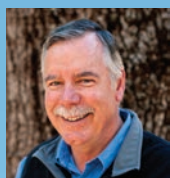


2015 Annual Report



Providing For Yosemite's Future

Dear Friend of Yosemite



WHEN WE REFLECT ON 2015, which marked Yosemite's 125th anniversary as a national park, we're struck by the role our donors play in preserving the park's legacy as a national treasure. For almost 100 years, Conservancy donors have helped Yosemite set a high bar for preserving natural resources and providing unparalleled visitor experiences. In recent years, Conservancy donors have provided more than \$100 million in grants to fund comprehensive trail and habitat restoration, wildlife protection, pioneering research and enriching educational programs.

With this Annual Report, we're celebrating, with enormous gratitude, the accomplishments made possible by your generous gifts in 2015. With your support, scientists were able to report major progress on two iconic mammals: the sighting of a rare Sierra Nevada red fox inside park borders for the first time in 99 years, and the return of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep to the Cathedral Range after more than a century of absence. Talented crews and volunteers completed work throughout the park, repairing trails, restoring meadows, studying sequoia seedlings and so much more — all thanks to you.

And as we look back at 2015 and celebrate this year's National Park Service centennial, we're also looking ahead, to the new generation of stewards growing out of the youth programs you fund. You helped young people, from 5-year-old junior rangers to college-age interns, discover Yosemite and learn about preserving natural resources.

Thank you, from all of us at the Conservancy, for your support. You are ensuring a bright future for Yosemite, for the next 125 years and beyond.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Philip L. Pillsbury Jr. in dark ink.

Philip L. Pillsbury Jr.
CHAIR

A handwritten signature of Frank Dean in dark ink, written in a cursive style.

Frank Dean
PRESIDENT



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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Don Neubacher

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OUR MISSION

Providing for Yosemite's future is our passion.
We inspire people to support projects and programs
that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's
resources and enrich the visitor experience.



An aerial photograph showing a river with white water rapids flowing through a lush green forest. A paved path runs along the riverbank, where a group of people is gathered. The surrounding landscape is rugged, with rocky terrain and dense evergreen trees.

Your Gifts at Work

YOUR SUPPORT is visible in every corner of Yosemite. You can see the impact of your 2015 gifts in climber-access trails near El Capitan; in the sequoia groves, where restoration and research is protecting awe-inspiring trees; in the Hodgdon Meadow songbird science station or the cameras documenting rare animals in the northern Wilderness; and in the thousands of junior rangers proudly wearing their Yosemite badges, as they learn about the natural world.

The grants you support fund the park's highest priorities, from repairing trails to keeping wildlife wild.

Read on for highlights from some of the many projects you made possible last year.

HABITAT

Working in the mist beside Vernal Fall, crews found 44 flora species, eliminated 11 social trails and restored crucial habitat, improving safety for hikers while protecting specialized spray-zone plants.

PHOTO: © KEITH WALKLET.



TRAILS

Yosemite's 24 young California Conservation Corps crew members restored 11,616 feet of trails in the Merced and Tuolumne watersheds, gaining valuable skills while continuing the program's 37-year legacy in the park.

VISITOR SERVICES

More than 70 trained Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) volunteers patrolled trails and shared safety information with 27,000 visitors at popular spots, such as Yosemite Falls and the Mist Trail.

WILDLIFE

Yosemite is a haven for California's fewer than 300 great gray owls. In 2015, biologists detected 42 of the rare birds during meadow surveys, part of efforts to study and protect the species.

"Yosemite has the most robust great gray owl monitoring program in California, thanks to Yosemite Conservancy. ... This owl population is too rare and vulnerable to risk not having this critical information."

— SARAH STOCK

Wildlife Biologist
National Park Service





CULTURAL & HISTORIC

Seven new animals joined Yosemite's hard-working stock team, carrying on a long-running legacy of performing essential duties on wilderness patrols and pack trains while serving as natural park ambassadors.



SCIENCE

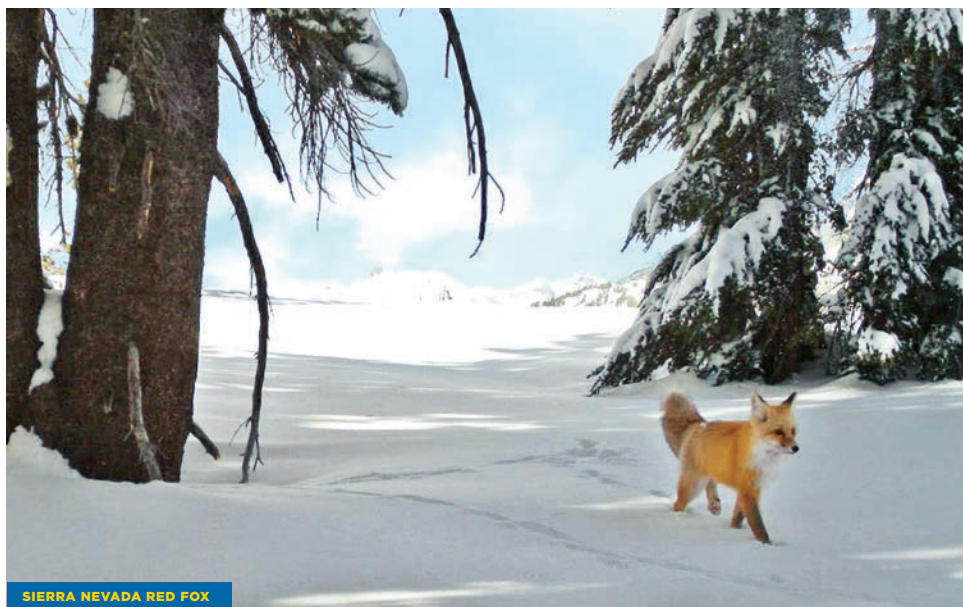
While surveying 1,800 recently burned acres, botanists mapped 31 “fire-following” plant species, including dozens of populations of the rare Small's southern clarkia, which grows in only a few California counties.

PHOTOS: (LEFT) © COURTESY OF CCC. (MIDDLE) © JOE MEDLEY.
(RIGHT TOP & BOTTOM) © COURTESY OF NPS.

Yosemite as a Living Lab

YOSEMITE'S forests, meadows, mountains and lakes are living laboratories, brimming with biodiversity and offering valuable clues about the past, present and future of the park — and our planet. The research you support in Yosemite helps shape key decisions, including how to manage fire, protect wildlife and restore habitats — and even provides a foundation for science-based Conservancy programs, such as Outdoor Adventures, that engage and educate the public.





SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX



BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

IN 2015, your gifts helped scientists use cutting-edge tools to study and protect the park's wildlife. Biologists used **GPS** technology to monitor endangered bighorn sheep and discover that black-headed grosbeaks, a species studied through Yosemite's songbird program, molt during migration. Using special **ACOUSTIC-MONITORING SOFTWARE**, rangers recorded calls from 16 bat species during guided walks, where visitors heard echolocation sounds "translated" into the human hearing range. **MOTION-ACTIVATED CAMERAS** captured thousands of images and confirmed the presence of two rare carnivores: the Pacific fisher and the Sierra Nevada red fox. Researchers drew on **ENVIRONMENTAL DNA** to identify predator-free lakes, part of efforts to restore Yosemite's Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs.

In addition to funding innovative technology, your support allowed researchers to cover thousands of acres and gather field data on a variety of plants and animals. As Yosemite's owl team conducted more than 200 surveys to study how fires have affected the habitats and breeding of **SPOTTED AND GREAT GRAY OWLS**, they detected 105 individual birds and collected nearly 300 molted feathers. Forest-focused scientists counted 768 sequoia seedlings in **TUOLUMNE GROVE** while examining conditions the giant trees need to grow; elsewhere, a team searched for Yosemite's largest (non-sequoia) trees and used special scopes to confirm the locations of 29 arboreal champions, including the world's tallest pine.

The science you fund in Yosemite resonates beyond park borders — and into the future. Techniques and tools honed here can improve research and conservation efforts in the Sierra and elsewhere. Data and samples collected throughout Yosemite, from waterfall "spray zones" to rugged talus fields, expand our understanding of many species, whether endemic to the park or common worldwide. Snowpack research helps us understand, and plan for, the effects of a changing climate on natural resources.



SIERRA NEVADA YELLOW-LEGGED FROG

THANKS TO YOU,

innovative Yosemite-based research is providing insights that will help present and future public-lands stewards restore, preserve and protect precious natural landscapes — an increasingly rare resource.

PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) © COURTESY OF NPS. © COURTESY OF NPS. © ANN AND ROB SIMPSON. © MICHAEL HERNANDEZ

For **ONE** Yosemite National Park:

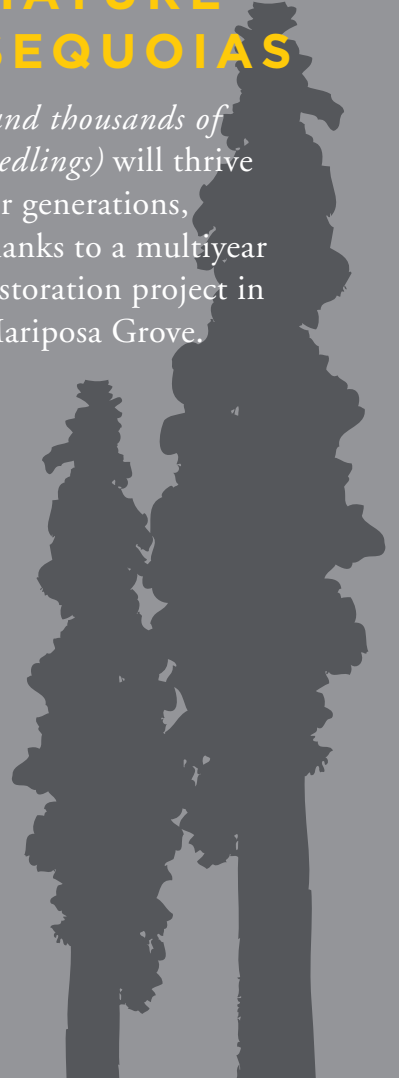
AS A CONSERVANCY DONOR, you play a vital role in Yosemite. The 41 new grants you funded in 2015 transformed trails, restored habitat for plants and animals, created enriching visitor experiences, and more. And by volunteering, participating in our in-park programs and shopping in our bookstores, you deepened your connection to the park, while supporting projects that preserve and protect its resources.

Here are some of the many ways you made a difference in Yosemite.

500

**MATURE
SEQUOIAS**

(and thousands of seedlings) will thrive for generations, thanks to a multiyear restoration project in Mariposa Grove.



Total support to Yosemite surpassed

\$13,200,000

including gifts from more than **42,000** donors.

Backpackers helped keep bears wild by renting



9,015

**BEAR-PROOF
CANISTERS**
from the Conservancy.

More than

110

**MILES OF
TRAILS**

benefited from the work
of world-class crews.



More than

630,000 **PARK
VISITORS**

connected with Yosemite Conservancy through in-park
programs, bookstores and wilderness services.



More than

25,000

YOUNG PEOPLE

explored nature and stewardship
through donor-funded Youth in
Yosemite Programs.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep
returned to their ancestral
Cathedral Range habitat
for the first time in

100
YEARS.



Statement of Financial Position

As of Dec. 31, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Investments	\$18,078,580
Receivables & Other Assets	\$3,597,514

Total Current Assets **\$21,676,094**

Pledges Receivable, Net of Current Portion	\$1,365,675
Furniture & Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$528,280
Land Held for Future Use	\$764,200
Deposits	\$14,500

TOTAL ASSETS **\$24,348,749**

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$607,999
Grants Payable to Yosemite National Park, Current Portion	\$1,911,067

Total Current Liabilities **\$2,519,066**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted*	\$10,403,348
Temporarily Restricted	\$10,412,626
Permanently Restricted	\$1,013,709

Total Net Assets **\$21,829,683**

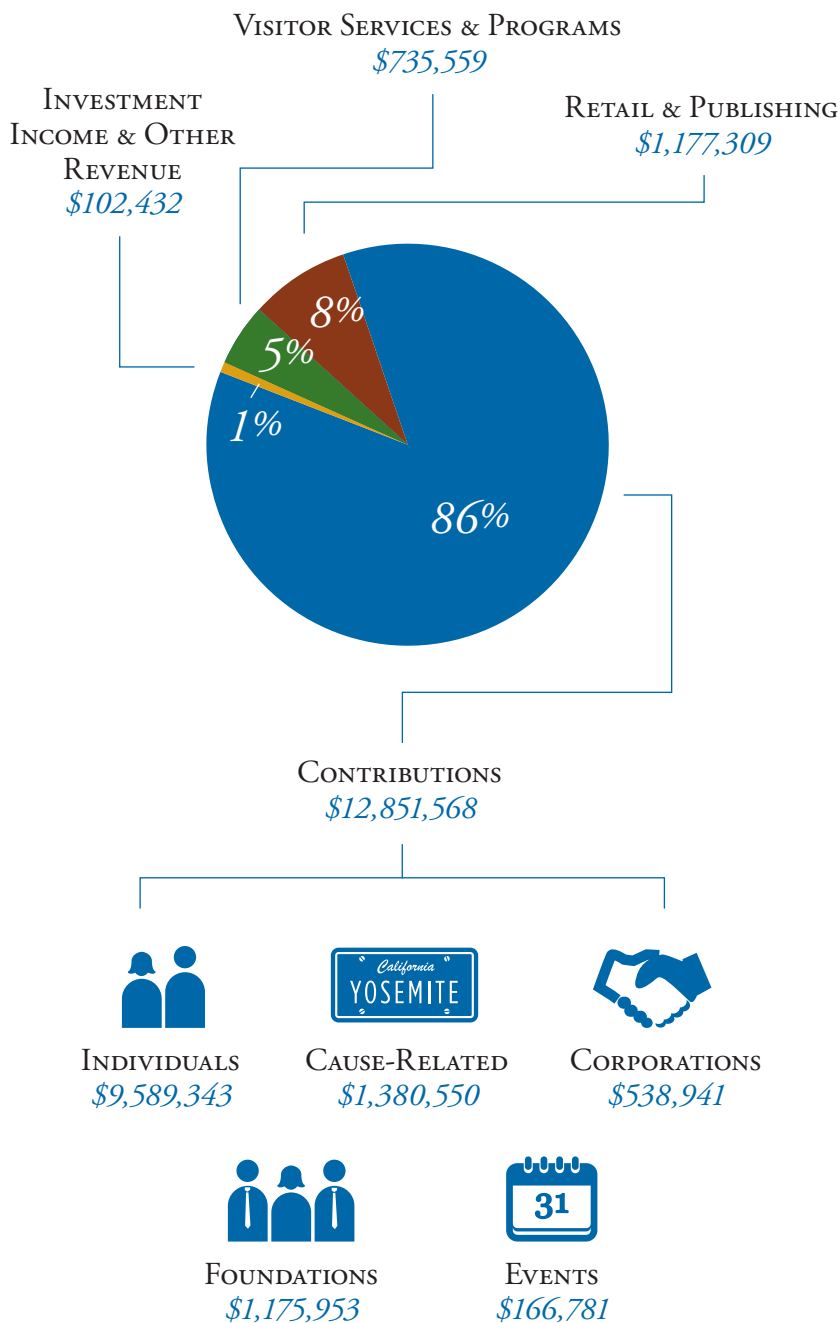
TOTAL LIABILITIES

& NET ASSETS **\$24,348,749**

*Reserves are maintained to meet future grant obligations to Yosemite National Park.

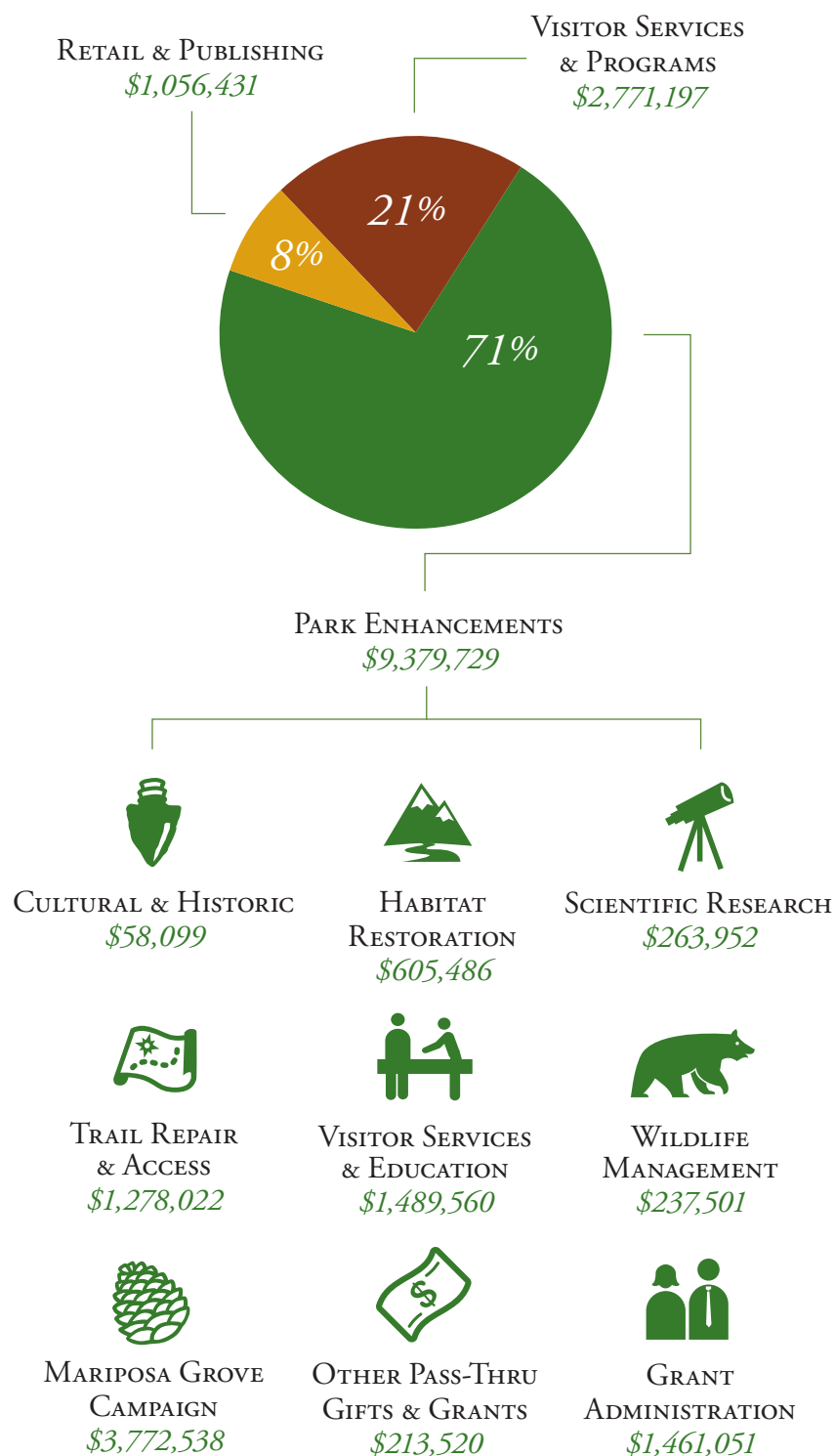
SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$14,866,868



AID TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

\$13,207,357



Statement of Activities

As of Dec. 31, 2015

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$12,851,568
Retail & Publishing	\$1,177,309
Visitor Services & Programs	\$735,559
Investment Income & Other Revenue	\$102,432

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE **\$14,866,868**

EXPENSES

Aid to Park

Park Enhancements	\$9,379,729
Retail & Publishing	\$1,056,431
Visitor Services & Programs	\$2,771,197

Total Aid to Park **\$13,207,357**

Administrative	\$882,782
Fundraising	\$1,432,607

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$15,522,746**

Thank You, Donors

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY is extremely grateful to the John Muir Heritage Society and Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society individual donors, foundations, businesses and volunteers who supported our work at a leadership level from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015.

John Muir Heritage Society

The John Muir Heritage Society is composed of individuals with a strong commitment to preserving and protecting Yosemite for the future by giving \$1,000 and more each year.

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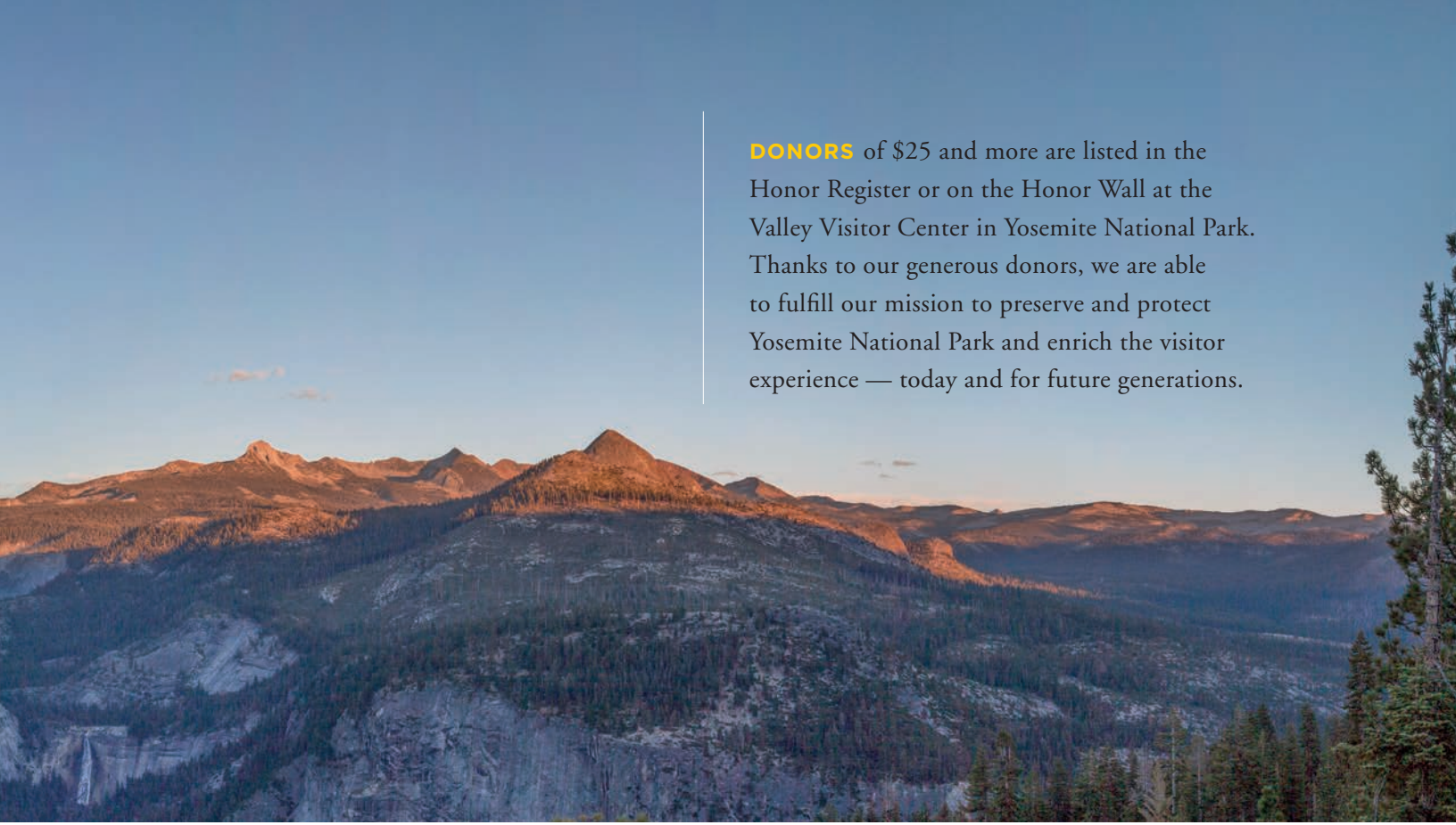
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DONORS of \$25 and more are listed in the Honor Register or on the Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite National Park. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to fulfill our mission to preserve and protect Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience — today and for future generations.

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“Our giving is motivated by Yosemite’s spirit, by the Conservancy’s inspired leadership, by our family’s first experiences and by our volunteering with the Conservancy.”

— STEVEN & KIM RIZZUTO

(pictured with daughter, Adrionna [far left], and granddaughter, Alyssa)

Yosemite Conservancy Volunteers, John Muir Heritage Society
 Donors & Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society Members

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PHOTO: © AL COULB

*"We love being in Yosemite. It is our retreat,
providing physical and spiritual renewal.
We enjoy supporting Yosemite Conservancy,
where we can be with friends who share
our passion for the park."*

— HOWARD & MARILYN WHELAN

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2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gretchen Roecker

DESIGN

Eric Ball Design

PRINT PRODUCTION

TradeMark Graphics, Inc.

Federal Tax Identification No. 94-3058041



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