



Dear Friend,

Payahuunadü: Land of Flowing Water – Paiute for the Owens Valley, Friends of the Inyo's home. Thanks to your generosity, we are nearing the end of our 35th anniversary in protecting and caring for the public lands of the Eastern Sierra.

As the second year of a pandemic, 2021 has not been without challenges—and opportunities. Take a look back on this year with us and **consider doubling your impact effortlessly through your continuing support.** Details on how this is possible follow some 2021 highlights within our various initiatives.

Protecting Our Lands

Bodie Hills - Leading the #BodieHillsConservationPartnership, we are crafting legislation to permanently protect the Bodie Hills from industrial mining, advance Tribal priorities, and bring in federal dollars to the rural gateway communities of Bridgeport and Lee Vining.

Conglomerate Mesa - Channeling overwhelming support to #ProtectConglomerateMesa and honor the wishes of Indigenous communities, we facilitated the submission to the Bureau of Land Management of over 20,000 public comments opposing a destructive mining project, and provided technical, science-based data to counter mining industry claims.

Keep Long Valley Green - As evidenced by a recent front-page article in the L.A. Times, we provided leadership to the #KeepLongValleyGreen Coalition, elevating the narrative that Los Angeles has achieved enough water conservation to stop diverting water from Payahuunadü.

Long Valley Mining - Joined a lawsuit to stop exploratory drilling for gold, which jeopardizes the imperiled bi-state sage grouse around iconic Hot Creek, east of Mammoth Lakes.

Stewardship & Education

We continued to work with government agencies, nonprofit partners, visitors and volunteers to upkeep favorite recreational spots while disseminating information on wilderness protection.

Partnering/Volunteering: 9 cleanup events, including 2 multi-day backcountry stewardship endeavors in Eagle and Cottonwood Creeks.

Educational Hikes and Outings: 13 held throughout Inyo and Mono Counties.

Virtual Events: 5 COVID-safe events for bird, water and desert protectors/advocates.

Impact by the Numbers:

- 1,992 visitors engaged
- 39,215 feet of trail maintained
- 190 campsites cleaned
- 126 illegal fire rings removed
- 677 pounds of trash collected
- 5.8 miles of illegal OHV tracks effaced

Community Engagement

Inclusion Committee - Working to increase diversity among FOI's leadership, staff and supporters, and improve underrepresented communities' access to public lands and participation in their protection.

Engaging with Native Communities - Listened to and learned from Tribal members and leaders in our

commitment to amplify the voices of Payahuunadü's original stewards in local conservation efforts.

Spanish-Language Outreach - Hired an English/Spanish bilingual staff member and began to engage Inyo and Mono Counties' growing Hispanic community in Spanish.

"Double-Your-Impact" Opportunity

We are proud of these accomplishments but cannot bask in their glow because:

- Mining interests are still a threat, including through the potential use of cyanide heap-leach mining.
- Excessive and unsustainable water extraction threatens our ecosystems' health.
- Global warming continues to plague our state with drought and wildfires.
- The lingering economic effects of COVID are driving up inflation, limiting the buying power of every dollar invested in conservation.

Fortunately, two anonymous "Donor Angels" have provided FOI with a matching gift, ensuring that **all donations received in answer to this year-end appeal, up to \$11,500, are doubled!**

Here is a perfect opportunity to multiply the impact of your tax-deductible donation. Won't you give? Surprise a loved one with the gift of an FOI membership, thereby growing our support base while watching your donation double.

On behalf of the irreplaceable natural, living, and cultural treasures of Payahuunadü, we thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Wendy Schneider
Executive Director



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