



FRIENDS OF THE INYO ANNUAL REPORT 2006

I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THIS 2006 ANNUAL REPORT on behalf of the staff and board of Friends of the Inyo —our first such publication. In the 18 months since I joined the staff at our Bishop office, I have witnessed profound growth in the scope of our work and the number of citizens who support our mission. Presenting this information to our members and the institutions that fund our work is an important step in our mission to establish a lasting organization to care for the public lands of the Eastern Sierra.

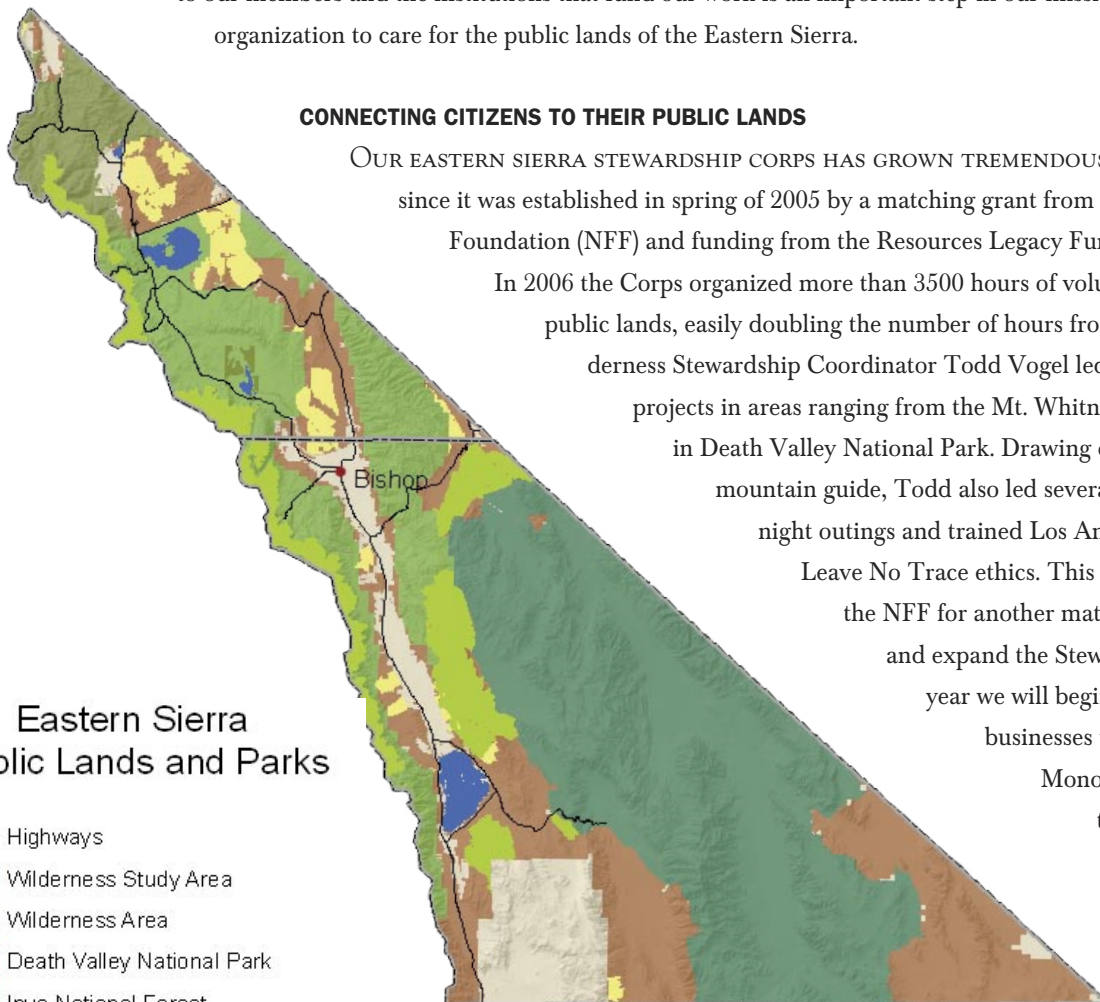
CONNECTING CITIZENS TO THEIR PUBLIC LANDS

OUR EASTERN SIERRA STEWARDSHIP CORPS HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY in the last few years since it was established in spring of 2005 by a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and funding from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF).

In 2006 the Corps organized more than 3500 hours of volunteer work on our public lands, easily doubling the number of hours from the previous year. Wilderness Stewardship Coordinator Todd Vogel led citizen volunteers on projects in areas ranging from the Mt. Whitney trail to Saline Valley in Death Valley National Park. Drawing on his experience as a mountain guide, Todd also led several school groups on overnight outings and trained Los Angeles YMCA leaders in Leave No Trace ethics. This spring, we will apply to the NFF for another matching grant to continue and expand the Stewardship Corps; also this year we will begin a partnership with businesses throughout Inyo and Mono Counties who recognize the economic value of well-maintained trails and healthy wildlife. ■

Eastern Sierra Public Lands and Parks

- Highways
- Wilderness Study Area
- Wilderness Area
- Death Valley National Park
- Inyo National Forest
- Toiyabe National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management



0 20 40 Miles



Executive Director Paul McFarland carries the last fence post from Parker Bench near the Ansel Adams Wilderness.



Girl Scouts work to stabilize the trail around Convict Lake.



Handicapped-accessible fishing platform at Convict Lake.

Our review of 2006 would not be complete without mentioning the first major recreational enhancement project we have completed. Bishop resident Bob Durkee had the vision of an accessible deck that would open the fishing at Convict Lake to residents and visitors of all abilities. Mr. Durkee's call was answered by a number of generous donations from individuals and Eastern Sierra businesses, along with design and permitting help from the Inyo National Forest and volunteer labor from Friends of the Inyo staff and board members and local residents. We dedicated the deck on September 22 – as we say around the office, helping people get outside to enjoy our public lands is our real job.

DEFENDING THE WILD

ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORK remain the heart of Friends of the Inyo's activities. We act as the local defender of the public lands and wildlife in Eastern California, and our Executive Director, Paul McFarland, stays in a constant frenzy monitoring this vast area. Among the many successes of 2006, one of the most important was the temporary removal of domestic sheep from the high plateaus around Dunderberg Mountain, home to a growing population of the endangered Sierra bighorn sheep. Protecting the Sierra bighorn from potentially deadly infections spread by domestic sheep will be an issue requiring continuing efforts.

Many of our members, some volunteers, and a few contractors paid through a grant from RLFF contributed to the route designation process in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests. We consider public input to this process an important step toward preserving the wild nature of our public lands. The end of the 2006 also saw another round of public comments submitted regarding opening a road in Furnace Creek. Paul's work with a variety of other organizations produced a clear response to this threat, and many of our members submitted their comments

directly to the Bureau of Land Management. As the route designation process moves to a new stage and the BLM waits to release its decision regarding Furnace Creek, we again see that ongoing vigilance is paramount.

GROWING TO MEET THE FUTURE

WE STRIVE TO LIMIT OUR SPENDING on activities that are not central to our mission, and we are proud that our management and fundraising expenditures remain low. Behind each grant and donation Friends of the Inyo receives stand people who care deeply about the public lands of the Eastern Sierra; we share their feeling and manage our efforts to maximize the effect of those contributions. Further support from RLFF helped us complete a strategic planning process in November. The resulting plan outlines our objectives and strategies for the next three years, a list that is both exciting and daunting. We look forward to expanding the ranks of volunteers and supporting members who care deeply about the portion of the Eastern Sierra that we all share. As citizens it is ours to enjoy, and to protect.

THIS YEAR IS SURE TO SEE FURTHER BIG CHANGES at Friends of the Inyo; we are currently seeking a larger office space, and we have recently been joined by a Sierra Americorps intern. Laura Chamberlin brings a wealth of experience after two years in the Peace Corps, and extremely helpful skills with Geographic Information Systems; she produced the map of the Eastern Sierra on the front page of this report.

We would like to thank all those who have provided their energy, ideas, and financial support. Our collective effort is making a difference, and will keep these beautiful public lands wild.

*–Darren Malloy
title*



Vehicle damage extends past the end-of-the-road barriers on Tamarack Bench near Little Lakes Valley.



Friends of the Inyo staff member Darren Malloy, removes a barrel from the Inyo Mountains Wilderness.



Citizen-stewards from Volunteer Vacations rehab campsites at Trail Camp on the Mt. Whitney trail.

2006 FINANCIALS

GRANT PROGRAMS

RESTRICTED GRANTS

National Forest Foundation - Wilderness Stewardship Challenge	\$26,000	Matching grant for wilderness stewardship and outdoor education
National Forest Foundation - MAP	\$19,700	Grant for monitoring of Jeffrey Pine forest management strategies
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation	\$130,120	For capacity building, advocacy, strategic planning and general support
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation - RIDE	\$8,000	Support for route inventory work in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests
Desert Legacy Foundation	\$9,000	For stewardship and education efforts to protect Inyo County desert wilderness areas
Polaris	\$4,374	Provided a road grooming machine to Inyo Nat'l Forest to reduce habitat destruction
Norcross Wildlife Foundation	\$5,000	Grant toward purchase of a diesel truck to support education and stewardship efforts

UNRESTRICTED GRANTS

Peradam Foundation	\$20,000	
Patagonia, Inc.	\$8,000	Used to match grant from NFF for wilderness stewardship

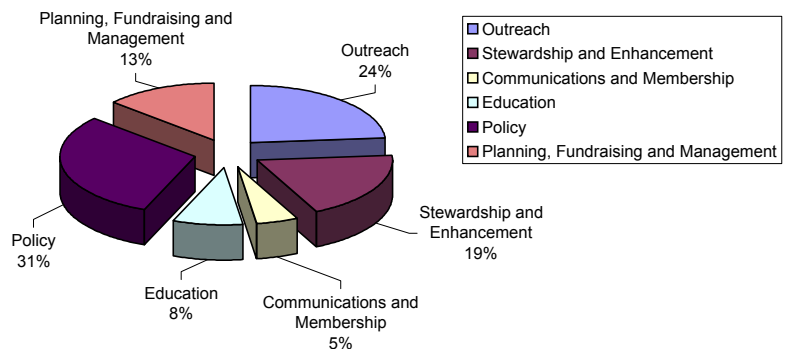
GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CONVICT LAKE FISHING PLATFORM

The Tillie H. Totman Living Trust	\$4,000	
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Strauss	\$5,000	
Granite Bay Ventures	\$5,000	
Patagonia, Inc.	\$1,500	To support staff work on Convict Lake construction project

EXPENSES BY CLASS

EXPENSES

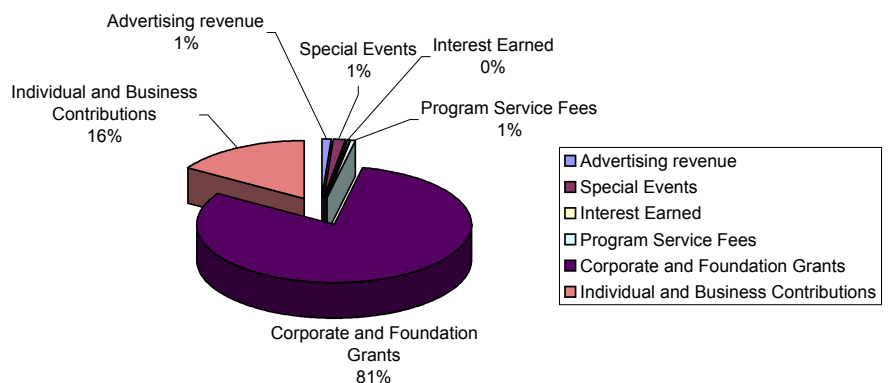
Outreach	\$64,394
Stewardship and Enhancement	\$52,784
Communications and Membership	\$13,704
Education	\$23,099
Policy	\$83,357
Planning, Fundraising and Management	\$36,778
2006 Total Expenses	\$274,117



REVENUE

REVENUE

Advertising Revenue	\$3,950
Special Events	\$3,818
Interest Earned	\$1,072
Program Service Fees	\$1,886
Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$258,002
Individual and Business Contributions	\$51,453
2006 Total Revenue	\$320,181





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