

# **The South Fork Trail**

## **Segment 8: Hite's Cove/Indian Flat Trail**

**Report Date:** July 15, 2022.

**Trail Stats** – Hite's Cove: Mileage: 1 mile; Elevation Gain/Loss: 524 feet. 2,090' (top), 1,566' (bottom).  
Indian Flat: Mileage: 5 mi.; Elevation Gain/Loss: 1,510 feet. 3,173' (top), 1,663' (bottom).

**Status:** [https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1cK-eXqe6IX6YY26\\_JrNhdLB370vI92aL&ll=37.60174944115586%2C-119.79676961792443&z=12](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1cK-eXqe6IX6YY26_JrNhdLB370vI92aL&ll=37.60174944115586%2C-119.79676961792443&z=12)

**Overall Goal** -- To repair and maintain trail for non-motorized users (hikers, runners, backpacking and cyclists). Design and implement with respect to cultural resources.

**Project History** – Hites Cove: Prior to the Ferguson Fire (July 2018), Mariposa Trails had worked extensively to improve the network of trails in the cove. The project was ready to install interpretive signs from the USFS Bass Lake Ranger District. The fire and subsequent erosion completely modified the site, either burying or covering many of the trails. Since 2018, all effort along this portion of the South Fork trail has been to restore the Hite's Cove Trail, which connects to the western end of the cove. Little work has been performed in the cove itself, however. Indian Flat Road: A USFS gate is located near Indian Flat. Other than infrequent lopping of brush to enable passage, no work has occurred on this trail. Post fire vegetation and dead woody materials are rapidly occupying the road; several washouts exist, notably near the "lower mine." The extent of work to be performed would be entirely within the road foot-print, but only as much as is needed to maintain space for a walking path.



## Past Activities --

Except where noted, all categories are described as “number of.”

YEAR	OUTINGS	VOL-HOURS	TREES CLEARED	TREAD REPAIR (ft)	ROCKWORK	BRUSH REMOVED	CAMPSITE IMPROVE
2018							
2019							
2020							
2021							
2022							



## PROPOSED WORK: “South Fork Merced River Trails Project”

### TASK # Work by Contracted Trail Crews

1. Buck 16 fallen trees from trail
2. Remove brush and saplings encroaching onto trail by: (1) extract buck-brush, deer-brush & mountain mahogany by roots (35 hrs labor); and, (2) clipping back brush (50 hrs labor)
3. Repair trail tread (1 mile)

### TASK # Work by Mariposa Trails Volunteers

4. Install a directional, mileage and place-name sign(s)
5. Install cultural interpretation signage (signs provided by USFS)
6. install trailhead wayfinding & informational sign boards



# South Fork Merced River Map Key

Hites Cove Trail

Hite's  
Cove

Sim's  
Cove

Peachtree Bar  
West

Peachtree Bar  
East

Zip  
Creek

Kistler-  
Grapevine

Bishop  
Creek

Savage-Lundy  
Trail

SIERRA  
NATIONAL  
FOREST

Alder Creek

Merced River

140

2500

3000

4000

5000

6000

7000

7000

5000

6000

3500

2500

2500

3500

4000

3500

5000

6000



# SOUTH FORK TRAIL- SEGMENT 8: Hite's Cove/Indian Flat Road

