



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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Ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife,
their habitat and our hunting heritage.

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Fiscal discipline and a commitment to financial stewardship keep RMEF on a path to wisely use revenue generated by volunteers, members and RMEF programs.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

It’s pretty much human nature. When in the midst of a project, whether splitting wood or digging a ditch, the focus is firmly on the task at hand. But when you finish, step back and look at the big picture of what’s been done, there’s a real sense of satisfaction.

That’s how I feel serving at RMEF. Inside headquarters, there are a lot of moving parts on a daily basis as staff works with the cooperative support of volunteers, members, our partners and others to move the mission forward. Yet, as I pause for a moment to look back on the year that just passed, there is a tremendous amount of pride and satisfaction in our collective efforts.

The fact is 2022 marks one of the greatest years of conservation accomplishment in our history. That statement needs to be accompanied with a clarifying explanation. RMEF is blessed to have significant endowments but as everyone in the financial industry will attest, 2022 was a challenging year for investment returns. As per our financials (see page 22), RMEF had a net bottom line loss of \$2.1 million that incorporates a net investment return loss of \$10.9 million, which is primarily unrealized losses or market change. Excluding investment return, RMEF netted \$8.8 million and had a programmatic expenditure of \$61 million, marking a record year in event-based fundraising, as well as an incredibly successful year in donation revenue.

In 2022, RMEF helped protect more than 91,000 acres of habitat, marking the third-highest, single year on record, and opened or improved public access to nearly 117,000 acres—the second-highest, single year on record. RMEF also enhanced more than 176,000 acres of habitat to benefit elk, mule and whitetail deer, and many other wildlife species while improving hunting opportunity. And RMEF completed 226 hunting heritage projects while providing important funding for wildlife management and research, all while advocating for issues that impact our mission. These numbers highlight significant, measurable on-the-ground accomplishment. Combine that with our stepped-up advocacy efforts and I’m proud to be part of a conservation movement that continues to have a positive impact across the country.

To highlight a few examples, RMEF committed more than \$1 million for landscape-scale efforts to help restore thousands of acres of western forests charred by wildfires, allocated \$1.45 million for habitat enhancement, research and disease management in the Southern Appalachians, and helped relocate 50 elk to expand Kentucky’s elk distribution and create new hunting opportunity.

Our stalwart volunteers hosted hundreds of banquets that generated much of that funding. To them, our members and all of our partners and supporters who stand with us in all we do, we express a heartfelt “thank you.”

Sincerely,



R. Kyle Weaver
R. Kyle Weaver
President & Chief
Executive Officer



PASSAGEWAY PROTECTED: RMEF worked with a landowner to conserve 11,752 acres of wildlife habitat, including an important elk and mule deer migration corridor, in northwest Colorado.

BELOW PHOTO: MARK BIAS




**8.6 MILLION
ACRES**
IN LIFETIME MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

Almost one square mile per day protected or enhanced,
every day since RMEF’s founding in 1984.



RMEF IN 2022



129

Habitat Stewardship Projects
in **23** States



20

Land Conservation
& Access Projects
in **8** States



226

Hunting Heritage Projects
(including 12 National Projects)
in **37** States



57

Wildlife Management Projects
(including 4 National Projects)
in **19** States

432 TOTAL PROJECTS

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation advanced mission accomplishment at a near record pace in 2022 by completing 20 land conservation and access projects in eight states – Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming. That work conserved 91,271 acres of habitat for elk and other wildlife while opening or improving access for hunting and other recreational activities to 116,747 acres.

RMEF relies on partnerships with landowners, federal and state agencies, conservation and sportsmen groups, and others to make conservation happen. In doing so, it relies on the support of RMEF volunteers and members, donors, outdoor industry partners, policymakers, sportsmen and women.

As an organization focused on elk, its mission work triggers beneficial trickle-down impacts for mule and whitetail deer, moose, pronghorn antelope, turkey and upland birds, black bears, mountain lions and many other wildlife species. RMEF supports wildlife management and supplies funding to accumulate peer-reviewed, scientific information about elk. In 2022, it allocated \$587,681 that leveraged \$3.3 million in partner funding.

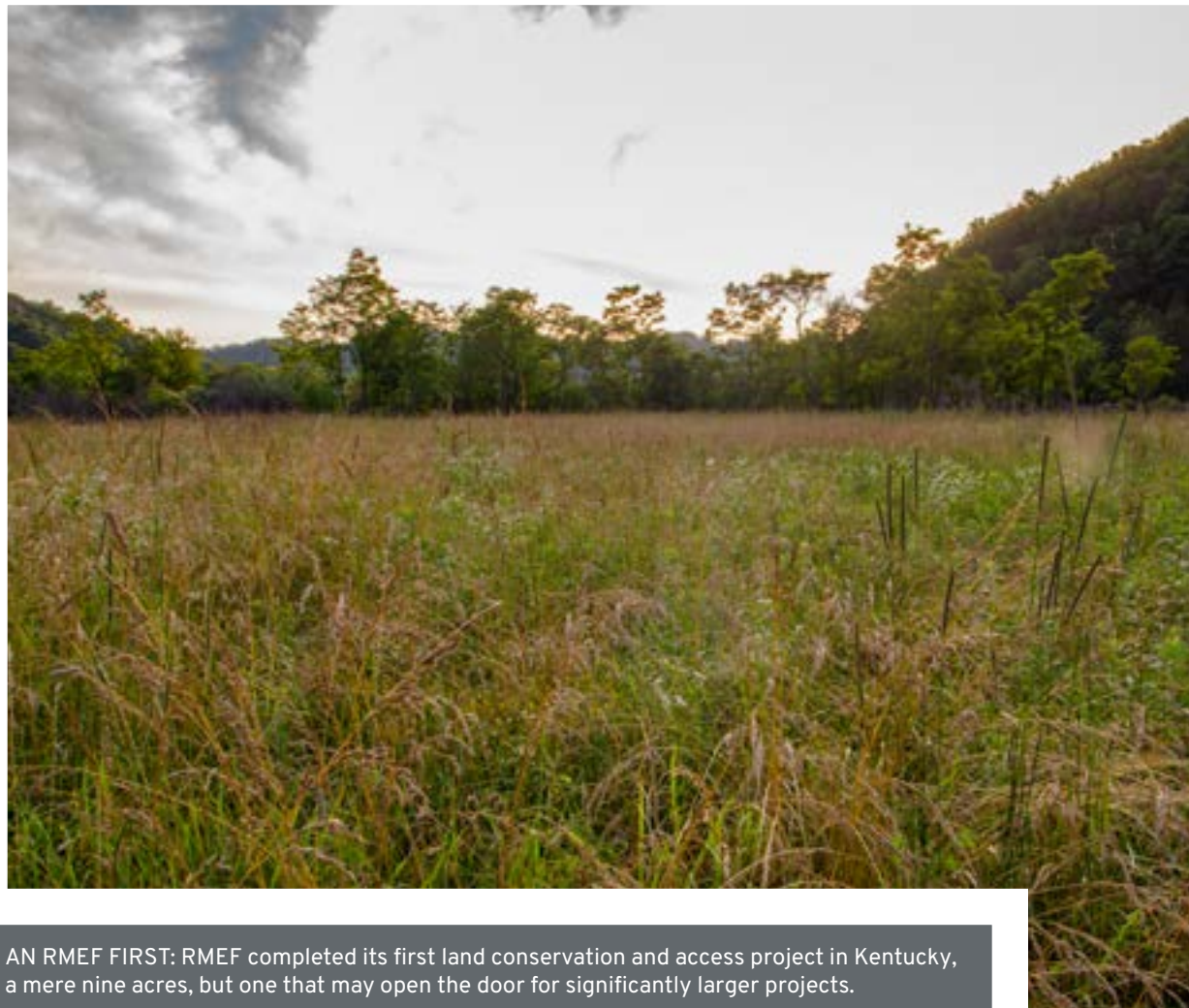
“Witnessing the landscape of the Minam River in person was an overwhelming realization, knowing that as a contributor, our donations were hard at work. Seeing that beauty first-hand made us realize how important it is to support the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.”

Larry & Karen Waide



PUBLIC ACCESS VICTORY: Nearly 6,000 acres of central Montana habitat is open for the first time, while access is greatly improved to 4,300 acres of adjacent public land.

ABOVE PHOTO: KEVIN LEAGUE BELOW PHOTO: STEVEN DOBY



AN RMEF FIRST: RMEF completed its first land conservation and access project in Kentucky, a mere nine acres, but one that may open the door for significantly larger projects.

BELOW PHOTO: CHUCKANDGRACEBARTLETT.COM



RMEF Secures ‘Organizational Priority’ Victory in Big Sky Country

As quality conservation projects go, this one checked box after box – land conservation, protecting wildlife values, enhanced wildlife management, new and improved public access, increased hunting opportunity, honoring long-held agricultural traditions and opening the door for future habitat stewardship work.

“Plain and simple, this was an organizational priority for us this year,” said Kyle Weaver, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation president and CEO.

RMEF acquired and then conveyed 5,668 acres of prime wildlife habitat to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for what is now called the Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area, home to elk, mule deer, black bears, mountain lions and other species. In addition to opening public access to the acreage for the first time, it also improved access to more than 4,300 acres of adjacent public land in a part of central Montana where access is challenging, at best. And a management plan allows for continued livestock grazing as has been the case for generations.

A donor originally gave the land to Shodair Children’s Hospital. Thanks to its collaborative effort with RMEF, the facility now has the funding for a replacement hospital building that will serve scores of Montana children going forward.

Bolstering Conservation in the Bluegrass State

Continuing a long-standing commitment to conservation in Kentucky, RMEF made what some may initially view as a relatively slight splash in 2022, but its ramifications could very well be far-reaching and impactful for elk, deer, hunting and public access in years to come. RMEF acquired five parcels covering nine acres in a rugged area known as Steel Trap and donated them to the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Looking back, RMEF committed \$1.4 million that gave Kentucky the resources it needed in 1997 to successfully restore elk to their historic Kentucky range. Since then, with more help offered along the way, the herd grew to more than 11,000, leading to the largest population east of the Mississippi River and marking a major conservation accomplishment.

Looking forward, Steel Trap, RMEF’s first-ever land conservation and access project in Kentucky, could very well serve as a springboard for much more expansive projects that cover large swaths of land in the Southern Appalachians.

“RMEF fosters the flourishing of one of God’s most majestic creatures while at the same time making them more accessible to sportsmen. What’s not to like?”

Don Greiner



MIGRATORY WIN FOR MULE DEER: A key migration route for Nevada’s largest mule deer herd is conserved as is critical transition, summer range and calving grounds for elk.



PHOTOS: SUSAN ELLIOT

Partnerships Protect Nevada Wildlife Migration Corridor

A team effort translated into a conservation win for a host of wildlife species looking to maintain their migratory ways across the northeast Nevada landscape. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation collaborated with a landowner, EFM Investments & Advisory, to place a voluntary conservation agreement on 12,122 acres 40 miles east of Elko.

“This is a significant step for us in achieving our goals for this property. With this funding, we will be able to fully implement our management plan for the Pole Canyon, which includes protection and restoration of riparian, aspen and sage grouse habitat. We are very grateful to RMEF and all the funding partners,” said Bettina von Hagen, CEO of EFM.

The terrain of sagebrush, aspen and mahogany stands, whitebark and limber pine stands, meadows and pastureland supplies critical transition and summer range for elk as well as a calving area. Also home to bighorn sheep, it is notable summer, winter and transition range for the largest herd of migrating mule deer in the state. And the property is next to more than 15,000 acres of public land for hunting, fishing and other activities.

Funding partners included the Nevada Department of Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Bass Pro Shops/Cabela’s Outdoor Fund and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno/Fallon/Midas and Elko Bighorns Unlimited.



“It makes me feel good to see wildlife in the outdoors, that is why I support the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. It’s my time now to give back and provide a better places for generations to come.”

Rich Myers

Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn and Hunters Score Big Win in Wyoming

A key chunk of winter and year-round elk range will remain that way after RMEF successfully collaborated with two landowners to acquire and conserve their 6,659 acres. It also supplies important habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope and other big game species. The Mule Creek property lies near the southern Laramie Range Mountains between Casper and Laramie in Elk Hunt Area 7.

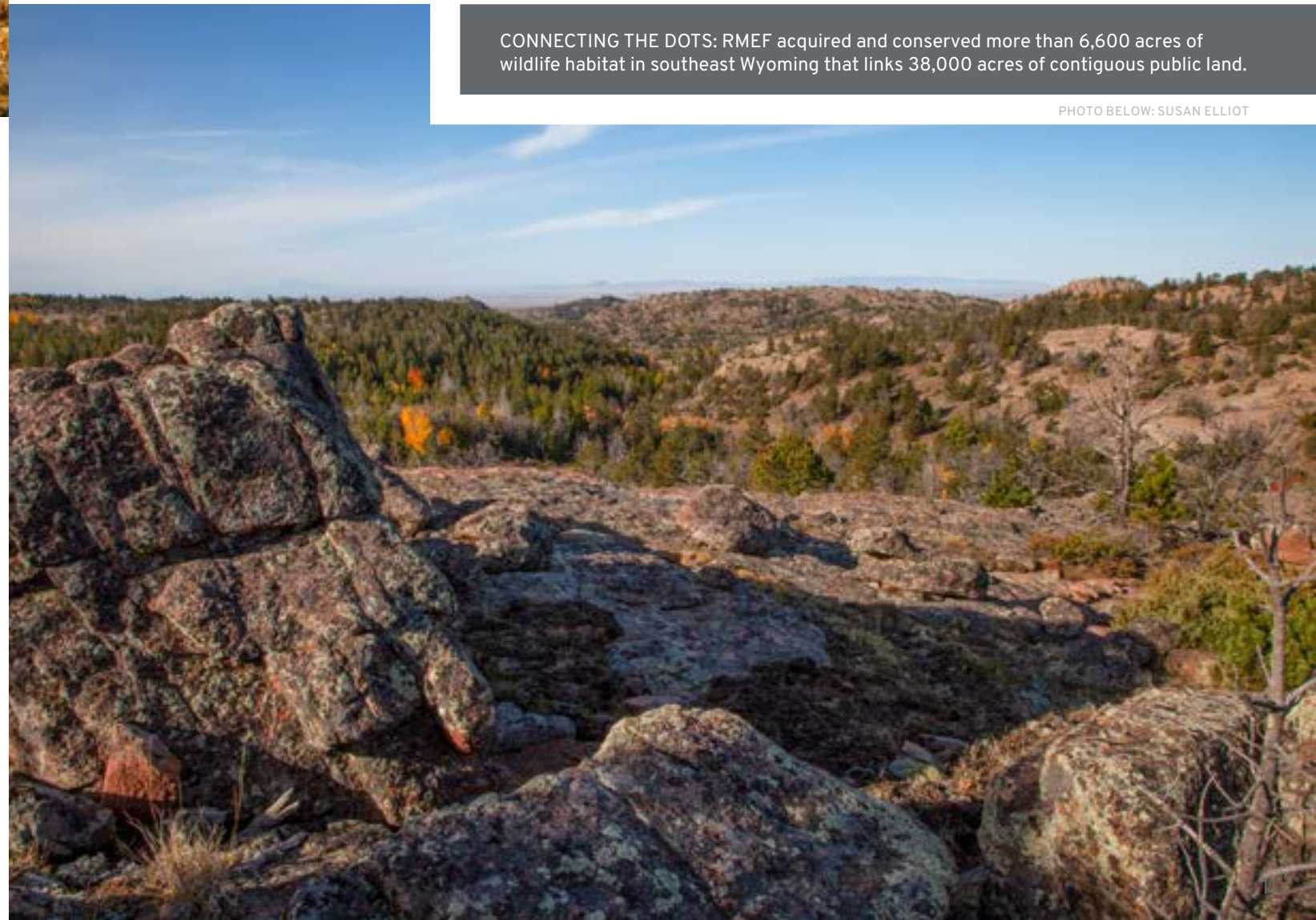
“This project is especially important because it links 38,000 acres of contiguous state and federal land in a part of Wyoming where public access is challenging, at best, due to a large number of private ranches and landlocked state and federal land,” said Blake Henning, RMEF chief conservation officer. “And since elk populations are well above population objectives, biologists can better utilize hunters to manage elk numbers.”

Seven years earlier, in 2015, RMEF helped create a 15-year hunting access agreement for the same area that also opened the gate to 4,000 acres of previously inaccessible state and Bureau of Land Management land within the ranch boundary.



CONNECTING THE DOTS: RMEF acquired and conserved more than 6,600 acres of wildlife habitat in southeast Wyoming that links 38,000 acres of contiguous public land.

PHOTO BELOW: SUSAN ELLIOT





WILDFIRE REHAB: RMEF allocated more than \$1 million for 19 projects across eight western states to restore landscapes charred by wildfires.

Stepping Up in a Big Way to Support Wildfire Restoration

Wildfires are ravaging America’s forests, grasslands and wildlife habitat. From 2013 to 2022, there were an average of 61,410 wildfires each year that scorched an average of 7.2 million acres of land. Those numbers jumped significantly in 2022 when 68,988 wildfires charred 7,577,183 acres across the United States.

As a long-time advocate of prescribed burns, forest thinning and other treatments to enhance habitat for elk and other wildlife, while also helping to reduce the risk of wildfire, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation stepped up its commitment in 2022 by allocating more than \$1 million to landscape-scale efforts to restore thousands of acres affected by wildfire. RMEF partnered with federal and state agencies, private landowners and other organizations to supply funding for 19 different projects across eight western states.

“This commitment only solidifies RMEF’s ongoing strategic efforts dating back decades to enhance habitat for elk and a myriad of other wildlife species for their long-term betterment while also improving overall forest health,” said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO.

In addition to the initial round of funding, RMEF also reviewed proposals for future restoration work across both public and private lands used by elk, mule deer and other wildlife.



Keeping the Conservation Ball Rolling to Help Southeastern Elk

A mere two and a half decades ago, there were zero, count ‘em, zero wild, free-ranging elk in the Southern Appalachians. That changed in 1997 when RMEF supplied critical funding that the state of Kentucky did not have at the time to restore elk to their historic range. Today, the population numbers more than 15,000 in the Bluegrass State alone and there are also smaller but

growing herds in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. RMEF had a hand in each of those successful restorations.

In 2022, RMEF kept the conservation ball rolling in the Southeast by collaborating with a wide range of partners to distribute more than \$1.45 million dollars over two years for 15 habitat enhancement, wildlife and disease management, research, and land conservation and access projects across the region. RMEF supplied nearly \$650,000 of that total while partners stepped up with an additional \$800,000.

Grants for habitat stewardship will improve forage and water sources for wildlife through forest thinning, prescribed burning, invasive weed spraying, maintenance of meadows, construction of wildlife water guzzlers and other conservation work. The financial assistance will also increase public access across southeastern elk country by nearly 1,000 acres, help monitor elk calf survival, fund genetic analysis, support elk population surveys and expand testing for chronic wasting disease.

RMEF’s presence has been a three-decade conservation pillar on the ridges of the Appalachians. An indicator of true conservation successes, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia now each host annual elk hunts.



INVESTING IN ELK: Continuing a conservation history dating back to 1995, RMEF committed \$1.45 million for habitat enhancement, research and CWD testing in the southern Appalachians.

BELOW PHOTO: MARK BIAS



Opening Spaces for North Carolina Elk

North Carolina’s forests are thick. How thick? Less than one percent of the 1.1 million acres spanning the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests contain early successional habitat or, in other words, open areas featuring broad-leaved plants, clover, grasses, scattered shrubs and small trees. Such habitat is ideal for elk, whitetail deer, turkey, grouse, songbirds and other wildlife.

In 2022, RMEF grant funding helped carry out work on the William H. Silver Game Land in western portions of

the state. Workers converted small sections of closed-canopy forestland into early successional habitat by removing 19 acres of trees, digging out the stumps and following that up with seeding and fertilizing to create a new wildlife opening. They also strategically piled debris around the opening’s perimeter to help with erosion control and to create large shelters for wildlife. In another area, crews expanded a three-mile-long wildlife opening by 100 feet, again to promote early successional habitat.



Doubling Up for Colorado Wildlife

RMEF has a deep and impressive conservation resume in southern Colorado’s Upper Purgatoire River basin. In its largest project undertaken in 1998, RMEF acquired and conveyed 30,000 acres of wildlife habitat to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). It became the Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area (SWA). To this day, it features stellar elk winter range and prime habitat for mule deer, turkey, black bears and other wildlife. The original transaction also opened the door for public access, providing quality hunting opportunity and more than nine miles of waterways for anglers and others to enjoy.

And to this day, RMEF remains an active conservation force there where it already put more than \$250,000 on the ground. In 2022, it committed funding for two more habitat enhancement projects.



DOUBLING UP FOR COLORADO WILDLIFE: Funding helped restore historic wildlife water sources and enhance habitat to improve public land hunting opportunity.

Bosque del Oso Water Improvement Project

There are 11 historic wildlife water wells scattered across the SWA. RMEF and its partners supplied funding to restore the majority of them. First, crews removed old, non-functioning wind mills and piping from nine of the sites and conducted testing. After installing solar-powered pumps at eight of the wells, there was enough leftover funding to purchase trail cameras for monitoring wildlife usage, as well as drill two replacement wells and install solar systems.

Bosque del Oso Hydro-Axe Habitat Improvement Project

Five excavators with rotary drum-style mulching heads initially churned their way across 241 acres of SWA land in need of a facelift as part of a multi-phase approach in a handful of locations in 2022 and 2023. Management goals include enhancing wildlife habitat and improving public land hunting. The objective is to reduce woody densities, increase the amount of herbaceous and shrub vegetation, create a mosaic forest pattern and encourage forage production. Additional benefits include reducing fuel loads, creating fire breaks and restoring a forest structure that will be more receptive and resilient to natural fire.



OutdoorClass Helps Ensure the Future of Our Hunting Heritage - National

In 2022, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation entered a partnership that furthers a key facet of its mission unlike it ever has before, that being to ensure the future of our hunting heritage. RMEF, GOHUNT, Randy Newberg and Corey Jacobsen unveiled OutdoorClass, an online, subscription-based learning hub for hunters of all experience levels to learn and refine skills.

Initially launched with four multi-chapter courses on any device and taught by well-known and experienced hunters like Jacobsen, Newberg, Remi Warren and Jaime Teigen, it is an innovative approach designed for hunters with a platform centered on instruction and mentorship.

“Every RMEF member and every elk hunter could benefit from OutdoorClass. The most valuable investment you can make is in yourself and in your knowledge set. I can think of no better investment for a hunter hungry to keep learning and growing,” said Newberg, public lands advocate and RMEF life member.

While the initial classes focused on early and late season elk hunting, finding mule deer and preparing and cooking wild game, OutdoorClass will continually add new courses going forward such as backcountry survival skills, marksmanship, E-scouting, drawing tags and hunting multiple species of game, among others.



Wild Sustenance Program - Montana (soon to be national)

In collaboration with the University of Montana, RMEF supplied Torstenson Family Endowment funding to establish the Wild Sustenance program, a higher education course that teaches students about hunting ethics and their role in society, wildlife management, hunting’s beneficial impact on conservation, firearm safety, tracking game, field dressing and cooking, among other important subjects. In addition to a weekly lecture and discussion, students go on a three-day field trip to field dress a deer, process the meat and learn how to cook wild game. Students also hunted on land conserved by RMEF. The three-credit course includes virtual and augmented reality modules, co-branded by UM and RMEF, that will be made available to other interested universities around the nation.





Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow – National

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) hosts five-day workshops for wildlife professionals and students who do not hunt. While the goal is not to recruit or train participants to become hunters, it is to educate class members about why hunting is important for biological, social, cultural, economic and recreational standpoints. Attendees leave with a deep understanding of hunting and its beneficial impact on conservation. Between November 2021 and February 2022, 182 participants from 19 states, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and nine universities participated in 16 online programs and two in-person workshops. Since CLFT’s founding in 2010, RMEF has been the program’s major funder thanks to the Torstenson Family Endowment (TFE).

HUNTING IS CONSERVATION 101: Five-day, hands-on workshops help wildlife professionals and students learn about the invaluable link between hunting and conservation.

Mentored Youth Cow Hunt – Idaho

Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) staffers, RMEF volunteers and employees on a southeast Idaho ranch hosted 10 seventh and eighth grade students on a mentored cow elk hunt. Prior to the hunt, participants spent time together at a range to learn about hunting ethics, gun safety and to do some shooting. They also spent time in the field with a parent, IDFG employee and ranch employee. Over three weekends, each young hunter harvested an elk. RMEF funding paid for hunting licenses and tags, ammunition, processing and hunting gear.



EE Wilson Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt – Oregon

RMEF provided funding for 106 hunters to participate in the 71st annual E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area Youth Pheasant Hunt in western Oregon. The young hunters learned about gun safety, working with dogs and field dressing birds. Thirty-three of them received their hunter education certificates, qualifying them to immediately head afield. In all, participants harvested 223 birds over two days and enjoyed a free lunch.

Capital Area Sportsmen For Youth Field Day – Pennsylvania

More than 60 participants took part in the 30th annual Capital Area Sportsmen for Youth Field Day in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The free event focused on outdoor education in the form of seminars and conservation displays, trapping/fur taking, taxidermy, dog training, wildlife rehabilitation, demo stations, outdoor safety and primitive camping. Hands-on activities included an obstacle/confidence course, archery, fishing, BB gun, .22 rifle, shotgun and muzzleloader shooting, boating safety and canoeing. RMEF supplied grant funding and volunteer manpower to assist the camp.

A FIRSTHAND EDUCATION: RMEF funding and volunteers helped Pennsylvania boys and girls experience conservation and outdoor recreational activities.



Claudia L. Workman Education Center – West Virginia

The Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center opened in June 2022. The 9,500-square-foot educational facility is at the Forks of Coal State Natural Area in Alum Creek, West Virginia. It features wildlife displays and nature exhibits that highlight the state’s natural beauty. RMEF grant funding paid for a full body elk mount, the centerpiece of a display that illustrates how scientific management helped restore elk to their native West Virginia range.



RMEF Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience - Montana

Approximately 150 boys and girls, accompanied by 375 adults, attended a hands-on conservation day camp at RMEF headquarters. Activities included a shooting range, fishing, archery, fly casting, a rock climbing wall and field dog demonstrations. The Great Elk Tour, TIP-MONT, U.S. Forest Service fire trucks and Animal Wonders also provided opportunities for youth to learn about elk, elk hunting, conservation, wildlife law enforcement, wildfire awareness and animals.





OLD DOMINION HISTORY: RMEF generated \$93,000 in conservation funding to benefit Virginia's elk population as the state held its first-ever managed elk hunt.

ABOVE PHOTO: BO PRIESKORN

A Conservation Milestone: Virginia's First Managed Elk Hunt

There may be no greater conservation and wildlife management success than the restoration of a species to its native range where there is ample habitat as well as social acceptance. Ten years after the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supplied funding and volunteer assistance to return wild elk to Virginia, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) held its first-ever managed elk hunt in 2022.

"Instituting the first-ever managed elk hunt a mere decade after restoration is an indicator that the state's elk herd is growing, sustainable and healthy. In short, it marks a conservation milestone for Virginia," Mark Baker, RMEF Board of Directors chair, said at the time. "We salute and congratulate DWR on successfully executing its

elk management plan, and for establishing a hunt that will generate significant funding to ensure the future of elk in Virginia."

DWR awarded its first elk conservation license to RMEF, which conducted a raffle that generated more than \$93,000 for conservation. That came on the heels of DWR's first lottery of five antlered elk tags that raised more than \$513,000 for conservation and wildlife management.

In October, all six hunters successfully filled their elk tags. RMEF and DWR volunteers helped hunters retrieve their harvested animals. Twenty landowners offered a combined 17,000 acres for hunters to use. DWR will hold its second managed elk hunt in 2023.

Mapping Effort Assists Wyoming Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Migration

Research shows mule deer and pronghorn antelope alter their movement 40 percent of the time they encounter fences along the Absaroka Front near Cody, Wyoming. Elk have issues as well. RMEF joined with state and federal agencies, foundations and other nonprofits to provide funding for the Absaroka Fence Initiative, an effort to identify where fence removal or modification is most needed to enhance movement for migratory species between public and private lands. Phase one of the two-year project mapped fencing challenges to be addressed by partners in subsequent years.



RMEF Helps Expand Kentucky's Elk Range

"It's pretty awesome. Conservation in action," touted one RMEF volunteer.

A recent Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) report indicates Kentucky is home to more than 15,000 elk. Yet, even though its elk management zone spans more than four million acres across 16 southeastern counties, the population does not use that entire range. In the early winter months of 2022, RMEF and KDFWR joined forces to change that.

Biologists, assisted by RMEF volunteers and others, netted, captured, examined and placed GPS collars and ear tags on approximately 50 elk before transporting them to the Daniel Boone National Forest in the western-most reaches of McCreary County. The area features good habitat but was mostly devoid of elk before the translocation project.

"When you think about what we're doing here – physically moving elk to new locations to expand their range, it doesn't get any more RMEF than that," Lee Kiess, RMEF volunteer and life member, said on site during the project.

KDFWR and RMEF's Torstenson Family Endowment supplied funding for the effort. RMEF contributed \$130,000 for the helicopter contract and to purchase GPS collars. RMEF also acquired a grant from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund for additional support.

Seeking Solutions in South Dakota

Aerial surveys indicate there may be unrealistic changes in elk population growth rates based on reproduction and mortality within the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park. Some of the discrepancy may be due to movement but chronic wasting disease (CWD) may also have an impact on cow elk survival. RMEF supplied funding for a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks study to determine the presence and spread of CWD in elk, whitetail and mule deer. Results will help guide future management practices.



FINANCIALS

Volunteers, Members Generate Significant Mission Funding

Many, if not most people, who know about the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation or interact with RMEF do so through the big game banquet system. It is the organization’s number-one, outward-facing activity. After all, hundreds of banquets take place each year across the country - from Florida to New England, stretching across middle America and the Rocky Mountain West, Pacific Northwest, Desert Southwest and even up into the Last Frontier.

A volunteer army numbering 11,000 strong hosts those banquets. Members who attend continue to be generous by opening their wallets and purses. The bottom line is RMEF banquet activity generates a vital chunk of the organization’s annual budget funding that is put back on the ground.

Those efforts combined with program service revenue and revenue generated through other means including donations, memberships, return on RMEF investments, including the Torstenson Family Endowment, RMEF put nearly \$61 million of program expense dollars to work in 2022 to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

The numbers show RMEF carried out 20 land conservation and access projects in eight different states, 186 habitat stewardship and wildlife management projects that impacted 176,087 acres in 23 states and 226 hunting heritage and conservation outreach projects. RMEF also allocated \$587,681 toward the accumulation of elk-related scientific research to 12 states and one project of national benefit that leveraged \$3.3 million in partner funding. In addition, RMEF took part in extensive outreach and education about elk, hunting, conservation and advocacy efforts focused on issues that affect its mission.

This cumulative mission accomplishment came from strategic planning and execution, years of fiscal discipline, financial strength, programmatic stability, transparency and a commitment to proven financial stewardship. Without such guiding principles and performance, RMEF would not be able to successfully overcome challenges and move forward while making a substantial impact on elk, elk country and our hunting heritage. For a more detailed review of RMEF finances, view audited 2022 financial statements at www.rmef.org/resources/rmef-financials.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (in thousands)	2022	% of Total
Support and Revenue		
Program service revenue	36,369	
Contributions	15,378	
Return on investments	(10,905)	
Membership dues	9,953	
Special Events, net of event expense	25,145	
Advertising/sponsorships, retail and other revenue	3,567	
Other income, gains and losses	(162)	
Total Support and Revenue	79,345	
Expenses		
Program services	61,163	75%
Fundraising	16,401	20%
Admin	3,883	5%
Total Expenses	81,447	100.00%
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		
	(2,102)	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in thousands)	2022
Assets	
Current assets	33,190
Investments	78,133
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	11,635
Lands held for program accomplishment	7,085
Other assets	700
Total Assets	\$ 130,743
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	7,247
Non-current liabilities	1,242
Total liabilities	8,489
Net Assets	
With donor restrictions	48,927
Without donor restrictions	73,327
Total net assets	122,254
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 130,743

Audited financial statements for RMEF can be seen at www.rmef.org/resources/rmef-financials.

2022 RMEF Board of Directors

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Grant Parker	Secretary / General Counsel
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RMEF Founders

Charlie Decker
Bob Munson
Dan Bull
Bill Munson



“My family and I have been involved in RMEF for more than 30 years, and we believe that this organization provides the most mission value of any conservation organization in the arena today. Thank you for the opportunity to make a difference for the next generation.”

David Shiflett



Picking Up the Pace on Behalf of Elk, Hunting and Conservation

Dealing with and thriving during unprecedented times earlier this decade forced us as a conservation organization to be more strategic and purposeful in our approach as we sought to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. It was an across-the-board challenge but one that we successfully met head-on. And we harvested the fruits of those efforts in 2022.

Here are some of the numbers that bear that out:

- Conserving 91,271 acres of habitat in eight states
- Opening or improving public access to 116,747 acres in seven states
- Committing \$4.7 million that leveraged 24.5 million in partner dollars for habitat enhancement and wildlife management
- Allocating \$587,681 for research that leveraged \$3.3 million in partner funding
- Completing 226 hunting heritage projects
- Successfully advocating for legislation and policies linked to mission priorities
- Maintaining more than 225,000 members

Looking at the bigger picture that dates back to when four elk hunters first established the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 1984, here are two lifetime statistics worth noting: topping 8.6 million acres in mission accomplishment and surpassing 1.5 million acres of opened or improved public access.

We have made and continue to make a difference for elk, whitetail and mule deer, moose, pronghorn antelope, fish, birds, non-game species and many other kinds of wildlife, as well as for hunting and conservation.

I did not mention two numbers among my bullet points above, and both are highly significant. As an organization, we take immense pride in our 11,000 volunteers who oversee banquets and other activities among our more than 500 chapters. Simply put, RMEF would not do what it does without them. Our volunteers raise funding, spread the word and are day-to-day examples of energy, focus, passion and commitment. We thank them and all of our members, sponsors and supporters for helping this great cause of conservation. Let’s do even more in 2023.



Mark Baker
2022 Chair, RMEF Board of Directors



RMEF

Ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife,
their habitat and our hunting heritage.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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