

Center for Protected Area Management



Colorado State University



2014 Annual Report

# Mission

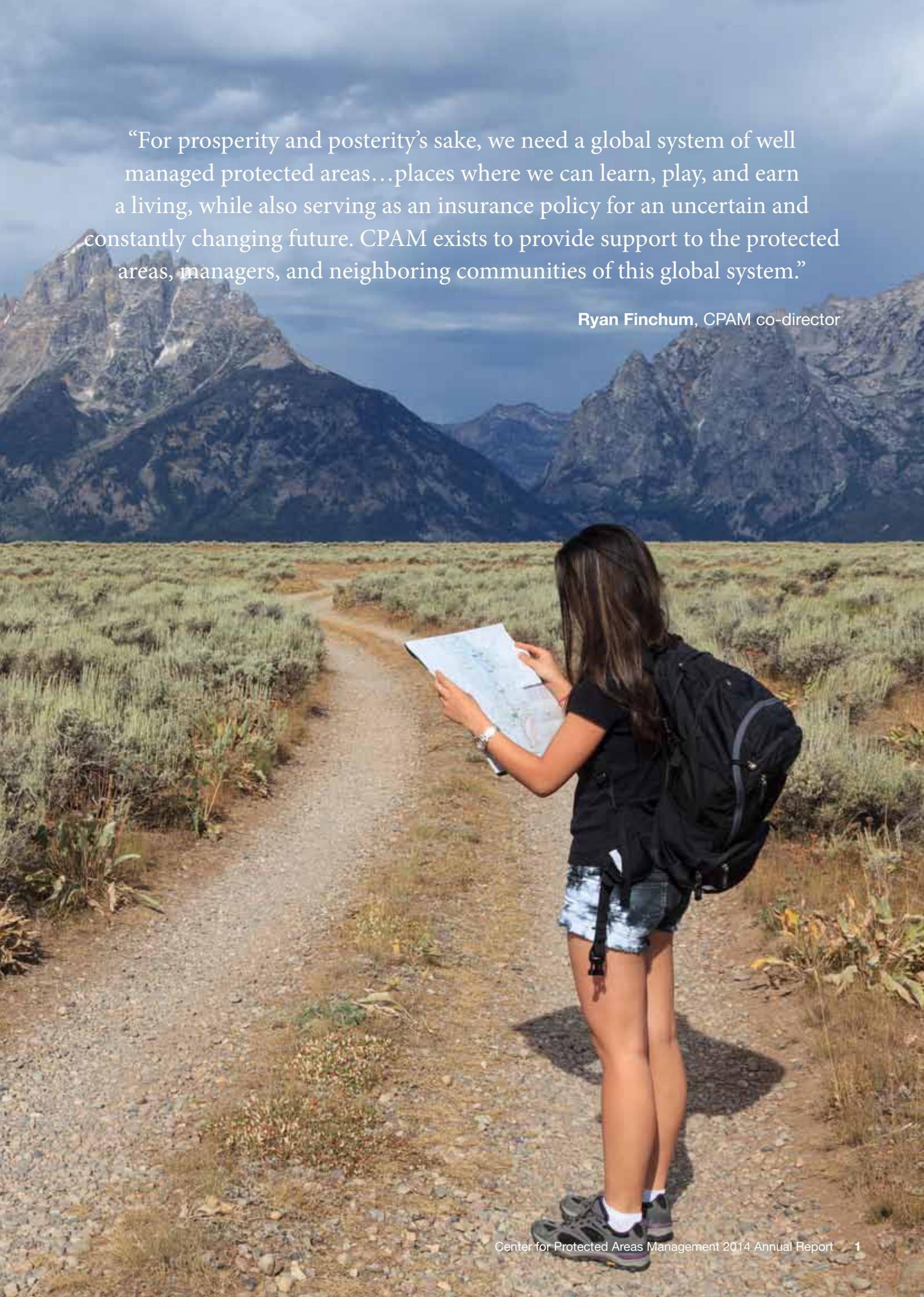
The Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM) was formed to extend the CSU land-grant mission by contributing to the conservation, planning, and management of the world's protected areas and the landscapes and seascapes that connect them through capacity building, applied research, and technical collaboration, in partnership with organizations that manage and support protected areas and the communities whose well-being depends on them.

# Contents

4	A Message from our Co-directors	7	Highlighted Projects from 2014
5	A Message from CSU Leadership	8	2014 Year in Review
6	Our Philosophy and Approach	13	Financial Overview

“For prosperity and posterity’s sake, we need a global system of well managed protected areas...places where we can learn, play, and earn a living, while also serving as an insurance policy for an uncertain and constantly changing future. CPAM exists to provide support to the protected areas, managers, and neighboring communities of this global system.”

Ryan Finchum, CPAM co-director



# A Message from our Co-directors



As we wrap up a successful 2014, we are excited about a full slate of activities planned by the Center for Protected Area Management in 2015. The New Year is full of promise because we are hopeful that 2015 will bring new conservation accomplishments for the Center and our partners. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with many dedicated people from diverse organizations and communities. We appreciate and take pride in the institutional and community support that our projects and programs receive from volunteers, donors and sponsors in the Colorado Front Range, throughout the USA, and around the world in the countries, parks and communities where we carry out our training, outreach and technical collaboration activities.

We also are working to expand our scope to new types of protected areas and new audiences, such as community and tribal conservation leaders, staff from private, provincial and municipal protected areas and to coastal and marine conservation initiatives, all of which have grown in Latin America and globally in recent years.

As we close 2014 and look ahead to 2015, we are optimistic about the road ahead. While there will be challenges and setbacks, the promise and reward will surely outweigh them. Your continued collaboration is appreciated and of the utmost importance to the continuation and success of our efforts!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Finchum". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Ryan Finchum**  
Co-director



We are proud that our Center is recognized as one of the oldest international training programs for protected area managers and that our courses and workshops reach participants from around the world. Demand for our training programs and technical assistance continues to grow among protected area managers and conservation agencies worldwide. We want to continue what we are already doing well and expand our impact by reaching more people and providing more training— both to meet traditional challenges to parks around the world, such as poaching, habitat loss and impacts of development projects, as well as new and emerging threats such as climate change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Barborak". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

**Jim Barborak**  
Co-director

# A Message from CSU Leadership



The history and tradition of our Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) is rooted in the parks and protected area movement that blossomed in the mid 20th century. Since our formation more than 65 years ago, we have been at the forefront of providing education for parks professionals, providing research that informs park decisions, and building the capacity of in-service protected area professionals. Our excellence has not only been achieved by world renowned faculty, but also by the similarly accomplished protected area professionals housed in the Department's Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM). The Center, a brainchild of now retired former faculty member Professor George Wallace, was intended to provide expertise and capacity building to front line managers, particularly in Latin America. CPAM staff now work with professionals from over 36 countries around the world. CPAM has always brought a rich element to the more academic focus of HDNR. CPAM professionals provide a critical bridge between practitioners and the world of academia. Beyond that, we all benefit from the sharing of information, the mutual involvement in projects, and the innovation that arises from

collaboration. Ultimately, it is our students who are big winners in this arrangement as the presence of CPAM staff brings a unique "realistic" view of protected area management to our students.

Parks and protected areas are now seen as the primary policy mechanism by which we can protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services we rely on for sustainability. More than 15% of the world land base has been classified as protected by governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities. The success of this endeavor depends on our ability to manage and protect these areas. In that regard, I can think of no pursuit more important in the area of conservation than that of the Center for Protected Area Management. We are proud to have the Center associated with HDNR.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Manfredo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

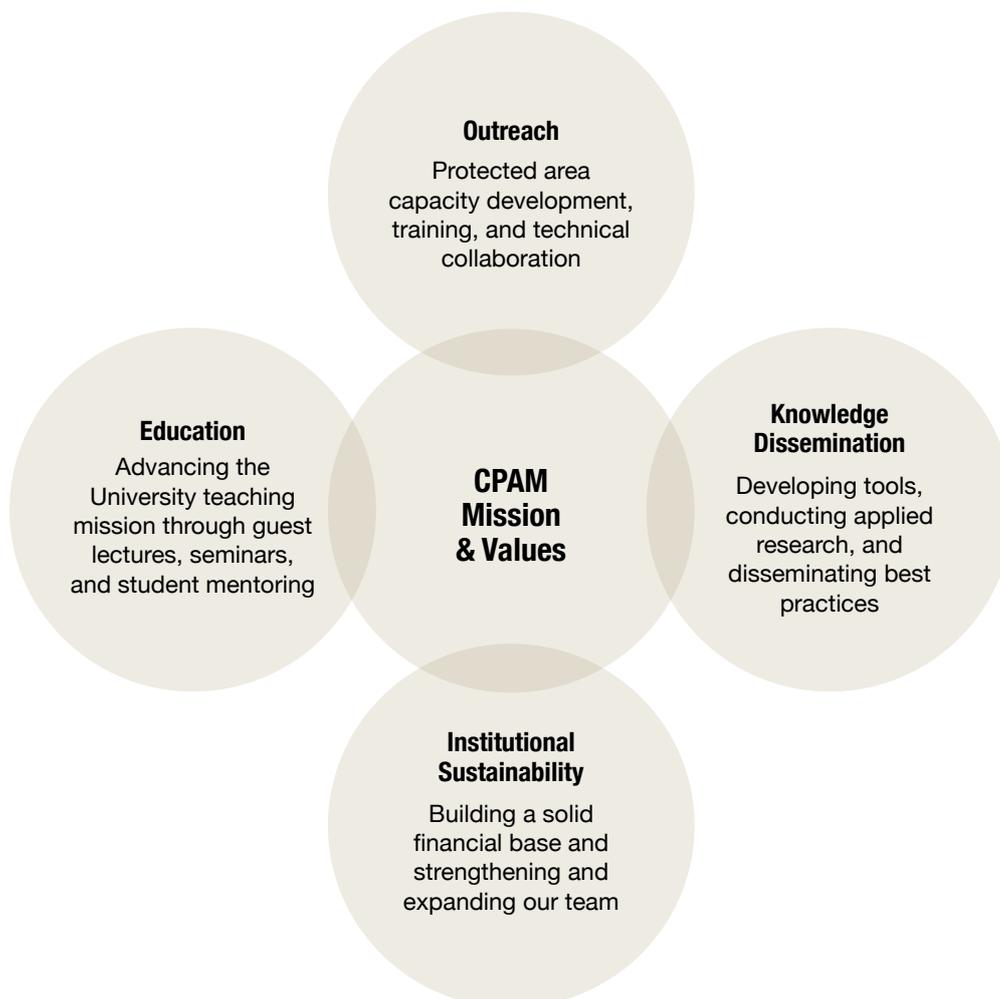
**Mike Manfredo**  
Department Head, Human Dimensions  
of Natural Resources

# Our Philosophy and Approach

The Center for Protected Area Management helps implement the land grant mission of Colorado State University by contributing to natural resource management across our state, nation, and the world. Through the land grant mission we are in effect, partners with the communities, institutions, and nations where we work, trying to solve conservation challenges and problems collaboratively. Together we focus our energy and resources to improve our human livelihoods today, while also ensuring the health and prosperity of future generations and the sound stewardship of the natural resources that are vital to their welfare.

Within this context we believe in the power of individual and institutional ingenuity to create and

adapt resilient systems and processes for the long-term, sustainable management of our natural resources, particularly protected areas on land and sea, the buffer zones that ring them, and the corridors that connect them. Therefore much of our focus is spent on conservation education and training. We invest time and resources disseminating knowledge and tools to empower early and mid-career men and women with the skills needed to be high-achieving conservation leaders who will guide us through considerable environmental change and uncertainty. We also bring lessons learned from innovators around the globe back to our University and local community, and work to make sure that as a University center we have a solid financial and technical base of operations.



# Highlighted Projects from 2014



# 2014 Year in Review

24th Year | 500+ Graduates

15+ PAs Visited | 2000 Miles Covered



## Protected Area Course

In summer 2014, we celebrated the 24th year conducting our annual Protected Area Management course. This past year we had 24 participants from 12 countries spend a month with us in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming visiting a variety of protected areas and exchanging information and ideas with each other and with personnel from local, state, and federal land management agencies and NGOs. Key topics included leadership, planning, adaptive management, engaging diverse stakeholders, managing tourism, field skills, communications, and climate change adaptation, to name a few. To date over 500 individuals from 25 countries have participated in the course. CPAM's entire team of Fort Collins-based affiliates, including founders George Wallace and Craig MacFarland, long-time affiliates Larry Lechner and Jim Wurz, and the Center co-directors are involved in planning and teaching in this flagship activity.

## Tourism and Protected Seminar

In September, 2014, we conducted the 2nd annual seminar on Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas with 20 participants from 12 countries. This seminar was co-led by the CPAM co-directors and Dr. Steve McCool, the head of capacity development for the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Dr. Stu Cottrell, Larry Lechner, Craig MacFarland, and Jim Wurz, as well as invited instructor Oscar Lai from the US Forest Service, all played important roles. Over 2000 miles were covered in 4 western US states as we visited 9 National Park units, 3 National Forests, and sites managed by state, local, and tribal governments. Participants developed action plans during the seminar that we presented in Grand Teton National Park in the final days of the seminar.

5 Days | 15 Partners

Once in a  
Decade Event | 6000+ People



### **Planning a New Flagship Event: A Coastal Marine Seminar in California**

Throughout 2014 we conducted a feasibility analysis for adding a third annual US-based training seminar to help meet capacity building needs of the fast growing network of coastal and marine protected areas in Latin America. After a number of meetings and phone calls from Colorado, in mid-October we conducted an on-site planning trip along the California coast, from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to map out an itinerary and meet potential collaborators. During five days we met with over 15 partners that are interested in being a part of the inaugural event. As a result, we are now planning for the 1st annual Coastal Marine Protected Area Management seminar, which will be held in May 2015 in partnership with California State University- Channel Islands and numerous federal, state, and local agencies and organizations along the Californian coast.

### **Designing a Global Capacity Building Strategy for Protected Areas**

In CPAM we are not just interested in providing more training, organizing more courses, and producing more training materials. While important, these tasks will not have the intended long term impact on conservation if they do not form part of a concerted and coordinated global effort to dramatically expand the reach and effectiveness of conservation capacity investments globally. Under the umbrella of the World Commission on Protected Areas, CPAM played an active role throughout 2014 on a team working to prepare a global strategy on protected area capacity development. This effort culminated with our active participation in the once-a-decade World Parks Congress, held in November in Australia. There we contributed to the congress stream focused on protected area capacity development and to a series of technical documents that will come out of the congress addressing this topic. We also assisted our Department in organizing a side event at the Congress that prepared recommendations on ways to expand the scope and impact of universities in protected area management worldwide.

Two institutions

1000+ interviews

20 Trained in Puerto Rico



### Capacity Development Evaluation Study

Together with the Durrell Institute of Conservation in the United Kingdom, we conducted a survey of our past 1000+ graduates of our two flagship courses, ours on protected areas and Durrell's on ex-situ conservation, to gauge success of these programs over time. A key focus was to identify indicators of success that might be more relevant for future evaluations so that we improve our ability to assess and increase the impact of capacity development events on the achievements of course participants over the course of their careers, and identify institutional factors that hinder their reaching their full potential.

### Management Planning in the Caribbean

Puerto Rico, one of the largest and most diverse islands of the Caribbean, was the focus of a new CPAM initiative this year. Alan Moore and Jim Barborak assisted Puerto Rico's largest private natural area management organization, Para la Naturaleza (The Puerto Rican Conservation Trust) in assessing its capacity building needs and organizing a training course for over 20 of its technical staff. The event focused on ways to improve success in preparing and implementing management plans for the network of protected areas, historic sites, and conservation easements the Trust owns and manages.

5 Courses Taught

Dozens of  
Guest Lectures

5 Students

4 Departments



### Supporting CSU Undergraduate and Graduate Training Programs

Using our international experience to contribute to CSU students has always been part of our core mission. This year associate Jim Wurz continued his important role in teaching a number of the undergraduate protected area management courses offered by our department. Jim Barborak and Dr. Brett Bruyere co-taught a course on conservation management for students in CSU's Conservation Leadership MS degree program. Ryan Finchum and Jim Barborak both gave lectures and workshops to students in both undergraduate and graduate programs on topics such as conservation leadership, global conservation challenges, the impact of climate change on tourism and protected areas, and conservation finance.

### Mentoring CSU Students

Each year CPAM invests time and funding to hire and mentor CSU students interested in protected areas and international conservation. In 2014 we worked with 5 students from 4 different departments on campus at both the graduate and undergraduate level. These students receive compensation for their work helping us advance our mission. In turn, we involve them in the strategic and operational planning of the Center, get them involved in field trips that complement their academic studies, discuss emerging protected area issues with them, and connect them with potential future colleagues and employers through our capacity building activities.

**50 Rangers  
Trained** | **4 Partners  
Supported**

**12 Countries** | **6 Projects**



### **Building the Effectiveness of the Panamanian Ranger Force**

Since its founding CPAM has contributed to building the capacity of protected area rangers both in the USA and abroad. CPAM is currently part of a consortium working to build the capacity of the men and women on the front lines of conservation in Panama, one of the most biologically diverse small countries of Central America with more birds than the USA in an area smaller than Colorado. This is a partnership with the University of Panama, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Panamanian Environmental Authority, with financial support from the MPSA mining company as part of its environmental compensation program. Over the past two years Larry Lechner and Jim Barborak of CPAM have provided in-depth field training given in Panamanian national parks to nearly 50 rangers, providing technical content on trail construction, interpretation, and principles of protected area management.

### **Additional 2014 Training, Technical Assistance and Outreach Activities**

CPAM's team is regularly asked to provide technical assistance to conservation projects and support conservation training events and conferences in the USA and particularly abroad. This year, for example, the CPAM co-directors worked with the US National Park Service, the Mexican Protected Area Council and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to organize a series of online webinars on climate change and protected areas that reached conservationists from throughout the Americas. Craig MacFarland gave a series of lectures to protected area staff in Peru. Jim Barborak was a keynote speaker at the Mesoamerican and Bolivian Protected Area Congresses. CPAM again assisted Dr. Tara Teel and Andrew Don Carlos of our Department of Human Dimensions at CSU and the government of India in organizing training in Colorado for Indian park and forest managers.

# Financial Overview

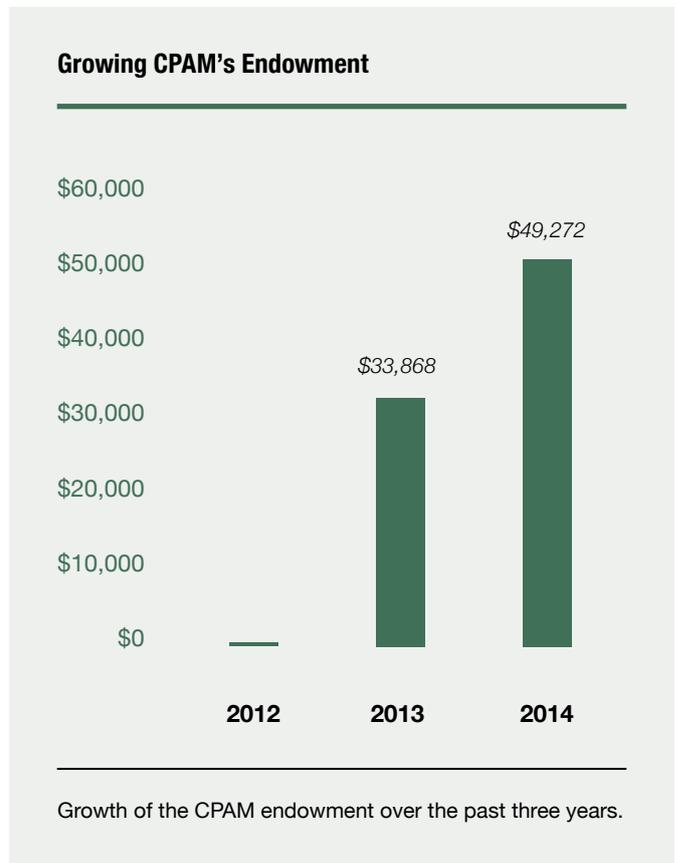
The Center for Protected Area Management is a “soft-money” center that is responsible for raising money to cover the cost of its operations through project funding and donations. We are housed within the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department, which provides us with our office space and administrative support. However, the bulk of the funding that drives our impact in the world comes from projects with conservation and development agencies and philanthropic organizations around the world. An increasingly important part of our day-to-day work is funded by our growing endowment and contributions by individual supporters of our work. We are now finishing the first year of implementing a three-year strategic and business plan that lays out a number of opportunities for CPAM to achieve a more sustainable financial future.

## Endowment Funding

In order to ensure the financial sustainability of CPAM’s work over time, an endowment has been initiated with a generous gift from George and Nancy Wallace that will provide on-going funding in support of our mission. This endowment is growing thanks to contributions from our own team and from individual supporters who believe in our work. Our goal is to grow our endowment from the initial contribution of \$25,000 to over \$500,000 in 10 years.

## Project Funding

The bulk of our funding comes from specific partnerships or projects where CPAM teams up with organizations around the globe to support protected areas through a variety of capacity development and technical collaboration efforts. Over the coming years we will continue diversifying our partnership base and positioning our skillset to match the needs of the front line managers and conservation NGOs around the globe. In addition, we will continue to build on our existing community-based projects that align local community goals with protected area and conservation goals.



# Executive Committee



**Jim Barborak**  
Co-director



**Ryan Finchum**  
Co-director



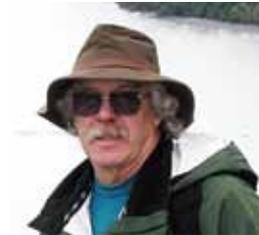
**George Wallace**  
Founder and Director  
Emeritus



**Jim Wurz**  
Founder and Associate



**Craig MacFarland**  
Founder and Associate



**Larry Lechner**  
Associate



**Stu Cottrell**  
Faculty Associate



**Jennifer Solomon**  
Faculty Associate

In addition to our executive committee that helps provide guidance to CPAM throughout the year, we also have an expanded list of associates that includes CSU faculty, other University faculty, and practitioners from around the world.

Muir Woods National Monument, California



To learn more about CPAM's work with protected areas, the people who manage them, and the communities who depend on them, please visit:

<http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-home>

Center for Protected Area Management



Colorado State University



WARNER COLLEGE OF  
Natural Resources

Center for Protected Area Management  
Warner College of Natural Resources  
Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department  
233 Forestry Building  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1480

Cover: Schwabacher's Landing, Grand Teton  
National Park, Wyoming

