

MOUNTAIN RESILIENCE COALITION

Cultures around the globe have long looked to the mountains for inspiration. Mountain regions provide the basis for human livelihood and ecosystem services, making up twenty percent of the earth, thirteen percent of human communities, up to eighty percent of water consumed by humans, and twenty-five percent of biodiversity. Yet these pinnacles of vision and sources of life are in danger, with glaciers melting, over thirty percent of mountain people suffering from food insecurity, and clean water at risk. In this era of climate disruption, it is time to look again to the world's mountain communities as beacons of a more resilient story, stretching from the planet's headwaters to all communities downstream.

The Aspen International Mountain Foundation, Telluride Institute, and Western State Colorado University's (Western) School of Environment & Sustainability have formed a triad of Colorado-based organizations called the Mountain Resilience Coalition. The Mountain Resilience Coalition partners with the vulnerable yet visionary places that form the United Nations (UN) Mountain Partnership's North and Central American and Caribbean region. We seek to give voice to all communities in the region and to model positive change at the table of UN events dedicated to mountain community health. This intersection of nonprofit and university commitments offers communication networks, expert research, and get-it-done project collaboration across cultures.

For my Master's Project, I lived in a mountain community in the Himalayas of India. Together we built a place-based curriculum contemplating "Mountain Resilience" in the face of modern environmental and social issues. Our collaborative efforts continue to facilitate exchanges of students, knowledge, and best practices between our two mountain communities. This experience provided unparalleled exposure to cross-cultural perspectives in environmental management and has set me up for a passion-driven career in sustainable development.

Brandon McNamara, MEM Alumnus ('17) and Zero Waste Consultant



MOUNTAIN RESILIENCE COALITION PARTNERS



ASPEN INTERNATIONAL
MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION
AIMF



Aspen International Mountain Foundation is on the Steering Committee of the UN Mountain Partnership, representing the North and Central American and Caribbean region. They work to determine which research and project endeavors will advance the goals of the region and, in turn, show progress to the UN Mountain Partnership.

Telluride Institute's expert educators work with scientists, artists, agriculturalists, and community and business leaders to create watershed specific curricula. Building on 20 years of local and regional success, they are now working to foster local innovations for resilient livelihoods in mountain regions worldwide, and to identify, develop, and scale up mountain-based solutions to global problems.

Western State Colorado University's School of Environment and Sustainability provides expert partners, from fifteen environmental disciplines, to cultivate a network of place-based sustainability transitions for worldwide communities. With Mountain Resilience Coalition's help, Western's faculty will oversee 700 Master's Projects fulfilling the goals of community organizations by 2035.

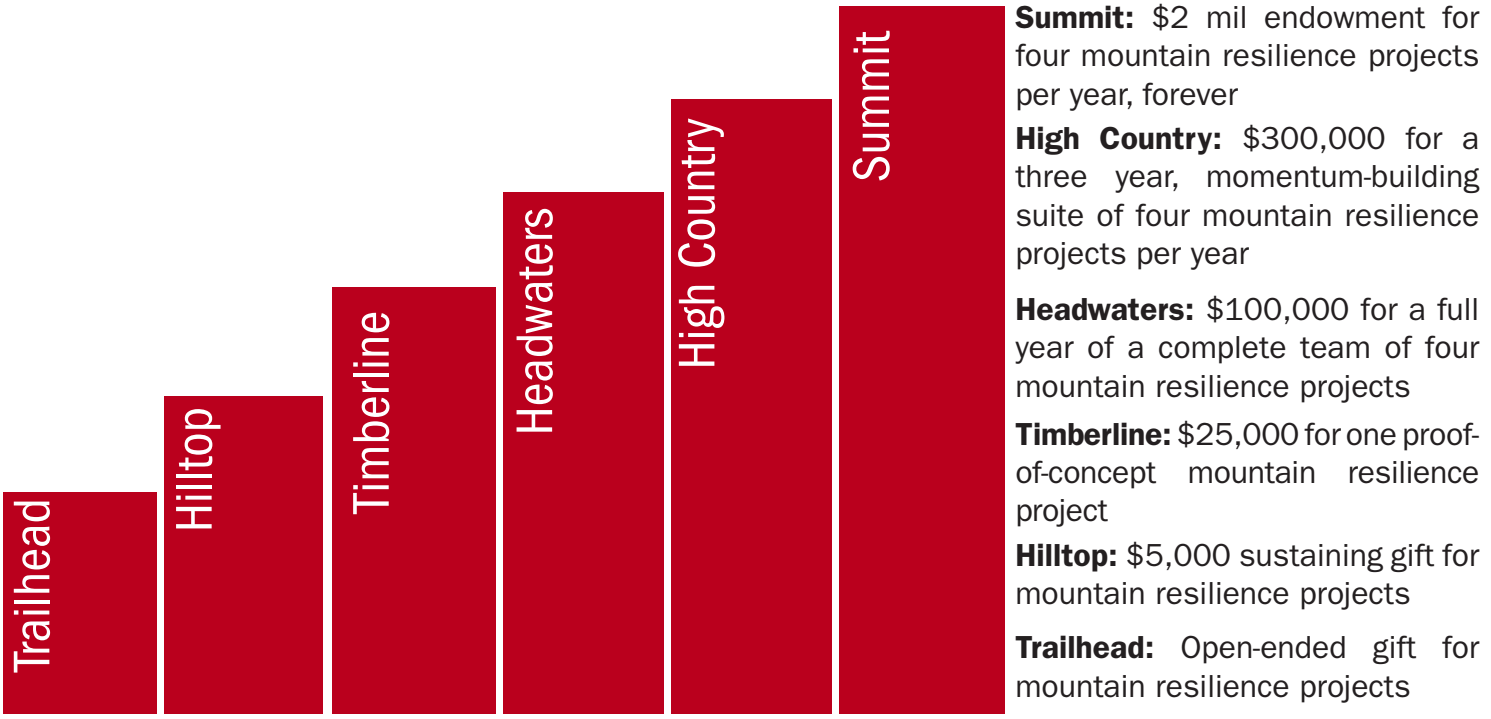


SEEKING SUPPORT FOR:

Networks of Global Mountain Leaders: Mountain Resilience Coalition will gather four global Visiting Mountain Practitioners each summer for a month to share solutions and build solidarity with each other and with experts from across the Mountain West. Each Visiting Mountain Practitioner will return to her or his home region with a Master in Environmental Management student required to complete a 600-hour Masters Project for that community. Over decades, an ever-expanding network of former Visiting Mountain Practitioners and Western Master's alumni will create a vital, interconnected, and dynamic resource for mountain-based problem-solving.

Projects to Fulfill United Nations Mountain Partnership Needs: We hope to fund Project Directors for the Aspen International Mountain Foundation and Telluride Institute to identify project needs across the region. The Mountain Resilience Coalition will then sponsor Western State Colorado University's Master in Environmental Management students to partner with member communities in order to fulfill UN Mountain Partnership strategic goals.

LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIP:



CONTACT US:

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