work which is close to complete. However, until this year, the prototype presented a conundrum: weighing over 1 ton, embedded in concrete, and sitting inside the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness boundary, which precludes the use of mechanized or motorized tools or transport aids, how could we take the steel prototype apart and remove it without tearing apart the tundra?

Fortunately, our partners at the US Forest Service came up with a perfect solution: a gas-fired cutting torch, which is the equivalent of a Wilderness-friendly portable cook stove. By cutting the bolts at the joints and the bases below ground level, we were able to disassemble the fence and make the concrete and steel bases “disappear” with minimal disturbance to the tundra and surrounding vegetation.

With the help of Forest Service personnel, 6th graders from the Aspen Community School, dozens of volunteers, and “volunteer” volunteers who offer to help on their way down from a hike, we expect to remove all the debris by early 2023. It truly does take a village to “restore and protect” our beloved Pass: we are hugely grateful for our village!







**ONE OF IPF'S  
FAVORITE ACTIVITIES**

and highest priorities is working with kids to plant trees, restore and expand wilderness areas, and conduct citizen science. We are humbled to play a small part in helping cultivate the next generation of stewards. Our beautiful backyard deserves no less!



**ANOTHER BIG  
ACCOMPLISHMENT**

this year was replacing the charming but decaying or collapsed wooden picnic tables at the Discovery/Braille Trail day use area with handsome, wheelchair-accessible tables made from recycled materials that will last for decades. This underused gem of an area along the Roaring Fork River offers people of all ages and abilities a place to take a quiet walk, enjoy a picnic, and learn about the natural history of the Pass. We hope you will come spend time here!





# community engagement



**IN A FIRST FOR IPF**, we repainted the summit bathrooms and employed our limited but enthusiastic artistic skills to adorn the doors with topo maps of prominent local peaks. We partnered again with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers to improve and maintain the Lost Man and Linkins Lake Trails, and created a preferable access trail to the popular Classy Cliffs climbing area.

**IN ANOTHER FIRST**, IPF partnered with English in Action to lead an all-day outing on the Pass, where we examined the diverse flora of the high alpine, hiked the Lost Man Trail, and explored the sinuous geology of the Grottos. For many, it was their first time exploring Independence Pass. We also led three bird and wildflower hikes, offered free to the public for those wanting to dive deeper into the world of the living things that call the Pass home.





# understanding and protecting the ecological health of the Pass



**WE HOSTED** our 28th annual Ride for the Pass and 10th annual Ski for the Pass, events that have become community staples and wonderful ways to celebrate and enjoy our beautiful backyard.



**IN SEPTEMBER,** IPF endeavored to bring public attention to contaminants coating the river bottom and clouding the water of Lincoln Creek and the upper Roaring Fork River. Sampling and monitoring by a number of federal and local agencies is underway. As healthy streams are critical to all life on the Pass, IPF will continue to be vigilant in acting as its “eyes and ears.”

For the fourth year, IPF partnered with the Colorado Pika Project, surveying seven sites on the Pass for the presence and health of our unofficial alpine mascot. The good news: pikas were found in or near all the sites except one. In addition, IPF initiated data collection on the presence or past presence of beavers on Independence Pass, as their importance to water conservation, birds and wildlife, and overall ecological health is being increasingly documented.



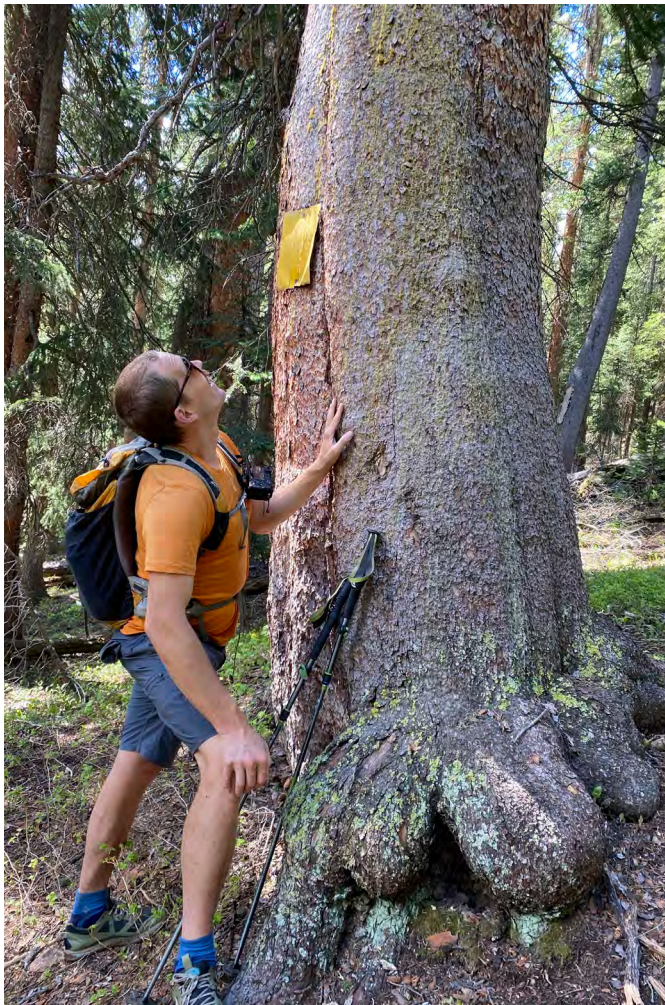
Photo by Kristi Odom, [kristiodomfineart.com](http://kristiodomfineart.com), courtesy of Colorado Pika Project.





# everyday stewardship

**IPF CONTINUED TO MONITOR** forest health, especially keeping an eye out for the spruce beetle that has decimated forests just to the south of us. So far, we see no signs of infestation beyond normal, low levels of this native beetle. We also continued our annual floral phenology and cover composition studies, as well as our summer-long river temperature readings. For this endeavor, we were aided hugely by Aspen High sophomore Henry Hurd, who took temperature measurements at four locations along the Roaring Fork River, from upper Lost Man to Aspen, two to three times per week. These readings contribute to the Roaring Fork Conservancy's river health monitoring program.



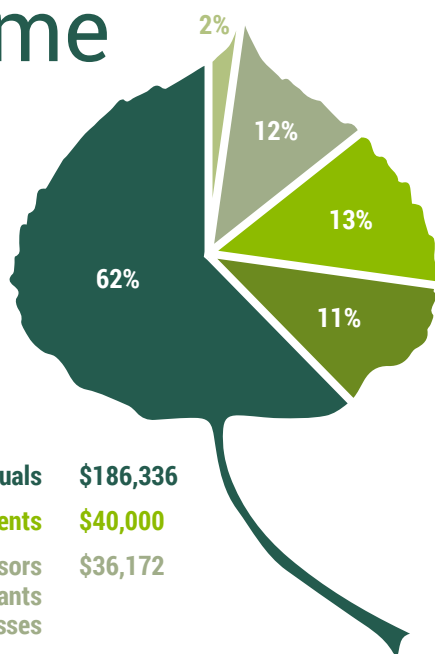
**AS WE DO, YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT,** IPF pulled oxeye daisies and other invasive weeds, picked up trash throughout the corridor, and helped stock and clean the new Lost Man restroom. This year we launched a pilot program supplying wag bags at popular climbing areas to keep the Pass waste free. We will turn our attention to dog waste this winter, when we caretake the winter gate area, which is especially popular with dog walkers. There we stock doggie bags, empty the trash, and shovel the area several times per week. Thank you for helping keep our Pass healthy and clean!





# 2021 income

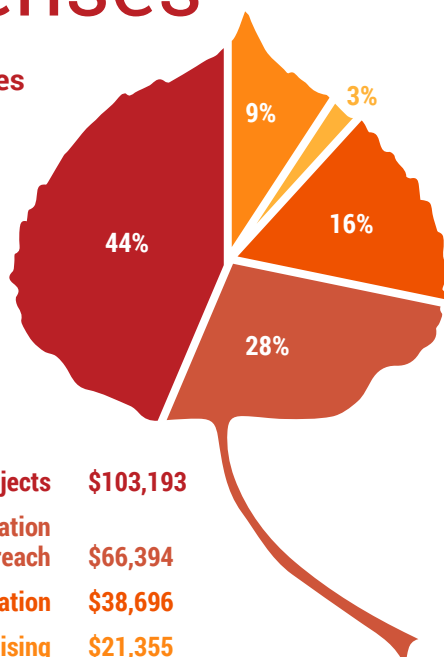
Total income  
\$300,855



<b>Individuals</b>	<b>\$186,336</b>
<b>Governments</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Event sponsors participants + businesses</b>	<b>\$36,172</b>
<b>Foundations</b>	<b>\$33,250</b>
<b>Merchandise + miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$5,097</b>

# 2021 expenses

Total expenses  
\$237,329



<b>Projects</b>	<b>\$103,193</b>
<b>Education + outreach</b>	<b>\$66,394</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$38,696</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$21,355</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$7,690</b>

## Donors

10/01/21 - 9/30/22

### \$10,000+

Anonymous Fund at Aspen Community Foundation  
City of Aspen  
Robert Glickman Fund  
Pitkin County Healthy Community Fund

### \$5,000+

Brian & Kathy Allison  
T.A. Barron  
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Mary F. Griffith & James W. Griffith, Jr., in honor of Joan Farver  
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The Micah Fund at Rose Community Foundation  
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### \$2,500+

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The Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation  
Michael Brown  
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Corbin Family Fund  
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Ernst & Wilma Martens Foundation  
Our Part  
Hatley Sefton  
Ute Mountaineer  
Boniface & Alison Zaino

### \$1,000+

Alpenglow Foundation  
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Aspen Skiing Company Environment Foundation  
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Casady Henry, in honor of King Woodward  
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### \$500+

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Sheilah Bryan  
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Anne Cooke, in memory of Heidi Hoffmann  
David Corbin  
Andrew Corra  
Helen Buchanan Davis  
Jaclynn Derosier, in honor of Wolf & Nancy Gensch  
Beth & John DiPrato  
Nancee & Ben Dodge  
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Lynn Russell & Stoney Davis  
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Melissa Shennan  
Sandra & Stephen Stay  
Mike & Anne Tiermey  
Twin Lakes General Store & Mercantile  
Andy Wiessner  
Jennifer Woodward, in honor of King R. Woodward

### \$100+

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Greg Albrecht  
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Barbara Bass  
Barbara Bass & Barbra Levin, in memory of Irma Hyman  
Michael Behrendt  
Bellock Morrison Philanthropic Foundation  
Dina Belmonte  
John Bennett  
Catherine Bergman  
Valerie Borthwick  
Brady Foundation  
Linda & Bob Brining  
Joe Brown  
Sheilah Bryan  
Helen & Roger Carlsen  
Elizabeth Carroll  
Ned & Jan Cochran, in memory of Jack & Anneke DePagter  
Janice Collins  
Anne Cooke, in memory of Heidi Hoffmann  
David Corbin  
Andrew Corra  
Helen Buchanan Davis  
Jaclynn Derosier, in honor of Wolf & Nancy Gensch  
Beth & John DiPrato  
Nancee & Ben Dodge  
Mary & Sven Dominick-Coomer  
Andrew Dougherty  
Drew & Susan Drazin  
Shelley Emerick  
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Valerie and Herschel Richter Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix  
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James Schubert  
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James Scull  
Joyce & Chuck Shenk  
Anda & Ryan Smalls, in honor of their kids, Zala & Luka  
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William Stutts  
Patricia Stranahan  
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Kathy & Edward Sweeney  
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Tyrolean Lodge  
Craig & Becky Ward  
John Werning  
Everett Wiehe  
Andre & Julie Wille  
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### \$1-\$99

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Trish Chew, in memory of Cindy Curlee  
Todd Christman  
Kent Deimer  
Chuck & Doris Downey  
Douglas Dyakon  
John & Susan Eaton  
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Nancy & Wolf Gensch

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Bruce Gordon  
Margot Graham  
Ann Hodges  
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Gideon Kaufman  
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Nika Meyers  
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Liza Mitchell  
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Sherry Helmke & Edward D. Wang, in memory of Diana Beuttas  
Suzanne Wolff

## Ride for the Pass

### \$5,000

Cooper Street Capital  
Fidel Duke

### \$2,500

Alpine Bank  
Jacolyn & John Bucksbaum  
Lynda & Stewart Resnick  
Ute Mountaineer

### \$1,000

Aspen Times  
Busy Beavers Gardening  
Chris Klug Properties  
KDNK Community Radio  
Timberline Bank

### \$500

Alpine Valley Services  
Anonymous  
Aspen Daily News  
Basalt Bike & Ski  
Best Sign Systems  
Chinook Charitable Foundation  
Christie's International Real Estate  
Aspen/Snowmass  
Earth-Wise Horticultural  
Boots Ferguson & Carolyn Miller  
The Gant  
Holy Cross Energy  
David Hyman & Barbara Reid  
KSPN  
LT3 Real Estate Group/Aspen Snowmass Sotheby's  
Obermeyer Wood Investment Counsel  
James & Hensley Peterson  
Reese Henry & Company  
Ryan Investments  
SGM  
Valley Lumber

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Bill & Joyce Gruenberg  
Gail & Phil Holstein  
Charlie Hopton  
Carol Ann Kopf, in memory of Bob Lewis  
Renewal by Andersen  
The Rockwood Charitable Trust  
Skratch Labs  
Sopris Sun  
Sun Dog Athletics  
T-Lazy-7



# Please join us in being good stewards of Independence Pass by donating today.

- 1 online at [independencepass.org/donate](https://independencepass.org/donate)
- 2 by check or credit card using the enclosed envelope
- 3 through gifts of stock by emailing [director@independencepass.org](mailto:director@independencepass.org)

