Providing For Yosemite’s Future
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.

Philip L. Pillsbury Jr. 
CHAIR

Frank Dean 
PRESIDENT
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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.

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PHOTOS: (COVER, LEFT & RIGHT) © KEITH WAJSLET.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Superintendent Don Neubacher

PHOTOS: (COVER, LEFT & RIGHT) © KEITH WAJSLET.
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
**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.

**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.
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.
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 ACOUTIC-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.

THANKS TO YOU,
novative 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.
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.

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 I10 MILES OF TRAILS benefited from the work of world-class crews.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep returned to their ancestral Cathedral Range habitat for the first time in 100 YEARS.

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.
Statement of Financial Position
As of Dec. 31, 2015

Support & Revenue
$14,866,868

Visitor Services & Programs
$735,559

Retail & Publishing
$1,177,309

Investment Income & Other Revenue
$102,432

Contributions
$12,851,568

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

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

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $24,348,749

SUPPORT & REVENUE

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*Reserves are maintained to meet future grant obligations to Yosemite National Park.
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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Gifts of $100,000 & more

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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.

“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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Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society

Yosemite Conservancy thanks members of the Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society, who have provided for Yosemite’s future in their estate plans.

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Jonnie V. Denise  
John & Kathleen Dewes  
Charles T. DeWoody  
Christine Dickey  
Charles Dillingham & Susan Clines

““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

John Muir Heritage Society Donors & Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society Members
As a young boy, I made occasional visits to the park. Now, having the wisdom that comes with age, I have grown to cherish Yosemite. I am happy to do what I can through the Conservancy to protect this special place.”

— John Houghton

John Muir Heritage Society Donor & Joseph Le Conte Legacy Society Member
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Ellen Smith  
Mollie Smith  
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Gifts In Memory
Memorial gifts of $1,000 and more are listed below; memorial gifts of $25 and more are included on the Honor Wall or in the Honor Register in Yosemite.

Erin Anders  
Joseph P. Augustyn  
Alice Guan Baldwin  
Jim Benedict  
Adam M. Berger  
Don D. Brake  
Anna D. & Darrell E. Burch  
Joan Heeley Miller Burnett  
Karen Louise Chin  
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Thank You, Donors

Donors  
In memoriam  
Estate Gifts  
Gifts In Memory  
Memorial gifts of $1,000 and more are listed below; memorial gifts of $25 and more are included on the Honor Wall or in the Honor Register in Yosemite.

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