



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

2020 will be the year that we all remember in the decades to come (hopefully with a reflection on how it changed us for the good). We each carry our own unique stories from these days. Here is one of mine:

MAI began the year with new staff helping us work through the growing pains of an expanding organization. At the time, I believed that this was going to be our challenge for the year. The pandemic quickly trumped that notion and started a long sequence of events that tested the resiliency and flexibility of our staff, participants, board and partners.

From program cancellations to program modifications, Zoom calls to Marco Polo messages, virtual work to reduced work hours, and many more challenges, our people demonstrated an incredible commitment to find a way to persevere and keep the organization moving forward.

In reading this impact report, you will see some of the ways MAI pivoted to address the pandemic. In some cases, you'll read about how it actually created positive opportunities for the organization.

I hope that we don't face a disruption on the scale of the pandemic ever again, but if we do, I'm assured that the people of Mt. Adams Institute will find a way to work through it.

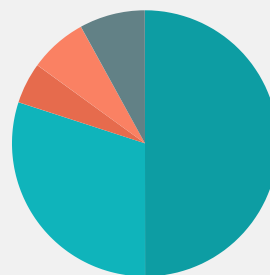
All the best,



Brendan Norman  
Executive Director

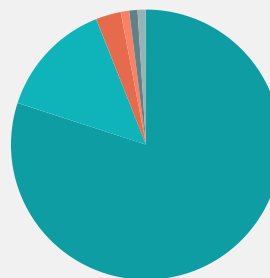


## 2020 EXPENSES: \$1,615,107



- Participant Stipends (50%)
- Program Staff (30%)
- Administrative Staff (5%)
- Administrative Infrastructure (7%)
- Program Expenses (8%)

## 2020 REVENUE: \$1,767,856



- Career Development Programs (80%)
- PPP Loan (14%)
- Foundations/Individual Support (3%)
- Education Programs (1%)
- Facility Rental (1%)
- Miscellaneous (1%)



# PROGRAMS



VetsWork Environment engages military veterans in natural resources and public lands management through a 45 week, career development AmeriCorps internship program.



VetsWork GreenCorps is a career training AmeriCorps program for military veterans interested in wildland firefighting.



Public Lands Stewards is a career development AmeriCorps program for young adults, ages 21-30, interested in public lands management.



Mt. Adams Institute Summer Camp is an outdoor education program for kids curious about exploring the natural world.



Sense of Place is a placed-based education program that provides opportunities to learn about the Columbia Gorge region and its related history, people, and unique landscapes.



## MISSION

Mt. Adams Institute's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research.

## WHO WE SERVE

MAI serves youth, young adults, adults and families because we believe that a strong connection with nature benefits people of all ages and walks of life. We seek out opportunities to connect individuals with the natural world who are historically underrepresented in outdoor recreation and natural resource career areas.

## IMPACT

Through our programs, Mt. Adams Institute creates opportunities for people to connect meaningfully with the natural world in order to:

- Improve personal health and wellbeing,
- Increase ecological literacy and a sense of interconnectedness,
- Promote lifelong environmental stewardship and action,
- Enhance civic and community engagement, and
- Facilitate career opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, conservation, and education.



# AMERICORPS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our VetsWork GreenCorps program was cancelled. This data is from our 2020 VetsWork Environment and Public Lands Stewards interns.



## 789

community volunteers engaged

## 3,726

students exposed to environmental education

## 1,663

miles of trails maintained



## 1,292

acres treated for wildfire suppression

## 412,000

native trees, plants, and shrubs planted

## 500,000

hatchery fish released



## 492

miles of road maintained





# AMERICORPS MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



All things considered, despite Covid, the shutdowns, telework, and the endless national crises that have made 2020 so interesting, I feel that I've made considerable and invaluable personal progress during the internship. I'd like to give a huge thanks to my amazing support team at Mt. Adams Institute, and my co-workers within the Forest Service.

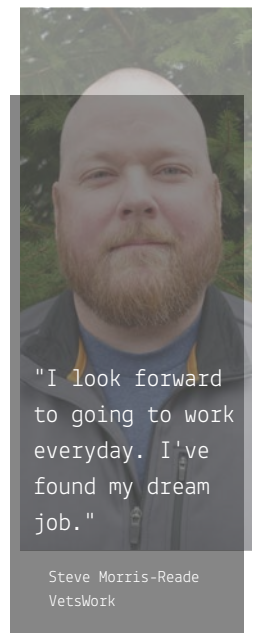
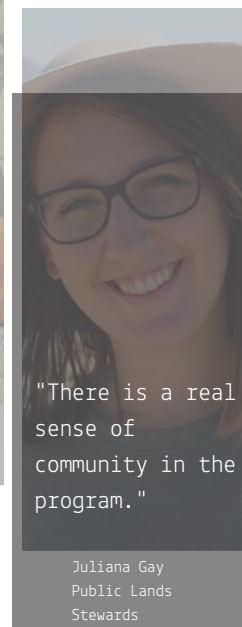
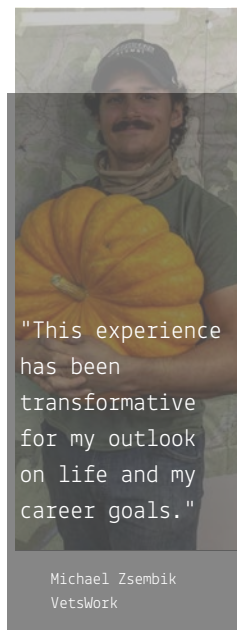
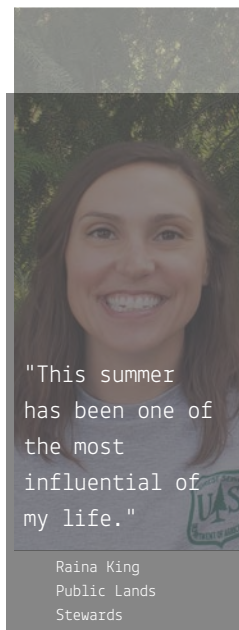
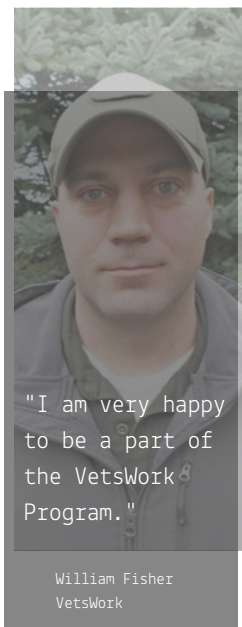
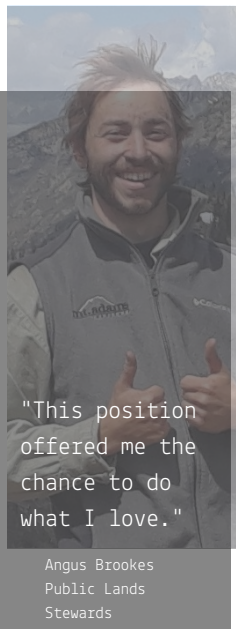
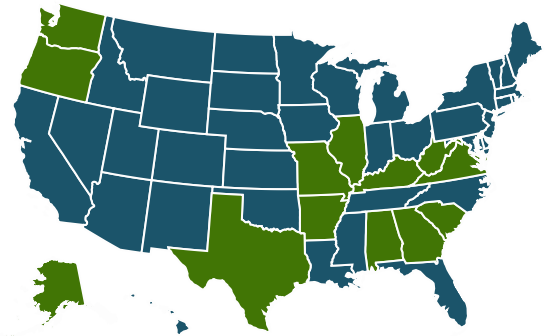
- Chris Olsted, VetsWork 2020  
Archeological Collections Management Intern  
Ozark - St. Francis National Forest

I can't be more thankful for my position as a Public Lands Stewards intern and the adaptability of Mt. Adams Institute to ensure that this season of important conservation work wasn't lost. I am excited to continue growing and building both work and life skills over the next few months before I have to transition to the next step along my career path. But for now I have never been so content to enjoy a place and time.

- Dakota Miller, Public Lands Stewards 2020  
Refuge Technician  
Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge



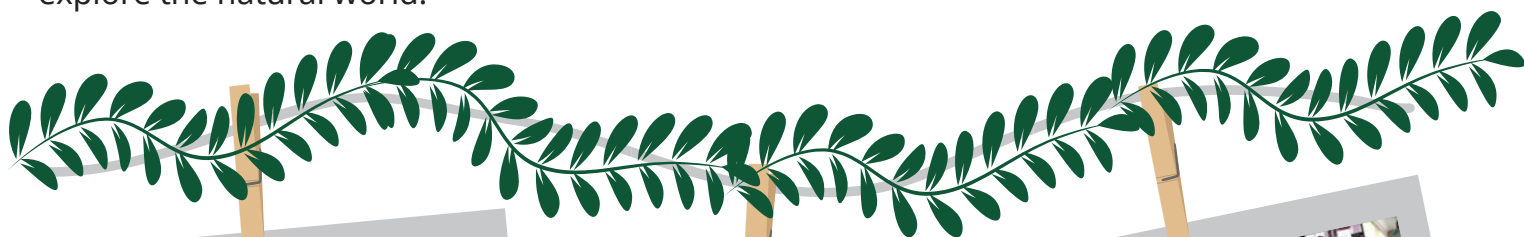
## 49 AmeriCorps Members across 13 states!



# MT. ADAMS INSTITUTE SUMMER CAMP

**YOU MAY REMEMBER US AS CASCADE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL. WE CHANGED OUR NAME BUT ARE OFFERING THE SAME GREAT OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS!**

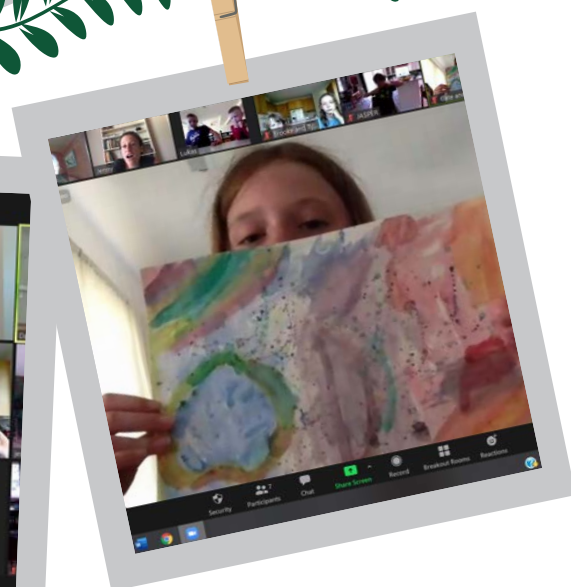
It is hard to imagine a summer without camp. While the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to make some changes, we were excited to offer a variation on our normal in person camp model. A-HA!, At-Home Adventure Camps, was created to provide some fun and engaging activities for campers, give kids an opportunity to visit with others and inspire them to get outside and explore the natural world.



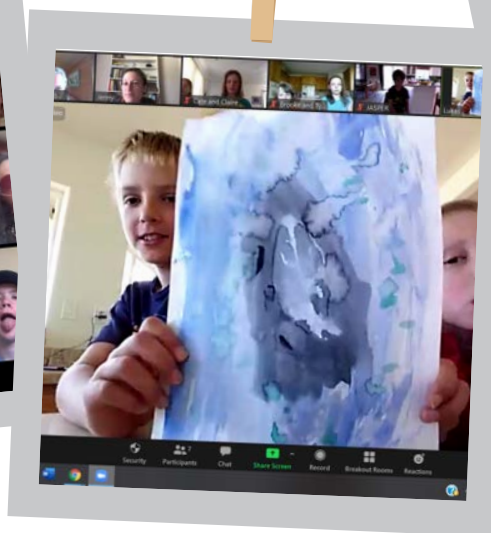
**8 VIRTUAL SUMMER  
CAMPS**



**66 CAMPERS  
FROM 38  
HOUSEHOLDS**



**100 KITS MADE  
& 1 MAILED**



**PARTNERSHIP WITH WHITE  
SALMON SUMMER SCHOOL**



# SENSE OF PLACE

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Sense of Place is a new program of Mt. Adams Institute that provides opportunities to learn about the Columbia Gorge region and its related history, people and unique landscapes. While it is new to Mt. Adams Institute, Sense of Place started in 2010 and has 11 seasons. Traditionally lectures are in person, but this year we live-streamed on Zoom. All lectures were archived on [our website](#) for the first time!

Season 11 was unique, challenging, fun, and very memorable. It also allowed Sense of Place to reach greater and more diverse audiences than ever before. We are looking forward to an even better Season 12 in October 2021.

## Season 11 Lectures:

- Responding to a Pandemic: An Indigenous Perspective
  - Black Pioneers on the Oregon Trail
  - Klickitat County: The Cradle of Plant Based Diets
  - Pikas Under Fire: American Pika Ecology and Behavior in a Time of Global Change
  - Meet Your Neighbor: A Conversation with Gladys Rivera / Conozca a Su Vecino: Una Conversacion con Gladys Rivera
  - The Legacy and Promise of Land Grant Universities and Oregon State University Extension in the Gorge
  - Magical, Menacing, and Magnificent Wildlife: How to Ensure Their Future in the Gorge
- 



# 2070

total attendees

# 915

archived video views  
(as of July 2021)

# 8

archived lectures,  
one translated in Spanish



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service



# \$7,620

in donations and sponsors

# 2020 DONATIONS & GRANTS

Erin Jermyn  
Andrew Durbin  
Jenna Dodenhoff  
Marijke Weaver  
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Tina Rivkin  
John & Marci Shuman

Wheeler Foundation  
Benevity Fund

Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust  
First Interstate Bank

Oregon Community Foundation  
Amazon Smile

## SENSE OF PLACE SPONSORS

Columbia Insight  
Fishpeople  
Columbia Gorge Physical Therapy  
Kaisen Coaching  
Mosko Moto  
Dog River Coffee  
Farmer's Conservation Alliance

Insitu  
Cascade Carnivore Project  
Plymale & Gillespie, CPAs, PLLC  
Radcomp Technologies  
Heather & Bob Weisfield  
Judy Maule  
Kym & Mark Zanmiller

Mike Hendricks & Leanne Hogie  
Scott & Cecelia Goodnight  
Laurie & John Johnston  
Matt Byrne & Lauren Kolojchick-Kotch  
The Salvador Fund  
Hood River Cultural Trust

## 2020 PARTNERS

### U. S. Forest Service:

*Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest  
Chugach National Forest  
Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area  
Davy-Crockett National Forest  
Daniel Boone National Forest  
Deschutes National Forest  
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area  
Mark Twain National Forest  
Malheur National Forest  
Monongahela National Forest  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
Ozark-St. Francis National Forest  
Shawnee National Forest  
Siuslaw National Forest  
Sumter National Forest  
Talladega National Forest  
Tongass National Forest  
Umatilla National Forest  
Umpqua National Forest*

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

*Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatchery Complex  
Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery*

### National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

### King Conservation District

### Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

### Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

### Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN)

### Willamette Riverkeeper

### AmeriCorps



**AmeriCorps**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

In 2020 we embarked on a capital campaign to construct a new outdoor meeting space. We are thrilled to announce that the pavilion is complete and already in use!

With access to electricity and WiFi, it is the perfect spot to meet, run programs, and get people outdoors.

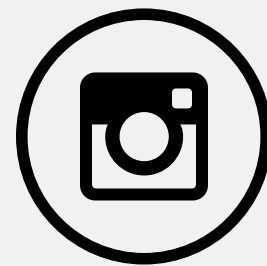
Thank you to all of our generous supporters and donors. Without you, this would not be possible.



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WE'D LOVE TO HEAR  
FROM YOU.

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