

Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection

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Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection



aka SPAWP
 La Veta, CO
 <http://www.spawp.org>
 (432)238-1157

[View GuideStar Profile](#)

MISSION

Our mission is to collaboratively protect the Spanish Peaks area, people, and wildlife from the impact of destructive events.

EIN

83-3584908

RULING YEAR

2019

IRS SUBSECTION

501(c)(3) Public Charity

FOUNDING YEAR

2019

MAIN ADDRESS

13201 State Highway 12
La Veta, CO
81055-9309

AFFILIATION TYPE

Independent Organization

CONTACT

Phillip Yenzer, President
(432) 238-1157
mail@spawp.org

PRESIDENT

Phillip Yenzer

SUBJECT AREA

Public safety

Health

Education

Environment

Agriculture, fishing and forestry

NTEE Code

Alliance/Advocacy
Organizations (C01)

PROGRAMS

1. NFPA, State Farm Wildfire Prep Grant

Population(s) served:
2. CSFS Reimbursement Grant FRWRM Awardee

Population(s) served:Age groups
3. Hwy 12 WUI (Wildland Urban Interface)

Population(s) served:
4. USDA/USFS Slash Burn Pile collaboration with SPAWP

Population(s) served:
5. Colorado Spring Creek Fire Erosion and Ips Beetle Mitigation Project

Population(s) served:
6. SPAWP Next Level - capacity building grant

Population(s) served:

POPULATIONS SERVED

1. Age groups

COMPLIANCE

- ✓

IRS Pub 78 Verified as of November 2025
- ✓

IRS BMF 509(a) (2) as of November 14, 2025
- ✗

A-133 Audit Required/Performed?
- ✓

Conflict of Interest Policy
- ✗

Written whistleblower policy

Section 509(a)(2) organization

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

- ✓

Board Practices Reported?
- ✓

Diversity Data Reported?
- 5

Number of Independent Board Members

Programs & Results

PROGRAMS

Source: Self-Reported by Organization, May 2025

NFPA, State Farm Wildfire Prep Grant

Population(s) Served: n/a

Provide mini grants up to \$500 to help home owners pay for mitigation in the first 0-5 feet of the Home Ignition zone

CSFS Reimbursement Grant FRWRM Awardee

Population(s) Served: n/a

SPAWP was awarded and continues to apply for allocation funds for matching reimbursement costs to work with community members to mitigate the areas around their homes to prevent destruction by wildfire. The passage of House Bill 20-1057 during the 2020 Colorado legislative session provided updates for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant program, administered by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The FRWRM program was created during the 2017 legislative session when the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 17-050, which consolidated the Colorado Forest Restoration Grant Program (previously administered by the CSFS) and the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program (previously administered by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (CDNR)). This competitive grant program is designed to assist with funding community-level actions across the entire state to: reduce the risk to people, property and infrastructure from wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI); promote forest health and the utilization of woody material including for traditional forest products and biomass energy; and encourage forest restoration projects. This project reduces risks to assets, loss of

Human lives and Wildlife as well as creates work employment for Contractors.

Hwy 12 WUI (Wildland Urban Interface)

Population(s) Served: n/a

In September 2020, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) was awarded the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Hwy 12 Grant with Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection (SPAWP) as the main implementation partner. The purpose of this \$300k grant is to use its funds to create a continuous 17 mile "Shaded Fuel and Fire Break" 150 feet on either side of Hwy 12 (from Cucharas Pass to La Veta) on both state and private lands, as the only evacuation route out of the Cuchara Valley. A shaded fuel brake is a zone where the density of the forest is reduced by removing fuel on the ground and increasing tree crown spacing to provide an area where, in case of a wildfire, the firefighters could safely and effectively fight the fire.

USDA/USFS Slash Burn Pile collaboration with SPAWP

Population(s) Served: n/a

SPAWP (Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Prevention) facilitates discussions, negotiation and collaborations between the USDA/USFS (US Dept of Agriculture/US Forest Service), Huerfano County Dept of Emergency and Disaster Mgmt and local Communities to create designated areas for Slash Collection Piles for Supervised Burning by the USFS. SPAWP hosts community slash pile collection events at mutually agreed location in the mountain forested area of La Veta, CO area. Slash-burning is a complimentary form of fire mitigation designed to keep forests healthy and prevent dangerous wildfires by safely burning leaves, pine needles, downed trees, standing small trees, and thick vegetation. The

U.S. Forest Service burns piles of woody debris (slash) in an effort to reduce hazardous fuels.

Colorado Spring Creek Fire Erosion and Ips Beetle Mitigation Project

Population(s) Served: n/a

In December 2020, the Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection (SPAWP) was awarded a Federal Financial Assistance grant from the US Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management for the amount of \$25,000 with an additional \$30,000 in 2021. The cooperative agreement goal is to reduce erosion and Ips beetle threats that are a direct consequence of the burned BLM land, specific to Silver Mountain (Majors Ranch POA) and South Middle Creek which were deeply impacted by the 2018 Spring Creek fire. Specific objectives underway include - Addressing continued erosion and excessive runoff from public lands as necessary for soil stabilization and reforestation - Facilitating treatment of public lands by providing access through private property - Addressing excess flow and sedimentation to ensure that culverts (and other infrastructure) maintain their integrity and functionality - Reducing destruction of property and roads from uncontrolled water flow from public lands

SPAWP Next Level - capacity building grant

Population(s) Served: n/a

In early 2021, the Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection (SPAWP) was awarded reimbursement funds of \$75,000 as part of the AIM (Action Implementation and Mitigation) program sponsored by the COCO organization (Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc) and included a matching component in the form of dollars and in-kind contributions, including volunteer hours. The goal of this grant was to strengthen SPAWP's implementation capacity by funding a

part-time Executive Director and a Wildfire Mitigation Team to coordinate project implementation and community engagement, facilitate wildfire mitigation assessments and to revitalize Firewise Communities. While the original team had turn-over, SPAWP successfully sponsored 2 demo projects and hosted multiple training and education sessions within a 4-county area, including a community forum in late 2022 which provided updates about extensive area wildfire protection activities and collaboration among US, CO State, local and area non-profits.

Financials

FISCAL YEAR START: 01/01
FISCAL YEAR END: 12/31

Financial Trends Analysis

Business Model Indicators

Created in Partnership with

 Nonprofit Finance Fund®

Profitability		2024
Unrestricted surplus (deficit) before depreciation		\$43,350
As a % of expenses		28.5%
Unrestricted surplus (deficit) after depreciation		\$43,350
As a % of expenses		28.5%
Revenue Composition		
Total revenue (unrestricted & restricted)		\$195,214
Total revenue, % change over prior year		0.0%
Program services revenue		0.0%
Membership dues		0.0%
Investment income		0.0%
Government grants		96.5%
All other grants and contributions		3.5%
Other revenue		0.0%
Expense Composition		
Total expenses before depreciation		\$151,864
Total expenses, % change over prior year		0.0%
Personnel		12.2%
Professional Fees		2.0%
Occupancy		0.0%
Interest		0.0%
Pass-Through		0.0%
All other expenses		85.8%

Financial Trends Analysis, continued

Moving Toward Full Cost Coverage

Full Cost Components (estimated)	2024
Total Expenses (after depreciation)	\$151,864
One Month of Savings	\$12,655
Debt Principal Repayment	\$0
Fixed Asset Additions	\$0
Total Full Costs (estimated)	\$164,519

Capital Structure Indicators

Liquidity	
Months of cash	3.4
Months of cash and investments	3.4
Months of estimated liquid unrestricted net assets	8.7

Balance Sheet Composition		
Cash		\$43,352
Investments		\$0
Receivables		\$66,838
Gross land, buildings, and equipment (LBE)		\$0
Accumulated depreciation (% of LBE)		0.0%
Liabilities (as % of assets)		0.0%
Unrestricted net assets		\$0
Temporarily restricted net assets		N/A
Permanently restricted net assets		N/A
Total restricted net assets		\$0
Total net assets		\$110,190

Key Data Checks

Material Data Errors	2024
	No

Note: This issue is relevant to a small number of organizations: The nonprofit subject(s) of this report may have affiliates. The Form 990 data may not include information about any or all potential affiliates. If an organization does have affiliates and these affiliates have substantial financial activity, the financial data in this report may not present a comprehensive picture of the nonprofit's financial condition. Please consult the 990s of any potentially related affiliates for additional information.

- ☒ [Formulas for key metrics](#)
- ☒ ['Key Revenue & Expense Data from Form 990'](#)
- ☒ ['Key Balance Sheet Data from Form 990'](#)

Operations

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Source: IRS Form 990



Source: Self-Reported by Organization, May 2025

PRESIDENT

Phillip Yenzer

Craig Yenzer graduated from Oklahoma State University with degrees in physical education and mathematics. Coach Yenzer began his coaching career in Newkirk, Oklahoma, eventually becoming Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator to the Midland High Bulldogs. Craig was honored by the Texas House of Representatives with a Joint Resolution congratulating his 38-year career in education, coaching, and administration. Craig developed many skill sets during his coaching career including the organization of programs, working with budgets, personnel and staffing management, community advocacy, and relations development. He was a contributing member of the administrative staffs of two large Texas High Schools. Craig, and his wife, Tammy, have now five generations deep of love for the Spanish Peaks region.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Brad Snow
- Rob Golding
- Sherri Jones
- Steven Davis

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES, AND KEY EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Name	Title	Compensation	Other	Related
Lisa Garrison	Executive Director	\$18,586	\$0	\$0
Craig Yenzner	President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Brad Snow	Vice-President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sherri Jones	Secretary/Treasurer	\$0	\$0	\$0
Steven Davis	Board Member	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rob Golding	Board Member	\$0	\$0	\$0

Officers Directors, Trustees, Key Employees

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Name	Title	Compensation	Benefits/Deferred Compensation	Expense Account, Other
Lisa Garrison	Executive Director	\$4,440	\$0	\$0
Craig Yenzner	President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Brad Snow	Vice President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sherri Jones	Treasurer/Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$0
Steven Davis	Board member	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rob Golding	Board member	\$0	\$0	\$0

Officers Directors, Trustees, Key Employees

FISCAL YEAR 2022

Name	Title	Compensation	Benefits/Deferred Compensation	Expense Account, Other
Steven Davis	Board member	\$0	\$0	\$0
Craig Yenzer	President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cody Siebert	Vice President (resigned June '22)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Brad Snow	Vice President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sherri Jones	Treasurer/Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$0

Officers Directors, Trustees, Key Employees

FISCAL YEAR 2021

Name	Title	Compensation	Benefits/Deferred Compensation	Expense Account, Other
Craig Yenzner	President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cody Siebert	Vice-President	\$0	\$0	\$0
Brad Snow	Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sherri Jones	Treasurer	\$0	\$0	\$0

Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
BiggsKofford PC	84-0884124	630 Southpointe Court Suite 200, Colorado Springs CO 80906 USA	719-579-9090

Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
BiggsKofford PC	84-0884124	630 Southpointe Court Suite 200, Colorado Springs CO 80906 USA	719-579-9090

Paid Preparers

FISCAL YEAR 2022

Firm Name	Firm EIN	Firm Address	Firm Phone
BiggsKofford PC	840884124	630 Southpointe Court Suite 200, Colorado Springs CO 80906	7195799090

BOARD LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

GuideStar worked with BoardSource, the national leader in nonprofit board leadership and governance, to create this section, which enables organizations and donors to transparently share information about essential board leadership practices.

BOARD ORIENTATION & EDUCATION

Does the board conduct a formal orientation for new board members and require all board members to sign a written agreement regarding their roles, responsibilities, and expectations?

yes

CEO OVERSIGHT

Has the board conducted a formal, written assessment of the chief executive within the past year?

Not Applicable

ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY

Have the board and senior staff reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy and completed and signed disclosure statements in the past year?

yes

BOARD COMPOSITION

Does the board ensure an inclusive board member recruitment process that results in diversity of thought and leadership?

yes

BOARD PERFORMANCE

Has the board conducted a formal, written self-assessment of its performance within the past three years?

yes

Organizational Demographics

Who works and leads organizations that serve our diverse communities? This organization has voluntarily shared information to answer this important question and to support sector-wide learning. GuideStar partnered on this section with CHANGE Philanthropy.

Leadership

The organization's leader identifies as:

Race & Ethnicity	White/Caucasian/European
Gender Identity	Male, Not transgender
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual or Straight
Disability Status	Person without a disability

Race & Ethnicity

No data

Gender Identity

Transgender Identity

No data

Sexual Orientation

No data

Disability

No data.

Appendix

Key Documents

IRS Forms 990	2024 990
	2023 990
	2022 990
	2021 990
IRS Forms 990T	Not Available
Audited Financial Statements	Not Available
Key Organization Documents	Letter of Determination
	'Key Revenue & Expense Data from Form 990'
	'Key Balance Sheet Data from Form 990'

Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection

Aka SPAWP

13201 State Highway 12
La Veta, CO 81055-9309

- ✓ Foundation Status Code: PC*
- ✓ Public charity described in section 509(a)(1) or (2)

IRS Publication 78 Details



Organization name	Location	Most recent IRS Publication 78
Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection	La Veta, CO	September 2025
EIN	<u>Deductibility status description</u>	Verified with most recent Internal Revenue Bulletin
83-3584908	A public charity (50% deductibility limitation).	November 17, 2025

IRS Business Master File Details



Organization name	Most recent IRS BMF	Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status
SPANISH PEAKS ALLIANCE FOR WILDFIRE PROTECTION	September 09 2025	Section 509(a)(2) organization
EIN	IRS subsection	Ruling date
83-3584908	This organization is a <u>501(c)(3) Public Charity</u>	04/2019
Foundation Code	Foundation Code Description	
16	Organization that normally receives no more than one-third of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business income and at the same time more than one-third of its support from contributions, fees, and gross receipts related to exempt purposes.	

This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.

On September 8, 2011, the IRS issued [regulations](#) which eliminated the advance ruling process for a section 501(c)(3) organization. [Learn more](#)

* The Foundation Status Code is the code that foundations are required to provide for each grantee annually on part XV of Form 990PF. Note that this code cannot be derived in some cases (e.g., supporting organizations for which 'type' can't be determined).

[IRS Revenue Procedure 2011-33](#) allows grantors to rely on third-party resources, such as GuideStar Charity Check, to obtain required Business Master File (BMF) data concerning a potential grantee's public charity classification under section 509 (a) (1), (2) or (3).

GuideStar Charity Check Data Sources

- GuideStar acquires all IRS data directly from the Internal Revenue Service.
- The [IRS Automatic Revocation of Exemption List](#) contains organizations that have had their federal tax-exempt status automatically revoked for failing to file an annual return or notice with the IRS for three consecutive years.
- [IRS Publication 78 \(Cumulative List of Organizations\)](#) lists organizations that have been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.
- The Foundation Status Code is a value derived by mapping the codes found on the [990PF filing instructions](#) to the corresponding codes in the IRS BMF. Note that not all codes are able to be mapped due to insufficient data.
- The [IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin](#) (IRB) lists changes in charitable status since the last Publication 78 release. Between the release of IRS Publication 78 and the subsequent IRS Internal Revenue Bulletin, the IRB date will reflect the most recent release date of IRS Publication 78.
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) [Specially Designated Nationals \(SDN\) list](#) organizations that are owned or controlled by targeted individuals, groups, and entities, such as terrorists or narcotics traffickers. Their assets are blocked and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from dealing with them.
- The [IRS Business Master File](#) lists approximately 1.7 million nonprofits registered with the IRS as tax-exempt organizations.