



Dear

One thing you can count on in these uncertain times is Friends of the Inyo doing stewardship work on the public lands of the Eastern Sierra. 2020 threw us a curveball, but through it we managed to do some truly remarkable work. We were able to work with our Forest Service partners to provide light trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and an on the ground presence for the visiting public. And did so throughout the summer while following state and local guidelines, keeping our staff safe from COVID.

While uncertainty surrounding the pandemic continues, we can take solace in the fact that we have the summer of 2020 under our belts. We now know how to safely operate our stewardship programs amid a pandemic; we have a proof of concept. So no matter what happens this summer, know that Friends of the Inyo's Trail Ambassadors will be out there keeping your public lands in good shape, and helping you in whatever way we can.

This amazing program is only possible with the support of Friends of the Inyo's dedicated, committed members like you.

If you make a donation, a board member will match the first \$10,000 in donations to fund our Trail Ambassador Program.

So, as we look toward the summer, we have been engaging with our Forest Service partners more than ever to have a great slate of projects we are excited to tackle this summer. Here's just a taste of some things we'll be up to this summer:

- Make the **Buckeye Creek** trail easier to follow and navigate through trail delineation, re-tread, light signage, and bucking of downed logs
- Rehabilitate two active roads in **White Mountain Wilderness** and remove obsolete cattle enclosures at the **Cottonwood Creek Wild & Scenic River**
- Brush the **Baxter Pass** trail for the first 3.5 miles to cut back overgrown whitethorn and stinging nettle
- Re-bench the trail to **Horton Lakes** that was affected by avalanche debris in winter of 2017-2018
- Buck downed logs, obliterate illegal campfire rings, and rehabilitate illegal campsites in the **Fish Creek** and **Iva Belle hot springs** area
- Rebuild a section of trail on the northwest side of the **Mono Pass trail (Rock Creek/Mosquito Flat)**

In an ideal world where it is safe to meet in person with volunteers, we are also hoping to stage five volunteer trash clean-up events at popular frontcountry locations at June Lake, Twin Lakes (Bridgeport), South Lake (Bishop), and Rock Creek, as well as three immersive volunteer "Wilderness Work Weeks" throughout the summer. We remain hopeful to realize that possibility, and will look for guidance from local guidelines in late-Spring for an official decision and event dates. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Alex Ertaud
Stewardship Director

