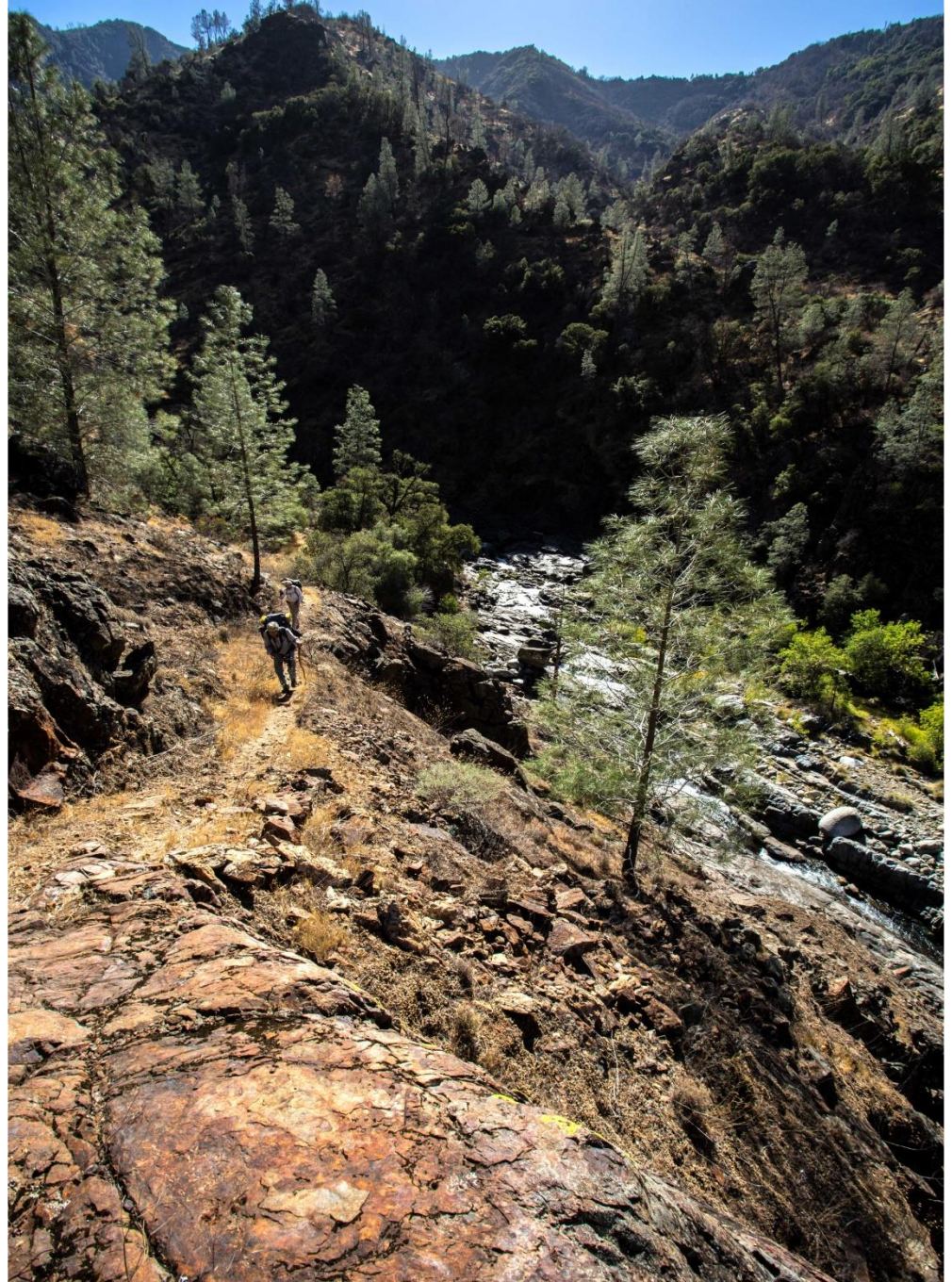
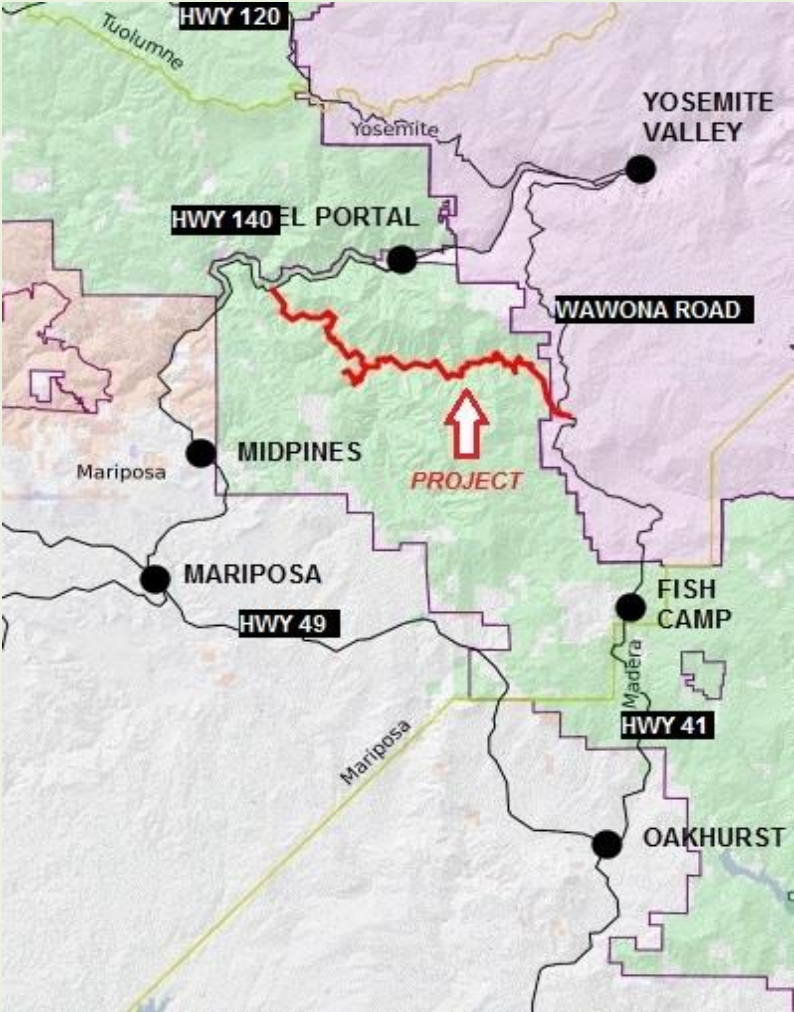


SOUTH FORK MERCED RIVER TRAIL RESTORATION PROJECT 2023-2027



Funded by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

WHO IS MARIPOSA TRAILS? Since 2014, Mariposa Trails, first as a club called the “Trailblazers,” and now a federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit, has been rallying volunteers to improve local trails in the Sierra National Forest near Mariposa California. In 2018 and 2020, Mariposa Trails successfully obtained grants from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, enabling it to expand its tool cache in exchange for trail restoration. Since 2014, over 200 volunteers have donated a total of 5,712 volunteer hours (a value of \$163,020) to restore and maintain local trails. In 2020 and 2021 alone, Mariposa Trails completed 61 trail-tending outings, including 6 overnight trips, on 9 different trails. Additionally, in the spring of 2021, Mariposa Trails assembled the Sierra National Forest, the Sierra Freepackers and the California Conservation Corps to restore 5 miles of the heavily damaged South Fork Merced River Trail. Mariposa Trails was nationally recognized in 2021 by the USDA for their work in restoring the Hite’s Cove Trail.

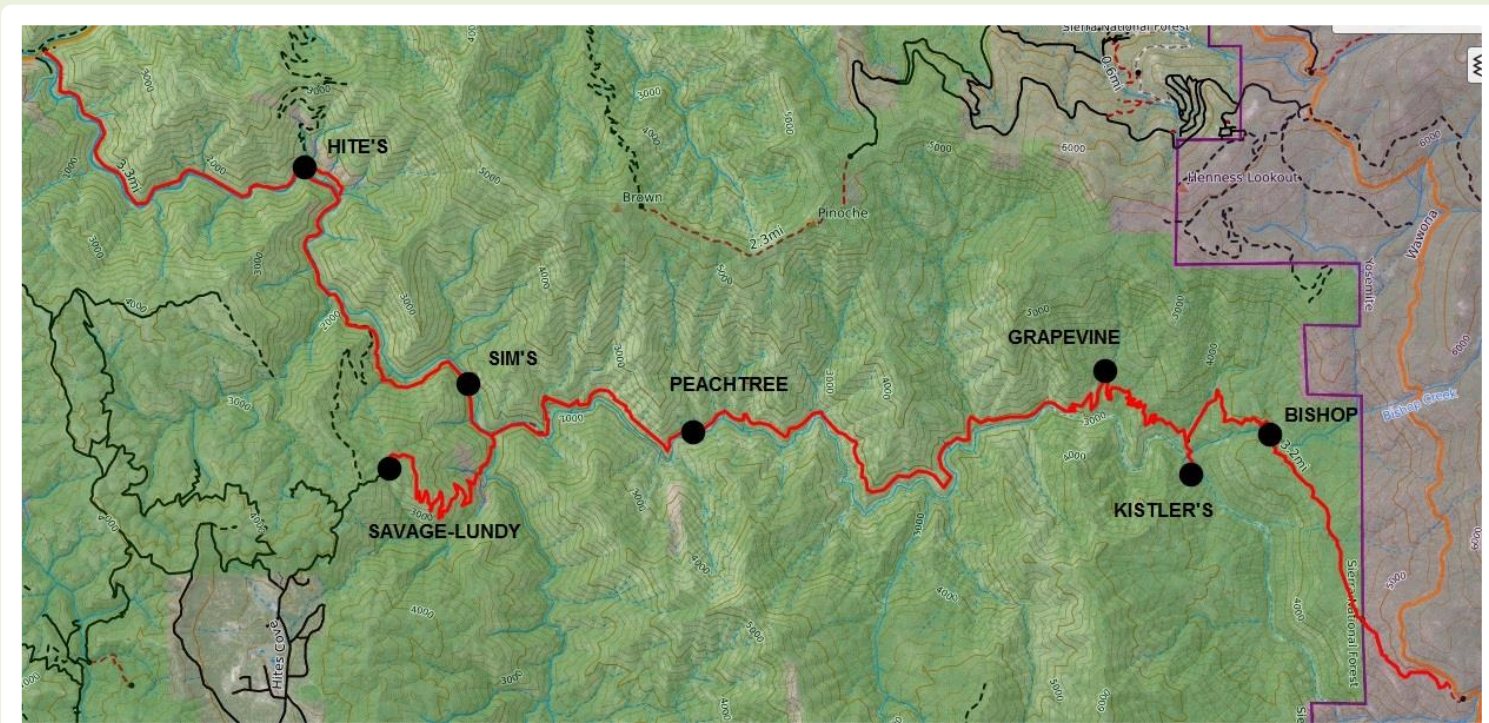


LOCATION The Project is located within the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District of Mariposa County, within the South Fork of the Merced River Watershed, which is located between Yosemite National Park and the local communities of Mariposa, Midpines, Bootjack, Ponderosa Basin, Jerseydale, Mariposa Pines, Wawona and Fish Camp.

THE PROJECT Restoration of the South Fork of the Merced River Trail and Savage-Lundy Trail, together with installation of trail-based signage and production of a trail map, in both digital and paper forms.

PURPOSE AND KEY DELIVERABLES The purpose of the PROJECT is to: increase public access onto public non-motorized recreational trails for use by local and regional populations; provide essential trail information and cultural storytelling along the trail network, and, inform local residents and tourists about safe non-motorized recreational practices. To this end the Project will:

- restore and maintain approximately 18 miles of highly-valued non-motorized recreational trails, specifically the South Fork Merced River Trail, the Savage-Lundy Trail and the trails at Hite's Cove.
- Install wayfinding signs, directional signs, place-name signs, mileage signs and cultural interpretation signs; and,
- Create a digital and paper trail-user map with locally relevant themes about trail safety and fire.



THE TEAM Mariposa Trails will manage the project. Our team includes:

- Sierra National Forest
- Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
- Sierra Freepackers
- Americorp- GrizzlyCorps
- Mariposa County Search and Rescue Team
- American Conservation Experience
- Community-based volunteers

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH Over the course of 4-5 years, work to achieve the PROJECT's purpose and goals will be undertaken through the collaborative work of local "trail tending" volunteers, professional backcountry trail crews; support packing services by the Sierra Freepackers, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation survey monitors, and an Americorp-GrizzlyCorps Fellow who will lead the effort to prepare the trail-user map. Volunteer trail crews working under the direction of Mariposa Trails will work on the more accessible "entry" segments of the trail network to enable hired backcountry trail crews to work on the mid-section core of the South Fork Trail. The professional work crew will provide 12, fully supplied 8-day outings comprised of 6 trail crew members who will be camping in the backcountry at the work-site, generally in the fall and spring seasons. The Sierra Freepackers will pack in tools, gear and food to the camps utilized by the backcountry crews. Mariposa Trails and the Sierra National Forest will be in the field with the crew to supervise and participate in the work with the crew.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT This is a community-based project; YOU can be a part. Put your talents and skills to work to enable a reconnection to nature, health, adventure and community prosperity. [Sign-up here](#).