

● impact

PINE NUTS



ANNUAL REPORT • **2022**

Pine nuts, a high-energy food, helped sustain Native peoples of the Eastern Sierra through the winter. Friends of the Inyo's annual impact report is symbolically named thus to acknowledge the support of our donors, funders, and volunteers, whose generosity sustains our work of protecting and caring for the land and water of the Eastern Sierra.

Despite challenges that include high gasoline prices and inflation beginning early in 2022, Friends of the Inyo's revenue for the year totaled \$814,311. Furthermore, we gratefully received volunteering support valued at more than \$50,000! As you will see in the narrative that follows, we have accomplished much since our last annual impact report thanks to your dollars and your sweat equity. Your precious "pine nuts" continue to sustain us.

Used People Power to Increase and Diversify Our Service Footprint

Welcomed our first Indigenous Community Relations Coordinator, a member of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, onto Friends of the Inyo's staff.

Hired a second English-Spanish bilingual staff member who is based in Lone Pine. Friends of the Inyo now "Habla Español" in both its Bishop and Lone Pine offices.

Began leading annual Latino Conservation Week events in an effort to increase access to and education about nature for the local Hispanic community.

Opened our first ever Satellite Office in Lone Pine, which puts us closer to the headquarters of the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone and Timbisha Shoshone Tribes, with whom we are working more closely than ever to protect and care for lands that comprise their ancestral homelands in Southern Inyo County.

Returned the Owens Lake Bird Festival to a live multi-day event format.

Engaged with many Eastern Sierra stakeholders to create an ongoing offering of events and advocacy opportunities designed to engage more of the community in the appreciation and protection of the precious lands and waters of the Eastern Sierra.

Divided our policy work between a Desert Lands Campaign Manager based in Southern Inyo County, and a Water and Forest Campaign Manager based in Mono County, to add quality and focus to our land and water protection and conservation efforts throughout our coverage area.

Protected Eastern Sierra Land and Water

Continued efforts to develop partnerships with the indigenous communities of southern Inyo County to permanently protect approximately 160,000 acres of their traditional ancestral lands.

Engaged in the defense of Conglomerate Mesa from yet another mining exploration project.

Intensified efforts to organize many local stakeholders to protect the water of the Owens Valley and Mono Basin from continued extraction.

Worked to protect the health of the ecosystems of the Bodie Hills from various threats, including the development of gold mining operations.

Continued efforts to protect Hot Creek from a destructive mining exploration project, including appealing the trial court's denial of our action challenging the legality of the project's approval.

Engaged with federal land managers and other stakeholders to maintain a focus on conservation in land management decisions regarding over snow travel, the augmentation of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and development of new trails and other recreation facilities in the Mammoth area.

Delivered Boots-On-the-Ground Stewardship and Provided Education and Engagement for Eastern Sierra Visitors

Two hundred and twelve Volunteers donated 1,345 Volunteer Hours valued at \$37.32 per hour in California, or close to \$50,200 altogether, according to Independent Sector—a coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs that each year calculates the value of a volunteer hour per state for the United States.

Together with our Volunteers, we:

- Monitored 758 miles of trails
- Maintained 50,483 feet (9.56 miles) of trails, including the removal of 143 logs and the maintenance of 602 trail structures
- Restored 2,278 feet of trails
- Removed 1,889 lbs. of trash
- Cleaned 264 campsites
- Removed 151 illegal fire rings

Our Trail Ambassadors and Stewardship Leaders led 196 attendees on our popular Summer Interpretive Hikes, and interacted with 1,910 visitors to local public lands.

Thank you!

We appreciate your support, which made our impact, since the last Pine Nuts Annual Report, so significant!

Wendy Schneider, Executive Director
On behalf of Friends of the Inyo's Staff and Board



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