



The Summit Fund: Investing in Stewardship of the Dillon Ranger District

A Recreation-Dependent Destination: Summit County Colorado is one of the most popular recreation destinations in the country – hosting well over 4 million user days per year. Visitors enjoy skiing, hiking, biking, camping, and fishing in Summit County’s spectacular landscapes.

When these visitors pitch tents, head out on hikes and bike rides, hit the slopes, cast a fly, or go sightseeing, they are likely enjoying the surrounding White River National Forest. By participating in the National Forest Foundation’s (NFF’s) Summit Fund, businesses can invest in the health and future of the valuable National Forest lands that the County’s tourist industry relies on. The Summit Fund provides an opportunity for Summit County visitors to stay, play, and give back to the National Forest they enjoy.

The NFF’s Summit Fund gives Summit County lodges and restaurants an easy way for their guests to be stewards of the lands they love. With increasing visitor use, declining forest health, and tighter federal budgets, local partnerships and active stewardship are more critical than ever. Through this program, businesses collect small, voluntary donations from visitors to support projects that enhance wildlife habitat, improve streams, restore native plants, and repair trails on the surrounding Dillon Ranger District. Additionally, through the NFF’s partnerships with local conservation and stewardship groups, these funds help create jobs and provide volunteer opportunities in the local communities.

How it works. Contribution methods are designed to work within diverse models. For instance, visitors can contribute \$2 per night at lodges, donate \$1 per meal at local restaurants, or round up a bill. With such a high volume of visitors, these small contributions can add up to major investments. We can work with your business to find the model that works best. Businesses simply collect guest contributions and forward funds to the NFF. To increase the conservation benefits, contributions from all Summit County businesses will be pooled to have the greatest impact on the Dillon Ranger District. While benefiting forest health and sustainable recreation opportunities, these funds also benefit local communities by employing local groups and improving tourism resources.

Where the money goes. Funds will support projects that maintain and restore areas of the National Forest that help sustain the local economy. Summit County is fortunate to host the work of numerous nonprofit conservation stewardship groups, such as *Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, Friends of Eagle Nest Wilderness, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Blue River Watershed Group, Trout Unlimited, and Colorado Mountain Club.*



“Our partnership with NFF has helped us protect our surrounding National Forest and expand recreation opportunities for our guests.” - Gary Rodgers,

President and GM, Copper Mountain Resort

By partnering with NFF, **Copper Mountain** has invested nearly \$250,000 in customer donations in the stewardship of the White River National Forest.

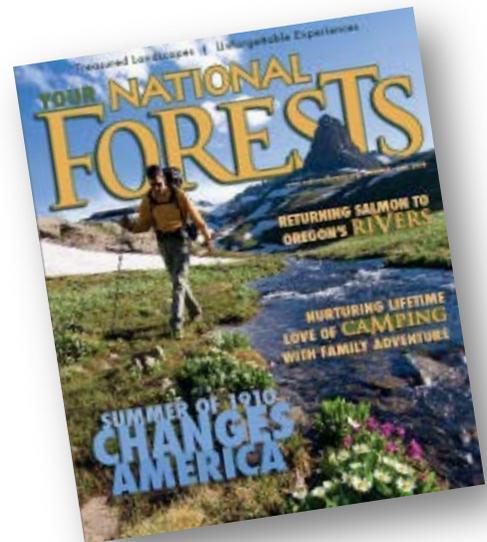
On a regular basis, the NFF will award the pooled donations contributed to the Summit Fund to these and other nonprofit partners and the U.S. Forest Service to implement high priority conservation projects on the Dillon Ranger District. These partner organizations will use the funds to accomplish measurable, on-the-ground results, employing full-time staff and seasonal workers and providing local volunteer opportunities. A small portion of the contributions go to the NFF to cover the direct administration of the program.

Tangible results. To provide participating businesses with clear expectations on how funds will be spent and the benefits that will be provided, the NFF has worked with the Dillon Ranger District to define a scope of work for the 2014-15 field seasons.

Donations contributed to the Summit Fund in 2014 will be awarded to nonprofit partners conducting work associated with the District's Upper Swan River Watershed Landscape Restoration Project. This project aims to conduct comprehensive restoration activities within the Upper Swan River watershed. The project will address water quality issues by restoring degraded riparian and instream habitat, including the reestablishment of native cutthroat trout populations, which will provide enhanced fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors. Additionally, the project will restore and improve trail systems within the watershed and implement other activities that will enhance the watershed's overall health, increasing recreation opportunities and creating more resilient forests.

In subsequent years, donations contributed to the Summit Fund will be used to support implementation of a 5-year scope of work that will involve habitat improvement, stream restoration, forest health, and trail maintenance and improvement activities. The NFF and Dillon Ranger District staff are currently working to develop this 5-year scope of work.

Benefits of participation. In addition to helping ensure the health and sustainability of the cornerstone of Summit County's tourist industry, participating businesses enjoy significant marketing benefits. Participating businesses will receive low-cost marketing opportunities to tout their efforts to give back to the White River National Forest and local nonprofit organizations. Participating businesses will be recognized in the NFF's magazine (distributed nationwide to 50,000 people), annual report, and Web site. We will also work with your business to help develop marketing materials that communicate partnership information to your customers and the community.



For more information, please contact Marcus Selig, NFF's Colorado Program Director, at (720) 437-0290 or mseelig@nationalforests.org

www.nationalforests.org