

In 2015, your generosity allowed WRV to partner with the Knights of Heroes program, which brings young people together who have lost a parent in the military. These young women participated in three WRV restoration projects in 2016, making a difference while building bonds with one another, and sharing an experience with others who can relate with their feelings and challenges. This was the second year of our partnership, which was incredibly rewarding

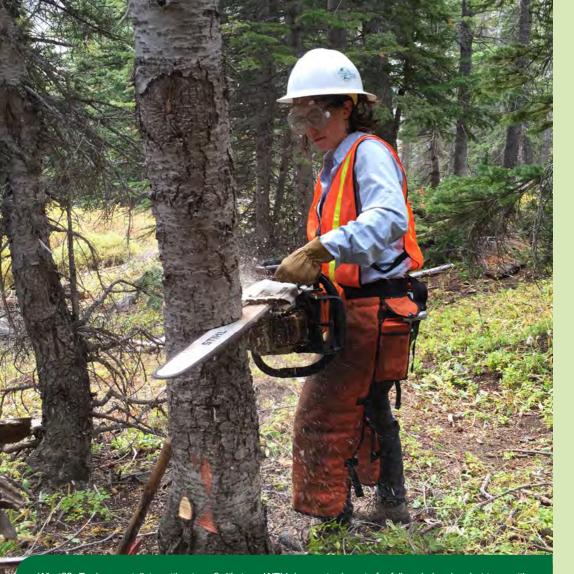
In this photo, two Knights of Heroes transplant a tree along the new connector trail at Brainard Lake Recreation Area, to protect the alpine habitat from a proliferation of social trails and trampling.



The story of the flood of 2013 goes on—much restoration after the flood is still necessary, and a peak of activity will even occur in 2016 and 2017! In 2015, you accomplished a great deal of post-flood restoration with your gift, including along the North Fork of the Big Thompson River.

An especially exciting opportunity during this time was the removal of an abandoned dam that had been obstructing fish passage for over 100 years along that stretch, which could now be removed thanks to post-flood channel work already taking place. Your help made it possible to take down the dam and reconnect miles of stream, from Rocky Mountain National Park all the way down to the main stem of the Big Thompson River! At the same time, you enabled volunteers to stabilize the streambanks against future flood events and reduce the amount of sediment dumped into the water from areas where the flood scoured the stream sides of vegetation.

Here, a volunteer unloads wood-straw mulch donated in-kind from a local manufacturer, to help ensure newly cast seed can take root along the North Fork of the Big Thompson, rather than blowing away.



What?? Environmentalists cutting trees? It's true. WRV does not advocate for full-scale logging, but tree-cutting can actually benefit the environment when done at the right place, the right time, and in the right way. For example, in areas where people have made social trails that damage sensitive habitat, a few trees can be harvested to build boardwalks over wetlands and stop the trampling. Many miles of trail in Colorado need this sort of repair, and your support has enabled WRV to make them more sustainable.

Also, when fire suppression has created unnatural and dangerous conditions near homes, roads and water plants, selective thinning in the buffer zone can save human lives as well as make room to bring back species that depend on a lower density of trees. Fire danger near communities is a challenge for most of the Western United States. You helped restore important areas after fires, bring back habitat for native species, and reduce fire risk near communities by thinning. When WRV started training volunteer chain sawyers a few years ago to help meet these needs, college student Sarah Groenwald was one of the first students.

In 2015, your support allowed Sarah to attend WRV's intermediate chainsaw training, intern with WRV, and lead her own project to remove downed logs from near the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch in Northern Colorado! Her work protected the Elk Creek watershed, and was recognized with a Take Action Award from State Farm. Leaders like Sarah and supporters like you are crucial to WRV's success. Thank you!

In 2015, your gift helped WRV's native seed collection program grow to new heights! As you may know, locally adapted native plants have a higher survivability rate when used at restoration projects than other types. But this kind of seed is either prohibitively expensive or completely unavailable for purchase. Just like in previous years, in 2015, volunteers hand-collected native seeds and cleaned them. But this year, volunteers also got involved in the transplanting of those plants in greenhouses, and even growing them out at home. Some of the resulting plants were planted at an Alpine Restoration project at beautiful Summit Lake, by other volunteers, completing the circle of life for our seed program!

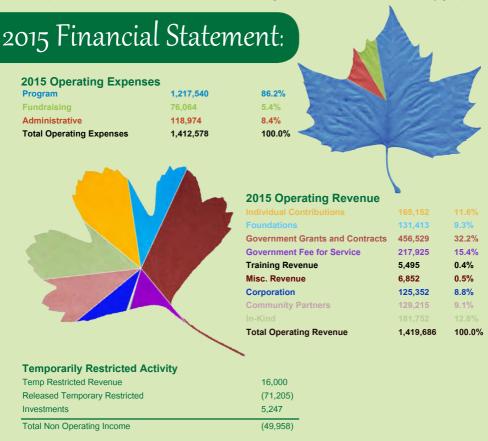


In this photo, some of WRV's seed collectors display their enthusiasm at the greenhouse. Community building is a crucial element of WRV's mission, and the seed program has a great following with lots of camaraderie.

Your Influence Thank you! Your 2015 contribution to Wildlands Restoration Volunteers helped meet the mission of fostering a community spirit of shared responsibility for public, protected and ecologically important lands in so many ways. Read the features in following pages for some special highlights.

In addition to those stories, your gift:

- Supported the development of a community of skilled land stewards through specialized trainings, including advanced trail skills, and rock work (new in 2015).
- Re-routed unsustainable trails to protect rare native species.
- Engaged diverse youth in restoration service learning, leading to three awards for participants, including the United States Presidential Environmental Youth Award (EPA), and two Boulder Youth Volunteer Awards.
- · Restored habitat at beloved adopt-sites, such as Summit Lake, Chico Basin, and more.
- Decimated noxious weeds such as Mediterranean sage and myrtle spurge across whole landscapes.
- Utilized cutting edge experimental methods to slow erosion and re-create vital streamside habitat in the Laramie Foothills Conservation Area.
- Supported collaborations new and old with over 100 agencies, businesses, and community groups.



In 2015, WRV invested in our infrastructure to support a growing staff, by renting larger offices, more tool storage, and by purchasing two trucks to transport tools and materials to hard-to-get-to locations.

Gifts like yours are crucial to train leaders, recruit volunteers, begin partnerships, and turn every \$1 donated by an individual into \$21.61-worth of restoration and community building. How? WRV uses these funds to bring together volunteers, write grants, solicit business sponsorships and in-kind donations, and government agency funds to make it happen. Thank you for making a huge difference by keeping WRV financially strong with unrestricted giving!

2015 Tangible Results





Stream Channel Restored 46,780 ft



Youth Engaged in Stewardship: 1109

Volunteer Trained as Leaders: 237

42,497+ **Volunteer Hours**

Plants Planted: 16,994

8755+ Acres of **Habitat Restored**









125+ Volunteer **Projects in 2015**







Value of Hours \$932,443



olunteers in 2015: 3,509

Rooted in Boulder and Fort Collins, Colorado

3012 Sterling Circle, Suite 201 Boulder, CO 80301 303 543 1411

wrv.org

52926 E. Mulberry Fort Collins, CO 80524 970 493 2075



Wildlands Restoration Volunteers Funders & Donors

2015 Calendar Year



\$25,000 and Above

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Boulder County Parks and Open Space

City of Boulder

City of Denver

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Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Colorado State Parks - State Trails Program

Colorado Water Conservation Board

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Alan Carpenter

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\$500 and

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Up to \$50 cont.

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