



REACH FOR THE SKY!

Friends of the Inyo's 2022 Year-End Fundraising Appeal

Dear Friend,

Friends of the Inyo's Board of Directors, checkbooks in hand, have literally "reached for the sky" with their giving and donated \$21,000 toward our Year-End Matching Gift Fundraising Campaign. Every dollar received from donors like you between Giving Tuesday and New Year's Eve will be doubled! Multiply the impact of your engagement in helping *To protect and care for the public lands of the Eastern Sierra* by "reaching for the sky" with your giving to support Friends of the Inyo!

Following is how Friends of the Inyo's Staff have ourselves "reached for the sky" in our public land protection and advocacy efforts in 2022.

Caring for the Land Through Extensive Stewardship

Trail Ambassadors - 5 Trail Ambassadors served every National Forest Ranger District from Mt.

Whitney to Bridgeport, and led interpretive hikes and yoga classes attended by 196 participants.

- **Trail work:** 853 miles monitored; 54,788 feet maintained; 2,345 feet of unsanctioned trail restored; 155 downed logs removed
- **Campsites:** 283 cleaned; 21 illegal campsites restored; 167 illegal fire rings removed
- **Trash:** 2,128 pounds removed
- **Leave No Trace:** 2,080 visitors contacted and educated on Leave No Trace principles

Multi-Day Backcountry Stewardship - Hosted 3 volunteer backcountry work weeks.

Volunteers Facilitated - 258 volunteers delivered 1,533 hours of service, valued at \$54,513.

Leading the Keep Long Valley Green Campaign

Advocacy - Continued to lead a diverse coalition to maintain pressure on LADWP to prevent dewatering of Long and Little Round Valleys, which would have devastating impacts on wildlife and economic activities crucial to our region.

Without Water - Facilitated completion and wide exhibition of our 21-minute water justice documentary, which has been shown at 15 film festivals; received four awards; and is now on KLVG's Vimeo and YouTube channels.



Social Media - Launched @keeplongvalleygreen on Instagram, now boasting 1,000+ followers. Doubled followers of @longvalleygreen Twitter and @keeplongvalleygreen Facebook pages.

Every Last Drop E-Newsletter - Subscribers more than doubled to 460+.

Defending Hot Creek

Partnering Creatively - After bringing litigation in 2021 to halt destructive road construction, dust, noise, light and water pollution from proposed mining, this year we strengthened our defense of Hot Creek by becoming fiscal sponsor to grassroots organization NoHotCreekMine.com.

Protecting Conglomerate Mesa

Advocacy - Helped keep Conglomerate Mesa free from destructive road construction and mining exploration by harnessing overwhelming public support for the protection of local tribal resources, wildlife, rare plants, and recreational opportunities.

Media Engagement - Garnered national attention for this desert gem in the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times.

Events - Connected hundreds to the beautiful lands of southern Inyo County through our Owens Lake Bird Festival and Dark Desert Skies Campout series. Highlighted Conglomerate Mesa's vulnerable flora at the 2022 California Native Plant Society's Annual Conference.

Lone Pine Satellite Office - Opened in August to provide easier community access to information and engagement opportunities regarding our work in southern Inyo County..

Protecting Wildlife in Winter on the Inyo National Forest

Advocacy - Lobbied for a Winter Travel Management Plan on the Inyo National Forest that prioritizes the protection of wildlife during their most challenging months.

Advancing Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership Efforts

Leadership - Continued leading the BHCP, working to protect the Bodie Hills from industrial mining. Advanced area Tribal priorities with state and federal agencies.

Protecting Wildlife on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Native Species Protection - The Bi-state sage grouse, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Yosemite toad, and Whitebark pine were protected thanks to our advocacy efforts, together with other partners, in opposing new livestock grazing permits.

Working Toward Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Language Justice - Presented a template for ensuring greater multilingual engagement in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation at two national environmental nonprofit conferences and to lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Wildfire Safety ¡En Español! - Worked with Mammoth Lakes, Whitebark Institute and *El Sol de la Sierra* newspaper to inform local Spanish speakers about wildfire prevention and preparedness.

Latino Conservation Week - Held FOI's first LCW event, "Shepherds of Today!" in Bishop City Park.

Despite these accomplishments, there is much more work to be done. On the horizon, we still see threats to the Eastern Sierra, knowing that:

- LADWP will continue its attempts to increase the amount of water it exports from Payahuunadu through diversions, pumping, and irrigation cut-offs.
- K2 Gold will move forward with its proposal to destroy the pristine desert gem of Conglomerate Mesa by building roads and drilling more than 70 holes 400 feet into the earth.
- The US Forest Service will continue to need our help to manage the impacts of increasing numbers of visitors to our beautiful public lands.

Won't you also "reach for the sky" through your giving and help Friends of the Inyo ensure the protection of the Eastern Sierra?

Sincerely,



Wendy Schneider
Executive Director





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