



IMPACT REPORT

2025

Dear WRFI supporters,

At a recent staff meeting, our Field Education Manager, Kate Gilbert, said “I feel like all of us are working to make WRFI better, but we need to celebrate how much we are winning. Around here I feel like it’s just Win after Win after Win after Win after Win!” I think she hit the nail on the head. The last few years have been a time of big growth; **our annual operating budget has nearly tripled**, we’re offering **four times as much financial aid**, our **instructor retention rate year-over-year has doubled**, and we’re **serving close to twice as many students**. We wrapped up WRFI’s first major fundraising campaign in 2024, and the WRFI community has continued to support the work of inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards and engaged leaders at a higher level than ever before.



These wins have fueled a buildout of a full administrative team, with seven staff supporting field programs in our office. **Kelsey Wellington** leads our student enrollment and experience efforts; **Kate Gilbert** makes sure our field operations, from staffing to vehicles to food to everything in-between, run smoothly; and **Ash Sward** supports both of these powerhouses, splitting time between enrollment and operations while also instructing in the field. We welcomed **Matt Herbert** as WRFI’s first full-time Marketing Coordinator role in January of 2026, and simultaneously welcomed **Beth Cogswell**, WRFI’s first full-time Community Development and Fundraising Director; already these two roles (and incredible individuals in them!) have made significant strides towards WRFI’s future. **Claire Deveney** makes sure that WRFI’s finances, bookkeeping, insurance, and paperwork details are in order; and finally, I work to lead WRFI’s vision and support each of these incredible individuals in their work. WRFI, and this team specifically, is poised to leap forward as WRFI continues leading interdisciplinary, field-based academic work in the US.

WRFI's work is hyper-relevant to the world today. Our students come back from courses every year and say **"I arrived here thinking I knew the answers—I'm leaving feeling like I'm starting to ask the right questions."** Our instructors share stories of lightbulbs going off, of guest speakers shedding light on new perspectives, of students writing articulate, thoughtful reflections. **The natural experience of being unplugged in the field pushes all of us to be better both to the natural world and to each other.** The beating of rainstorms, shiver-cold mornings, late nights reading, packs bearing down, and arms sore from paddling all come with the territory; these are the gifts our students receive for experiencing the world wholly.

WRFI is shining brightly, albeit during some dark times in the world. Enclosed here are some updates and stories from the past year of field courses. I invite you to enjoy!

Warmly,

Matt Baker-White,
Executive Director





MISSION

The Wild Rockies Field Institute offers academically rigorous, place-based field courses that develop engaged, informed citizens and strong leaders capable of addressing complex social and environmental issues.

VISION

The Wild Rockies Field Institute fosters the next generation of leaders and environmental stewards through field-based education in the American West.

WRFI COURSES:

- Broaden the nature of a liberal arts education through experiential learning
- Teach critical thinking
- Foster understanding of and respect for natural and human communities
- Cultivate a sense of place that encourages environmental responsibility

“This course has provided me with moral and ethical dilemmas that I will continue to grapple with, but it has also provided me with a restored sense of hope and excitement. I’m leaving with the motivation to act and be a leader in my community. This course has challenged me in ways I haven’t been challenged before, and I have grown from it.”

Marelise S., Restoration Ecology 2025, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

2025 Student Overview

Colleges/Universities

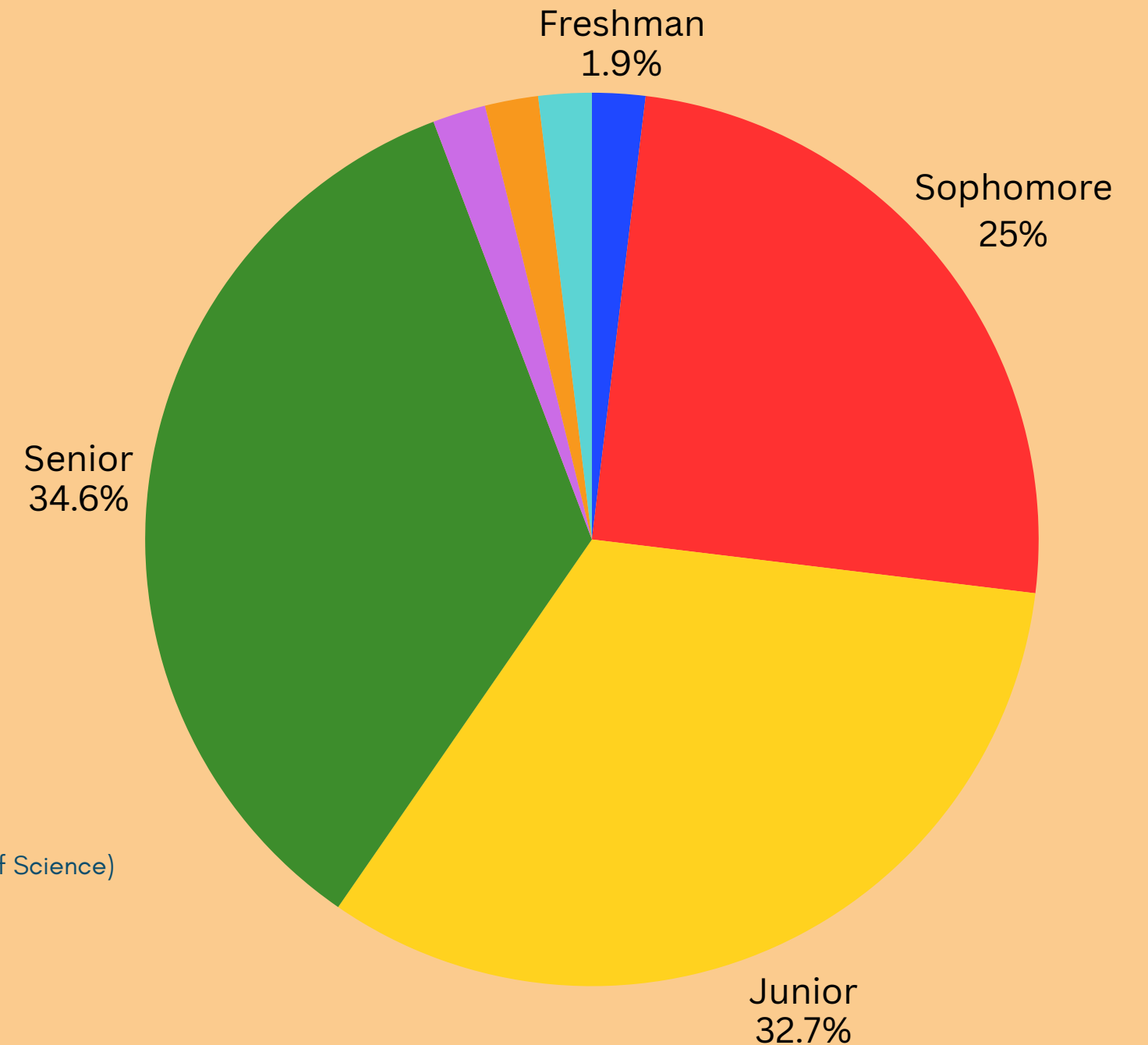
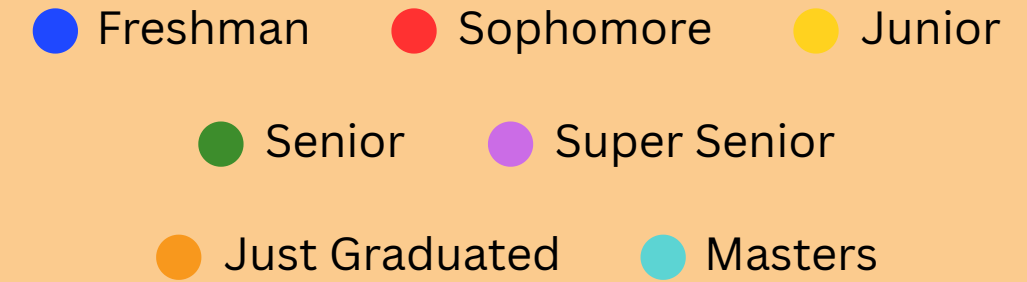
Sending WRFI Students:

Boston University
 Colby College
 Colorado State University
 Fort Lewis College
 Loras College
 Metro State University
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Montana State University
 Reed College
 St Lawrence University
 University of California - Berkeley
 University of California - Santa Barbara
 University of Colorado - Boulder
 University of Delaware
 University of Minnesota - Duluth
 University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
 University of Montana
 University of New Hampshire
 University of Oregon
 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 University of Vermont
 University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
 University of Wisconsin - Madison
 University of Wisconsin - River Falls
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 Western Colorado University
 Western Kentucky University

WRFI Student Majors:

Biology
 Biology, Society, & the Environment
 Cartography & GIS
 Classics
 Conservation & Resource Management
 Conservation Biology
 Economics
 Energy & Environmental Policy
 Environmental & Outdoor Education
 Environmental Analysis & Policy
 Environmental Health
 Environmental Policy
 Environmental Science & Sustainability
 Environmental Studies
 Environmental Sustainability
 Fish & Wildlife Management & Ecology
 Fisheries, Wildlife, & Conservation Biology
 Forestry
 Geography
 Government
 Journalism
 Legal Studies
 Liberal Studies
 Mathematics
 Natural Resource Stewardship & Ecological Restoration (Master of Science)
 Outdoor Engineering
 Philosophy
 Secondary Education
 Social Media
 Technical Theater
 Wildlife Ecology

WRFI Student Class Breakdown



2025 By The Numbers

355 Nights spent under the stars
by WRFI students!

1,816 River Miles paddled on the Missouri,
Green, and Flathead Rivers
(Longest paddling day: 15 miles)

1,903 Miles backpacked in The Bob
Marshall, Dirty Devil Canyon, Great Divide
Trail, and Yellowstone National Park
(Longest hiking day: 12 miles)

3,906 Miles cycled by five students and
two instructors, from Billings to Glacier on
Cycle the Rockies
(Longest biking day: 47 miles)





2025 By the Numbers

62 Students joined WRFI courses, including 7 on our Montana Field Experience pre-college programs!

24 Universities sent students, representing 13 states

57 Guest Speakers shared wisdom across courses, including regenerative ranchers, Indigenous elders, elected officials, business owners, and many more

4,265 Pages of WRFI Readers were assigned to students, with hundreds of authors, artists, and poets included

20 Instructors taught courses, with 14 returning instructors and 6 new voices

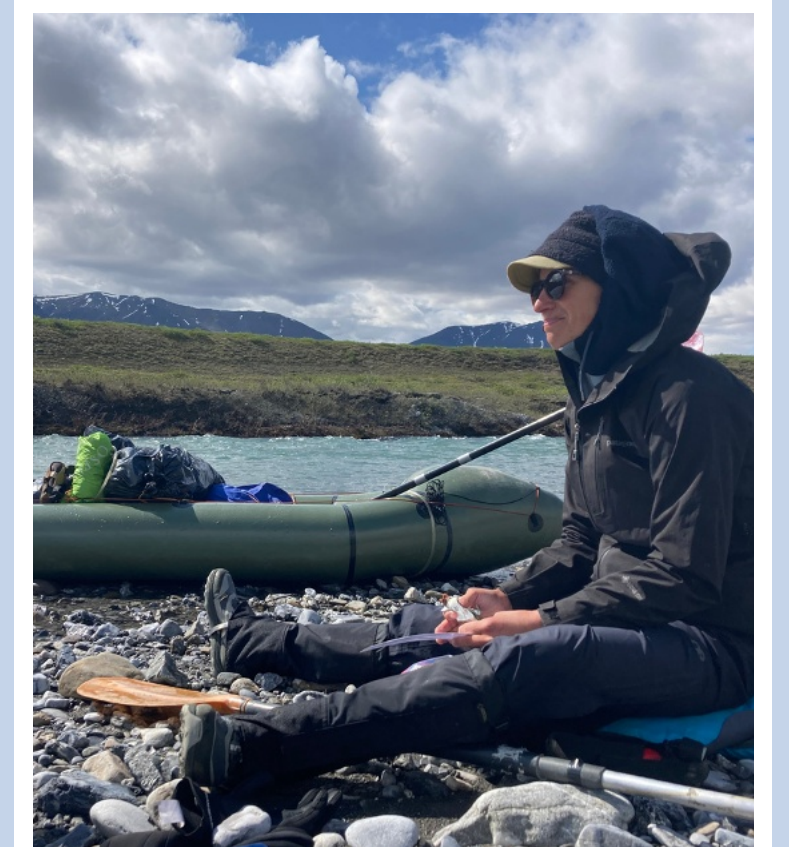
337 Credits were earned in the field by WRFI students!

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Kari Nielsen – WRFI Instructor since 2023

Courses taught with WRFI: Colorado Plateau and Montana Afoot and Afloat

Teaching gives me the privilege of being a part of students' journeys of coming into awareness about concepts and questions they will likely wrestle with and pick at for the rest of their lives. On a WRFI field course, these concepts and questions become even more deeply integrated and internalized, and students often undergo profound changes in their awareness and thinking. In a field setting, I'm able to ask students deeper questions and ask for more complex answers. When all of us—students and instructors—are involved with the land, day and night, the land asks to be included in these conversations. This is often sorely missing from standard education models, and I feel gratitude to have the chance to share with students a practice of listening to the land and communities, both human and more-than-human.



WRFI's Classroom

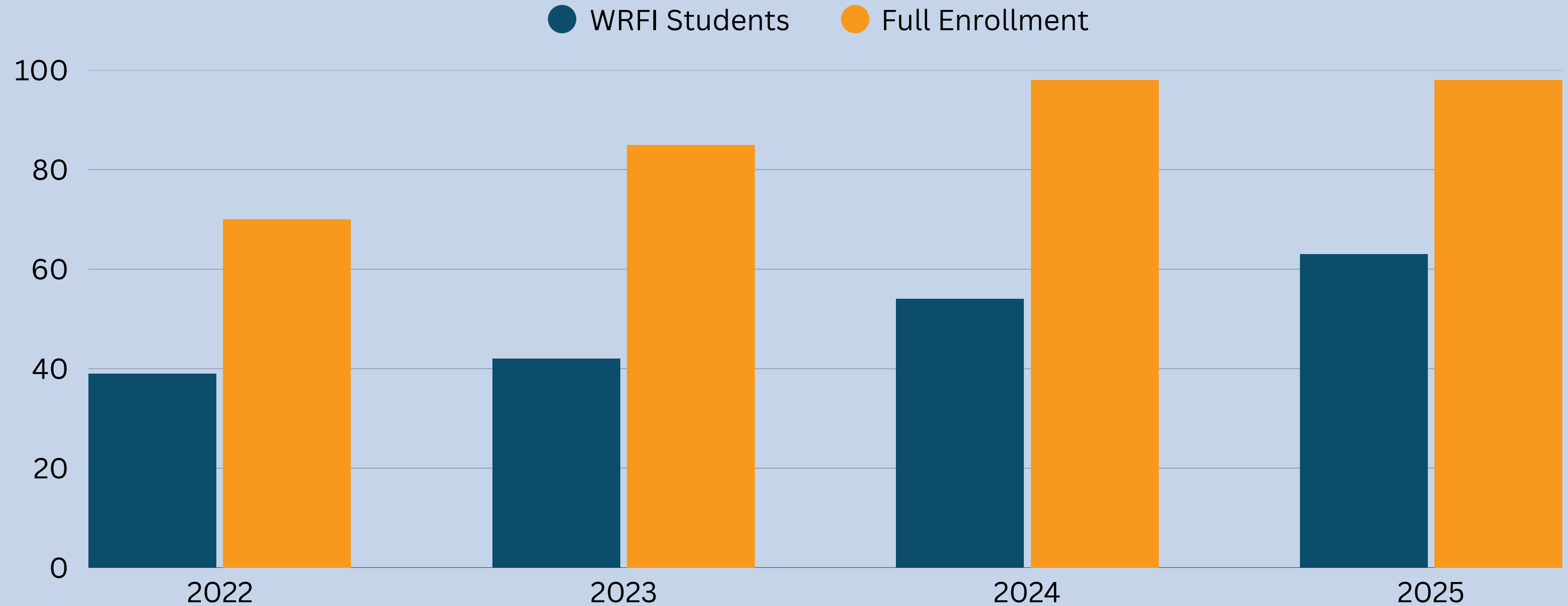
WRFI's geographic focus has always been the American West. While we have offered courses in the past as far north as Alaska and as far south as Baja California, today we focus primarily up and down the main Rocky Mountain region. We explore from the southern ranges in New Mexico to the Canadian Rockies in Canada.

As WRFI grows into our next phase, we will continue to assess our capacity and ability to offer courses in various ecosystems and geographies while always focusing our efforts on issues of the West.



Conservation Across Boundaries
Environmental Ethics
Montana Afoot and Afloat
Cycle the Rockies
Restoration Ecology
Colorado Plateau
Southwest Climate Studio Art

Enrollment Trends



WRFI courses remain close-knit, small group cohorts with 6-12 students per course. We have a goal of reaching a “full enrollment” of 95+ students per year by 2028. We have made significant personnel investments to start 2026 and hope to continue our strong pull of students to our courses! Help us spread the word to any interested college students you might know!

“WRFI helped me learn and understand so much better than I would in a normal classroom. It also felt like I was a part of something more than the academics.”

Kate T., Southwest Climate Studio Art 2025, University of Wisconsin – Madison



Alumni Spotlight

Lauren W., Environmental Ethics 2025,
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Read
Lauren's
Blog Post
Here!



As she descended a steep scree field of loose rocks, Lauren screamed out a burst of obscenities. Her response was spontaneous. Having grown up in the Midwest, this was only Lauren's fourth day in the mountains and this was the Bob Marshall Wilderness. She was overwhelmed physically and emotionally by the sheer exertion of the trip so far, but the descent that day proved to her that she can do anything she sets her mind to. Lauren has carried that day with her and it has helped shape who she is as a person.

After taking WRFI's Environmental Ethics course, Lauren graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in Cartography and Geographic Information Science (GIS). She now works as a GIS analyst and developer for a private firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Her job entails civil and environmental mapping and contributing to environmental impact reports. She loves being part of the Madison community. Lauren attributes her ability to face any new challenges she faces to her experiences with WRFI and that memorable scree field in the Bob.



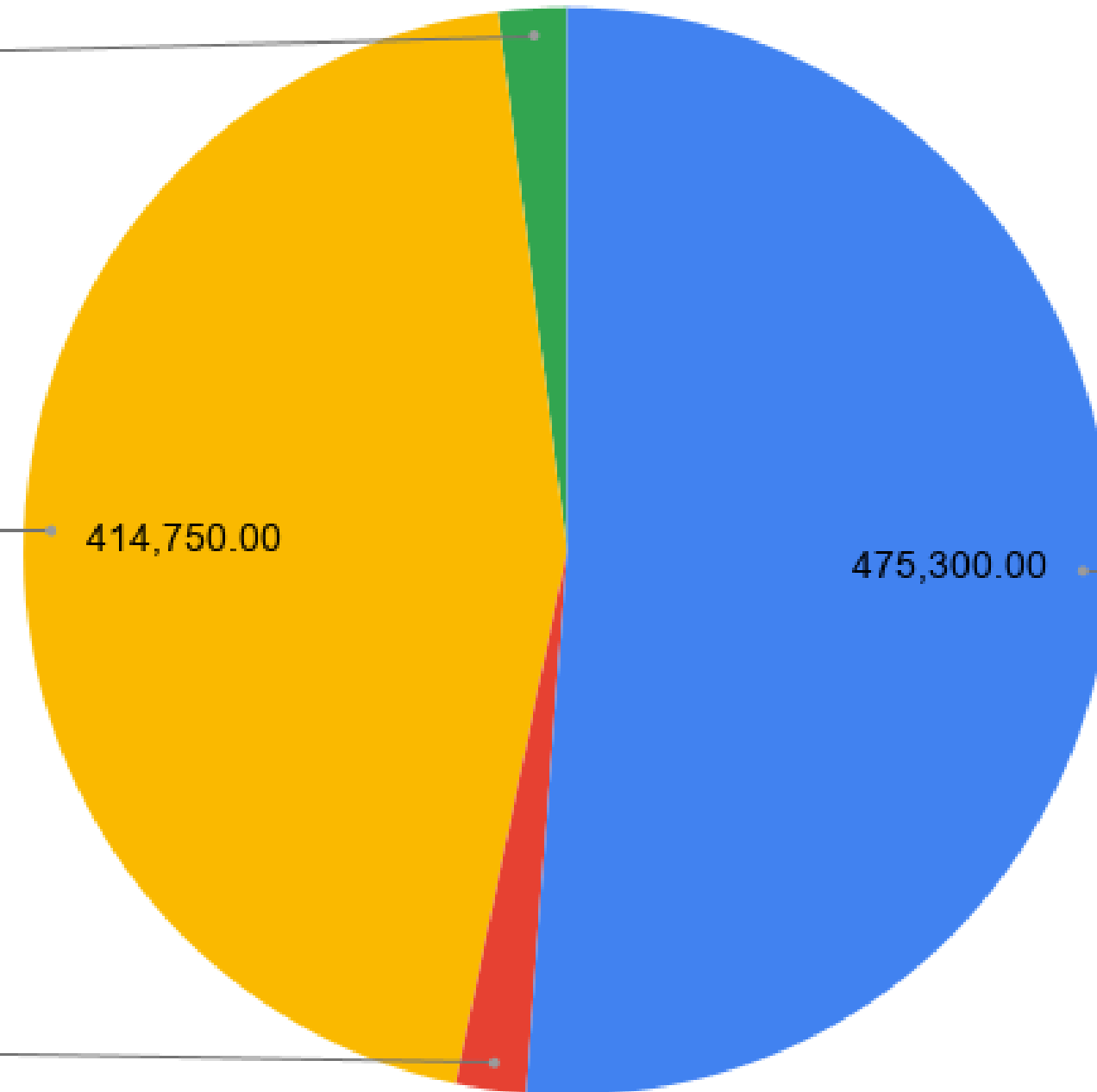
Financial Transparency: 2025 Revenue

2025 Revenue

Other Income
2.0%

Donations/Grants
44.7%

Contract and Adult Courses
2.1%



Open Enrollment
51.2%

Financial Transparency: 2025 Expenses

2025 Expenses

Student Financial Aid

8.3%

Student Recruitment/Marketing

7.4%

Benefits and Payroll Tax

10.1%

Fundraising

1.5%

Operating Costs-Office, Insurance, Fees, etc.

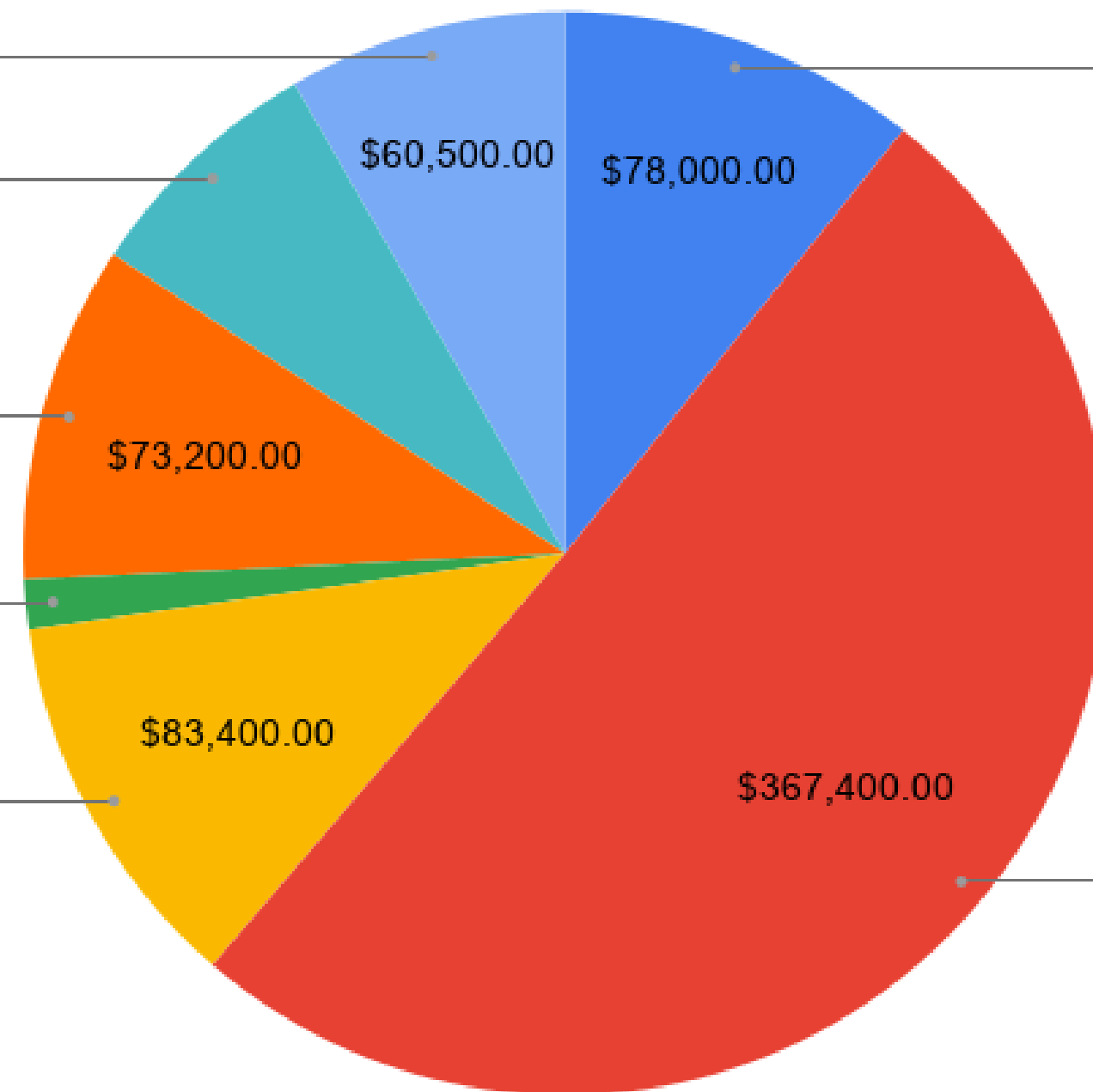
11.5%

Course Costs

10.7%

Payroll Expenses

50.5%



Financial Transparency:

2025 Revenue and Expenses

2025 Revenue

Contributions.....	\$414,750
Open Enrollment.....	\$475,300
Contact and Adult Courses.....	\$19,300
Other.....	\$18,800
Revenue Subtotal.....	\$928,150

2025 Expenses

Course Costs.....	\$78,000
Payroll Expenses.....	\$367,400
Benefits and Tax.....	\$73,200
Operating Costs.....	\$83,400
Fundraising.....	\$10,750
Marketing and Recruiting.....	\$53,600
Student Financial Aid.....	\$60,500
Expense Subtotal.....	\$726,850
Surplus.....	\$201,300

“CTR completely exceeded my expectations; I learned so much and loved how we were able to connect so many ideas and concepts throughout different speakers and towns. Traveling by bike helped me to better appreciate the landscape and process everything we were learning.”

Annika M., Cycle the Rockies 2025,
Colby College



Alumni Spotlight

Miles F., Colorado Plateau and Cycle the Rockies 2025, University of Montana



**Read Miles'
Blog Posts
Here!**



Miles discovered his love of the outdoors his first year of college. Growing up in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, he was surrounded by natural beauty as far as the eye could see; but, it wasn't until he arrived in Missoula to attend the University of Montana and signed up for a Freshman Wilderness Experience, that he discovered how much he loved existing in the wild. Miles then signed up for WRFI's Colorado Plateau semester course after some of his friends showed him amazing photos of the Utah desert from their time on the previous year's CP course. Simultaneously, Miles enrolled in Cycle the Rockies, setting himself up for a WRFI double-header that would test his physical ability and challenge his views on rural America.



Miles spent 70 days in the deserts of Utah and Arizona, diving deep into the cultures and practices of the Indigenous groups that exist there. He grappled with the Indigenous perspectives of gender, how these perspectives intersect deeply with their daily lives, and how those lessons inform how he exists in his every-day community (read his thoughts in his blog post, "Gender and Survival"!).

Miles had less than a week once he emerged from the desert to finish up his post-course work and get ready for Cycle the Rockies. He picked up most of his cohort from the Missoula airport and prepared himself for the coming trek. Cycle the Rockies tested him in many ways he did not anticipate. First and foremost, it forced him to interact with communities he otherwise might not have. He began to understand the importance of listening and talking with everyone, beyond any perceived lines in the sand, to find ways to connect with each other. Further, Cycle the Rockies gave him the opportunity to prove to himself that he could accomplish incredibly hard things if he set his mind to it. By the time he and his cohort made their final push up Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, biking over the Continental Divide at Logan Pass, he didn't think it was as hard as he had expected. What he had previously seen as daunting was now in the past. He had just spent the last month training for this, and he accomplished it. This moment, standing at the top of the Continental Divide, was one of the best moments of his life so far!



“When I teach outside, the land, plants, animals – the whole environment – complements and overwhelms my expertise. I get to embrace the role of being a guide, helping students slow down, observe, and become more open to the learning experiences that exist all around us all of the time.”

Liz Simpson, WRFI Instructor since 2025

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Dan Spencer

Former board member and WRFI instructor, Dan Spencer, is a Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies and taught at the University of Montana from 2002 to 2022. Dan's teaching and research focused on ecological ethics, ethical issues in ecological restoration, ecology and religion, and globalization, justice, and environmental issues in Latin America. Dan served on the WRFI board for 10 years and was a WRFI instructor on three courses.

Dan's commitment to WRFI's mission runs deep. He spent his entire professional career involved in experiential education. "I believe in the power of experiential education to transform lives, and transformed lives transform society," said Dan. If you connect with students 15 or 20 years after completing a WRFI course, most alums would say that the experience changed their lives and helped determine their future education and career choices.

Dan loved serving as a board member and worked to cultivate an ethic of giving at the board level. He put his competitive nature to work and challenged his board colleagues to raise as much money as possible during the annual campaign. The winner was rewarded with a basketful of wine!



Key Partnerships

UM-Davidson Honors College



We are privileged to have the University of Montana's Davidson Honors College as the key partner in our efforts of providing meaningful experiences for a wider audience. In 2026, we are partnering with DHC on our new Montana Field Experience Pre-College program, offering high-school students from across the nation the opportunity to experience the power of place-based education in Montana while earning advanced college credit! Thank you, DHC!

University of Montana



The University of Montana continues to be a key partner to WRFI as our accrediting University of Record. For over 30 years, UM has provided invaluable support to our programs. It is thanks to this partnership that many of our students are able to join our field courses each year and bring their credits back to their home universities! Thank you, UM!

National Student Exchange



National Student Exchange is amongst the country's top intercollegiate study away programs, providing experiential opportunities for college students throughout the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands! We are proud to be an NSE institution and to be part of this amazing academic network! Thank you, NSE!

University of Wisconsin-Madison International Academic Programs



The UW-M IAP Department encourages their students to consider WRFI's domestic courses when weighing options for experiential and study abroad programs, guiding several students each year into the field with us. They also ensure these students will receive the financial aid they need and credits they earn directly from UW-Madison! Thank you, Madison!

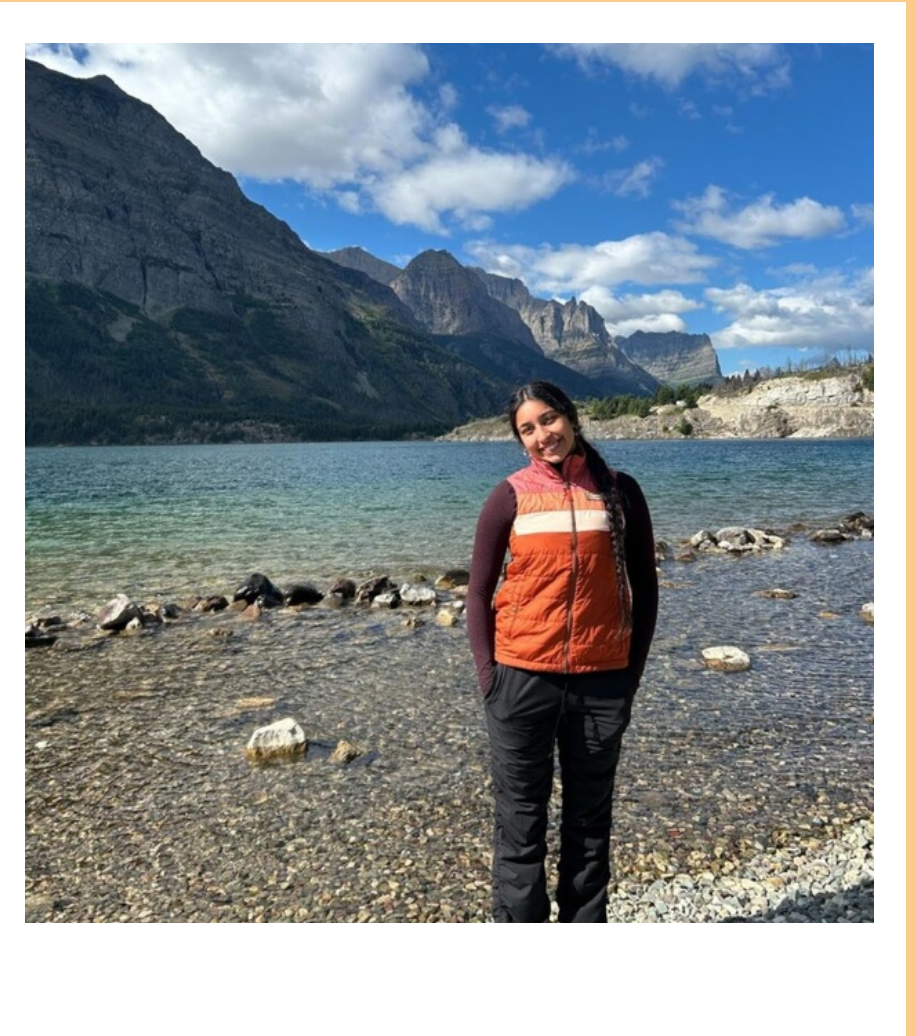
STUDENT ESSAY SPOTLIGHT:

Waters We Cannot Lose: Lessons from the Blackfeet Nation for the Future of Punjab (The Land of Five Rivers) by Amneet Kaur

When I first started my course, I thought my biggest takeaway would be environmental issues in Montana. I didn't expect that being on the Blackfeet Reservation would take me back across the world to Punjab, my ancestral home, and cause me to question how we care for land, water, and identity. We learned about the Blackfeet Nation's story of their decades-long fight to stop oil and gas leases issued by the Reagan administration in the 1980s. The Blackfeet, whose home stretches along the Rocky Mountain Front in northern Montana, just east of Glacier National Park and the Canadian border, has fought for decades to protect their land and water. For over forty years, they resisted the exploitation of their sacred lands until the leases were finally canceled. As I listened I felt an uncomfortable recognition. The struggle they described to protect water, to defend rights, and to keep a living culture rooted in its place was one I had heard before, in a different language, in stories from my people.

Punjab once had the most advanced irrigation system in Asia. Its intricate canals and wells made it a farming paradise. Before British rule, Punjab's rivers and fertile soils sustained thriving communities, culture, and trade. Punjab was a hub of global commerce, connecting markets to Persia, Central Asia, and beyond. But under colonial control, this abundance was re-engineered to serve colonialism. The British exploited Punjab's farmers to fund their wars. During World War I and World War II, Punjab's grain was shipped abroad to feed soldiers, while many in Punjab itself faced famine. Later, the Green Revolution transformed Punjab into the "Granary of India," producing over 60% of India's wheat. Yet today, many of those same farmers struggle for fair prices, drowning in debt and uncertainty. The story of prosperity has become one of ecological depletion and social despair.

Colonial legacies shaped today's battles over canals and rivers, like the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal controversy, where Punjabis resisted having their water diverted to other states. These disputes raise deeper ethical questions about who owns a river, who gets to decide, and whether water should be treated as a commodity at all. This echoes the idea that ethics forces us to ask not just what is but what ought to be. What is in Punjab today is groundwater depletion, toxic rivers, and corporations buying up farmland for cement plants and textile factories.



STUDENT ESSAY SPOTLIGHT:

What ought to be is a vision where Punjab's environment is valued not just instrumentally, as a means to produce grain or profit, but intrinsically, as life itself. Similarly, the Blackfeet's fight over the Badger-Two Medicine illustrates the gap between what is and what ought to be. Leases and profit were the reality, but the deeper truth was that the land ought to be protected as sacred, irreplaceable, and vital to Blackfeet cultural survival. As Holmes Rolston III reminds us: "Humans count enough to have the right to flourish there, but not so much that they have the right to degrade or shut down ecosystems, not at least without a burden of proof that there is an overriding cultural gain" (Rolston, 141). That "burden of proof" has rarely been met in Punjab.

The loss of water is not only ecological but cultural. In Punjabi literature, rivers are companions to love and memory. The famous romance folk story Sohni Mahiwal makes the Chenab River a witness to the lovers' journey. But with reduced Himalayan snowmelt, erratic monsoons, and over-extraction, the Chenab of literature could soon exist only in stories. What happens to a culture when the landscapes in its stories vanish? Already, younger generations are watching the birds, animals, and rivers mentioned in the Guru Granth Sahib and Sikh history disappear from daily life, making it harder to see their traditions as alive. Birds such as the baaj (the northern goshawk) and the koonj (the sarus crane) are slowly disappearing from Punjab. Climate change threatens not only Punjab's ecology but its language, spirituality, and identity.

Yet, environmental ethics is not foreign to Punjab. Agriculture itself has always been more than an economic act, it was a way of belonging. But mass migration to Western countries and environmental decline are breaking that bond. Farming becomes survival instead of culture, and land becomes commodity instead of identity.

My lesson from WRFI is that resilience requires courage. The Blackfeet Nation's forty-year fight to protect sacred lands is proof that even decades are not too long to defend what matters. Aldo Leopold once wrote about marshes and cranes: "The ultimate value in these marshes is wildness, and the crane is wildness incarnate... to cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish" (Leopold, 95). Punjab's rivers, fields, and wildlife have their own "wildness incarnate." But if we wait until they are nearly gone to value them, we risk losing them altogether. The fight for Punjab's environment is not only about saving crops or rivers – it is about protecting a way of life, a cultural identity, and an ethical vision of balance.



INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT:

Ryan Marsh – Instructor since 2017

Courses taught with WRFI: Colorado Plateau and Montana Afoot and Afloat

Academically I have always inhabited an interdisciplinary space – I don't think you can be a good ecologist without understanding the human elements, and I don't think you can meaningfully address complex environmental issues without a strong understanding of the biophysical and social aspects of the issues and the myriad ways they connect.

WRFI courses inherently create space for students to meaningfully explore these connections through their interdisciplinary coursework, slow, human-powered travel through landscapes, and diverse perspectives presented through guest speakers and rotating instructors. There is just no comparison between reading case studies in a classroom and being out on the land participating in deep histories of place where, in addition to critical thinking, feelings of curiosity, wonder, awe, compassion, humility, and gratitude can be actively engaged and cultivated.



The Shadows Run Podcast: **Eva Happy and The Power of Storytelling**

We were absolutely thrilled to partner last year with Eva Happy, 2021 alumna of Montana Afoot & Afloat, on a series of interviews that ran as part of her podcast The Shadows Run. Eva started The Shadows Run in the spring of 2024 after deciding to combine her love of asking hard-hitting, deep questions, with her passion for building community. Eva has released over 50 episodes, which feature engaging conversations on topics ranging from religion, conservation, UFOs, travel, building community, and everything in between! Her broad scope of interests, combined with her relentless curiosity about others, is immediately evident from episode one!

This is why we were so honored that Eva agreed to use her platform to highlight six people in the WRFI sphere! These episodes, which aired on The Shadows Run's main feed from July to December 2025, gave members of the WRFI community a space to tell their stories, be vulnerable, and share a window into their worlds. Listen to the The Shadows Run X WRFI Stories collab wherever Podcasts are found. Then, go listen to the rest of The Shadows Run podcast to dive deep into Eva's curiosity!



Listen Here!





“Developing personal connections and relationships over the course of the trip helped me feel open and comfortable asking questions and having deep discussions on readings/course topics. Being in the landscape we were learning about and having the opportunity to grow a connection to the Crown of the Continent region has furthered my understanding of conservation and stewardship.”

Sofie S., Conservation Across Boundaries 2025, St. Lawrence University

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Sarah Richey

Sarah is originally from Utah and came to Missoula to attend the University of Montana. She has worked in land conservation for the past 20 years, currently running a business that supports several land trusts and government agencies across the Northwest. Her current work involves developing conservation projects, securing conservation easement funding, and providing training and assistance around land acquisition for conservation purposes.

WRFI has been a big part of Sarah's life — she was a student, an instructor, a board member, and now an enthusiastic supporter. She says the kind of education and experience that WRFI provides for young people is incredibly powerful. Sarah appreciates WRFI's approach to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, and most of all, inspiration. In college, she took Montana Afoot and Afloat, one of WRFI's original and flagship courses. One of WRFI's founders, Matt Thomas, was her instructor. Following the course, and in part because of her course experience, she pursued work in environmental and outdoor education, as well as a graduate degree in Environmental Studies (UM).

Sarah came back to work as an instructor on a few WRFI courses, including Montana Afoot and Afloat and Restoration Ecology. She says it was a great experience to facilitate the same kind of educational experience for her students as so benefitted her life. She even brought in some of the same readings, poems, and discussion topics as Matt Thomas had done on her original course. Later in life, Sarah served on the WRFI board for two terms, and continued with some committee work as a community member after her board terms ended.

Now, 28 years after her Afoot and Afloat course, Sarah continues to find ways to support WRFI. "I donate because I want to support the work and continue to be a part of WRFI's impact on students," she said.





93% of WRFI's students received some sort of financial aid in 2025!

This accounts for \$60,500 in aid given to WRFI students!

WRFI students rate protection of the natural world and public lands a 9.8/10 at the end of course!

2025 WRFI Students reported an average:

20% increase in their preparation to serve as an environmental steward and community leader in the world today

21% increase in their understanding of connections between social and environmental issues in the world today

80% increase in their understanding of environmental science and social issues in the regions of their courses

38% increase in their experience with outdoor living, camping, and backcountry skills!



THANK YOU

Individual Supporters

Earle Adams
Elizabeth Allsworth
Vallerye Anderson
Elizabeth Andre
Silas Andrews
Marylene Altieri
Dan Ardito
Matthew Baker-White
Melissa Baldwin
Woody and Lucinda Beardsley
Timothy Bechtold
Steve Belsky
Sarah Boatner
Tom Boatner
Eve and Gavin Boyce-Ratliff
Christine Brick
Shane Broderick
Darrell Brown
Stephen Brown
Charlotte Butz
Jean Cameron
Barbara Chenoweth
Beth Cogswell
Campbell Collins
Maura Connelly
Bob Cowdrick
Bea Crystal
Ruth Crystal
Mikayla Daigle

Hannah Danyo
Geoff Delisio
Catherine DeMets
Dennis DeMets
Christopher Densmore
Claire Deveney
Tom Deveny
Kristina Devir
Karen and Dennis DiBiase
Ashley Dresser
Dan Drucker
Katelyn Ervin
Andi Fichtelberg
Rae Fitzpatrick
John Fix
Mary Fix
Michael Fix
Emily Ford
James Ford
Rod Foster
Lucy France
Peter Francois
Josey French
Maximilian Fuerholzer
Amy Galipeau
Kitty Galloway
Lenny Gannes
Landon and Grace Gardner
Karen Gibbons

Keith and Anna Glavash
Gail Gutsche
Steven and Marilyn Gutsche
Hannah Hader
Susan Hall
Robin and Peggy Hamilton
Tom Happy
Amy Harmon
David Havlick
Kevin Heneghan
Danielle Higbee
Kevin Hood
Ramsay Huntley
Marlene Hutchins
Devra Ince
Danielle Ireland
Jonathon James
Ben Johnson
Mike Johnston
Joe Kallis
Carol Kegley
Samuel Kirkwood
Nerissa Koehn
Emet Koffman
Andrew Kostick
Jake Kreilick
Eric Kress
Julie Lapham
Janel Lawrence

Arnold Lerner
Joseph Lerner
Kevin Lewis
Halley Linscheid
Alicia Logan
Annika Mannix
Lisa Mannix
Colter Marcy
Keith May
Christy McCann
Mary McCann
Finn McCue
Keagan McCully
Melanie McCully
Margaret McDonough
Peter McDonough
Grace McNamara
Patricia McSweeney
Sheryl Felecia Means
Taylor Mendelsohn
John Miles
Fiona Monahan
Cheryl Morse
Kurt Muehmel
Anne Naito-Campbell
Gavin Nelson
Ian Nesbitt
Ebba Nordgren
William Old



*Have you made
your 2026 gift yet?
Make it Today!*

THANK YOU

Individual Supporters Cont.

Jonathan Oppenheimer
Kathleen Ort
Adria Osborne
Amber Painter
James Parker
David Parrish
Laura Pegram
Nick Pence
Beatrice Phear
Robert Plakke
Sarah Pohl and
Ethan Smith
Terrell Erickson and
Christopher Puttock
Robert M Quigg
Andres Ramos
Bonny-Bleu Ramsey
Julianna Rao
Natalie Reno
Sarah Richey
Kimberly Rivers
Mara Roccaforte
Joan Rosebush
Derek Roth Gordon
Ronda Roberts
Tom and Sue Roy
Dave Rubin
Maxwell Ryan
Rebecca Ryan

Michael Sagan
Robin Saha
Laurie Schlieb
Robert Scholz
Tim Schultz
David Sears
Gregory Serio
Steve Sheriff
Jill Siebert
Steve Belsky
Thomas Sneed
Margaret Sigley
Devin Sleezer
Amethyst Smith
Meg Smith
Sara Smith
Ali Solomon
Daniel Spencer
Cob Staines
Patricia Stenske
Marelise Steyn
Hannah Stone
Pearl Strong
Allison Struemke
John Sturgis
John V Surr
Neil Swanson
Luke Taylor
Jane Tenquist

William Thelen
Evan Thompson
Lilly Tuholske
Stacy Underwood
Jennifer Vallo
Juanita Vero
Bryan von Lossberg
Charles Waite
Bethanie Walder
Kirstin Waldkoenig
Susan Wall
Patricia Wellington
Willow West
Molly White
Nadia White
Mark Wiest
Rob Williams
Simon Winograd

Foundation Supporters

Ash Grove Charitable Foundation
Kreilick Family Foundation
Llewellyn Foundation
Tri-Coastal Foundation

Business Supporters

Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Black Coffee Roasters
Bedrock Sandals
Cambie Taphouse & Coffee
Clearwater Credit Union



GILD Brewing
Hyperlite Mountain Gear
Love Boat Paddle Company
Logjam Presents
Longstaff Farms
Lake Missoula Tea Company

Missoula Wine Merchants
RioCraft Rafts
Red Ants Pants
Stio
Tuff River Stuff
Whitewater Rescue Institute



*Have you made
your 2026 gift yet?
Make it Today!*



Dear WRFI donors,

Last year was a period of foundational growth for WRFI thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community of donors. **Because of you, WRFI was able to add three key staff positions** (including mine), allowing us to grow our community and expand our recruiting efforts across the country.

Importantly, you provided critical financial support in 2025 to students who might otherwise be unable to experience the transformational power of a WRFI course. As Dan Spencer said this year: **"I believe in the power of experiential education to transform lives, and transformed lives transform society."**

Thank you so much for your generosity and commitment to our mission!!

WRFI makes it easy to contribute. **Here are ways to give:**

- **Contribute to our spring campaign to support student financial aid!**
- **Become a monthly donor to provide consistent, reliable impact.**
- **Leave a lasting legacy by including WRFI in your estate plans.**
- **Corporate/Matching Gifts: Double your impact through your employers matching gift program.**

I would love to connect with you to hear WRFI stories and share the exciting projects we're working on!

Warmly,

Beth Cogswell
Director of Development



***Have you made
your 2026 gift yet?
Make it Today!***



“The WRFI Environmental Ethics course has been a completely transformative experience. I was privileged to hear from so many wonderful speakers, participate in phenomenal class discussion all while being surrounded by the utmost beauty.”

Teddy D.,
Environmental Ethics 2025,
Boston University



Wild Rockies Field Institute is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is fully tax deductible. Our Federal Identification Number is 81-0487425.

P.O. Box 7071, Missoula, MT, 59807



WILD ROCKIES
FIELD INSTITUTE