

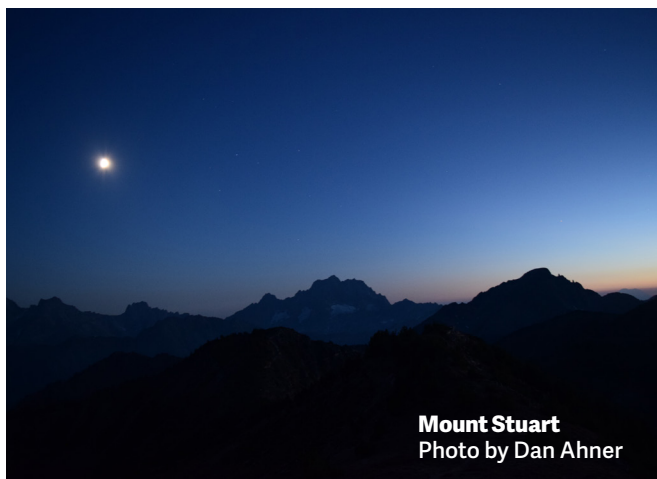
Trails for everyone, forever



2022 annual report



# Letter from Jaime



Dear friends and WTA supporters;

**2022 was another incredible year for Washington Trails Association!** Thanks to your support, we are shaping the future of outdoor recreation in Washington. In December I became WTA's new CEO after three years serving as the organization's first Chief Impact Officer. I'm incredibly honored to help lead this community toward a shared vision of trails for everyone, forever. **In this report we'll highlight some of the ways we all stepped up big time for trails last year. There is a lot to celebrate!**

I first want to take a moment to thank each of you. Whether you are a member, a trail volunteer, a youth leader, a community partner, an online user, a trip reporter, a funder, or an advocate — **each one of you have contributed to making Washington's outdoors safe, inclusive, fun and sustainable for years to come. Thank you!**

As we look ahead, there are a few things I'm particularly excited to share with you:

2022 was our first year running two dedicated Lost Trails Found Crews across the state, and this year we are thrilled to once again have two crews for the full season. As with last year, one crew will be deployed across the state and another will be focused primarily on restoring trails lost due to fire and extreme weather. Between our staff, professional crews and community of volunteers, **WTA is committed to maintaining access to Washington's backcountry trails.**

Similarly, last year saw major steps forward in **collaborating with land agencies and community partners to drive long-term recreation planning forward.** This included major progress for key landscapes including near Mount Rainier and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and the creation of a trail plan for the Teanaway, one of fastest-growing trail systems around the Puget Sound. We look forward to making similar progress in the year ahead.

2022 also saw a **significant growth in our connections to community leaders — facilitated by our new gear lending library in Puyallup.** In its first year the new gear library trained 47 new outdoor leaders and unlocked 423 outdoor experiences. It is proof that together we can support more young people in discovering the joys of time in nature.

Finally, WTA is continually making **exciting improvements to our Trailblazer app, our online hiking guide and trip reports.** From recent features, like our "wheelchair friendly" search function to upcoming app functionality, we are committed to providing the 4.5 million visitors to wta.org with the information they need to get outside safely and with minimum impact on the landscape.

As you can see, we have big plans for this year. I invite you to follow our progress throughout the year by visiting us online or signing up for a work party. **WTA's success comes from our community and we can't thank you enough for helping us build a better future for trails.**

With thanks,

Jaime Loucky, CEO



## 2022 by the numbers

**\$5.2 million**

in donated labor to our public lands

**151,000**

volunteer trail maintenance hours

**285** trails improved

**17,844**

trip reports filed

**4.7+ million**

people inspired to get outside through WTA's online resources

**550**

youth engaged in trail stewardship

**66,860**

advocates engaged on issues and policy that impact hikers

**3,000**

outdoor experiences supported by our gear lending libraries

**72**

outdoor leaders trained

WTA's community stepped up in a big way last year, and we couldn't be more proud of the work we accomplished together. In 2022, we were able to build upon the strength of our community and create a lasting impact for trails. We helped secure ongoing funding for trail maintenance and supported outdoor leaders. We helped more people get outside thanks to our online resources, and doubled down on wildfire recovery efforts with the work of our backcountry trail maintenance crews. In the year ahead, we will continue to lead the way for trails in Washington state and ensure those trails stand the test of time.

Hiking with others is a great way to connect and experience nature together. Photo by Larry Upton.





WTA continues to expand our support of communities who are underrepresented in the outdoors.



Photos by Zachary Toliver, Wanda Cantrell

“I’ve never done trail work before so being in this space and learning from other individuals that look like me or come from the same community has been really intentional and thoughtful.

— Emerging Leaders Program participant

## Trails for Everyone: Creating a more inclusive community

At WTA, we’re working to make Washington’s trails and hiking community feel safe and accessible for anyone who wants to be a hiker. 2022 was a big year for us – we improved and diversified the information we provide to hikers, helped affinity groups get outside and built opportunities for new leaders.

### Wheelchair hiking filter launches in hiking guide

With the help of volunteers, we added a wheelchair-friendly filter to our online Hiking Guide. Now it’s easier for folks of all abilities to find a trail that will work for them.

*“Thank you for adding the accessibility feature to the trails map! We are looking for easy hikes to take our daughter with cerebral palsy who uses a wheelchair/medical stroller, and this is an amazing resource.”*

— Hiking Guide user

### Gear libraries getting youth outside

The right gear makes every outdoor trip safer and more fun. That’s why WTA’s Outdoor Leadership Training

(OLT) program runs a gear lending program that equips youth leaders and their youth to get outdoors. Our gear libraries in King and Pierce counties supported nearly **3,000 outdoor experiences** in 2022.

Our OLT program also **trained 72 new outdoor leaders**. That’s more than any other year. We’re excited to see this community of leaders grow and look forward to supporting the many outdoor trips they will lead in the years to come!

*“We have a lot of folks who come out with us and are comforted by the fact they have the right gear provided by the gear library.”* — **Erin Dilworth, Communities for a Healthy Bay**

### Emerging Leaders

WTA’s Emerging Leaders Program recruits a diverse cohort of individuals who want to form an inclusive community and build leadership skills to support future career interests in natural-resource stewardship and outdoor recreation. In 2022, the program **supported five aspiring leaders** on their path to careers in the outdoors. We’re thrilled to continue this work by partnering with Washington State Parks in 2023.





“ WTA served as a leader this legislative session in advocating for additional maintenance funding for our state recreational lands. This funding will go a long way towards helping keep state parks well-maintained.

— Don Hoch, former director of Washington State Parks

**Trail crew take a well-earned break** after a day of improving the popular Rattlesnake Ledge trail. Photo by Owen Vogeli.

## Trails Rebooted: Protecting popular trails and creating responsible hikers

**As we've seen more people than ever before enjoying Washington's most iconic trails**, the need to create a more robust trail system that can support the ever-increasing hiking community has also grown. To reimagine what's possible for Washington's popular trails, in 2022 we activated volunteers to improve iconic trails, championed new trail systems and developed trail smart hikers.

### Improving trails and creating new ones across the state

Last year, volunteers were hard at work year-round keeping popular trails in good shape and creating new trails to help inspire hiking across the trail system. Some highlights include: finishing a new 7.5-mile-trail on Striped Peak, just

outside of Port Angeles; revitalizing the Rattlesnake Ledge Trail off of I-90 so that it can sustain increased demand and constructing new trails in Mount Spokane State Park.

### Securing increased investments for trails

This year, hikers advocating for trails helped secure \$15 million in annual funding for maintenance on state recreation land. That means much-needed maintenance in state parks like Deception Pass and Mount Spokane. Also receiving funding are DNR-managed lands like Tiger Mountain and wildlife refuges like Steigerwald, Turnbull, and Nisqually.

### Helping people hike responsibly

A big part of our work hinges on

trail users seeing themselves as stewards of the lands they recreate on. To do this, WTA provided hiking resources to 600,000 hikers in our online Trail Smarts series. We also supported a pilot outreach program on the Mountain Loop Highway in partnership with Glacier Peak Institute to teach hikers how to use trails responsibly and respect the land. We love to see hikers helping hikers!

### Breaking ground in the Teanaway

WTA pays special attention to our state's most popular trails, keeping an eye to the future through key improvements that will sustain the increased demand for years to come. One such project is our work in the Teanaway Community Forest. After years of collaboration, we completed a trails plan for the West Fork Teanaway. The updated system will make year-round recreation possible in this popular part of the state. We look forward to getting started on breaking ground in 2023.





A crew of volunteers shape up a section of trail at Grand Ridge.

## The Trail Next Door: Ensuring there's nature nearby

Photos by Jeremy Tarife, Britt Lê

**Urban greenspaces provide quick access to the mental and physical benefits of nature.** However, not all neighborhoods have the same access to green spaces and trails. In 2022, we focused our urban trail work in the places that have limited access to nature – improving current trails while also building new trails.

### Glendale Forest's trail network is serving the community

After leading a thorough planning process, WTA has helped transform an unused and overgrown patch of forest in south King County into a space for local residents to enjoy the benefits of nature. In 2022, WTA crews continued to build out the new trail system in Glendale Forest and locals are already making the most of it!

### Investing in trails in Pierce County

In collaboration with our partners at Tacoma Parks, Pierce County Parks and Recreation, the city of Puyallup and others, WTA has increased its investment in Pierce County's trail system. Last year, volunteers spent 3,376 hours maintaining, improving and creating new urban trails in the region.

### Sustaining support for Puget Sound parks

WTA supported local green spaces in 2022 by advocating for a number of ballot initiatives that brought more funding to nearby trails and parks. This included participating in successful support campaigns for the city of Seattle's Metropolitan Parks District, King County's Conservation Futures Program, and Tacoma's Parks & Recreation maintenance & operations levy, all of which secured more money for parks.



“Many Washington residents don't have access to a nearby park or trail, but WTA is changing that through their Trail Next Door campaign!

—Wild Whatcom, WTA partner





**Lost Trails Found Crew**  
on trail at Mineral Creek.  
Photo by Kyvan Elep.

## Lost Trails Found: Recovering from wildfires, reopening routes

**Washington is home to many wild and beautiful destinations deep in the backcountry.** Unfortunately, extreme weather, fires and insufficient trail funding have caused many of these remote trails to become difficult — if not impossible — to access. That's why WTA's Lost Trails Found campaign is creating sustainable access to our state's wild places through on-the-ground maintenance and trail funding advocacy. **In 2022, WTA's volunteers and professional trail crews spent more than 22,000 hours improving backcountry trails around the state.**

### **Doubling our impact**

In 2022, thanks in part to funding from the Great American Outdoors Act, which WTA advocates helped

secure, and the support of generous donors, WTA expanded our professional backcountry crews. This allowed us to restore twice as many lost or at-risk trails. These crews are able to spend longer stretches in hard-to-reach areas where it's not feasible to plan volunteer trips. Over the summer, our two Lost Trails Found crews cleared 2,787 logs and improved 58 miles of trail.

### **On the ground successes**

Through our professional Lost Trails Found crews and volunteer backcountry response teams, we were able to bring some beloved backcountry trails back into hiking shape in 2022. Highlights include:

- **WTA's Lost Trails Found crews reopened Mineral Creek, a 5-mile**

“...a thousand thanks to the Lost Trails Found crew who have done a staggering amount of work to rescue this trail from near-oblivion.

— Don, trip reporter

trail in the Cle Elum area that was nearly inaccessible due to heavy brush and the many fallen logs that blocked the trail. With these improvements, this trail is now safer for hikers to enjoy and it opens up a critical access point to the Pacific Crest Trail.

- WTA crews continued **restoring the trail network in the Entiat River Valley** to help the area recover from the 2015 Wolverine Fire. Crews maintained 35 miles of trail, clearing hundreds of logs and making the Entiat once again a great option for family day hikes and long backpacking trips.


### **Raising awareness for backcountry trail funding**

An adequately staffed and funded Forest Service is critical to our unique and plentiful outdoor experiences here in Washington. However, the Forest Service does not currently have the staff needed to care for national forests. At WTA, we have continued to advocate for the level of funding that the Forest Service needs to keep our forests whole.



**One of 544 logs** cleared in the Entiat Valley during the 2022 season. Photo by Erica Pan.





“ WTA is an amazing asset to all who love getting a little Washington state dirt on their boots. The website is an incredible resource. Thanks for all you do!

— Bryan, WTA donor

**A view of Sauk River**  
from Sauk Mountain.  
Photo by Rajiv Shenoy



# 2022 Financial Information

**In 2022, WTA saw our community step up for trails in a big way.** The generosity of our members has allowed us to grow our programs and strategic impact so we can keep building trails that will stand the test of time. We have big goals ahead to continue investing in our vision of trails for everyone, forever.

## Financial Statement

Total Assets **\$11,982,877**  
 Total Liabilities **\$1,039,566**  
 Unrestricted Net Assets **\$5,869,075**  
 Restricted Net Assets **\$5,074,236**  
 Total Net Assets **\$10,943,311**

## Condensed Statement of Activities

### Revenue

Donations	4,884,153
Grants	711,336
Corporate Support	515,912
Program Revenue	1,572,783
Interest and Other Income	86,554
Change in Value, Long Term Assets (Investments)**	(1,328,942)

**Total Revenue\*** **\$6,441,796**

*\*Consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), WTA recognizes the full value of multiyear pledges in the year they are confirmed.*

*\*\*Our investment performance in 2022 was directly tied to market performance.*

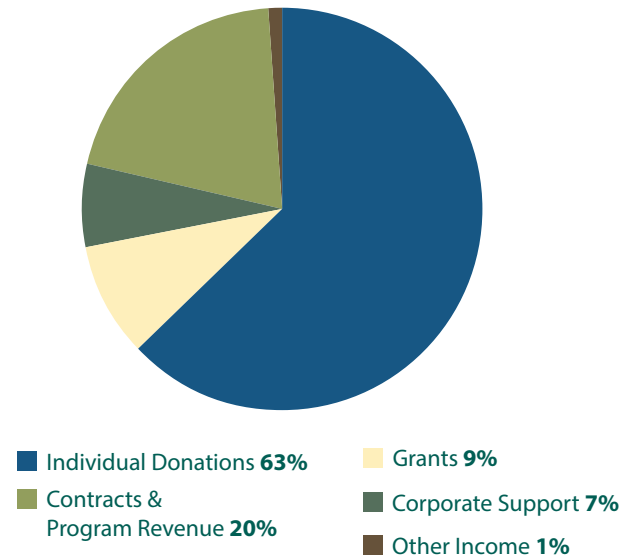
### Expenses

Program Services	5,647,937
General Administration	840,103
Fundraising	715,115

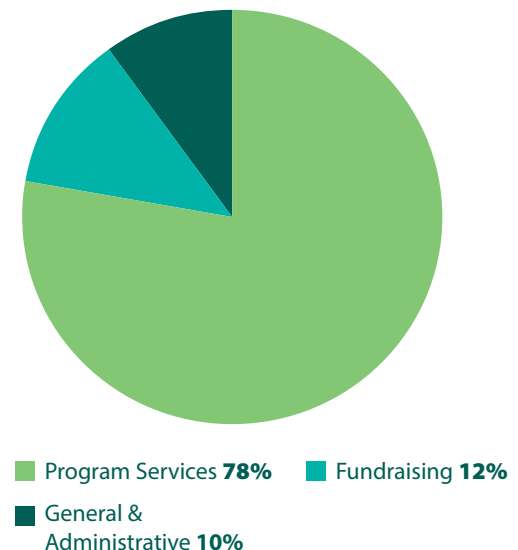
**Total Expenses** **\$7,203,156**

*Financial information has been derived from Washington Trails Association's financial statements. Visit [wta.org](https://wta.org) for the most recent audited financial statements.*

## Sources of support 2022



## Expenses 2022



### Board of Directors

**President** | Matt Martinez  
**Secretary** | Todd Dunfield  
**Treasurer** | Charlie Lieu  
**VP, Philanthropy** | Ethan Evans  
**VP, Governance** | Jenny Faubion

### Directors at Large

Trina Baker, Michael Dunning, Anson Fatland  
 Ashley Fontaine, Thomas Goldstein, Ken Meyer  
 Sully Moreno, Alanna Peterson, Arun Sambataro  
 Jennifer Surapisitchat



Thank you for your support

