

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING PEOPLE, NATURE AND COMMUNITY SINCE 1986



# Letter from our Board Chair and Executive Director



**2014 was a year of success for North Cascades Institute.** We served more children, families and adult participants than ever before, grew our scholarships and set the stage for growth in several program areas. Thanks to our core partners — North Cascades National Park, US Forest Service, Western Washington University and Seattle City Light — for their support.

**2014 saw impressive participation in our youth programs.** Both Mountain School and Youth Leadership Adventures were filled to capacity, and we plan to expand both in the

coming year with additional scholarship support. Family and adult programs were also strong, particularly Family Getaways, Base Camp, Skagit Tours and Group Programs. Please take a look at the program charts on the back page!

**Our graduate partnership with Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University is unique.** We invested resources into video interviews with alumni, website improvements and outreach and, as a result, are seeing the largest pool of applicants in the program's history. We hosted an all-alumni reunion at the Environmental Learning Center with representatives of all 14 cohorts, where we celebrated Professor John Miles' retirement after 46 years of teaching.

**We continued to find ways to meet people in their own communities.** With Mountaineers Books we produced events in Seattle, Everett, Mount Vernon, Leavenworth and Bellingham to celebrate the new book *The North Cascades: Finding Beauty and Renewal in the Wild Nearby* with authors William Dietrich, Craig Romano and Christian Martin, reaching thousands of current and future stewards of our *wild nearby*!

**We bought a house!** Growth in our graduate program and increased needs for staff to support our expanding youth programs led us to purchase eight acres in Marblemount at the confluence of the Skagit River and Diobsud Creek. Our first off-campus investment in the upriver community, the "Blue House" will be home for staff and graduate students, as well as our own organic garden.

**We couldn't have done all of this without you.** We continue to be humbled by your support and belief in our mission to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education. YOU are helping to provide transformative learning experiences to thousands of young people. In particular, your support of youth scholarships has helped connect many kids with the *wild nearby* of the North Cascades ecosystem.

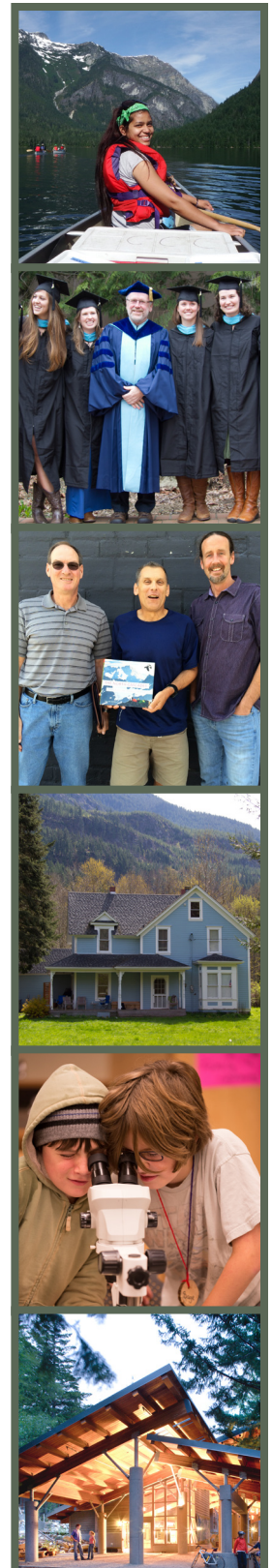
**As we move into 2015, we will celebrate two significant milestones: 25 years of Mountain School and 10 years of the Environmental Learning Center.** Please join us at the Learning Center on August 23 for a free celebration with food and fun activities. Looking toward to the future, we will:

- Reach a larger, broader and more diverse audience
- Inspire participants in our programs to make changes in their lives that positively affect their communities and environment
- Engage and mentor young people with programs that emphasize leadership and outdoor adventure
- Increase, and measure, the impact of all our programs

We are grateful for your support.  
Come visit us in the mountains!

Nan McKay,  
Board Chair

Saul Weisberg,  
Executive Director



## PORTRAIT OF A NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE M.ED. GRADUATE STUDENT >>



Lauren Marzilliano, Class of 2004, shares why she signed up for the Institute's Graduate M.Ed. Program, what she got out of it and how she landed her dream job after graduating. **Watch the video >>** [www.ncascades.org/study/alumni-profile-videos](http://www.ncascades.org/study/alumni-profile-videos)

# 2014 Financials

## UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contracts, tuition and fees, net	\$ 1,393,487
Investment income	213,019
Contributions	362,496
Foundation grants	411,352
Government grants	244,130
In-kind contributions	230,460
Learning Center Fund ( <i>Seattle Foundation</i> )	390,000
Bookstores (retail/outreach), net	<u>142,562</u>
	<b>3,387,506</b>

### EXPENSES

Programs	2,521,694
Management and general	207,669
Fundraising	<u>237,336</u>
	<b>2,966,699</b>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

**\$ 420,807**

## UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 380,099
Short-term investments	677,080
Receivables, net	143,724
Inventory and other	100,725
Long-term investments	4,369,035
Property and equipment, net	<u>384,016</u>
	<b>6,054,679</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	69,054
Line of Credit (house purchase)	317,115
Accrued expenses	65,879
Deferred revenue and other	<u>20,572</u>
	<b>472,620</b>

### NET ASSETS

Operating reserve	1,600,000
Unrestricted funds and temporarily restricted funds	1,578,250
Conservation Education Fund	1,573,135
Nugent Family Fund	524,378
Darby Foundation Scholarship Fund	25,102
Youth Leadership Fund (Ginny Darvill)	197,988
John Miles Graduate Fund	35,636
North Cascades Conservation Council	<u>47,570</u>
Founders Fund	<b>5,582,059</b>

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**\$ 6,054,679**

Audited financial statements and independent auditor's report can be found at [www.ncascades.org/financials](http://www.ncascades.org/financials).

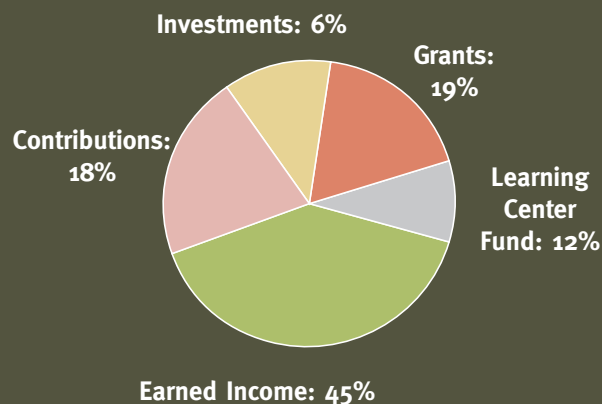


North Cascades Institute has received ten consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

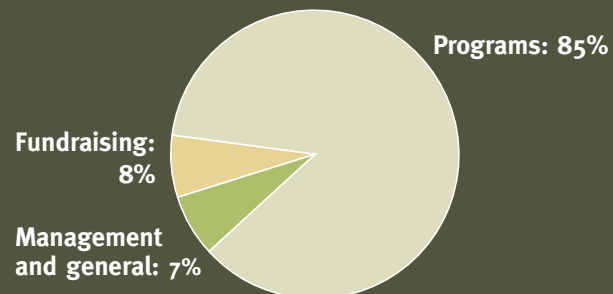
**THANK YOU TO OVER 600 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS WHO GAVE IN 2014!**

[www.ncascades.org/donors](http://www.ncascades.org/donors)

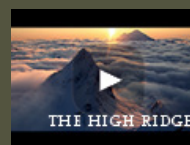
**Revenue: \$3,387,506**



**Expenses: \$2,966,699**



### PORTRAIT OF NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE >>



Watch the video online >>

[www.ncascades.org/multimedia](http://www.ncascades.org/multimedia)

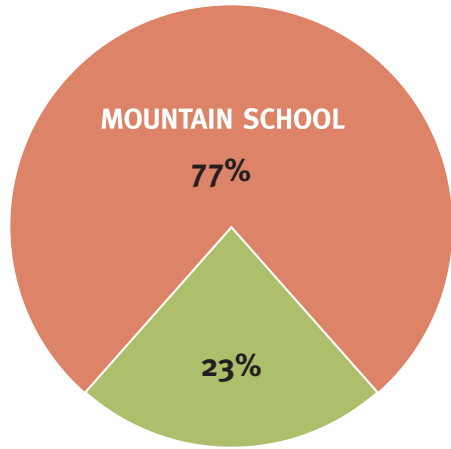
*North Cascades Institute is a lodestone for inspiration and connection. Where else can you catch a glimpse of a black bear or a tail of wolverine, behold an ephemeral dragonfly, sketch down the peaks and hike under a stream of migrating warblers - all in a weekend? Nothing is more gratifying than the discovery of people, nature and history through the programs of North Cascades Institute.*

- Joan Poor,  
Donor & Participant

# IT ALL ADDS UP: 25,370 days in the field each year!

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

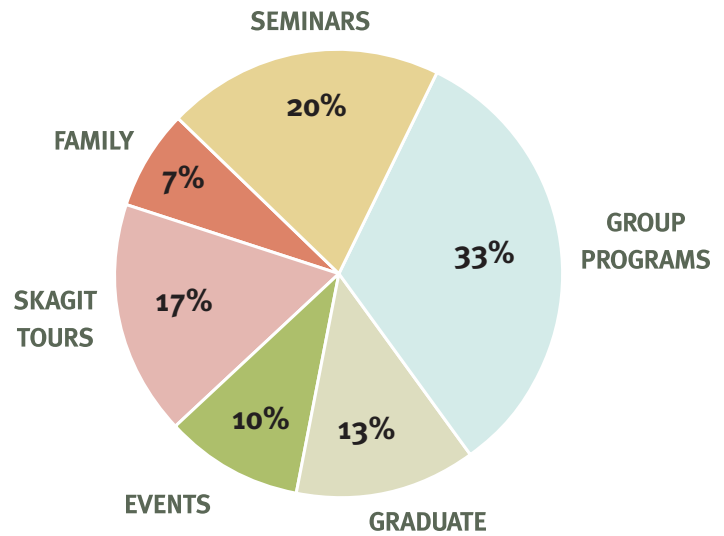
Participant days = 10,880



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

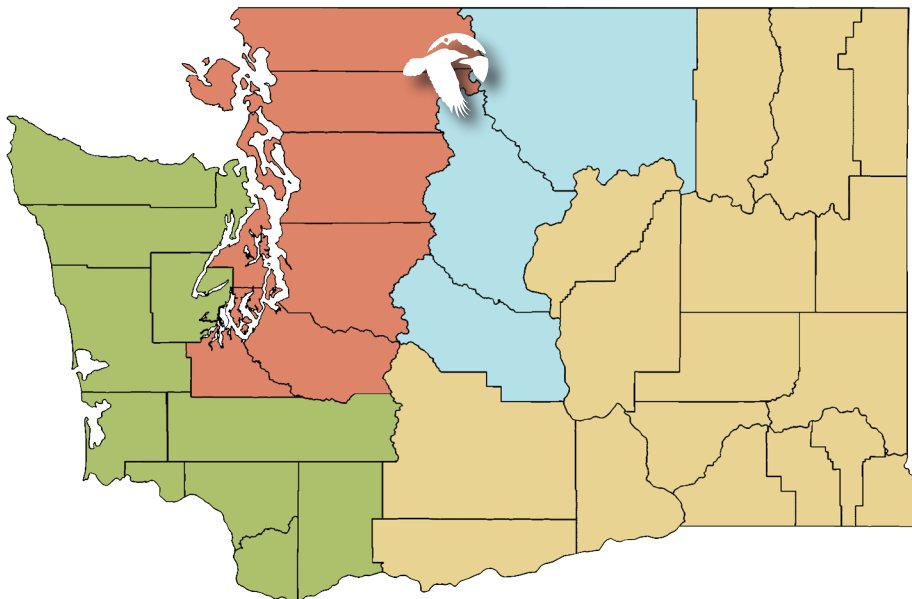
## FAMILY and ADULT PROGRAMS, EVENTS

Participant days = 14,490



## 8,371 AUDIENCE REACH

91 FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA



- **6933**  
GREATER PUGET SOUND BASIN
- **266**  
EASTERN CASCADES
- **92**  
OLYMPIC PENINSULA & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
- **36**  
EASTERN WASHINGTON

**27** FROM OTHER COUNTRIES    **926** FROM OTHER STATES

MANY THANKS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO CONTRIBUTED WORK FOR THIS PUBLICATION INCLUDING RICK ALLEN, BUFF BLACK, ANDY PORTER, JESSICA HAAG, JODI BROUGHTON, LARA SWIMMER AND ROSE OLIVER

[YOUTH YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORTS online >>](#)

In 2014, Mountain School and Youth Leadership Adventures reached thousands of young students. Learn about where the students come from, what they learn and how they are impacted in these transformational programs.



Mountain School on ISSU



Youth Leadership Adventures on ISSU