The South Fork Trail
Segment 7: Hite's Cove Trail

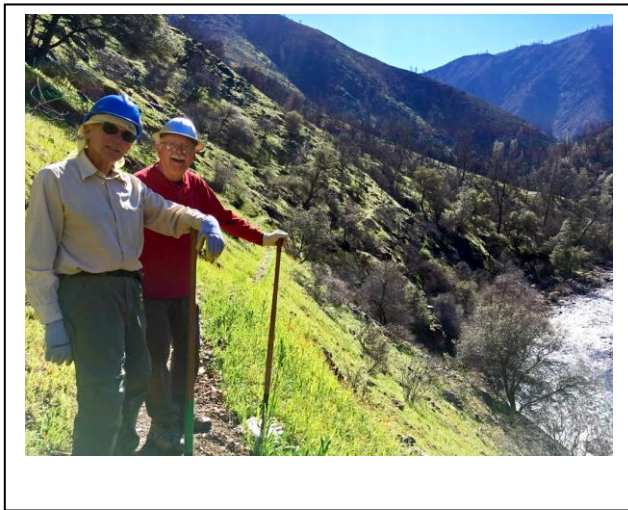**Report Date**: June 29, 2022.

Trail Stats – This segment is composed of the Hite's Cove Trail from Hwy 140, as well as that portion of the Hite's Cove 4x4 Road (situated upstream of Hite's Cove and along the river).
Hite's Cove Trail: Mileage: 4.5 miles; Elevation Gain/Loss: 200 feet. 1,650' (top), 1,450' (bottom).
4x4 Road: Mileage: 1.9 miles; Elevation Gain/Loss: 306 feet. 1,860 (top), 1,554 (bottom).

Status: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1cK-eXqe6IX6YY26_JrNhdLB370vl92aL&ll=37.60174944115586%2C-119.79676961792443&z=12

Overall Goal -- To repair and maintain the trail for non-motorized users (hikers, runners and backpackers).

Project History – Trail restoration began in 2014 and included a network of trails at the cove. Following devastating impacts from fire and subsequent erosion in 2018, extensive trail work between the trailhead and the cove has restored the trail. Much trail work is needed in the cove, however.

Past Activities --

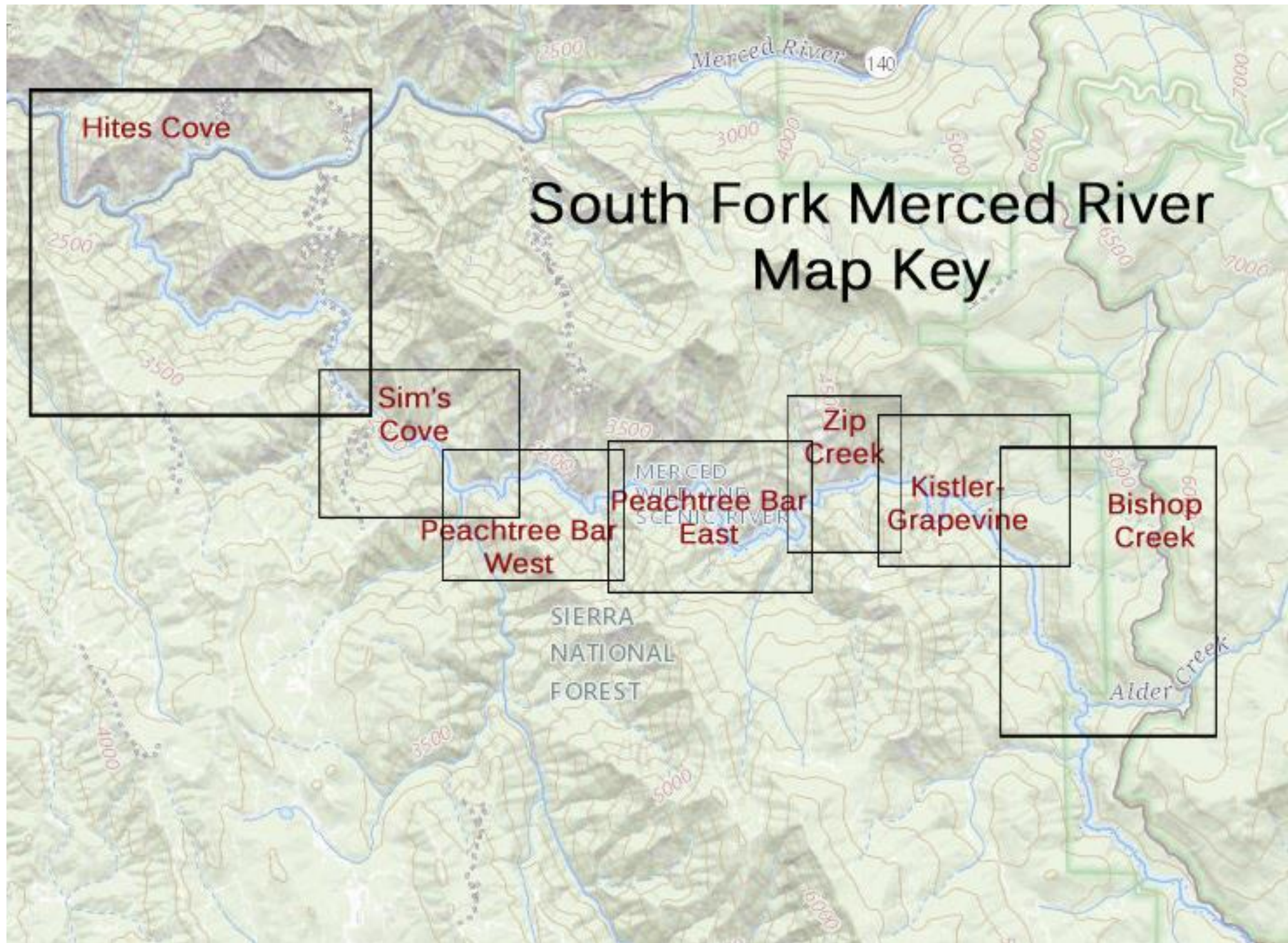Except where noted, all categories are described as "number of."

YEAR	OUTINGS	VOL-HOURS	TREES CLEARED	TREAD REPAIR (ft)	ROCKWORK	BRUSH REMOVED	CAMPSITE IMPROVE
2014	2	112	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
2017	3	308	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
2018	5	187	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
2019	16	721	13	1,855	38	536	0
2020	11	347	20	876	18	3,965	1
2021	7	241	6	670	1	171	0
2022	5	246	6	215	2	1,360	1

NOTE: Table does not include Hite's Cove 4x4 Road, nor work performed in the cove.

Future Tasks –

1.   Install a trail information box at the trailhead.
2.   Buck fallen trees from trail (approximately 2)
3.   Remove brush and saplings encroaching onto trail by: (1) extract buck-brush, poison oak and chamise by roots (24 hrs labor); and, (2) clipping back brush (8 hrs labor)
4.   Clear dead ladder fuel from trunks of oak trees in the trail corridor.
5.   Restore side trails between the main trail and the river

South Fork Merced River Map Key

Hites Cove

Sim's Cove

Peachtree Bar West

Peachtree Bar East

Zip Creek

Kistler-Grapevine

Bishop Creek

MERCED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

Merced River

140

Alder Creek

SOUTH FORK TRAIL- SEGMENT 7: Hite's Cove Trail

HWY 140

140

1

Improvement Tasks

1. Install a trail information box at the trailhead.

2. Buck fallen trees from trail (approximately 2)

3 Remove brush and saplings encroaching onto trail by: (1) extract buck-brush, poison oak and chamise by roots (24 hrs labor); and, (2) clipping back brush (8 hrs labor)

4 Clear dead ladder fuel from trunks of oak trees in the trail corridor.

5 Restore side trails between the main trail and the river

Camp

Hite Cove

HITE'S COVE

5

2 **3**

4

Dashed section is the Hite's Cove 4x4 Road

600 m