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# 2021 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



*San Juan Mountains  
Association*

EXPLORE ♦ LEARN ♦ PROTECT

**TOTAL  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS**

**5,001  
HOURS**

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**Season Highlights**

**Adopt a Road**

**2005 Hours**

**Wilderness Volunteers**

**1135 Hours**

**Ice Lakes Basecamp**

**274 Hours**

**National Public Lands Day 65 Hours**

**Colorado Public Lands Day 108 Hours**



# Learning to manage and thrive in a new normal.

**Last year, when COVID-19 shut down the world economy it was shocking and disorienting. In 2021 with a new vaccine and a better understanding of how the virus functions, things began returning to normal. For SJMA, we adapted by moving more trainings and programming outdoors, hiring on a dozen seasonal staff to help accomplish our stewardship goals, and adjusting our standard operating procedures to accommodate public health precautions.**

**While many volunteers are hesitant to return to social scenarios, many have returned to our volunteer programs, and we expect this to continue going forward.**





# Visitor Information Services

**SJMA's visitor information outlets serve as personal guides, informing visitors about all the amazing opportunities available in Southwest Colorado**

## **Our Visitor Information Service team's goals are to:**

- Enhance the visitor experience by providing information about public lands
- Encourage visitors to visit public lands responsibly
- Serve as the conduit between visitors and land managers

***This season, despite continued closure of our retail outlets due to COVID-19, our staff still made 14,538 phone contacts and 4,780 in-person.***

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## **Visitor Center Bookstores**

This year our visitor center bookstores in the San Juan, Rio Grande, and GMUG National Forests utilized some creative solutions, such as setting up a popup store outside the Public Lands Center, to continue serving the public.

## **Public Land Ambassadors**

As part of our partnership with San Juan National Forest, San Juan County, GOCO and MSI, SJMA staff set up Information Booths at Molas Pass, Ice Lakes, and Silverton Visitor Center. Our staff provided helpful information to visitors about the forest, camping, road access, and backcountry safety.





# Conservation Education and Stewardship



## Wilderness Volunteers

This year we continued the long running Wilderness Information Specialists program as Wilderness Volunteers. Volunteers contributed over 1,135 hours and contacted roughly 5,351 visitor contacts.

## Ice Lakes Educational Basecamp

In response to overwhelming increases in visitation, we mobilized almost 274 hours of volunteer service hours at Ice Lakes just for one month from September 15-October 15.

Volunteers stepped up when the trail reopened after last season's wildfire to greet hikers, clean up trash, and promote Leave No Trace practices.

## Adopt a Road

Our Adopt a Road volunteers were thrilled to get back to work after last year's slow season. Led by SJMA's Patti Brady, AAR racked up 2005 hours of patrol work.

## Service Days

### National Public Lands Day

For 2021 we hosted dual National Public Lands Day events with the Dolores RD and Tres Rios BLM office. Between the Cherry Creek dispersed camping clean up and Bradfield Bridge stewardship work we contributed 65 hours of service from 18 volunteers.

### Colorado Public Lands Day

Retired Wilderness Ranger Anne Dal Vera led a crosscut saw certification class to increase our forest's capacity to keep trails clear and open. We had 6 participants for a total of 108 hours.

# Education Programs

## Continued Success and Program Growth

In another year full of challenges and pitfalls, we are celebrating great success. Despite the many hurdles we faced including high turnover rates in the school districts, hiring scarcity, and a continuing pandemic, we still managed to get well over a thousand youth out and engaged with the local landscape through education and stewardship.



## Program Totals

**Students Served :**  
**1392**

**Total Programs:**  
**50**

**Total Contact Hours:**  
**1227**

**Adults Served:**  
**73**

**Total Volunteer Hours:**  
**660**

This year was filled with new partnerships and expanding programs. We made it through the busiest parts of our year without a single COVID-19 case (knock on wood). While schools are still on rolling shutdowns and the future feels uncertain we are more prepared than ever to face what lies ahead.

