

The logo for the Northwoods Stewardship Center features the words "NORTHWOODS" and "STEWARDSHIP CENTER" in a green, serif font. A green leaf-like graphic is positioned behind the word "NORTHWOODS".

NORTHWOODS
STEWARDSHIP CENTER

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

The background of the report cover is a scenic landscape photograph. It shows a vast view of rolling hills and mountains covered in dense forests. The trees exhibit autumn colors, ranging from deep greens to bright yellows and oranges. In the foreground, a large, dark evergreen tree stands prominently on the right side. A winding river or lake is visible in the middle ground, reflecting the sky. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds against a pale blue background.

www.northwoodscenter.org

NORTHWOODS

STEWARDSHIP CENTER



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE THROUGH SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND ACTION.

NORTHWOODS YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Andrew Cappello - *Education Director*
Meghann Carter - *Conservation Science Director*
Jessica Colby - *Riparian Lands Project Coordinator*
Marie Desrosiers - *Administrative Assistant*
Kelsey Evans - *Communications Director*
Megan Hampton - *ECO AmeriCorps Member*
Charles Hill - *Northern Field Coordinator*
Dusty May - *Conservation Corps Director*
Susan Moore - *Business Director*
Amy Palaia - *Administrative Assistant*
Devan Pensinger - *Forestry Outreach Coordinator*
Sam Perron - *Director of Forest Stewardship*
Blase Saucedo - *Conservation Corps Assistant Director*
Mike Stevens - *Head of Maintenance*
Simon Thomas - *AmeriCorps Member*
Maggie Townley - *AmeriCorps Member*
Katlynn Vredenburgh - *Natural Sciences Program Coordinator*
Dana Welch - *ECO AmeriCorps Member*
Maria Young - *Executive Director*

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Thank you to our 2022 departing staff:
Corrie Desilets - *AmeriCorps Member*
Hanson Menzies - *ECO AmeriCorps Member*

Thank you to the seasonal staff that serve as conservation and forestry crew leaders and members, camp instructors, and AmeriCorps members.

CONTACT US

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Cover photo by Jason A. Frank.
View from Haystack Mtn.

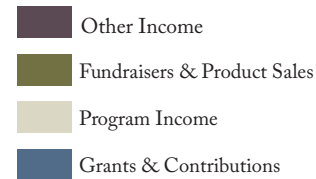
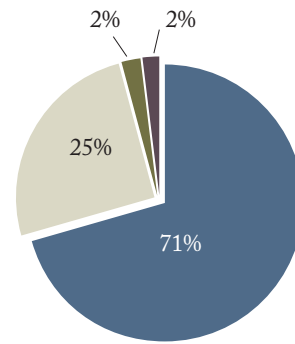
NorthWoods Stewardship Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NorthWoods Stewardship Center
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2022

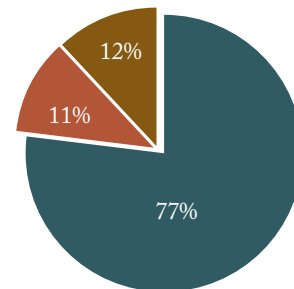
Revenues

Grants & Contributions	\$ 1,385,825
Program Income	494,787
Fundraisers & Product Sales	43,282
Other Income	36,570
Total Revenue	\$ 1,960,467



Expenses

Program Services	\$ 1,425,722
Development	207,181
General & Administration	215,669
Total Expenses	\$ 1,848,572



Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....	\$ 2,758,654
Net Assets, End of Year.....	\$ 2,879,344
Increase in Net Assets.....	\$ (110,690)

Expenses by Program

Conservation Corps	\$ 769,700
Education Programs	165,684
Forest Stewardship	142,857
Conservation Science	347,481
Development	207,181
General & Administrative	215,669
Total Expenses.....	\$1,848,572

Photo by Jason A. Frank - Kyle Sykes of East Charleston completing the final few feet of the 2022 Westmore Mountain Challenge





2022 Women's Crew (left to right): Anna Crabtree, Ella Switser, Hannah Keith, Melanie Ahmetspahic, Abby Gerhardt, and Ashley Cray.

INAUGURAL WOMEN'S CREW

Women have long made up a larger-than-usual proportion of NorthWoods crews and staff at large but in 2022 we were excited to host our first women's-only crew, consisting of three college-age leaders and three high-school-age members. These six young women spent the summer building trail throughout the NEK and we caught up with them hard at work at Kingdom Trails.

While many of the members didn't expressly seek out participation in the women-only crew, upon joining they found it to be a rewarding fit, allowing them the space to break free from stereotypes and talk about their past experiences while working hard on their trail building and maintenance duties. "The vibe is the same, the work is the same, but it is a safe space," said crew member Ella Switser, who has enjoyed working on the Day Crew for the past two years.

"NorthWoods has opened so many doors to me, helping me to understand I can work outdoors full-time and make a living off of that."

- Co-leader Anna Crabtree

Crew co-leader Ash Cray previously led crews for other conservation organizations and said she experienced many challenges being respected as a woman in a male-dominated field. She has found working with the all-women team to be "a really awesome experience" and in line with her goals of working with youth—particularly young women—in conservation.

In addition to performing needed trail work, the group was visited throughout the season by a series of women conservation professionals. Speakers such as Kerry O'Brien, Project Director with the Vermont Land Trust, and Maggie Machinist, a regional forester with the New Hampshire Division of Forests &

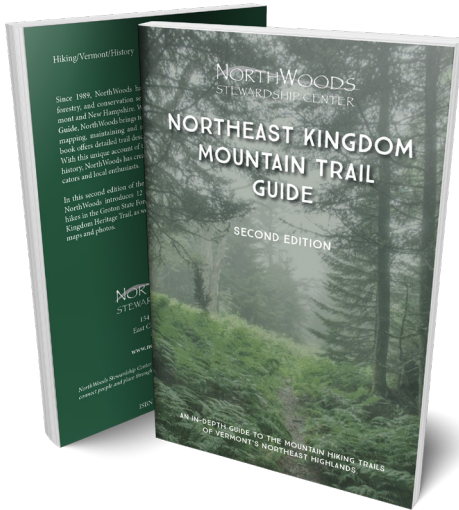
Lands, met with crew members at the work site, providing a model of the career options available to young women and speaking to the challenges and experiences that have impacted their own careers.

Notably, every crew member expressed how working for NorthWoods has broadened their experience and outlook on career options or helped them realize their capabilities in pursuing a job that allows them to work outside. Crew member Hannah Keith has always enjoyed physical labor and working with her hands—speaking to women professionals helped cement her interest in conservation, "I didn't think that I could have a job in conservation that included working with my hands and getting dirty. It has really opened my eyes to the fact that to make an impact I don't have to be a scientist in a lab; I can actually be doing stuff on the ground."

The crew members hail from a variety of locations and backgrounds, some, like Abigail Gerhardt, comes from a family background of conservation professionals in Vermont, while others like co-leader Anna Crabtree travelled from her home state of Ohio to serve for a second season with the Corps, "NorthWoods has opened so many doors to me, helping me to understand I can work outdoors full-time and make a living off of that."

All the young women expressed their eagerness for the future projects—particularly a week spent camping and working alongside the Pro Crew in the White Mountains—yet another opportunity to hone their skills and get a taste for the rich options ahead.

NEK MOUNTAIN TRAIL GUIDE 2.0 RELEASED



In 2022, ten years after it was first released, we published the updated second edition of the Northeast Kingdom Mountain Trail Guide! This comprehensive, 250-page guide to the mountain hiking trails of northeastern Vermont includes photos, maps and descriptions of 20 mountains and 27 trail systems, as well as details on the history of trail building, the Civilian Conservation Corps, firetowers, natural history, and much more. The second edition introduces 12 new mountain trail descriptions to the book including hikes in the Groton State Forest and the recently completed long-distance Kingdom Heritage Trail.

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) endorsed the Guide, saying, “I am delighted to see NorthWoods continue to share access and insight to the beautiful mountains of northeastern Vermont. From the first Forest Legacy project at Cow Mountain Pond, to the recently opened Kingdom Heritage Trail, this book, like those trails, is a valuable resource.”

After it's release in July of 2022, the book was met with enthusiasm in the regional community—selling out of its initial 1000 run printing within four months of release. Now in its second printing, the trail guide will continue to be a resource for hikers in the NEK for years to come as they explore the well-loved and lesser-known trails of our beautiful corner of the state.

THE CONSERVATION BARN'S FIRST SEASON

Thanks to the support of funders, the new Conservation Barn was completed in the spring of 2022, just in time for the busy summer field season. This two story, four season structure is quite an impressive upgrade from our wobbly old three bay shed which served us for over 20 years(!).

The new Barn features working space for all of our programs including a heated classroom space with workbench, and hand tool storage, an enclosed garage for working on motorized equipment, and an outdoor equipment bay. Upstairs, the loft provides ample storage for off-season items.

This building is a huge upgrade for our programs and will welcome hundreds of crew members and workshop participants each year who will use this building as their base for tending tools, planting trees, building trails, and doing forestry work throughout the year.





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