



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

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



PHOTO: LON LAUBER

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

A newly-conserved swath of prime wildlife and riparian habitat in northeast Oregon stands as the latest example of our mission.

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LAND CONSERVATION & ACCESS

Land conservation and access go hand-in-hand. The protection of pristine habitat including elk range, migration corridors, calving grounds and routes to recreation is core to our mission.

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HABITAT STEWARDSHIP

Restoring, maintaining and enhancing habitat for elk and other wildlife afford a greater ability for populations to be healthy and thrive.

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HUNTING HERITAGE

Hunting has a strong and substantial link to conservation. Advancing our hunting traditions helps ensure the next generation of stewards.

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

A fluid approach to conservation is vital for managing wildlife populations, but only based on hard work, strategy, advocacy and continually acquiring scientific knowledge.

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FINANCIALS & BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

Fiscal discipline, accountability, transparency and a commitment to financial stewardship place RMEF on a path to carry out its strategic vision and mission.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

Faint sun and a swift wind shape the snow in the Minam River Basin, exposing vital forage for elk trekking through winter range under the stately Wallowa Mountains. The hundreds of elk that rely on this area in the winter have an additional forever-conserved 4,600 acres as of 2021.

I always feel proud to be part of this organization along with our members partners and supporters. And I’m never prouder than at the end of each year when I get to pause and look back at what RMEF’s over 225,000 members have accomplished together towards ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. RMEF’s roots are built on hard work, creativity and perseverance. We see all three of these elements shining through in the work we accomplished in 2021.

Since the 2000s, RMEF took an interest in protecting a piece of private land in Oregon abutting the Minam River Wildlife Area and Minam State Recreation Area to the north, and the 565-square-mile Eagle Cap Wilderness and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to the south. But all the pieces didn’t line up back then. We persevered, and in spring of 2020, we secured a large amount of funding toward the project. In 2021, RMEF, working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Manulife Investment Management’s timberland business, we finalized the first of two phases of the Minam River Project, an acquisition of 4,609 acres. When complete at the end of 2023, the Minam River Project will conserve 15,000 acres of crucial winter range along a migration corridor for elk, mule deer and other wildlife.

All told, in 2021, we completed 183 habitat enhancement and wildlife management projects and conserved over 26,000 acres of habitat for elk and other wildlife, including the above-mentioned Minam River Project and the Cumberland Mountain Acquisition in Tennessee, a project that links existing protected areas from the North Cumberland WMA in Tennessee through Cumberland Gap National Historic Park to the Kentucky Ridge State Forest in southeast Kentucky. We opened and improved access on over 31,000 acres in eight states. Working with partners, we leveraged funds to contribute millions toward elk research to help map out the most important issues facing elk. We completed 209 hunting heritage and conservation outreach projects. Our volunteers, 11,000 strong, exemplified hard work by holding 320 banquets to raise funds for our mission.

I want to thank each of you for being a part of this organization. Thanks to you, RMEF remains strong and thriving. Members, volunteers, partners and supporters, we’re collectively moving the needle for conservation in a way that none of us could alone. I’m looking forward to seeing what RMEF will accomplish in 2022 and beyond.

Thank you!
Sincerely,



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



ABOVE & BELOW PHOTO: DAVID JENSEN



BELOW PHOTO: MARK BIAS




8.3 MILLION ACRES
IN LIFETIME MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

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

Eel River Peninsula - Sanhedrin IV

Soldier Summit

Camel Back Mountain

Burris Mountain Addition I

Argyle Canyon

Little Rock Creek

Terry Creek

Wood Creek

Minam River I

Smelterville Flats

Cinnamon Creek

Taos Plateau - Ortega II - PJ

Cumberland Mountain

Cowiche II - Trepanier

14 PROJECTS
COMPLETED
IN **11** STATES
IN 2021

Even though the nation suffered detrimental impacts from supply chain issues, workplace employee shortages and other ongoing challenges, that did not stop the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation from carrying out its mission. In 2021, RMEF completed 14 land conservation and access projects in 11 different states – California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Those projects conserved 26,277 acres of elk habitat and opened or improved access to 31,205 acres.

How and why did this happen? Whether they be members, donors, landowners, volunteers, policymakers or public agencies, RMEF's approach to conserving and stewarding elk country is and always will be, reliant on partnerships. As an organization focused on elk, hunting and conservation, we also bring credible science, financial resources, creativity and a 'get-er-done' attitude to the table which allows us to carry out more mission work every year.

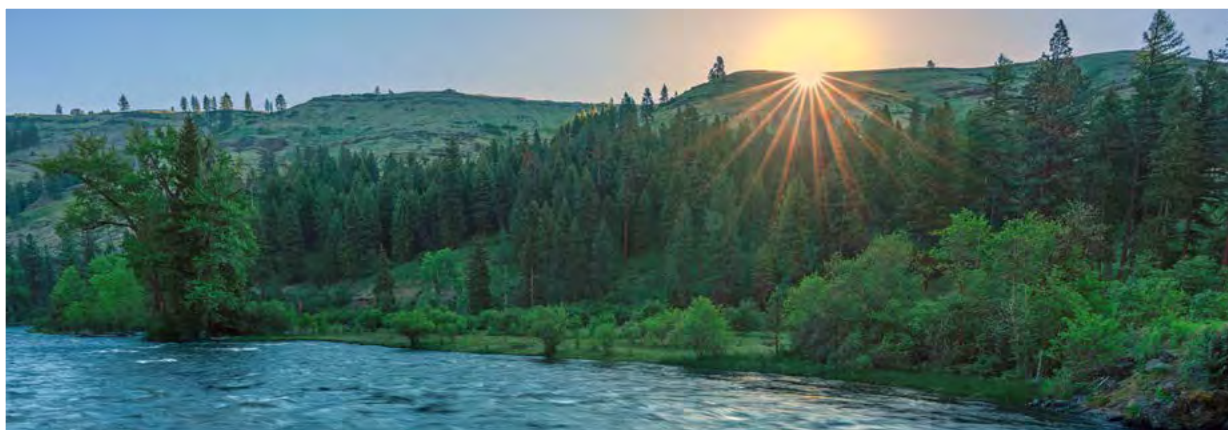
RMEF expresses gratitude to each and every individual and organization that supports who we are and what we do. Many people come to realize the importance of conservation and as they do, they look to and work with RMEF to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. To them we say "thank you," and let's do even more together.

"I have been a member of the RMEF for many years and have always supported the mission in any way I could. The land they have protected is fabulous and I'm so happy they take such good care of the donations received. RMEF has been in my will for many years but thought that it made much more sense to donate now so they can start using it today."

Denise Dean, Life Member



PHOTOS: DAVID JENSEN



Dating back to the 1960s, wildlife officials had their eye on conserving this landscape. Now, thanks to RMEF and its partners, work continues to finalizing the 15,573-acre Minam River Project.



Team Effort Opens the Gate to the Wallows

Call it the trifecta, the tripod or the three-legged stool approach. Manulife Investment Management's timberland business, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, with support from additional groups and individuals, collaborated closely as the main cogs to conserve 4,610 acres of prime elk habitat and winter range in northeast Oregon.

"We thank and congratulate our partners for conserving this landscape that is so important for elk, mule deer, birds, fish and other wildlife," said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO. "While we pause to celebrate this accomplishment, we know there is still much to do to complete phase 2 of the project that covers nearly 11,000 more acres."

That's right, there's more to do—much more to do! Phase 2 is nearly two and a half times the size of phase 1 with a tentative closing date of December 2023. Fundraising continues to make that a reality.

Still, phase 1 marks a significant conservation victory. ODFW had this landscape targeted for decades due to its wildlife and conservation values. Enter the threesome of Manulife, ODFW and RMEF. Their synergy and cooperation pushed the project across the finish line.

"One of the long-time hallmarks of our organization is the proven ability to successfully work alongside a wide variety of partners, whether private landowners and entities, state and federal agencies, individuals and outdoor industry groups, or sportsmen and NGOs, to get things done," said Blake Henning, RMEF chief conservation officer. "We see that again with the Minam. And it's a win for wildlife, hunters, anglers and everyone who enjoys the outdoors."

The project serves as a gateway to the beautiful Wallowa Mountains. It links the Minam River Wildlife Area, now the fifth-largest in Oregon, and Minam State Recreational Area while establishing a permanent entry point to the remote, rugged landscape of the 361,000-acre Eagle Cap Wilderness through an existing trail network on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest that includes the Minam River Trail, which traverses the property. It also improves public access for hunting, fishing and other recreational activity to an additional 6,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Additionally, this landscape-scale conservation offers easily accessible recreation and wildlife visibility due to its location along Highway 82 and the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway. It also allows biologists to better track and manage both elk populations and wildlife habitat through active management.

"The significance of this acquisition cannot be overstated. An opportunity to protect such a large swath of diverse habitat does not come along very often," said Curt Melcher, ODFW director. "ODFW has pursued opportunities to permanently protect this property since the 1960s. This acquisition would not have been possible without the leadership and funding from RMEF, as well as strong partnership with Manulife Investment Management."

"I am continually impressed with the work RMEF does with land conservation and public access. They consistently work with many local and state organizations to leverage funding to a significantly greater level. That means our annual gifts are truly making a difference."

Carolyn & Marvin Johnson

Utah Family Stands Tall with RMEF for Elk, Conservation

Randy Simonsen knew he had something special. He loves the land and so do the elk, mule deer, moose, black bears and various species of fish and other critters that utilize it.

That appreciation grew into a desire. And that spawned action. The result is the Simonsen family worked with the U.S. Forest Service and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) to enter into a voluntary conservation agreement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, conserving 4,886 acres of quality northcentral Utah elk habitat.

“I bought this place in my early 40s, and am now pushing 70. My intent has always been to never develop the property, just to keep it the same and improve it,” said Simonsen.

So that’s exactly what the family did. To maximize its wildlife values, they utilize brush-hogging where needed as well as seeding native forage. Randy’s son, Braden, applied for and received a grant from the Forest Legacy, a U.S. Forest Service program that encourages protection of private forestlands through conservation easements or land purchases.

The Simonsen property includes an old homestead crowned by timber-covered ridges and cradling two forks of the White River. It features superbly rich habitat used heavily by cow elk for calving and serves as a critical migration path for both elk and mule deer through the Wasatch Range. Divided into two tracts, the property is bordered on three sides by the Unita-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Unfortunately, a ballooning human population in the Utah and Salt Lake Valleys 40 miles to the west, triggered increasingly stronger development pressure including a 500-home subdivision between the Simonsen’s place and Strawberry Reservoir. That, too, caused the family to act.

“Now my biggest concern is seeing so much habitat disappearing. When my wife and I are dead and gone, we didn’t want there to be any chance our kids fighting over splitting it up. I had a friend that had put his property in a conservation easement, and it just seemed like the ideal solution for everyone. Our kids love this place just as much as us and were in total support,” added Simonsen.

“We are excited that this collaboration between RMEF and the Simonsen family will contribute to maintaining a contiguous forested landscape in this rapidly developing area of Utah,” said Natalie Conlin, FFSL Forest Stewardship & Legacy Program coordinator. “We also commend the landowner’s ongoing management of this Forest Legacy property, and the important contributions it makes to the local economy.”

To date, RMEF carried out more than three dozen habitat enhancement or land conservation and access projects in the immediate region.

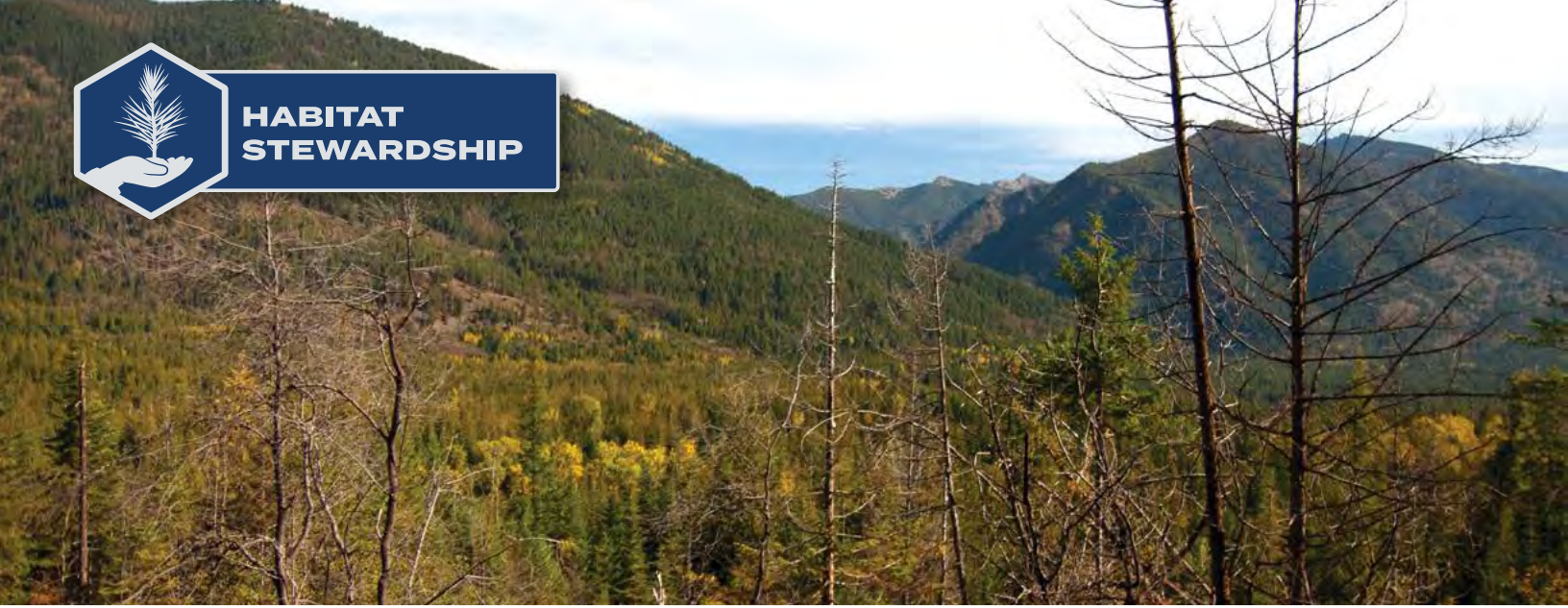
“The mission of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation matches our desire to leave a legacy in elk country for generations to come. With our help, they deliver that mission.”

Gary Hansen



The Simonsen family recognized the wildlife values of their property so they did something about it. Working with RMEF, it is conserved as is for future generations.





Funding supplied by RMEF assisted with the removal of encroaching juniper growth into vital swaths of Idaho sagebrush. Also following the Badger Fire, RMEF and other volunteers planted seedlings to help with wildfire restoration.

Habitat Enhanced Ahead of Virginia’s First-Ever Elk Hunt

A decade after RMEF helped successfully restore wild, free-ranging elk to their historic Virginia range, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) announced it will hold its first managed elk hunt in 2022.

How did that happen after only 10 years? The population reached a point of sustainability thanks to solid wildlife management and quality elk habitat!

To highlight one example, RMEF provided funding in 2021 for a series of habitat treatments to create and enhance forage and water sources within the Virginia Elk Restoration Zone, a stone’s throw from the original release site. Crews created forest openings by removing roots and stumps across 14.5 acres followed by seeding with a clover and wildlife blend, and capped off with

fertilizer leading to lush vegetation.

Elk released from 2012 to 2014, and the subsequent population growth since then, frequently utilize the site as a “home” zone for food, water and sanctuary. The habitat is also vital for deer, birds and a myriad of small game species.

“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,” said Mark Baker, RMEF Board of Directors chair. “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.”

Stepping Up in the Beginning and Still Giving in Kentucky

In late 1997, the trailer doors swung open on a remote hillside in western Kentucky and wild elk scampered out, setting foot on their historic range for the first time in 150 years. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided more than \$1.4 million to make that release possible. Two and a half decades later, RMEF remains an active participant on the Kentucky landscape by providing funding to enhance habitat for what is now the largest elk herd east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Redbird Wildlife Enhancement Project is a multi-pronged, multi-year effort within the Redbird Ranger District on the Daniel Boone National Forest, the epicenter of Kentucky’s elk zone. It includes two abandoned strip mines with heavy elk use year-round in closed canopy forestland. District managers want to improve habitat by managing non-native plant species

and promoting the establishment of native species by using chemical and mechanical treatments as well as prescribed fire.

Recently, crews applied chemical treatments to limit *Sericea lespedeza* and autumn olive, both invasive plants that crowd out native grasses and offer little to no nutrition for elk and other wildlife. Heavy equipment removed woody vegetation that encroached into grassy wildlife openings and also established control lines for subsequent prescribed fire.

Subsequent monitoring will determine if additional chemical treatment is needed for possible re-sprouting in stump holes. As for the elk, the Kentucky Department of Wildlife Resources monitors elk habitat use patterns and movement through an ongoing radiotelemetry study.

Rehabbing a Wildfire-Scarred Landscape in Idaho

Fire is not a discriminatory force of nature. Once ignited, it burns through just about everything it meets, especially if the landscape is bone dry. On September 12, 2020, that is exactly what happened in the southernmost portion of central Idaho, southeast of Twins Falls near the Nevada border. Ignited by an unknown cause, the Badger Fire charred its way across a landscape dominated by sagebrush and other shrubs, grasslands and stretches of timber on the Sawtooth National Forest. In its path, it left behind more than 90,000 acres of scorched habitat important for elk, mule deer, moose and wild turkey, among other wildlife species.

To assist with wildfire restoration efforts, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation assisted with two different projects. One of them, the Goose Creek Sagebrush Habitat Improvement project, actually began four months before the Badger Fire came to life. Crews removed juniper growth encroaching into sagebrush communities to improve habitat for elk, sage-grouse and other wildlife. Flames forced an early halt to the work but that allowed biologists an opportunity to monitor the situation. After

the fire, the remaining funds went toward seeding the recently burned landscape.

Approximately one year later in October 2021, RMEF’s continued support helped plant 14,000 bitterbrush and sagebrush seedlings in the area of the Badger Fire in the South Hills.

“We had both individuals and groups come out to volunteer from throughout the Magic Valley as well as people from all over the state,” said Brandon Tycz, IDFG regional habitat biologist. “It was great to see such a great turnout and people passionate about wildlife and their public lands. The volunteer base we have really helps us accomplish some of the things we need to get done and we are very thankful for everyone’s help.”

The work is an indicator of RMEF’s ongoing commitment to helping restore landscapes decimated by wildfire.

“A project of this scale would not have been possible to do in one day without our great partners,” said Scott Soletti, Minidoka Ranger District wildlife biologist.



BELOW PHOTO: BEN CHILDERS

BELOW PHOTO: MARK BIAS



RMEF and its partners worked together to improve habitat by removing invasive vegetation that offers no nutritional value to elk and other wildlife.



RMEF funding helped land managers maintain and enhance elk habitat ahead of Virginia’s inaugural managed elk hunt in 2022.



Challenged Hunter Deer Hunt - Texas

The 31st anniversary of the Challenged Hunter Deer Hunt allowed 21 wheelchair-bound hunters an opportunity to hunt at the Lake Somerville Hunt Area approximately 80 miles east of Austin, Texas. Participants attended orientation, a safety seminar and practiced shooting at a range. The relationships formed by the hunters, organizers and community volunteers built friendships, disability awareness and stronger communities. Eighteen hunters harvested meat to take home at no cost to them.

Youth Pheasant Hunt - Pennsylvania

Twelve youth ages 12 to 16 completed hunter safety and participated in a youth pheasant hunt hosted by the Bedford County Sportsmen’s Club. For many, it was their first time hunting and/or their first time exposed to pheasant and chukar hunting with dogs and dog handlers. They also learned how to dress out the birds.

Hands of a Sportsman Veteran Hog Hunt - South Carolina

Hands of a Sportsman (HOAS) has a mission of providing individuals with seen or unseen physical, emotional, financial or circumstantial challenges, the opportunity to participate and enjoy hunting. Six veterans participated in a 2021 wild pig hunt in South Carolina. “Congratulations to all the veterans’ success,” said David Hinceman, HOAS founder. “We could never repay you for your service and sacrifice to us and the country you proudly served!”

Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center - Illinois

In carrying out its mission, the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) inspires today’s youth - tomorrow’s leaders - by providing quality outdoor and conservation education programs that instill a life-long interest in conservation, outdoor recreation and sustainability. The ICF works to preserve our outdoor heritage, supporting about 40 wingshooting clinics and hunting opportunities each year at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center in northern Illinois. In 2021, RMEF volunteers assisted with various site improvement projects and more than 200 youth participated in mentored hunts.

First Hunt Foundation - Idaho

The First Hunt Foundation (FHF), a nonprofit organization, provides mentor-based hunting experience to ensure the future of hunting. Operating out of Kamiah, Idaho, FHF finds individuals who have a desire to learn hunting skills and then matches him or her with a mentor who helps and trains participants to learn how to hunt. With programs now in 28 states, the organization’s goal is to establish chapters in all 50 states.

Pass It On-Outdoor Mentors - Kansas

Pass It On-Outdoor Mentors continues to expand its rapidly growing shooting sports outreach program to encourage participants in high school and college shooting sports to take part in hunting activities. The new outreach program doubled the number of hunts and participants from the first year of the program, fielding more than 200 hunts with 550 participants. “The success of this program would not be possible without folks like RMEF,” said Brittany French, director of field operations. “We are incredibly thankful to have their support in our mission!”

Raised at Full Draw - IA, MI, MT, ND, WI

Raised At Full Draw seeks to recruit and engage youth and adults in the outdoor lifestyle, learning the skills of hunting and expanding into archery and bowhunting. Participants learn about morals, ethics and respect that go hand in hand with hunting and spending time in the outdoors. Funding provided support for youth and women’s bowhunting camps in Iowa and three-day camps in Michigan, Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Master Hunter Program - Montana

The Master Hunter Program (MHP) is an advanced education program for Montana hunters who want to continue to add to their knowledge and skills. Its goals include building trust and relationships between landowners and sportsmen and women, and helping landowners and the state with their wildlife management goals. RMEF provided support to establish and maintain MHP, which covers wildlife management, history of conservation, hunting culture and ethics, private land stewardship, shooting accuracy and precision and hunting skills among other topics.



In 2021, RMEF carried out 209 hunting heritage and conservation outreach projects across the country.



BELOW PHOTO: FIRST HUNT FOUNDATION





ABOVE PHOTO: CHUCKANDGRACEBARTLETT.COM / BELOW PHOTO: MARK BIAS

Elk Migration Mapping

For more than three decades, RMEF fought to safeguard the seasonal migration routes of elk and other big game that are critical to the survival of the West’s largest herds. That includes conserving or enhancing nearly 8.4 million acres of land to ensure animals find healthy habitat along their historic paths and season ranges.

Key to those efforts is hard data about which locations are most vital to animals moving through the landscape. In December, RMEF announced a \$180,000 grant to help expand big game migration corridor mapping across the West through a collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and state wildlife agencies.

“Gaining additional scientific knowledge about key movement routes, winter range and other vital habitat helps identify and prioritize threats and opportunities for corridor conservation. Doing so helps wildlife managers ensure strong, thriving populations for years to come,” said Blake Henning, RMEF chief conservation officer. “We recognize and express our appreciation to the broad coalition of state and federal biologists for their ongoing, concerted efforts.”

“This support is testimony to what the western state wildlife agencies and the USGS have been able to accomplish through strong partnerships,” said Matt Kauffman, the USGS researcher leading the mapping team. “This funding will allow us to expand and accelerate our work in the coming year to map the most critical migration corridors.”

Kauffman and his team will release the second volume of ungulate migrations in the United States in early 2022.



In 2021, RMEF allocated \$670,000 for scientific elk research to 14 states and two projects of national benefit that leveraged \$5.5 million in partner funding.

Delayed Elk Pregnancy Rates in Pennsylvania?

It’s a bit of a conundrum. When most cow elk across the nation are getting pregnant in mid to late-September, why are those studied in Pennsylvania conceiving later? That is one question scientists are seeking to answer as part of an ongoing parturition timing and calf survival study, funded in part by RMEF.

Researchers gathered biological data from adult female elk during the November general hunting seasons from 2013 to 2018. They found only 51 percent of those animals were pregnant so that prompted them to acquire additional samples during the months of January to April in 2018 and 2019. Those late-season pregnancy rates ballooned to 89 percent.

You might say, “What’s the big deal?” Well, a later conception period leads to a prolonged birth period which can affect calf survival. If births extend for multiple weeks (spring through summer), that means more opportunity for calf predation to occur, compared to a shorter calving period. Calves born later in the summer also tend to have lower birth weight and cows experience poorer quality forage, both of which can affect calf survival.

Researchers hope to better understand why this is happening as they monitor collared animals, gather data and determine preliminary findings. Results will help guide future management and ensure the health of Pennsylvania’s elk herd.



Determined Volunteers
Raise Vital Funding

Everybody knows that 2020 was filled with extreme challenges on many fronts. It was a tough year, one unlike any of us had ever experienced. Circumstances related to health and safety cancelled the majority of RMEF banquets – the major fundraising source to advance our mission.

Still, volunteers, RMEF staffers and the RMEF Board of Directors worked together and relied on each other to overcome lockdowns, gathering restrictions and social distancing requirements. They also teamed up to reduce expenses. Those measured actions combined with straight-up innovation led to new and creative ways to reach out to members who opened their wallets and pocketbooks.

Enter 2021, that brought with it many of the same challenges coupled with supply chain issues and nationwide employment shortages. Again, volunteers showed their grit, passion and determination to push through. They worked with local governments to meet health regulations. In doing so, they planned and executed many more banquets. And members responded in a big way!

As a result, 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 \$42.6 million dollars to work in 2021 to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

The numbers show RMEF carried out 14 land conservation and access projects in 11 different states, 147 habitat stewardship projects that impacted 138,276 acres in 20 states, 36 wildlife management projects, 209 hunting heritage and conservation projects, allocated \$670,000 for 18 research projects that leveraged \$5.5 million in partner funding, and took part in extensive outreach and education about elk, hunting, conservation and advocacy efforts focused on issues that affect RMEF mission.

None of this mission accomplishment came by accident. Instead, years of fiscal discipline, financial strength, programmatic stability, transparency and a commitment to proven financial stewardship allowed RMEF to successfully overcome obstacles 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 2021 financial statements at www.rmef.org/resources/rmef-financials.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (in thousands)	2021	% of Total
<i>Support and Revenue</i>		
Program service revenue	\$ 14,462	18%
Contributions	18,994	24%
Return on investments	7,264	9%
Membership dues	10,452	13%
Special Events, net of event expense	19,094	24%
Advertising/sponsorships, retail and other revenue	8,681	11%
Total Support and Revenue	78,947	100.00%
<i>Expenses</i>		
Program services	42,592	70%
Fundraising	14,434	24%
Admin	3,939	6%
Total Expenses	60,965	100.00%
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 9,593	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in thousands)	2021
<i>Assets</i>	
Current assets	29,550
Investments (donor endowments)	58,398
Investments (board-designated endowments)	14,476
Investments (not endowed)	18,219
Property and equipment, net of depreciation	10,307
Lands held for program accomplishment	1,985
Other assets	774
Total Assets	\$ 133,709
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Current liabilities	8,149
Non-current liabilities	1,204
Total liabilities	9,353
<i>Net Assets</i>	
With donor restrictions	64,378
Without donor restrictions	59,978
Total net assets	124,356
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 133,709

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

2021 RMEF Board of Directors

CHAIR	
Mark Baker	Helena, MT
VICE CHAIR	
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Charlie Decker	Libby, MT
Timothy Delaney	Mayfield, NY
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Maurice Hull	High Point, NC
Kent Johnson	Big Lake, MN
Donna McDonald	Alder, MT
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Chuck Roady	Bonnors Ferry, ID
Tom Robinson	Salisbury, NC
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Grant Parker	Secretary / General Counsel
Shane Cronk	Treasurer / CFO

RMEF Founders

Charlie Decker
Bob Munson
Dan Bull
Bill Munson



“From the founders’ struggles to get things going. From the hunters and non-hunters that make up the members, chapters and donors. From banquets and boots on the ground projects to mission accomplishment – the ones in progress and the ones not even thought of yet – we’re proud to be part of Team Elk”

Rich & Sharon Hampe



PRESSING FORWARD AND DOING MORE FOR ELK, ELK HABITAT AND HUNTING

We all know the last few years presented unprecedented challenges. Organizationally, that only narrowed our focus to be more strategic, more creative and more productive in advancing our mission to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

There are a number of ways to cite and appreciate mission accomplishment and success but perhaps the best way is to lace up a pair of boots and hunt your way across a piece of elk country that has been conserved thanks to RMEF efforts. Yet there is also a benefit to mulling the numbers. Here are a few worthy of consideration. In 2021, RMEF maintained a position of financial strength and stability by committing \$2.2 million dollars that leveraged \$22.4 million in partner dollars. That’s a 1:10 match of funding put on the ground to benefit elk and elk habitat. We also allocated \$670,000 for elk research that leveraged \$5.5 million in partner funds for a 1:8 match. That’s putting RMEF dollars to work in an efficient and effective manner.

Since four elk hunters founded RMEF way back on May 14, 1984, RMEF conserved or enhanced nearly 8.4 million acres of habitat.

It remains our task to carry out their vision. To do more for elk. To do more for elk country. To promote the vital link between hunting and conservation. To be a voice of education. To be a voice of reason. And to be a doer and take action.

We have plans in the year ahead to unveil new programs and partnerships to further our mission. As we look forward, we pause to recognize and salute our volunteers, members and all those who support and advance this great cause of conservation. We thank you and look forward to doing much more in 2022.



Mark Baker
2021 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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