





This past year was Return to Dirt's second season of leading outdoor experiences for those who crave it but otherwise wouldn't have the ability to access it. I couldn't be more proud of our growing success in the mission to ease the burden of physical disability with adaptive equipment, local knowledge and camaraderie.

An unexpected side effect of Return to Dirt is the profound enjoyment that I get while working on it. Countless times after successful trips, the crew and I will sit and revel in memories of the day, like "how sick was seeing (insert athlete name) figure out the rig and really be in control?" Or "remember when (athlete's friend) was so pumped to watch their best friend spend a whole day without their wheelchair?"

I enjoy our program so much because I remember what life was like before I knew of the freedom that adaptive equipment can give, and I also remember what it felt like when I was first exposed to it. Being the people who give that gift of outdoor adventure is the fuel that keeps us coming back for more.

Here's to an even dirtier 2020!

Tim Burr

Tim Burr, Founder





# Participant and generous donor Dong Rottman gives a special perspective of Return to Dirt.

I met Tim and the Return to Dirt crew in the summer of 2018 through a couple of mutual friends. We truly "returned to dirt" with a group of five ATVs and several motorcycles on a journey to the Crystal Mill and through the Lead King Basin Loop outside of Marble, Colorado. I grew up skiing and spending summers in Marble, so this loop is an all-time favorite. Although I'd previously been out on these four-wheel-drive roads strapped into our bumpy Jeep, this jaunt was a completely different experience.

The team's approach was professional, congenial—and equally importantly—fun! They'd scoped out the logistics of our trip beforehand. Before leaving, we huddled around for a pre-trip review of where we were going, safety considerations, goal sharing and introductions. Then we got to the fun: getting dirty. After five hours worth of unparalleled views, mud splashes and smiles, apre's dirt appetizers and drinks never tasted so good.

In our conversations before, during and after our trip, I learned more about the conception of Return to Dirt along with their vision. What initially struck me was that these guys are only in their 20s, and they really started a nonprofit!? Indeed they had and continue to run it well. Tim shared one truth which has fueled Return to Dirt: the majority of individuals cannot afford or don't have access to adapted off-road vehicles. Because of this reality, many people aren't able to have off-road experiences, either for their first time or for others to get back to places they know and love. In other words, Tim recognized a problem and sought to create the solution.

Return to Dirt fills a much-needed void in the landscape of life in the Roaring Fork Valley: helping people with disabilities or mobility impairments get back outside to enjoy the off-the-beat-en-path backcountry in places normally inaccessible to them. Not only does this group work hard to understand the goals and needs of each participant, they do so with respect, dignity and genuine passion.

As the director of small nonprofit foundation myself, I feel that our foundation's contributions to Return to Dirt have been used thoughtfully and wisely. Communication from Tim and other board members has been outstanding, and I'm confident they will continue to provide their own brand of "off-road inclusion" to the backcountry with many more participants in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Doug Rottman









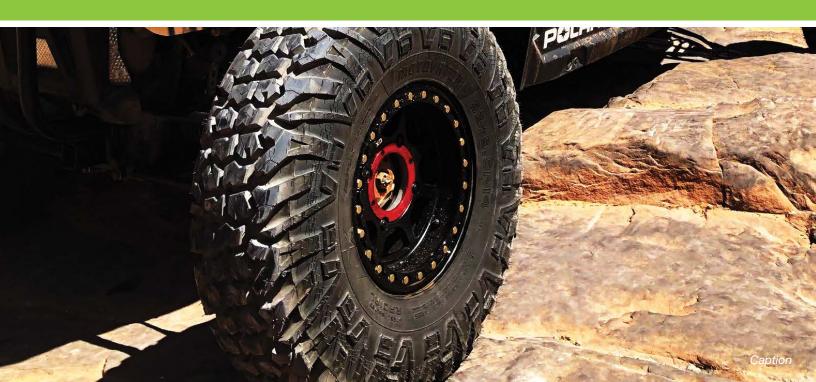




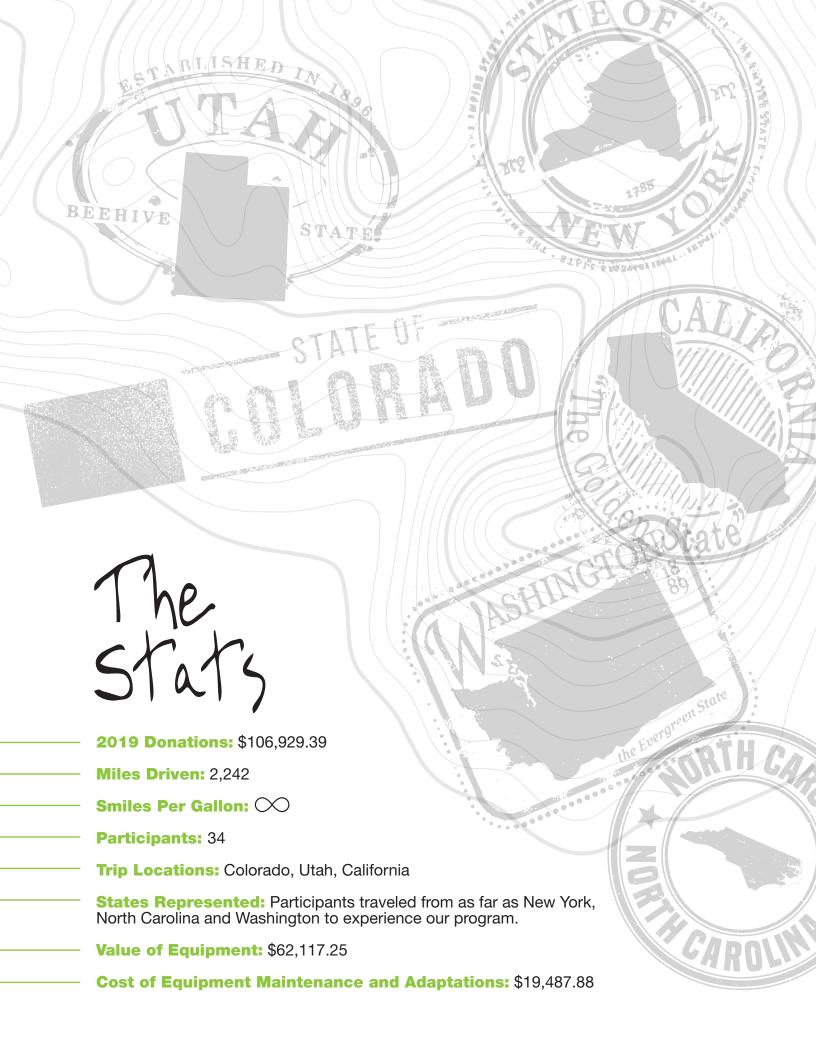




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### **TIM BURR**

Founder

Founder of Return to Dirt, Tim decided that he would bring adaptive motorsports to other disabled athletes after realizing that driving his truck was an activity that he could do just as well as he could before becoming a quadriplegic. He's known for fart jokes and avoiding schoolwork so he can spend more time pushing the limits of his stock pickup in the woods.

### **BRANDON MARTINEZ**

Vice President

Tim Burr's left handed, right hand man. Brandon and Tim grew up together in Glenwood Springs, Colorado taking advantage of everything the small mountain town had to offer. While getting his degree in Health and Exercise Science and Business, he also dedicated himself to learning more about Spinal Cord Injuries. He spends his free time outside and eating kale.

### **JUSTINE ARNOLD**

Treasurer

Bonjour! Hailing from France, we are proud to call Justine our resident CPA and tax dork. She graduated from Western State Colorado University with a double Major in Business Administration and Accounting. She brings much financial expertise and resources to our team at R2D. When she's not spending absurd amounts of time preparing tax returns, she enjoys shopping, being outdoors, and scoffing at American croissants.

### **PETER NOON**

**Board Member** 

Peter (aka PFN aka Dad) is an Alaskan transplant who earned a degree in Psychology and Business Administration from Western Colorado University. Being one of the rare knuckle-draggers with a 401k, Peter has redefined the term "professional snowboarder." But seriously, his reliability, thoughtfulness and positivity are indispensable assets to R2D's board. Fun fact: Peter is a lifelong pescatarian (not to be confused with Presbyterian).

# **LUKE ARNOLD**

Board Member

Luke doesn't just bring his good looks and flowing locks to our team, he also brings his outstanding sense of humor, immense intelligence, riveting dedication, and impressive athleticism. Combining these attributes with his education in Business, Marketing, Sports Psychology and experience in management and marketing has led him to slightly above average accomplishments throughout his life. Included in these accomplishments is sitting on the Board of Directors of Return to Dirt.

# **DYLAN HAGAN**

**Board Member & Trip Coordinator** 

Dylan is a first generation Colorado native who currently lives in Lake Tahoe. As a graduate of Sierra Nevada College with degrees in Ski Business and Outdoor Adventure Leadership, he is well versed in the mountain bum lifestyle. Currently he is trying to ditch the rent payment and adopt the "home is where you park it" mentality. Dylan is passionate about all things dirt as well as a new found addiction to fly fishing. He hopes to use his outdoor guide skills to connect return to dirt athletes to the landscapes they love.











Each of our athletes have unique goals for a day with Return to Dirt. For many, it's as simple as "explore the backcountry without the limits of a wheelchair."



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