

Together, we generate change



Center for Native American
Youth at Aspen Institute



Black Outside



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Being on the water with a paddle in my hand is a feeling that a lot of things can't provide in our increasingly technology-dependent world. The water, nature and the community of folks I'm with always capture my focus, and I'm revived.
 Hudson River Riders participant



Fresh Tracks at Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions



Wild Diversity



Native Like Water

Cooperative action. Cooperative change.

Since we publicly launched the REI Cooperative Action Fund in the fall of 2021, we have been incredibly inspired by our growing community of generous donors who have ignited the spirit of cooperative action in support of our shared love of the outdoors. **In FY 2023, 890K donations supported \$6 million in grant funding to 74 local, regional and national nonprofits—all working to create a more equitable outdoors for everyone.** It's testimony to the growing strength of our cooperative action.

And while the figures are tremendous, it's ultimately the impact that matters most to us and, likely, you. In this report, we hope you will enjoy a few inspiring stories from our partners. They showcase how our grantee partners are connecting more people and creating new spaces outside while centering health, well-being and joy.

REI Co-op founded the Fund because tens of millions of people in the U.S. lack easy access to the outdoors, and even for those with access, far too many don't feel a sense of safety or belonging outside. That is why our efforts **intentionally focus on changemakers from, and working with, marginalized communities across the U.S. landscape—from densely urban to rural and tribal locations.** We are on a mission to create a more equitable outdoors by bringing together the collective strength of our entire community.

Thank you for believing in our mission. We already have accomplished so much together, and we look forward to sharing how our work will progress in new and exciting ways in the year ahead.

We invite you to continue the journey with us as a supporter, amplifier and advocate.

With gratitude,



Kristen Ragain
 Managing Director



Marc Berejka
 President



On a mission to create a more equitable outdoors

Memphis Rox

During our FY 2023, we distributed grants to 74 local, regional and national nonprofit organizations across the country doing the deep and essential work to create a more equitable outdoors. We supported our grantee partners by providing nearly **\$6M in multiyear general operating support** in three grantmaking initiatives: connecting people outside, creating space outside and centering health outside.

Our approach to philanthropy is rooted in **advancing equity, shifting power and building mutually accountable relationships**. Through general operating support, partners have the flexibility to determine where grant funds are most needed to support their mission. **Our approach to grantmaking is cooperative**, which includes partnering with compensated leaders in the outdoor equity space to recommend organizations for funding. This approach prioritizes power-sharing and equity in decision-making by honoring the wisdom of community advisors rooted in the communities we seek to serve.

GRANT INITIATIVE:

Connecting people outside

Supporting organizations led by and serving Black and Indigenous communities; people of color; LGBTQ+ community; people with disabilities; women; and low-income communities through connections to the outdoors. Prioritizing organizations that cultivate connections, healing and joy outside.



Outdoor Afro



Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

The Venture Out Project

More people connecting with the outdoors and each other? More joy outside? That's what The Venture Out Project makes possible.

As one participant on a ski trip facilitated by The Venture Out Project explained: "I made friends I never would have made without The Venture Out Project. For the first time, I felt like I could challenge myself without fear of judgment. This group made me feel seen, heard and validated in so many ways."



This organization promotes equity, justice and belonging through facilitated backpacking and wilderness trips for the queer and trans community in a safe and inclusive environment. Whether it's camping trips in New England, rafting trips in Utah, or day hikes and events across the country, they offer LGBTQ+ folks the opportunity to get outside, find community, build connections and become leaders as their authentic selves.

CONNECTING PEOPLE OUTSIDE FY 2023 IMPACT:

40
grantees

\$2.9M
in grants distributed

GRANT INITIATIVE:

Creating space outside

Increasing equitable access to outdoor spaces and recreation opportunities (parks, trails, open space, waterways). Prioritizing community-led solutions that bring nature's individual and environmental benefits closer to home for marginalized communities.



Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in support of Great American Rail-Trail



Children & Nature Network

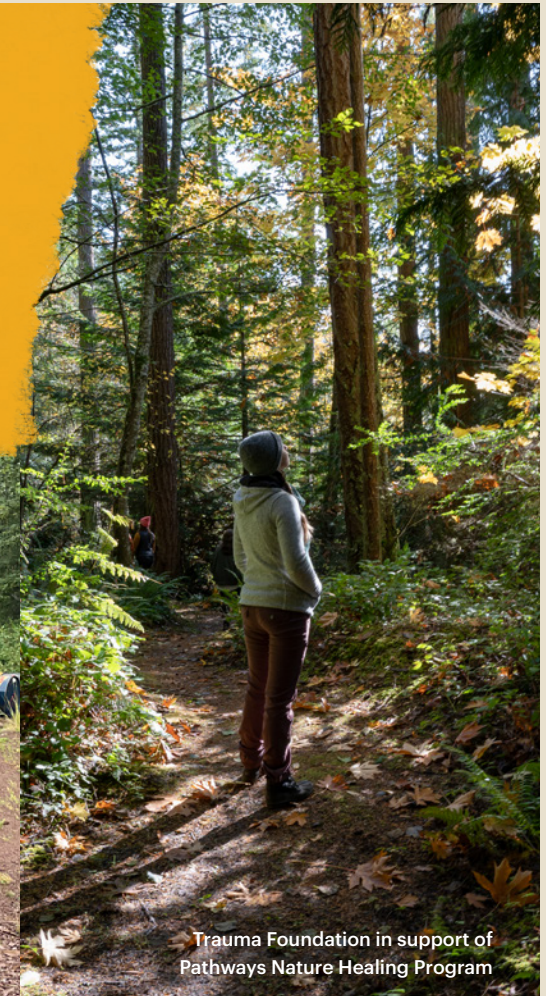
GRANT INITIATIVE:

Centering health outside

Investing, strengthening and amplifying scientific research, and supporting Traditional Ecological Knowledge that demonstrates time spent outside improves mental, physical and emotional health, as well as resilience for people and communities.



Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at University of Washington



Trauma Foundation in support of Pathways Nature Healing Program

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail runs 3,100 miles along the backbone of America. It connects communities, cultures and critically important landscapes, and it serves as a valuable natural, cultural and economic resource for dozens of rural and underrepresented communities in the Rocky Mountain West.

That's why the Continental Divide Trail Coalition's mission is so important: to complete, promote and protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The coalition does this by building a diverse trail community, providing up-to-date information to the public, and encouraging stewardship of the trail, its corridor and surrounding landscapes.

"Unrestricted funding is rare but critical for us," says Teresa Martinez, Executive Director. "Support from the REI Cooperative Action Fund allows us to be proactive, creative and responsive to community needs."



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Nature and Health Alliance

Knowledge of the health benefits of engaging with nature is emerging rapidly, and from many sectors of society. However, that knowledge hasn't yet made the impact we know it could have for the general public—especially for groups who have historically been marginalized and lacked access to the benefits that engaging with nature can provide.

We supported the establishment of the Nature and Health Alliance in 2022 to meet this challenge. The vision? A world in which everybody has access to nature and can experience its benefits.

The Alliance aims to help educate and train the next generation of nature and health researchers, practitioners and advocates. In 2023, they hosted their first interdisciplinary planning conference to lay the foundation for their work. They are now fulfilling their mission to enhance understanding of, foster evidence for and communicate about the relationships between nature and health.



CREATING SPACE OUTSIDE
FY 2023 IMPACT:

20
grantees

\$1.5M
in grants distributed

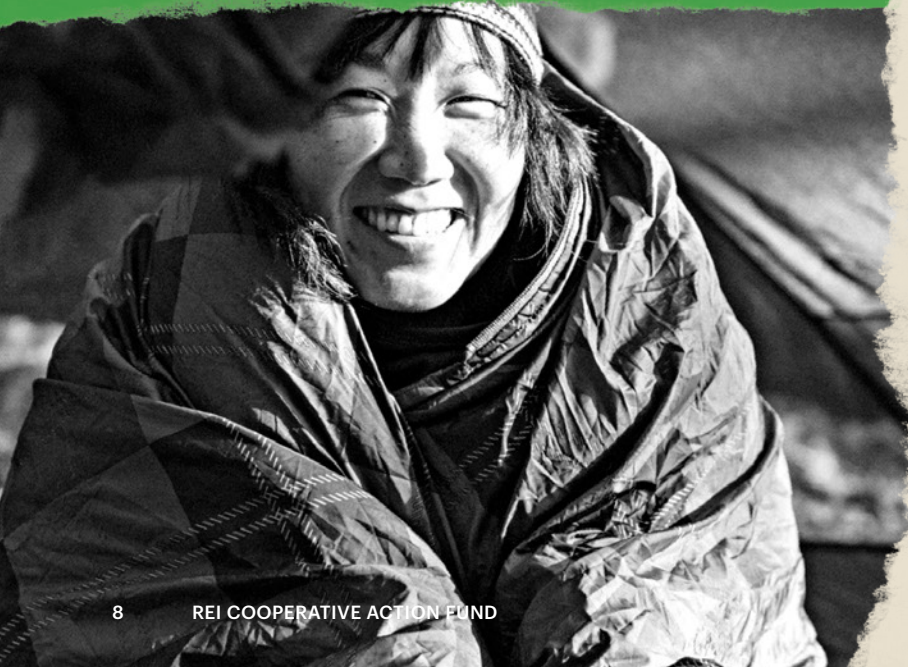
CENTERING HEALTH OUTSIDE
FY 2023 IMPACT:

13
grantees

\$1.6M
in grants distributed



Igniting the power of cooperative action



The collective strength of our community is making a difference. **Every donation adds up to a big impact.** This year, 890K donations supported nonprofits doing the deep and essential work to create a more equitable outdoors.

The power of one person to make a difference in the world always rings true. That one person, joined by millions of others with a shared vision, is unstoppable.

FY 2023 Impact

\$9.5M
total support and revenue

890K
number of donations



of donations from the general public directly impact grantees**

74
grantees*

\$6M
in grants distributed

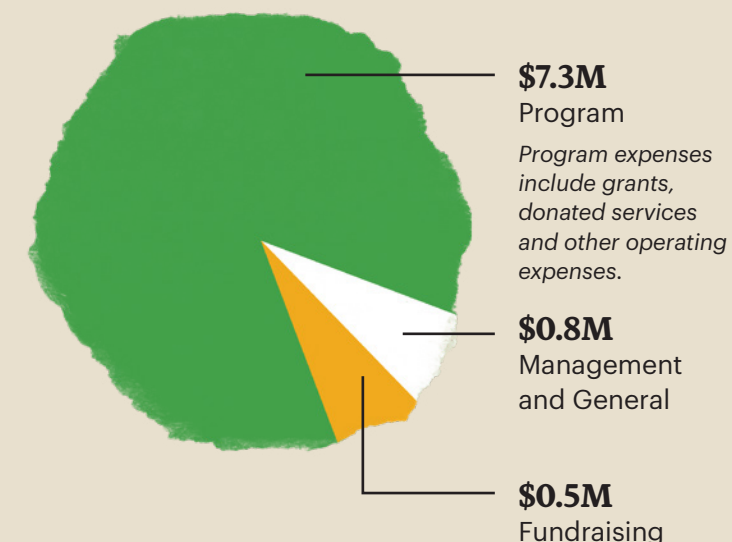
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Our unrestricted grant has given us the flexibility to provide transformational outdoor experiences for our queer and transgender community. We appreciate our partnership with the REI Cooperative Action Fund because of their trust-based approach, which has meant we can focus on what we truly need, and has enabled us to create a mutually accountable relationship that supports our shared work to create a more equitable outdoors.

Perry Cohen, Executive Director & Instructor, The Venture Out Project

FY 2023 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Assets	\$8.2M
Total Liabilities	\$1.5M
Total Net Assets	\$6.8M
Total Support and Revenue	\$9.5M
Total Expenses	\$8.6M

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$8.6M



*One grantee falls outside a specific initiative and supports the sector.

**Minus credit card transaction fees.

Our donor community

We are grateful to our growing community of donors who share and support the collective joy and love of the outdoors. Thank you for your generosity and becoming part of a cooperative community.

Thank you to our founder

Additionally, we are grateful for the deep and meaningful support of our founder, REI Co-op. Since our founding, REI has donated the total cost of our operating expenses—which means that every single dollar donated by the general public directly funds our grantee partners.



Thank you to our corporate partners

Thanks to the businesses that made generous gifts to the REI Cooperative Action Fund to support our grantee partners working to create a more equitable outdoors.



A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CREDIT UNION



HEARTLAND



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We were drawn to the REI Cooperative Action Fund through a similar belief that time outside is a human right, and both entities recognize that, to support organizations promoting justice, equity and belonging in the outdoors, it is going to take strength in numbers. We hope that our support of this organization will compel others to become allies in this effort as well.

Tracy Brunz, Vice President of Sales, Sea to Summit



Come support an outside for everyone

We are grateful to our collective donor community of both individuals and businesses supporting our impactful grantee partners.

It takes community-wide action to ensure that everyone has their right to the outdoors honored and protected. Please consider making a gift to the REI Cooperative Action Fund.

Give today: REIfund.org/donate



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The impact of this grant has been tremendous and, in many ways, immeasurable. What is most significant is our ability to plan for the future when we know there is a consistent and significant investment coming our way. That is especially priceless through a time that has seen the effects of a pandemic and recession.

Monica Garrison, Black Girls Do Bike



rei
cooperative
fund action

Our mission is to create a more equitable outdoors by bringing together the collective strength of our community.