2015 Annual Report

walking mountains
science center
walkingmountains.org | 970.827.9725
Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our annual report for fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). It has been an incredible, inspirational year at Walking Mountains Science Center. We’ve exceeded our goals beyond imagination – from program expansion and a record number of Eagle County students and community members served, to engaging more companies and homeowners than ever in our sustainability initiatives.

Much to our delight, we received numerous awards for these efforts. However, we could not have reached these heights without you: our valued donors, partners and friends. Simply put, thank you!

In this annual report are the results of our successful initiatives and partnerships: a recap of our program areas – Youth, Community, Sustainability & Stewardship – and the far-reaching impact we’ve made on multiple fronts.

The demand for our programs is far outpacing our ability to meet the requests we receive from schools, the community at large, and the business sector. To all of us at Walking Mountains, this is a welcome challenge and one that we fully intend to address in the coming year and beyond.

We know that our current success and bright future are due to your generosity. Thank you again for your continued commitment to Walking Mountains, and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our programs or events!

Best regards,

Markian Feduschak
President

Pat Tierney
Board Chair
Connecting Eagle County students with their natural world.

Youth Programs

Field Science School Programs
Students K-12 participated in hands-on, outdoor science programs aligned with classroom curriculum. In accordance with our MOU with Eagle County Schools, this past year all 3rd and 7th grade students participated and we continue to make progress towards serving all K-8 students throughout their academic career.

Summer Science Camps
We offered nine weeks of summer science camps to students of all ages, igniting curiosity for the natural world through hands-on learning, hiking, and exploration! We expanded our overnight camp opportunities, adding a new high school backpacking trip and a hut based overnight exploring and restoring our local ecosystems.

Avon In-School
Each week we taught engaging science units to every student at Avon Elementary. The theme of sustainability was front and center as our Avon In-School Instructor infused sustainable practices and lessons into all K-5 curriculum, which incorporated Eco-Schools program initiatives like a recycling club and school garden.

Girls in Science
We offered the Girls in Science afterschool program to 3rd-5th grade students in six Eagle County Schools. New and exciting units included Colorful Chemistry, Forestry Fun, and Newton’s Laws of Motion. In addition, every school participated in at least one animal dissection as well as outdoor adventure days! In April we hosted the 2nd annual Girls in Science Fair and doubled the number of participating schools!

STEM Leadership Academy
We expanded the STEM Leadership Academy afterschool program during the 2014-15 academic year, now offered to 6th and 7th grade students at the four Eagle County middle schools. Highlights of the newly designed 7th grade curriculum include building and launching rockets, exploring genetics through cross-pollination of plants and extracting DNA, and investigating robotics through coding.

Making an Impact

“We partner with Walking Mountains because of the integrity with which they approach outdoor science education. They adhere to the scientific method and ignite curiosity that is already present in our kids.”

Dr. Jason E. Glass
Chief Learner & Superintendent of Eagle County Schools

Schools Served 2014-15
Avery Parsons Elementary
Avon Elementary
Battle Mountain High School
Beech Creek Middle
Brook Creek Elementary
Eagle County Charter Academy
Eagle Valley Elementary
Eagle Valley Middle
East Middle School
Edwards Elementary
Fountain Valley High School
Gardner County Schools
Gypsum Creek Middle
Gypsum Elementary
Homestead Peak School
Juno Elementary
Red Hill Elementary
Red Sandstone Elementary
St. Clare of Assisi
Stone Creek Charter School
Vail Academy
Vail Mountain School
Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy

9 Years
running, Walking Mountains has increased the number of students in our Field Science School Programs. In 2015 we saw a 4% increase with 3,505 students reached, which totaled 26,640 contact hours.

476 Students
participated in nine weeks of summer science camps, which totaled 10,108 contact hours during 37 camps.

267 Students
served once a week at Avon Elementary totaling over 9,000 contact hours of hands-on science education.

141 Girls
participated in our Girls in Science afterschool program at six schools, totaling 4,972 contact hours.

92 Students
students at four middle schools participated in STEM Leadership Academy for 6th and 7th grade students. This is a 35% increase over last year.

4,481 Students
served through all youth programs, equating to 57,840 contact hours!

You brought the best out of so many kids — outdoors and learning, together. The sky blossomed! Nancy Allen, 1st Grade Teacher
The Science Behind series continues to grow in popularity, offering monthly opportunities for adults to learn or expand their knowledge on a wide variety of topics. During summer 2015, we partnered with Bravo! Vail to bring Third Coast Percussion. The group performed a concert and explained the science of sound waves. The 100 people in attendance then performed with their own engineered instruments!

The series typically focuses on small-group programs to create more interactive opportunities. The Science Behind Sugar, which explained how sugar affects our health from a chemical viewpoint, was in such high demand that we had an encore program 6 months later. The 30 participants were able to make and eat simple low-sugar snacks!

Walking Mountains Science Center is an innovative science learning campus for residents and visitors of the Eagle Valley. The five acre site, which boasts a stream, wetlands, pond, aspen forests, and National Forest access opened in 2011.

“The 2pm Nature Walk. We loved looking at organisms in the stream, learning about grasses and micro-environments.”
- Visitor

The Nature Discovery Center is located in a yurt and accessed via the Eagle Bahn Gondola out of Lionshead in Vail. Run in partnership with the USFS and Vail Resorts, its visitors explore an array of natural history exhibits about local wildlife.

“This place is great! We visit every winter as part of our ski vacation. There are things that both our kids and their grandparents can do and enjoy.”
- Visitor, Dallas, TX

The Vail Nature Center is a 1940s homestead perched between a mountain meadow and the forested bank of Gore Creek. This seven-acre facility in the heart of Vail is a tranquil gem where you can explore the web of trails along Gore Creek or relax and enjoy the exhibits. Run in partnership with the Vail Recreation District.

Visitors describe their experiences at the Vail Nature Center as “very educational,” “always beautiful,” “a great learning center,” and their “favorite spot.”

Community Programs

Inspiring people of all ages to discover...

Making an Impact

324 Visitors attended our popular Science Behind and High Country Speaker Series.

6,985 Guests explored our five acre LEED Platinum Certified Science Center in Avon.

22,373 People visited the Nature Discovery Center atop Vail Mountain.

5,741 Visitors explored the Vail Nature Center on Gore Creek.

269 Learners attended our EarthKeepers and Nature Tykes Pre-K programs.

1,216 Total programs offered to visitors and locals of all ages.
Sustainability & Stewardship

Providing the tools for individuals, businesses, schools and communities to become environmental stewards.

“They’ve partnered with Walking Mountains for the past two years to handle the Zero Waste program for our event Reds, Whites & Brews in Avon. They have done an absolutely amazing job helping us achieve zero waste efforts on every level of the event. They are proactive with our vendors and volunteers in providing information on compostable and recyclable products and with pre-event training on zero waste efforts. The Walking Mountains team is extremely professional, reliable and passionate about greening events! We love working with them!”

Angela Mussle, Executive Director, Taste of Vail and Vail Farmers’ Market & Art Show

“We’d highly recommend the Energy Smart Program. We added attic insulation and sealed our windows and doors, both cost effective solutions to improve the comfort of our home. The cost savings on our energy bills was an added bonus.”

Chris & Stacey Romer, Eagle Valley Homeowners

Expanding Impact
The Sustainability and Stewardship Programs department fosters a culture of sustainability and stewardship throughout the Eagle Valley. We expand and enhance the impact of Walking Mountains’ educational programs through action-oriented partnerships with individuals, businesses, governments and schools.

Energy Smart
In partnership with Eagle County and Holy Cross Energy, the Energy Smart program helps our community reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing a one-stop-shop Energy Resource Center at our Science Center in Avon. This past year we added a customer kiosk to help community members sign up for energy efficiency resources and began offering free home radon test kits.

Actively Green
This innovative legacy project of the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships Environment Committee trained 100 local businesses and certified 37 of them in sustainability practices. The program will continue to pave the way to help shape the valley into a globally recognized sustainable travel destination. Partners included nonprofit Sustainable Travel International, the Town of Vail, and Vail Valley Foundation.

Eco-Schools
During its second year, the valley-wide Eco-Schools program partnered with six K-12 schools to support student-led eco-action teams in pursuing the Eco-Schools award from the National Wildlife Federation. Students conducted environmental and energy audits of their schools and created new programs within their schools to conserve energy and increase recycling. This program is supported by Vail Resorts Epic Promise.

Landscape Stewardship
Twelve incredible high school students spent their summer doing conservation work and collecting ecological data in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. These emerging conservation leaders monitored local streams and endangered bird and populations while earning college credit in environmental science. This program is supported by the National Forest Foundation and Vail Resorts Ski Area Conservation Fund.

Zero Waste
Through partnerships with event producers, the Town of Vail, Town of Avon and others, Walking Mountains’ Zero Waste team and volunteers supported 40 events and diverted an average of 70% of event waste from the landfill at each event.

Making an Impact

37 Businesses
renewed or completed our Actively Green Sustainability Certification.

49,584 Pounds
of compost and recycling was diverted from the landfill through 40 Zero Waste events.

70% of waste
at 40 Zero Waste events was diverted from the landfill.

43,270 People
were reached through our Sustainability and Stewardship Programs.

700 Watched
five environmental movies at our Sustainable Film Series.

Our Sustainable Business Certification program helps make sustainability actionable in day-to-day operations. The program concentrates on the three P’s: People, Planet, and Profit, while creating a culture of sustainability within any organization.

Actively Green
Reach for the Peak

Our Reach for the Peak award dinner on July 10, 2014 honored noted philanthropists Bill and Penny George. The event highlighted the George’s transformational support of Walking Mountains, and also thanked them for their far-reaching philanthropy and commitment to the Eagle Valley, to Colorado, and to communities around the world. The evening was a truly a night to remember – hosting 250 attendees and raising approximately $225,000 for Walking Mountains’ environmental education and outdoor exploration of Colorado’s natural environment.

Our Success is Due to Your Support

Who gives?

The event featured the Giving Snapshot, a look at Giving by Percentage of People giving at different levels, and a list of individuals and foundations who contributed to the recent Our Reach for the Peak award: 2014.

EdVentures

Walking Mountains’ EdVenture program series offers donors engaging experiences that combine outdoor exploration of the Eagle Valley’s unique natural environment with educational components.

EdVentures are open to donors who are open to donors who are open to donors who contribute a minimum of $1,000 annually. For information on joining this donors society, please contact info@walkingmountains.org.

This list includes gifts made from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Individuals & Foundations

Directors ($50,000 +)

Anonymous
Katherine and Erik Bergen
Kelly and Sam Bronfman
High School Foundation
Rob Arnees
Top Notch
New National Forest Foundation
Jon and Nicole Moe
Jay and Amy Regan
Ann Smool and Willian Byram
The George Family Foundation
Val Valley Foundation – Donor Advised Funds

Ambassadors ($25,000+)

Andrew Samkin Family Foundation
Bash and Holly Dwyer
Pete and Pae Prechta
Harbourton Foundation
Jennifer and Philip Maritz
Tony and Barbasa Meyers
Sidney E. Franklin Foundation – Colorado
The Tang Family
The Scoby Foundation

Innovators ($10,000+)

Anonymous
Borgen Family Foundation
Phil and Sunny Braverman
Steve and Amy Coey
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Gary and Susan Frantzen
Mike and Laura Kellogg
Jim and Mary Hogan
Mike and Karen Herrman
Peter and Shari Kopolow
Marl and Elizabeth Keating
Bob and Michelle LeBlanc
Diane A. MacWade
Sandy and Dennis Mann
Cheryl Holman
Bill and Mary Popp
Lisa and Bruce Goldman
Rebecca and John Streifel
Harry L. Tanenbaum
The Trust for Public Land

Achievers ($5,000+)

Dyke and Nancy McBurney
Peter and Mary McKittrick
John and Pam McManus
Bill and Cindy McNeil
Pamela and Wayne McLean
Mary Wolfe
Emily Zehler

Giving Snapshot

Giving Snapshot is Due to Your Support

Naturalists ($100 +)

Ned and Devi Anbinder
Mary Berg
Kristen Berughla
Katie Belfield
Randi Borgen
Michael and Karen Bright
Maryann and Scott Chaney
Mary and Jeff Collins
Martin Davis and Richard Sayrs
Chad Deyto
Mark and June Donawan
Pete and Lucy Donning
Eagle Valley Community Foundation
Karen and Barbara Erickson
Anne Evans
Marcia and Sue Feducksich
Bob and Helen Fresh
John and Linda Gilpin
Megan Gilvan
Jason and Sarah Glass
Lisa and Bruce Goldman
Sara and Rebecca Green
Mary Haad and John Paugs
Trista and Kevin Hillgren
John and Pam Horn-Kates
Kay and Bud Isaacs
Bill and Cheryl Janey
Neil and Kathy Kimmel
Jane and David Knopf
Cindy and John Lopush
Janice and Marc Marx
Jim and Julie Mauer
Kasia and Mike Mitch
Risa and Rick Mueller
Catherine O’Booke
Dianna and Nancy Panza
Ellie and Lyen Panzer
Susan and Al Felock
Diane and Barbara Reynolds
Carla and Peter Segel
Pamela and Rick Smith
Danny and Joan Smith
The Westport Fund
Maggie Addison
Shelly Wild
Margaret and David Walsh
Jada and Roger Ward
Karen and Greg Weiss
Steven and Pamela Woll
Carolyn Wittenbraker

Eookies ($250+)

Holly Adams
Jean and Tim Bennyhaussen
Jon-Erik and Brooke Borges
Tania Bousso
Francois and Christel Braee
Kay Chester
Kari and Carl Czyczko
Spencer and Karen Davis
Cory and Clark Davin
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Clyde Hiers
Tom and Carol Helm
Becky and Paul Johnson
Audrey Johnson
Kate Lipper
Steve and Karen Livingston
Ann Maris
Melkas and Walter Mather
Wing and Karen Mayer
Tim and Alison McAden
Tom and Marc McCubbin
Susan Milhan
Mary Morris
Jeff and Peggy Nichols
Dan Petersen
Diane Pitz
Donald and Tom Isherer
Doug and Steve Schwartz
Laura and J. Thompson
Pam Tomsic
Mary Wolf
Emily Zehler

Observers ($199+)

Tiffani and Aaron Adams
Larry and Sam Agbon
Tom and Terri Allender
Bill and Lora Amici
Judi and Lynn Anderson
BW and Becky Anderson
Anna and Mark Bertsche
Heather and Greg Barrie
Bray and Gabe Bassett
Margaret Beak
Kathy Breaze
Michele and Richard Brown
Alessandro and Bianca Busto
Caroline and Jim Bradfard
Jaelin and Dene Brown
Patrick and Laura Campbell

Details of the walk and the event were not provided in the document.
Financial Highlights

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash held for others</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
<td>$372,673</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total noncurrent liabilities</td>
<td>$1,182,538</td>
<td>$1,182,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$12,443,957</td>
<td>$12,443,957</td>
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Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Revenues ($198,714)</td>
<td>($334,416)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net operating income (Loss) ($198,714)</td>
<td>($334,416)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-operating income — EVAS ($153,668)</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Revenues ($2,285,573)</td>
<td>($1,766,026)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses ($2,484,287)</td>
<td>($2,101,042)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Operating Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations ($174,581)</td>
<td>($145,780)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program ($2,062,912)</td>
<td>($1,720,517)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government ($43,270)</td>
<td>($100,300)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ($698,356)</td>
<td>($2,484,287)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues ($2,285,573)</td>
<td>($1,766,026)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income (Loss)</td>
<td>($198,714)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-operating income — EVAS ($153,668)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets ($1,933,964)</td>
<td>($1,132,712)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets ($11,134,250)</td>
<td>$11,932,964</td>
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Non-Operating Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2015 Operating Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Program Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Walking Mountains Science Center is the Eagle Valley's #1 source for books on our local environment including trail guides & maps, naturalist guides, books on environmental science, nature writing and living green. Stop by the US Forest Service building in Minturn or our Science Center in Avon today!