

FIELD NOTES

Spring 2024

A Note from Canuche



Gratitude, Plan and Privilege. I feel gratitude for the community that supports WRI's mission to connect people, communities and the natural world. That support comes through hundreds of donations and thousands of volunteer hours. Thank you!

I am grateful for those community members and our team who make our mission a reality. Wenatchee River Institute's team of board members and staff have dedicated hundreds of hours to building a new Strategic Plan for WRI. It points us towards increasing awareness, connection, action, and care for our team (keep reading for details). I am excited for you to see it!

I feel privileged to lead WRI as we guide kids through their first experience of exploring silent snowy forests or fascinate our community over the history of snow sports in our valley on chilly winter's night. I look forward to connecting and sharing those experiences with more people of North Central Washington in 2024. Thanks for the trust!



Canuche Terranella
Executive Director

Pride Outside!

On a rare sunny day in February, WRI teamed up with Wenatchee Pride and Mountain Queers to put on the first queer-led edition of our educational strolls through the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery!



Every participant strolled free of charge thanks to the generosity of Wenatchee Pride

Despite the low-snow conditions, spirits were high. The group took to the trails in awe of the natural setting. As the group stopped for hot cocoa on the trail, they made new connections sharing experiences as queer folks in the outdoors.

"The strength of our community is invaluable. Being out with this group made my heart feel so full"

***- Mason Powers, Mountain Queers Director
and WRI Outreach Coordinator***

Finishing the day, some participants left to share a post-stroll drink together! WRI is excited to be developing relationships with more organizations for future programming.



Wenatchee River
INSTITUTE

Connecting People, Communities and the Natural World

5-Year Strategic Plan

Increase Our Reach

Diversify our audience geographically and demographically. Create opportunities for every person in North Central Washington to engage with WRI.

Build Community

Increase community connection, dialogue, and shared responsibility for taking action.

Inspire Action

Grow membership, volunteer participation, and giving for WRI. Equip our community with actionable next steps in every program and event.

Be a Great Workplace

Create financial and operational durability with a well-compensated and passionate staff. Inspire staff to see themselves and their work in the mission and vision of WRI.

2023 Annual Report – Short and Sweet

As we start looking into 2024, we are excited to celebrate the wins of 2023. With the help of our expanded Field Day, Planetarium and Traveling Naturalist programs, we connected twice as many youth with nature in 2023 than the year before.

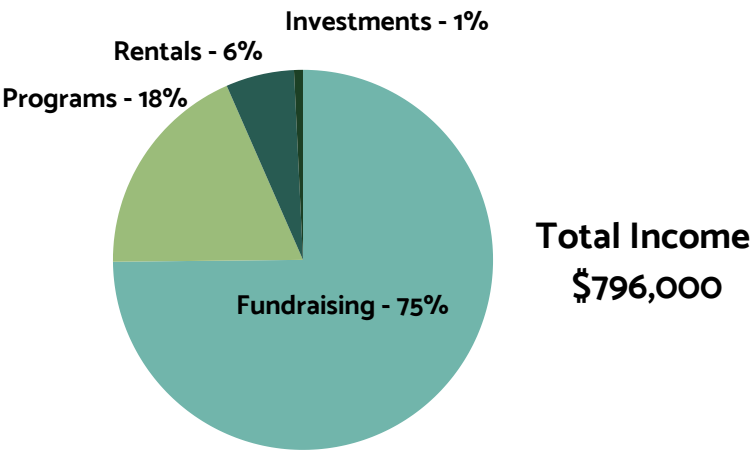


Chart above illustrates our total income in 2023. 75% of our funds came from grants, personal donations, and business sponsorships.

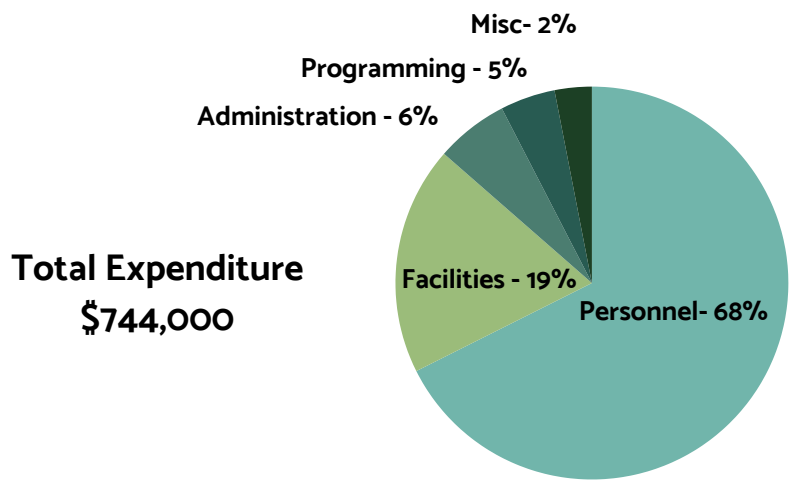


Chart above illustrates our total expenses in 2023. 68% of our funds went to paying staff as they facilitate all areas of WRI programming.

Of course, not all contributions come in the form of a check. We could not succeed without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers help run Bird Fest, educate students on Field Days, stuff envelopes, decorate for events, and more.

Special thanks to the Cascade Garden Club for dedicating over 300 hours to keeping WRI’s 7 gardens beautiful and welcoming in 2023. In 2024, volunteers spent a total of 3,433 hours helping across WRI’s programs. We are so lucky to have so many dedicated volunteers on our team!

Youth and Community Contact Trends

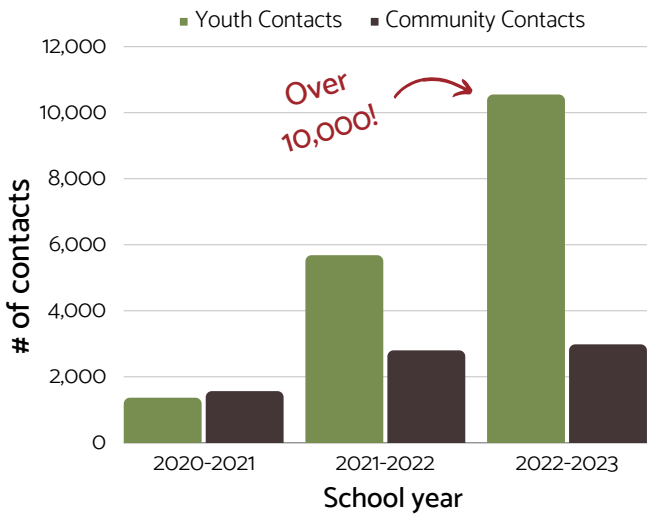


Chart above illustrates total number of contacts from September-August of each school year. 1 contact = 1 event attendee or days of instruction.

You’ll notice two things from the charts on the left. The first is that most of our income comes from donations from people like you! With the help from you, WRI met our fundraising goals. Our numerous environmental education programs are funded by people in our community who care. Thank you!

The second is that WRI’s largest expenses go towards supporting our staff. We believe that great programs need inspired staff. Thank you for believing in them and supporting them in this community!



Total Volunteer Hours



STAFF:

Canuche Terranella
Rebecca Ryan
Deanna Butcher
Randee Zerger
Mason Powers
Sara Evans
Brandon Hughes
Sean Eriksen
Tucker Jonas
Joshua Schaub
Michaela Drougas
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WRI's Nature Journal

Entry No. 3: Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)

We have this giant to thank for our robust riparian ecosystems! Learn more about one of Washington's native trees below.

- Talk about well traveled! You can find this wetland species alongside rivers and creeks from Alaska, to central California, and even central Montana!
- Beavers, birds, rabbits, deer, fish and insects all have the Black Cottonwood to thank for food and habitat.
- Salicin, found in the bark, leaves, and buds of the cottonwood can be used to lower fevers and reduce pain as a natural anti-inflammatory.
- Learn how to harvest Black Cottonwood buds at our upcoming workshop series! Visit our website for more info.



Disclaimer: Please refer to an official guide while foraging for edible materials. Eat foraged items at your own risk.

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- A Note from Canuche
- Pride Outside
- Our New Strategic Plan
- 2023 Annual Report
- Thank you, donors!

Reflect on 2023 with us.

What's inside?

FIELD NOTES Spring 2024

Thank you to everyone who supported WRI in 2023!

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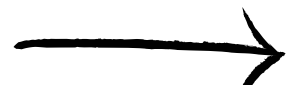
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