

Heather Lewin

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am a watershed science education and policy professional, an outdoor sports and recreation enthusiast, a mom of two, and an active member of the Crown Mountain Park Community. I believe that the outdoors and community recreation should be open and accessible to all. This belief is reflected in every aspect of my life, both personal and professional.

Originally from northern New Hampshire, I moved to the Roaring Fork Valley in 2001 and Basalt in 2013. I worked in hotels and restaurants in Aspen, and as a Ski Instructor and a Whitewater Guide for several years before heading to graduate school to study Environmental Education at Teton Science School in Wyoming. I subsequently completed a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University. I currently work as the Science and Policy Director at Roaring Fork Conservancy and live in Basalt with my husband and two children (5 and 8).

Why do you want to join the Crown Mountain Park board of directors?

I hope to join the Crown Mountain Park board of Directors to support the many uses and small staff of the park. CMP is a unique asset to the mid-valley, with many recreational opportunities for a broad variety of ages and interests. I have found over the past few years that I spend more afternoons than not at CMP, enjoying the bike parks, fields, playgrounds, and ice rink with my family. I would like to be a member of the CMP board to help continue the mission of “building a legacy through parks and recreation.” I work hard in my simultaneous roles as a professional, a community member, and a mom to be a positive force within the culture, community, and habitat that surrounds CMP. With the area growing and changing rapidly, I look forward to the opportunity to support CMP and its staff in navigating the next chapter.

What are some of your prior board leadership experiences?

I served as a member of Colorado Mountain College’s Natural Resource Management Program’s advisory board for 5 years and served as a member of the Growing Year’s School (GYS) board from 2015-2021, and as board chair from 2017-2021. During this time, GYS, grew from two classrooms serving approximately 25 families and 50 students aged 1-6, to five classrooms serving approximately 80 families and 100 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. During my tenure, the program was awarded 4 stars (Infant Center) and 5 stars (Pre-school) from the Colorado Shines Program.

What skills, connections, resources, expertise do you have to offer the organization?

I am a non-profit professional with nearly ten years of experience building community collaboration, spearheading scientific studies, and tackling tough issues with diverse stakeholders. In my time with Roaring Fork Conservancy, I have created, designed, and implemented programs and studies on local waterways. I’ve built excellent working relationships with those whose opinions differ from my own, as well as people with whom I agree. I believe that building respectful relationships can bring together people

who may not traditionally see eye to eye. I have worked with local, state, and regional elected officials on innovative initiatives, and implemented multiple-benefit planning efforts with diverse stakeholders.

With experience serving on diverse boards and working as a long-term employee of a non-profit, I have a good understanding of how a productive board functions and benefits the organization and its staff. As regular users of the park, and a resident and parent in this small community, I am familiar with the many uses of the park and the diverse needs and desires of its users.

What are your hobbies/interests?

Like so many others, I moved to the Roaring Fork Valley with the intention to stay for one winter and ski. Here I am, twenty years later! I still love to ski as much as I can! I also enjoy rafting, hiking, ice hockey, and mountain biking. With two children, I find much of my free time is spent recreating with my family, or supporting my kids while they play soccer, lacrosse, and hockey or race BMX!