



2024 - Annual Report

About Us

Incorporated in May 2020, Mariposa Trails is a charitable non-profit with Federal 501(c)(3) status obtained through the extended Form 1023 application process. *Tax ID#: 85-1241296*

Our Vision

We believe that individuals, communities and the planet can all thrive together, and that this health is attained through relationships of reciprocity. Our vision was inspired by the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Kimmerer. We strive to align our programs with the values of reciprocity, gratitude and belonging.

OUR COMPASS

- points to understanding that through healing and sustaining the natural world, the natural world sustains us as well.
- includes a bearing that encourages people to nourish and teach a meaningful relationship of reciprocity with the earth and all her beings, to mindfully listen and learn from the natural world, and in gratitude, share and apply that knowledge.

OUR MAP

- charts the recognition that it is essential to gather, support and celebrate the diverse gifts of individuals and organizations to enable achievement of shared missions.
- reveals that exploring, tending and experiencing the natural world brings understanding that nature is an essential element of humanity.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide trail access and promote its use for adventure, health, stewardship, education and community prosperity. Through respectful use, be it hiking, riding, camping or trail-tending, we embrace trails as gifts, and in gratitude invite you to build comradery with one another and with nature.

Our Board

Bill King, President and Executive Director
Beth Kellner, Treasurer
Steve Humphry
Marcus Padilla

Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of the MARIPOSA TRAILS organization, shaping its vision, enlivening its mission, and achieving its goals.

Message from the Board

Hello Friends,

Restoring and maintaining our local trails over the last five years has been intense. During that time, *Mother Nature* took center stage with what felt like a torrent of events that buried, washed away, fell onto or kept us away from being able to do the work of trail stewardship. It has been an ongoing effort by our trail heroes and stewards to reopen impacted trails. While our focus on the South Fork Trail has enabled a sustained “open” status of the Hites Cove Trail, the Savage Lundy Trail and the Bishop Creek Trail, there are so many others that need trail stewards.

Then, there is the humbling and inspirational presence of volunteers who have answered the call to tend the trails. Since 2018, a total of 256 trail heroes have stepped forward with daypacks and tools in hand to join a Mariposa Trail crew. Having witnessed the power of nature to sculpt the land via fires, storms and regrowth, I tell you emphatically- these trails would not be here without volunteers. We’re honored to be working alongside them.

In 2024, the work on the *South Fork Trail* continued, restoring the following trail segments: the Hite’s Cove Loop Trail; and, the South Fork Trail between: (1) Bishop Creek and Kistler Camp; and between (2) Devil’s Gulch and Peachtree Bar. We are half way through the grant and halfway complete with the trail! Up river from Devil’s Gulch, the trail work was significant, basically reconstructing a trail that had been buried by debris and plants. A giant Thank You to our

volunteer crews and *American Conservation Experience* for restoring trail access to the South Fork Trail.

Our Board wishes to thank everyone involved for sharing your knowledge, vision, stewardship, and support, making 2024 another remarkable year.

Happy Trails



Year in Review

2024 Accomplishments

Expanded Sales of Maps to 11 local outlets.

Tabled Mariposa's third annual "National Trail Day" celebration at the Mariposa Art Park.

Continued work to restore the upper portion of the Skelton Creek Trail, removing invasives, buckbrush and blackberry.

Implemented the Rose Foundation Grant to improve the Bishop Creek Trail and corridor beautification.

Maintained open "green status" of the Savage-Lundy Trail and the Bishop Creek Trail, enabling use by backpackers and equestrians.

In collaboration with Mariposa County, Mariposa Trails led trail stewardship outings with an Americorp crew to restore the Skelton Creek Trail in Jerseydale.

Completed 10 miles of the 18-mile South Fork Project.

Trail Crews

VOLUNTEERS

- 11 new volunteers
- 103 volunteers
- 775 volunteer hours
- \$26,962 of volunteer work value (34.79/hr.)

Our 2024 Trail-Tending Volunteers

Mariposa Trails would like to thank our 2024 trail hero volunteers:

- Steve Humpfry
 - Marcus Padilla
 - Doug Kranovich
 - John Wagoner
 - Teri Cook
 - Patricia Valentyne
 - Bree Sainz
 - Mark Donahue
 - Carrie Toepper
 - Linda Shepler
 - Judd Volino
 - Steve Montimer
 - Tom Lambert
 - Theresa Ho
 - Amy Miller
 - Zach Higgins
-

2024 Trail-Tending Volunteers ... continued ...

- Cesar Sanchez
- Bill King
- Beth Kellner
- Gloria Garland
- Kelli Land
- Sandy Steele
- Jessica Swager
- David Nelson
- Jamie Zoller
- Alison Deak
- Kat Bianco
- Brett Evans
- Moshe Calm
- Kyra Taylor
- David Rodriguez

PAID CREWS

A six-person *American Conservation Experience* (ACE) crew worked 4 hitches (a total of 24 days on the trail, logging 1,589 hours) to improve the Hite's Cove Loop Trail, and the South Fork Trail between: (1) Bishop Creek and Kistler Camp; and between (2) Devil's Gulch and Peachtree Bar (a US Forest Service wilderness ranger and a packer assisted with this later hitch), enabling stock use to Kistler, as well as to the old cable crossing over the South Fork of the Merced River.

Trail Conditions

Trails within our service area continue to be negatively impacted by the consequences of long-term drought, mega-fires and extreme storm events. Consequences of these events include tree falls, soil erosion, rockslides and rampant emergent plant growth. Beginning with the 2018 Ferguson Fire, trail work has become more about restoration, than simple trail maintenance. Some areas of the service area have double-doses of these events and consequences, as well as a significant change in plant communities. For example, prior to 2018, the upper segment of the Skelton Creek Trail wound its way through a forest of pines, firs and cedars. While the bark-beetle infestation and 2018 Ferguson Fire killed many trees, the trail still enjoyed a high degree of overstory pines and oaks. In 2020 and 2021, MT volunteers restored the trail, enabling hikers, backpackers and equestrians on the upper trail. The Oak Fire (2022), heavy equipment and the extreme winter of 21/22 decimated that work and many of the remaining trees, drastically modifying the trail and surrounding landscape. Mariposa Trails remains committed to trail restoration, but the challenge is enormous; some trails may be completely lost, for example the western segment of the Pinoche Ridge Trail, the Granite Ridge Trail and the Virginia Creek Trail.

In 2024, MT trail crews removed:

- 140 logs that had fallen onto trails
- 2,619 branches growing across trails
- 6,625 seedlings located within trail corridors
- 2,937 feet of new/restored trail tread

In 2024, Mariposa Trails completed 25 “volunteer” trail-tending outings on 7 different trails. * (#) denotes number of trail-tending outings.

SAVAGE-LUNDY TRAIL (4)

This trail serves as the western access for future stock support to the South Fork Restoration Project. Volunteer crews continued to push back vegetation from the trail, attaining the highest yearly count of “brush cut from the trail” among all trails maintained.

BISHOP CREEK TRAIL (4)

This trail serves as the eastern access for future stock support to the South Fork Restoration Project. Volunteer crews continued to push back vegetation from the trail. Stock use by highly trained equestrians is now possible to Bishop Creek Campground and Kistler.

TRAIL TO HITE’S COVE (5)

While MT crews restored the majority of this trail in 2019, 2020 and 2021, volunteer crews were busy in 2024, attaining the highest yearly count of “brush cut adjacent to trail” among all trails maintained.

OWL CREEK TRAILS (1)

Area “road trails” are generally open, however, blackberry is reclaiming the southeast section of the trail network.

SKELTON CREEK TRAIL (7)

Significantly impacted by the 2022 Oak Fire and

subsequent regrowth, volunteer crews were busy, recording the highest yearly count of “tread” & “rock wall” improvements among all trails maintained.

HITE’S COVE AREA TRAILS (2)

Following up on ACE crew work in 2024, a great deal of poison oak was removed from the “rock wall switchback.”

SIMS COVE TRAIL (2)

Volunteer crews attained the highest yearly count of “logs cut from trail” among all trails maintained.



Building Community

RECIPROCITY

Mariposa Trails embrace trails as gifts, and in gratitude, we use them respectfully, creating beauty, joy and understanding. Learning about nature and the peoples who have come before us is an integral part of our outings. Sitting together, we share ideas and stories from historic figures, esteemed ecologists, humanitarians and scientists. These moments are cherished by outing participants.

ADVENTURE HIKES

At Mariposa Trails, we view trail work as a means to an end. It's a ceremony of gratitude for what nature provides, and a hope that others will have an opportunity to witness beauty in all its forms.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Mariposa Trails provides trail access and promotes trail use, inviting all to build comradery with one another and with nature. Each year, Mariposa Trails creates outing opportunities for a diverse set of groups.



Fiscal Overview

For fiscal year 1/1/2024 to 12/31/24
Figures as of December 31, 2024

Assets	97,409
Liabilities	78
End of Year Balance	97,409
Funding Sources & Revenue	
Grants	122,767
In-Kind Donations	1,300
Donations - Direct public support	4,006
Fundraising/Programs	2,484
Total Annual Revenue	130,557
Expenses	
General Administration/Operations	11,739
Program Services/Supplies/Equipment	112,277
Total Annual Expense	124,016

* Admin Cost as percent of total expense 9.46%

OUR 2024 DONORS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our financial supporters. Without their contributions, we would not have been able to lay the foundation for “Mariposa Trails,” upon which our work will grow into the future.

- Steve Humphry
- Beth Kellner
- Kim Hastings
- Margarita King
- Benjamin Kurtz
- Judd Volino
- Doug Kranovich
- Community of El Portal (Cat Fong - organizer)
- Nicole Belle-Isle
- Richard Nelson
- Ruth Kepler
- Travis Shatka
- Catherine Trejo
- Colleen Naughton
- Sabine Theurer-Barajas
- Peter Vozdolsky
- Jeffrey and Sandra Gabe Charitable Gift Fund

GRANTS

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- The Rose Foundation

RECEIPT CLUB MEMBERS

Big Thanks to those who gave their grocery store receipts to Mariposa Trails. Both *Pioneer Market* and *High-Country Health Food and Café* offer a receipt program to support local non-profits. We are grateful to these grocers and shoppers who made it possible for this year's \$337 donation. As every penny counts, the same can be said for receipts.

Ralph Menderhausen
Wendy Brown
Jeff Gabe
Ron Allen
Ruthie Kepler
Tracy and David Greenwood
Ralph Ariola
Thomas Sims-Brown
Mark Norman
Nicole Belle Isle
Larry Frates

THE REDWOODS AT WAWONA

In the fall of 2024, our first Board Retreat was held in Wawona. *The Redwoods at Wawona* donated a cabin for three-days to support this event. Thank-You!



Our Thanks!

Our success is a measure of your support. Thank-you volunteers, our fiscal donors, the Sierra Freepackers, our public lands partners (Sierra National Forest, Yosemite National Park and Bureau of Land Management - Mother Lode District), Grantors (Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Rose Foundation), AND our *Mariposa Trails Map* retailers (Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, Pioneer Market, ACE Hardware, Yosemite Climbing Museum, Briceburg Visitor Center, Mariposa History Museum, The Marketplace, Midpines Market, Yosemite Bug, Miner's Inn and REI Fresno).

Your support for “Mariposa Trails” is essential to the provision of access to local trails. Mariposa Trails is dedicated to supporting, maintaining and educating the public about Mariposa’s unique trail system. To support our efforts, please visit: www.MariposaTrails.org



Mariposa Trails

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