

# 2025 Annual Report



# MARIPOSA TRAILS

# 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  
Zach Harrison, Secretary  
Steve Humphry  
Patricia Vallentyne

## Our Volunteers

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

# Year in Review

## 2025 Accomplishments

Expanded the number of retail outlets of the Mariposa Trails Map to 12.

ACE trail crew restored 1.5 miles of the South Fork Trail between Camp Kistler Camp Grapevine.

ACE trail crew restored the “lost” segment of the South Fork Trail west of Camp Casa Diablo and east of Peachtree Bar.

Increased size of Board from 3 to 5.

Volunteer trail stewards begin initial actions to re-open the Coldwater Canyon Trail.

Mariposa Trails partners with AllTrails to improve their website info (trail conditions, access and alerts).

Mariposa Trails began a sustained effort to promote recreational hikes.

Led trail stewardship outings with Americorp to restore the Skelton Creek Trail.

In collaboration with UC Merced, created a Digital Phone Ap as an interpretive guide for the trails we maintain.

## Trail Stewardship

The provision of access to nature via trails is more tenuous than ever. Gone are the days of old when trails were the roadway system that everyone used. Now, they are but relics of that history and used primarily for recreation managed by the US Forest Service. But around 2016, federal trail budgets became tight or just non-existent, and gone with it the federal workforce who used to maintain our local trails. On top of that came other negative forces - drought, bark-beetles, megafires and extreme storm events. Consequences of these events include tree falls, soil erosion, rockslides and rampant re-emergent plant growth, a combined force of nature bent on the literal burial of the trail network. Trail work has become more about restoration, than just simple trail maintenance.

Mariposa Trails remains committed to trail restoration, but the challenge is enormous; we now have a completely new category of trails- “The Lost Trails,” namely: Pinoche Ridge Trail, Ned’s Gulch, Jenkins Hill, Coldwater Canyon Trail, Rush Creek, Granite Ridge and the Virginia Creek. Without attention, they will fade from lost to gone. There is hope, however.

The potential for an amazing interconnected and easily accessible public trail network can be realized in the Merced River Canyon through committed community effort. Come join us at the front of this effort.

### TRAIL CREWS

Community volunteers continued to be the organization’s primary trail stewardship workforce. Additionally, funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy paid for trail work by a six-person *American Conservation Experience* (ACE) crew.

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## 2025 TRAIL HERO VOLUNTEERS:

- Steve Humphry
- Marcus Padilla
- Doug Kranovich
- Jay Cassianni
- Lawson Osteen
- Tom Seymour
- Martijn Ouborg
- Wendy Harrell
- Jim Wittkopf
- Amy Miller
- Teri Cook
- Patricia Valentyne
- Pete Bothwell
- Candy Morris
- Joel Dunno
- Julia Daley
- Alessio Broccardo
- Mike Lund
- Brian Tacklenberg
- Steve Montimer
- Tom Lambert
- Theresa Ho
- Amy Miller
- Zach Higgins
- Cesar Sanchez

- Bill King
- Beth Kellner
- David Nelson
- Matt Castle
- Kat Bianco
- Brett Evans
- Moshe Calm
- Kyra Taylor
- Pat Coico

### Volunteer Trail Hero Stats:

- 10 new volunteers
- 110 total volunteers
- 875 volunteer hours
- \$30,441 of volunteer work value (\$34.79/hr.)

In 2025, Mariposa Trails completed 18 “volunteer” trail-tending outings on 8 different trails. \* (#) denotes number of trail-tending outings.

### ***SAVAGE-LUNDY TRAIL (1)***

This trail serves as the western access for stock support to the South Fork Restoration Project. Volunteer crews continued to push back vegetation and logs from the trail.

### ***BISHOP CREEK TRAIL (4)***

This trail serves as the eastern access for stock support to the South Fork Restoration Project. Volunteers continued effort to maintain trail access by removing brush and logs from the trail.

### ***INDIAN FLAT (UP-N-OVER) TRAIL (2)***

The non-motorized trail on the dirt road up to the ridge was cleared.

### ***SKELETON CREEK TRAIL (5)***

Significantly impacted by the 2022 Oak Fire and subsequent regrowth, volunteer crews were busy reestablishing tread, and removing logs and brush.

### ***HITE'S COVE AREA TRAILS (1)***

Following up on ACE crew work in 2024, the trail was cleared of brush and logs.

### ***SIMS COVE TRAIL (1)***

A one-third mile section of trail was cleared from the Hites Cove 4x4 Road to “French Camp.”

### ***COLDWATER CANYON TRAIL (2)***

The creek has buried the concrete bridge crossing, necessitating a work-around to cross the creek upstream of the defunct bridge.

### ***PINOCHE PEAK TRAIL (2)***

Logs keep falling and crews keep clearing all the way to the lookout on the southeast flank of Pinoche Peak.

### **SUMMARY OF 2025 VOLUNTEER WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- 223 logs removed off trails
- 1,558 branches growing across trails removed
- 507 intrusive plants growing within trail corridors

removed

- 915 feet of trail tread restored and/or constructed

Above work enabled 13 miles of local trails to be enjoyed free of obstructions.

### **PAID CREWS**

A six-person *American Conservation Experience* (ACE) crew worked 3 hitches (a total of 24 days on the trail) to improve remote sections of the South Fork Trail between: (1) Kistler Camp and Grapevine Camp; (2) Sims Cove Trail between Devil’s Gulch and Sims Cove; and (3) between Peachtree Bar and 1 mile east thereof (a US Forest Service wilderness ranger assisted with this 3<sup>rd</sup> hitch).

### **SUMMARY OF 2025 PAID ACE TRAIL WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- 216 logs removed off trails
- 1,300 branches growing across trails removed
- 1,650 intrusive plants growing within trail corridors removed
- 6,483 feet (1.2miles) of trail tread restored and/or constructed

Above work enabled 5 miles of remote local trails to be enjoyed free of obstructions.

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## **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 our kinship with it is an integral part of our outings. Together we share ideas and stories about our belonging with nature from historic figures, esteemed ecologists, humanitarians and scientists.

### TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

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 promotes trail restoration and use to a diverse set of individuals and groups, inviting all to build comradery with one another and with nature.

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# Fiscal Overview

For fiscal year 1/1/2025 to 12/31/25

Figures as of December 31, 2025

<b>Assets</b>	\$36,933
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$8
<b>End of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$36,933</b>
<b>Funding Sources &amp; Revenue</b>	
Grants	\$4,918
Donations - Direct public support	\$3,557
Fundraising/Programs	\$1,425
<b>Total Annual Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,900</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
General Administration/Operations	\$ 5,537
Program Services/Supplies/Equipment	\$64,759
<b>Total Annual Expense</b>	<b>\$70,296</b>

\* Admin Cost as percent of total expense 7.7%

## OUR 2025 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  
Candace Gregory  
Stephen Ho  
Jeffery Moore  
Thomas Lambert  
Margarita King  
Judd Volino  
Nicole Belle-Isle  
Richard Nelson  
William Nicholson  
Ruth Kepler  
Catherine Wallace  
Jeffrey and Sandra Gabe Charitable Gift Fund  
Luis Santo Domingo  
Mike Wenrich

## GRANTS

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- 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 \$314 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



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## 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, The Approach, 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](http://www.MariposaTrails.org)



**Mariposa Trails**  
PO Box 5008-139 Mariposa CA 95338  
MariposaTrails@sti.net/www.MariposaTrails.org

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