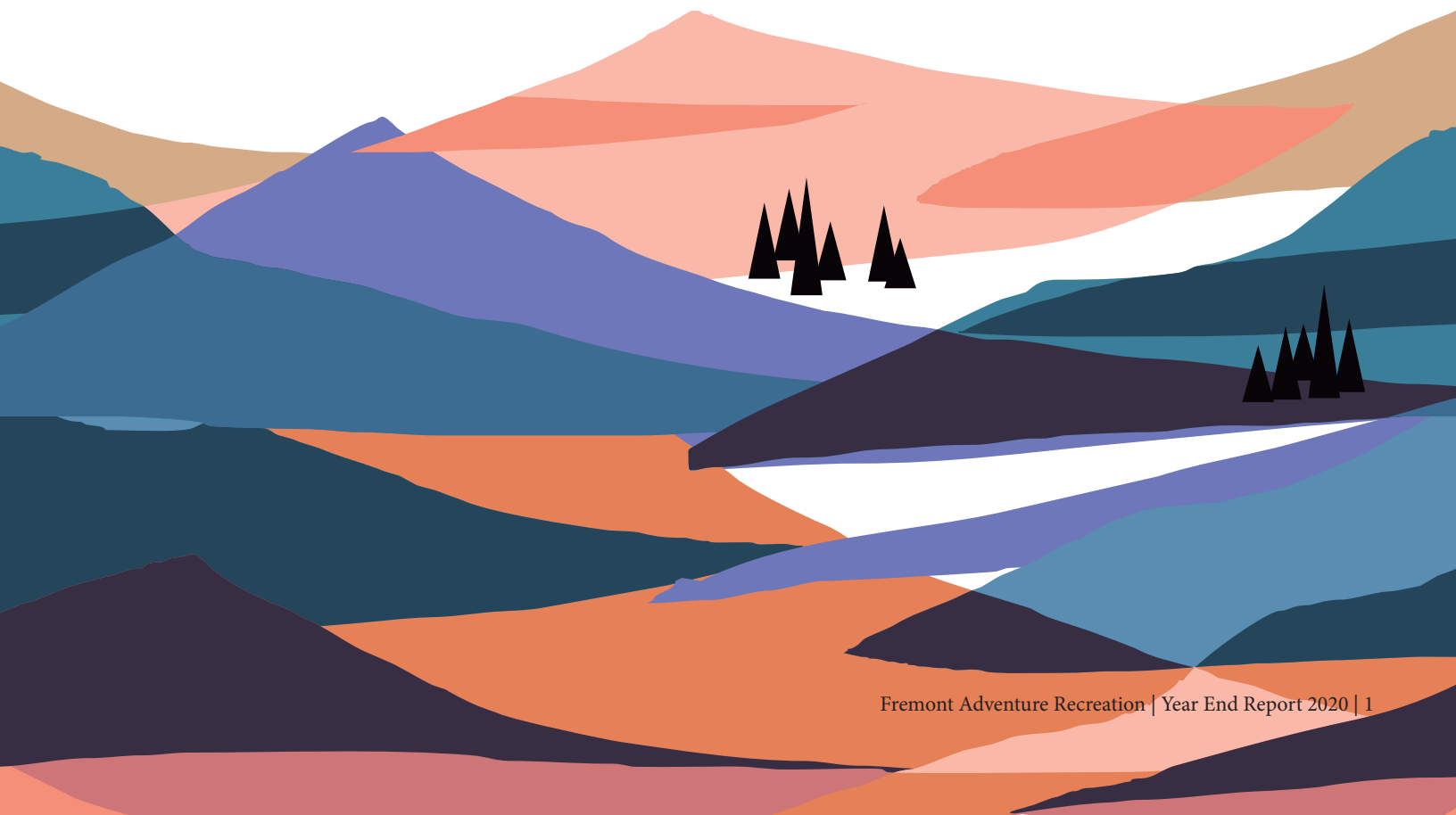




# FREMONT ADVENTURE RECREATION

YEAR-END REPORT  
2020



## MISSION AND CORE VALUES

*"FAR's mission is to promote a culture of community and healthy living through human-powered outdoor recreation in the Royal Gorge Region."*

**Community:** We commit to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the Royal Gorge Region through the creation and celebration of human powered outdoor recreation adventures.

**Culture:** We commit to a welcoming attitude that values all relationships, fearless dedication, while having fun along the way.

**Stewardship:** We commit to responsible access as well as preserving recreation opportunities for future generations.

FAR Charter, 2010, revised 2017

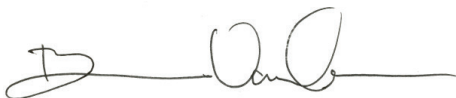
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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR




At the end of a tumultuous year, we would like to give thanks: to our community and to our supporters. Our trails and outdoor spaces proved, month after month, that nature and recreation was one of the most worthy investments that we have made in the last decade. As mental and physical health concerns took center stage, we found ourselves struggling to figure out events, but VERY confident that the existing trails, guides, and infrastructures in our area were able to accommodate our community's desire for fresh air, exploration, and a sense of peace. We may not have seen you at many events in 2020, but we've seen you on the trails, and that has been such a valuable and wonderful experience. Your kind comments, supportive donations, and uplifting stories have warmed our hearts. Thank you.



We are also thankful to the many land management agencies, including the City of Cañon City, Fremont County, the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District, for working with our community to create recreation infrastructures that will benefit generations to come. Additional thanks goes to our incredible sponsors, volunteers, and donors. We recognize many of them are asked again and again to contribute (both financially and physically) to several worthy organizations in the area, and their continued, selfless generosity does not go unnoticed. It is a testament to our small community that a small number of volunteers, businesses, and individuals can accomplish so much. We truly are #fremontcountystrong.

We hope to see you in 2021. Please join us to hike, bike, volunteer, or hang out with others in the area who appreciate outdoor recreation. Come find us and let us know what you think of new trails, events, or other topics.



Brian Vanlwarden  
Director, FAR

 [www.joinFAR.org](http://www.joinFAR.org)  
 [/FremontAdventureRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/FremontAdventureRecreation)  
 [@fremont\\_adventure\\_recreation](https://www.instagram.com/fremont_adventure_recreation)

 1% for Trails Information: [trails@joinFAR.org](mailto:trails@joinFAR.org)  
 General Information: [coordinator@joinFAR.org](mailto:coordinator@joinFAR.org)

*Thank you for your commitment to our community!*

## 2020 BOARD MEMBERS & CONTRACTORS

Brian VanIwarden  
Chris McIntyre  
Joanna McIntyre

Adam Hartman  
Megan Merry  
Joan Sindler

Brian LeDoux  
Shawn Weatherill  
Coordinator - Ashlee Sack

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW - 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

**195** Number of volunteer (wo)man hours donated for trail projects and events.



Trail work days **2**

Scholarships awarded to local high school seniors **3x\$250**

Families / groups who signed up for the first FAR Out Virtual Challenge **40**

**7** New pages in the Adventure guide, including 1 new gravel bike route, Leave No Trace guidelines, safety first suggestions, and trails checklist. and other local trail systems

**\$5,000** Our fundraising goal for early 2021 to help pay for Cañon City's first bike skills park

Amount of 1% for Trails funds generated by local businesses in 2020 **\$30,264**

**\$5** Average cost to build one linear foot of trail

Total miles of new trails in 2020 paid for by 1% for Trails funds **3.5**

Number of socially-distanced, heavily sanitized, in-person events we managed to hold. **4**

**3** Number of new "virtual" events that we added to our repertoire for 2020.

Organizations Partnered with on projects, events, and programs **4**

**24** Number of individuals who donated this year.

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Laiken O'Rourke
- Mackenzie Roberts
- Luci Grooters

### MEMBERSHIPS

- Leave No Trace
- Gold Belt Tour Scenic Byway
- Cañon City Chamber of Commerce
- Colorado Springs Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- American Trail Running Association (ATRA)
- USA Cycling

### ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

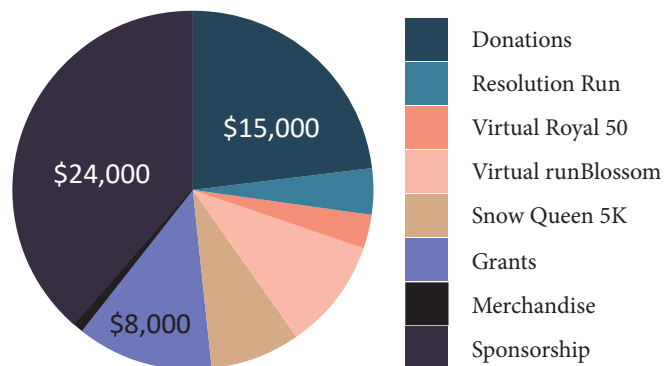
- Cañon City High School Mountain Bike Club
- Fremont County Search and Rescue
- Cañon City High School's Open Pathway program

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

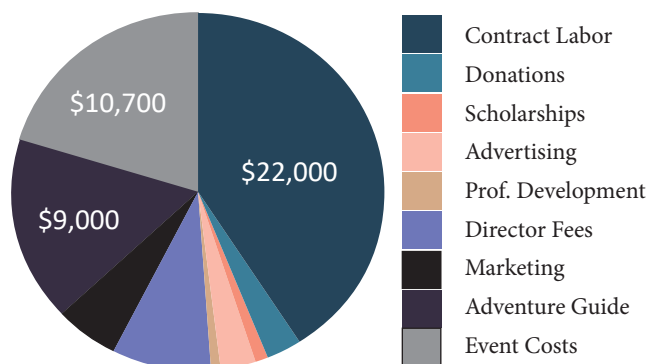
## FAR INCOME



Revenue generated for FAR is used to fund events, pay for promotional materials, award scholarships, and fund the YETI (Youth Exercise Training Initiative) program each year.



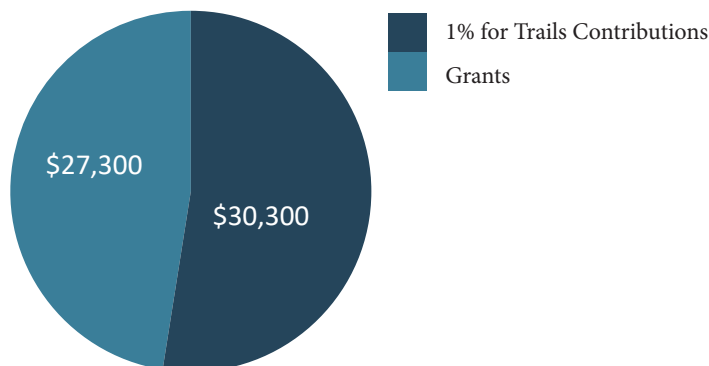
## FAR EXPENSES



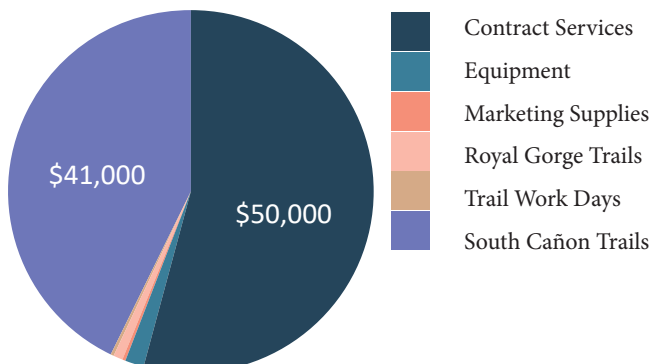
## TRAILS INCOME



All funds generated by 1% for Trails are used to purchase trail equipment, provide matching funds, hire private trail contractors, and pay for manual skilled labor during trail construction.



## 1% FOR TRAILS EXPENSES



### MARATHON LEVEL SPONSORS



### HALF-MARATHON LEVEL SPONSORS



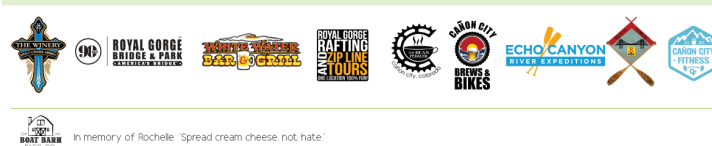
### 10K LEVEL SPONSORS



### PARTNERS



### 1 PERCENT FOR TRAILS CONTRIBUTORS



In memory of Rochelle "Spread cream cheese not hate."

We started 2020 with a balance of about \$30,000 in our 1% for Trails account. This balance, combined with 2020 contributions, allowed us to assist with some BIG projects, including the completion of Smooth Criminal and Watchtower. In 2021, we hope to assist with some other great community projects, starting with a bike skills park at South Cañon Trails (near Eagle Wing Trailhead).

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



## SUCCESSFUL SECOND RESOLUTION RUN

What a great start to 2020! (How were we to know it might go a bit “downhill” from there?) Our first two events of the year, the Resolution Run and the Snow Queen Frosty February 5K were great successes.



## VIRTUAL RUNBLOSSOM RACE

It wasn't what we expected, but it sure was a great way to celebrate our favorite race of the year - together but apart. We welcomed over XXX runners to join in on the fun as we ran, walked, and jogged our first 'virtual' event. We also helped raise over \$1,000 for Fremont Search and Rescue in the process!



## COMPLETION OF 2 MILES OF TRAIL IN THE ROYAL GORGE PARK

Additional trails near the Point Alta Vista trestles were completed, allowing further access to this community asset. These trails were marked, and new signage is slated for early 2021 to allow further access via the Royal Gorge Ranch and Resort property.



## COMPLETION OF NEW FLOW TRAIL AT SOUTH CAÑON

Smooth Criminal is one of two phases for development of a skills development area in South Cañon Trails. This project was completed in conjunction with the CCRD and was opened in November. A skills park at Eagle Wing is to follow in spring of 2021.



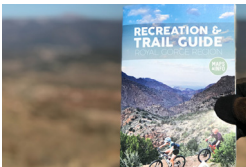
## DINO-RIFIC KIDS 1K FUN RUN

With ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines, we managed to have a safe, fun, and entertaining kids' fun run this summer at the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Museum. Over 35 kids partook in the 1K fun run, and we had a blast watching them run from (or toward?) dinosaurs of all sizes.



## FAR OUT VIRTUAL CHALLENGES

Together with two Cañon City High School Open Pathways students, we were able to turn our Adventure Kids program into a virtually-led scavenger hunt, introducing community members to some of the great outdoor recreation amenities in the area.



## 2020 ADVENTURE GUIDE RELEASED

While we weren't able to print our Guide in spring as planned, we were able to make some additional changes. We also added more maps, more routes, safety information, fire ban info, and a trail checklist. Student guides will also be printed.



## GOCO GRANT AWARDED TO FREMONT COUNTY CAMPGROUND AND STEWARDSHIP

We were proud to work with our local Bureau of Land Management and the City of Cañon City to win a \$129,000 grant to assist with costs associated with maintenance and expansion of local campgrounds. This grant, issued by Great Outdoors Colorado, will help pay for bear-proof trash cans, expanded water access for wildlife, new signage, and trail maintenance.



## SOCIALLY-DISTANCED TRAIL WORK DAYS

Despite restrictions, we were able to successfully hold a few trail work days, providing some much-needed maintenance on South Cañon Trails, the Royal Gorge Trails, and others. With YOUR help, drainages were repaired, rough trails were remediated, and singletrack was cleared of rocks and debris. Special thanks to ALL of our dedicated volunteers.

## EVENT OVERVIEW

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resolution Run:              |  |
| Snow Queen:                  |  |
| Virtual runBlossom:          |  |
| Virtual Royal 50 MTB Race:   |  |
| Stars Gala:                  | CANCELLED   |
| Point Alta Vista Trail Race: | CANCELLED   |
| DinoRific Kids 1K Fun Run:   |  |
| FAR Out Virtual Challenges:  |  |

 = 50 people

The word of the year was “pivot”. We did our best to host as many in-person events as possible while adhering to public health orders of the time.

When we were unable to host events in person, we shifted to virtual, and experienced some learning points along the way. We utilized partners, such as Trailforks.com and Goosechase (app) to offer engaging, fun, interesting challenges to our community members.

While we hope that 2021 will offer more opportunities to host events, we are grateful for the collaborative opportunities that we’ve had in 2020.

## GOAL REPORT

### 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Funded the completion of 3.5 miles of new trail:
  - Worked with CCRD to design and fully fund Smooth Criminal, Cañon City’s first mountain bike flow trail
  - Completed Watchtower (2.5 miles), South Cañon’s uppermost section of trail near Temple Canyon
- Assisted with concept and permitting for the Fremont Peak Connection Trail (to open spring of 2021)
- Hosted a ‘Leave No Trace’ workshop for trail users and also designed a Leave No Trace ad in the Royal Gorge Region visitor’s guide
- Provided 3 virtual events (runBlossom, Royal 50, and the FAR Out Virtual Challenges)
- Engaged over 45 families in the FAR Out Virtual Challenges

### 2021 GOALS

- Assist with signage and completion of Fremont Peak Connection Trail (opening in Spring of 2021)
- Design, fund, and open The Yard - Cañon City’s first bike skills park - at South Cañon Trails (see [joinFAR.org](https://joinFAR.org) for info)
- Assist with signage and communications regarding the new Point Alta Vista Trail (opening in early 2021)
- Host as many of our annual events as logistically possible: Snow Queen (delayed), runBlossom, Point Alta Vista Trail Races, Royal 50, mountain bike skills sessions, We Are All Made of Stars, Opt Outside Run / Ride
- Host our favorite events and see YOU all once again!