

### *Creating Stewards of the Environment from the Beginning*

Since founded in 1984, CFI has been diligent in its effort to incorporate service learning aspects into student programs. The past two years have been no exception. All of our trips, tours and programs are based around a goal to promote stewardship through providing impacting outdoor experiences. While we offer engaging programs for people of all ages, our primary focus is youth. A child who adopts a love for the environment at an early age will act in ways to protect it in the future. It takes a single student to cultivate positive change, embarking from a CFI program with the decision to "leave no trace." Once the habit takes hold, he or she begins a cycle, acting as a model for peers and family members.

2006 and 2007 mark even further growth in the direction of service learning and sustainability. In 2007 our mission statement expanded to include a clause outlining our commitment to these ethics as well as to the community.

In 2007 CFI launched its "Learning Service Project," a new program created by Tamsin McCormick, PhD., of Plateau Restoration in Moab. In Learning Service Project, students are taught about the effect of invasive plant species on an ecosystem. Through lesson and active participation in the removal of invading foreign vegetation, students witness first-hand how the growth of a plant such as the Tamarisk tree can stifle native varieties like Cottonwood. With rakes, shovels, and other garden tools, they are given a hands-on opportunity to do something to help stop it.

*"With the help of Tamsin we were able to familiarize the kids with the problem of invasive species, and then we were able to show them that they can make an immediate positive impact on their ecosystem by taking part in invasive species removal,"* comments 2007 River Apprentice and Naturalist Guide Caitlin O'Brady.



## Stewardship continued...

In addition to the Learning Service Project, CFI continues to refine its "Sustainability Lesson," with work funded through a grant from PacifiCorp. The lesson focuses on natural resource conservation, using Professor Valley Field Camp as an example. Students are shown the benefits of renewable energy as practiced with the use of solar panels. Explanations as to how water tanks aid in water conservation are also described. Naturalists discuss the benefits and challenges posed in emerging renewable energy technologies. Through modeling the practice of RRR: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, at camp, students are shown how they can reduce their environmental impact at home as well.

CFI is furthermore committed to the advancement of young adults within their related career fields. A consistent stream of internship and apprenticeship positions have proved rewarding both for the organization and in the growth and training of those college students and young professionals involved.

O'Brady is just one of many participants in CFI's apprenticeship program who reflects fondly on her experiences teaching in the field and observing middle and high school classes come to life outdoors. *"Watching students be transformed by the desert is powerful. Once a trip is over, they walk away with branches in their hair, sand in their shoes, and a fire in their soul. The kids will say again and again how they've been entirely moved by the desert,"* says O'Brady.

We know that our mission has been accomplished when it is evident that we have made an impact on not only the minds, but the hearts of the students we teach, when there stirs an excitement about the Colorado Plateau that is sure to endure long after the branches and sand have been washed away.

In tandem with our goal of environmental education is a desire to share the peace and wonder of a wilderness experience, on nature's terms, with adventurers of all ages. Our EDVentures are accessible to anyone with a desire to simply get outside, and we are humbled and grateful for the enthusiastic responses we have received from past participants.

## 2006-07 Schools

Basalt Middle School	Basalt, CO
Dayspring Montessori School	St. George, UT
East Middle School	Glenwood Springs, CO
Fort Lewis College Talent Search	Durango, CO
Front Range Community College	Fort Collins, CO
Fruita Middle School	Fruita, CO
Glenwood Springs 7th & 8th Grades	Glenwood Springs, CO
Grand County School District	Moab, UT
Horizons Alternative School	Boulder, CO
Jarrow Montessori School	Boulder, CO
Journeys School, Teton Science Schools	Jackson, WY
La Salle High School	Milwaukie, OR
Logan School	Denver, CO
Madeline Choir School	Salt Lake City, UT
McGillis School	Salt Lake City, UT
Montessori Elementary School	Albuquerque, NM
Montessori School of Evergreen	Evergreen, CO
Morningside College	Sioux City, IA
Mountain Shadows Montessori School	Boulder, CO
Mt. Crest High School	Hyrum, UT
Mt. Garfield Middle School	Clifton, CO
Orchard Avenue Elementary	Grand Junction, CO
Paradox Valley School	Paradox, CO
Redeemer Lutheran Elementary School	Salt Lake City, UT
Ridgway Secondary School	Ridgway, CO
Scenic Elementary School	Grand Junction, CO
Science Discovery Camp of UC	Boulder, CO
Shonto Preparatory School	Shonto, AZ
Soaring Wings Montessori School	Park City, UT
St. Stephen's School	Glenwood Springs, CO
Steller Secondary School	Anchorage, AK
Telluride Mountain School	Telluride, CO
The Orme School	Mayer, AZ
U of Utah, Outdoor Recreation Program	Salt Lake City, UT
Waterford School	Sandy, UT
West Sound Academy	Poulsbo, WA
Wydown Middle School	Clayton, MO

*"The instructors were very capable and bonded with the rascals very quickly. They maintained authority well without being overbearing."*

...Jim Watson, Chaperone, West Sound Academy



*Teepees at Professor Valley Field Camp*

## Archaeological Freeze-Frame in Range Creek Wildlife Management Area

Range Creek ignited the imagination of the archaeological world in 2001, when Waldo Wilcox first revealed the wealth of unblemished Fremont cultural heritage secreted away on the former Wilcox family ranch in Southeastern Utah. In 2006, CFI became one of only five operators in the nation granted a permit to lead public tours into this treasure-trove of well-preserved archaeological wonders.



*Protected grain storage in a Range Creek alcove*

CFI participant, Dee Garceau-Hagen, stayed at the Tavaputs Guest Ranch on the extended CFI Range Creek trip. She commented, *“Spending time with Butch and Jeannie was a privilege and a treat.*

*As a professional historian of the American West, it was really nice to hear their stories of their parents and ancestors who started ranching on the Tavaputs Plateau.”*

Fremont people settled heavily in this area until around 1340 A.D, leaving behind a cryptic story of life in a vital transitional time between hunting/gathering and emerging agriculture. Beginning in 1885, the land supported homesteaders, cattle grazing and trophy hunting. Since 2004, the current 4,200 acres has been managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). With active archaeological research underway by the University of Utah, just over 10% of the area has been surveyed so far in an attempt to get a scope of the resource before any protections are lifted.

*“We are in a very important window of time. Range Creek is a gold mine of information on the Fremont and it may be hard to protect precisely because it is so pristine and so exciting,”* said Rebecca Martin, CFI Associate Director and perennial educator/guide.

The future of Range Creek teeters precariously on a thin line dividing public access issues and the fragility

of unmatched scientific opportunity. Jurisdictional disputes between a wide range of management entities and interested parties are ongoing. Currently, the DWR permits 28 visitors per day, monitored by rangers, with no overnight visitors inside the gates in efforts to share and protect the area simultaneously. Each year CFI hosts approximately five overnight small-group camping and hiking trips and one lodge based trip with scenic flight.

At CFI, we celebrate the intrigue of this precious resource; this puzzle piece in the timeline of humanity. The highly-motivated vigilance of the DWR personnel, the enthusiastic professional inquiry by the University of Utah, and the presence of CFI with its hallmark techniques of responsible exploration and appropriate land stewardship ethics, is a combination that may stave off the extinction of opportunity, with luck, for a while yet. Meanwhile, we hope to fill every trip.



*CFI Board member Dee Garceau-Hagen and husband at Tavaputs Ranch*

*“This is the most beautiful place on earth. There are many such places. Every man, every woman, carries in heart and mind the image of the ideal place, the right place, the one true home, known or unknown, actual or visionary... For myself I'll take Moab, Utah. I don't mean the town itself of course, but the country which surrounds it—the canyonlands. The slickrock desert. The red dust and the burnt cliffs and the lonely sky—all that which lies beyond the end of the mads.*

*The choice became apparent to me this morning.”*

From “The First Morning” in *Desert Solitaire*  
by Edward Abbey



*Range Creek Overlook*

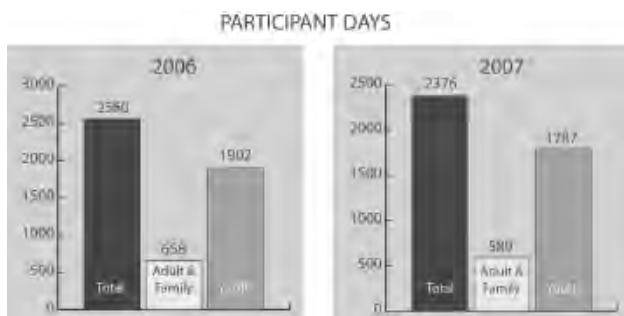
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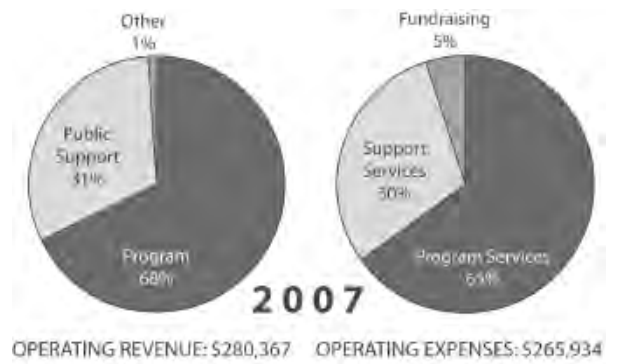
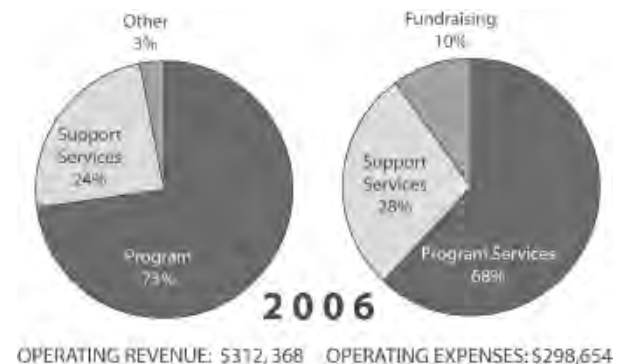
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*"I have had the incredible opportunity of participating in GFT's apprentice program and couldn't be more pleased with the experience. We have learned everything from the basics of rowing and paddling to how to run a smooth river trip while teaching participants about their surroundings."*

...Rachel Brown, River Apprentice, 2007



Expense figures do not include depreciation. Full financial statements and annual tax return documents (IRS 990) are available by request.

## Letter from the Director



The petite 6th grade girl stood on the porch of the cooking yurt having made her selection from the nature quote book. Her clothes and shoes are now stained by the Permian “red beds” that surround the camp. Her classmates are lined up, hungry for pancakes and a full day of learning and adventure ahead.

As the sun peeks over Fisher Mesa and inflames the Priest and Nuns formation behind us she leans over and whispers to the cook “how do you say this word?” “Visionary...” he answers, and she begins the first lines of Desert Solitaire in a clear, strong voice, “This is the most beautiful place on earth...”

Though controversial, the writing of the late Edward Abbey endures as a canyon country icon. Many, myself included, found Moab through his books and stayed, making connections with his characters. In Solitaire, he tips his hat to Bates Wilson, his boss and long time Park superintendent. Bates’ second wife, Robin, would come to be my partner in founding Canyonlands Field Institute. All three have passed on, but their love for this country, its quirky inhabitants, and a good dutch oven meal, continue in part through what CFI does. I am proud to be a part of the “red blowsand” heritage. I thank and honor all of you who contribute in many, many ways. Each year new students come, to experience the desert’s stark and sensuous beauty and to care for it’s fragile intricacies. To enjoy quiet simple living, to give back, to have hope. Visionary, yes indeed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla VanderZanden".

Karla VanderZanden

### The headlines tell the stories:

climate change, water and fuel shortages, dipping visitation to national and state parks, demand for more scientists and engineers to develop sustainable alternatives, childhood obesity and stress, lack of understanding of systems that sustain us... What did CFI do in these last two years to respond these challenges?

Strategic 5 Year Plan completed by Board of Trustees and advisors, facilitation by Canyon Springs Consulting.

Increased participation of students, teachers and guides living in the Colorado River watershed in our outdoor school programs; especially from neighboring Mesa County, Colorado and the Navajo Nation.

School and college recruitment efforts enhanced by Utah Office of Tourism matching funds; projects in '06-'07 resulted in 50% increase in program booking for 2008. Scholarship support for public schools comes from CFI member contributions, adult trip fees and T-shirt sales.

Grant and major donor awards funded new lessons in sustainability and watersheds studies, staff training, as well as energy efficiency, operations and student housing improvements at Professor Valley Field Camp.

Six River Apprentice/Naturalist-Guides and five administrative Interns completed seasonal commitments, honing their skills and knowledge of the Colorado Plateau while doing real work for CFI as outdoor educators and grant writers. These professional development opportunities for adults are made possible by contributions to River Guide and Intern Scholarship Funds.

Extensive efforts to control and remove invasive species, prevent erosion and improve trails were made at Field Camp by winter caretakers; student service learning was initiated by Plateau Restoration for CFI and invasive control work continues by school groups.

Selection by Utah Division of Wildlife for CFI to serve as one of a handful authorized tour operators in Range Creek Canyon Wildlife Management Area that features Fremont Indian prehistory (see separate article.)

Adding to our mission statement to adopt sustainable practices – then putting words into action with biodiesel, composting, recycled and reusable products, and purchasing locally grown meats and produce whenever possible. Students look at their carbon footprint at camp, at home, and traveling.

Installation of a new data base system, going “paperless” with our Desert Winds E-Newsletter and new email software, refinement in web site navigation and completion of operation manuals aided marketing and fundraising efficiencies.

Infrastructure improvements at our Moab headquarters and resolution and reduction of long term debt were made possible through sale and lease back arrangement. Lease renewed with Bureau of Land Management for Professor Valley Field Camp.

CFI’s flagship “Desert Writers Workshop” which ran for 18 years, lends expertise and funding connections to a new collaborative event, “Confluence: A Gathering of Readers and Writers in Moab” set to launch in October, 2008 with sponsors Back of Beyond Books, Grand County Library, Moab and Utah Arts Councils, Moab Poets and Writers, Orion Society and others. This inaugural event will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the publication of Desert Solitaire. The event develops writer skills for inspiration and citizenship.

In 2006 and 2007 CFI made a difference, one at a time: one gallon saved, one tamarisk removed or one child more confident, connected and caring for our planet Earth. To all of our supporters, THANK YOU for your help in this work.

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## The Mission of

## Canyonlands Field Institute Is To:

- Inspire enlightened perspectives, passion and care for the Colorado Plateau
- Expand perception of and appreciation for the beauty, integrity and sacredness of the natural world
- Improve the quality of field naturalist, experiential teaching and learning for people of all ages
- Encourage individuals to be involved in the care of their home places.

## Through:

- Interdisciplinary studies in natural sciences, the literary arts, and the physical and cultural geography of the region
- Immersion in natural settings at field camps, on land and river trips, and in residential retreats
- Dialogue about issues the public, private, and tribal lands of the Colorado Plateau
- The introduction of a land ethic that includes the values of respect, reverence, responsibility and reciprocity with the natural world
- Developing environmentally sound consumption practices within our business that provide financial stability while improving quality of life for staff and community.