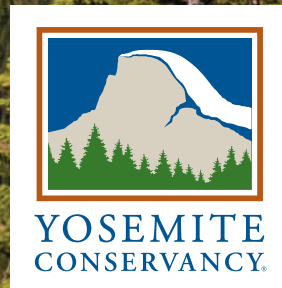


# 2022 Annual Report

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**OUR MISSION**

*We inspire people to support projects  
and programs that preserve Yosemite and  
enrich the visitor experience for all.*



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*



## Dear Friend of Yosemite,



Steve Ciesinski, Chair



Frank Dean, President

It is always satisfying to look back at the previous year and celebrate the good work we have done together.

We are pleased to share our 2022 annual report, highlighting the remarkable projects and programs made possible by your generous support. Every part of Yosemite National Park has been touched by the projects that you have funded to preserve this wild and wonderful place and improve the visitor experience.

Last year was a milestone for Yosemite Conservancy as we funded an unprecedented number of projects. From addressing the effects of climate change to uncovering Yosemite's rich history, our initiatives have enriched the park and captivated millions of visitors.

Your contributions always play a vital role in our ongoing work, and last year was no exception. We began the rehabilitation of the visitor facilities at Bridalveil Fall and worked to establish a new Welcome Center in Yosemite Valley. Your support also assisted monitoring and protecting Yosemite's imperiled carnivores, promoting the understanding of pollinator species, and restoring habitats for monarch butterflies. In addition, our funding helped park researchers use lidar technology to better understand bird habitats, assess forest vulnerability, and study wildlife species.

The Conservancy's own low-cost and fee-free programs brought education and fun to tens of thousands of visitors of all ages. Whether they involve the Wilderness programs, Outdoor Adventures, or art programs, our staff have inspired and engaged individuals and families of all kinds and helped them foster deeper connection with Yosemite's natural wonders.

The Yosemite Bike Share program, made possible by your support, has provided an eco-friendly alternative for visitors to explore the park. New bikes and dedicated staff have helped expand the program, enabling more people to experience the beauty of Yosemite and avoid summer traffic.

We are immensely grateful for your unwavering support and partnership. Together, we can continue to make a significant difference in preserving Yosemite's natural and cultural heritage for generations to come.

Thank you for your dedication to Yosemite and its future.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steve Ciesinski".

Steve Ciesinski, Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Frank Dean".

Frank Dean, President





# Your Gifts at Work

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

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**Y**osemite Conservancy funded a banner number of projects this year, and the results have been tangible, meaningful, and fascinating. Together, we've done important work to address visible effects of our changing climate, to reveal stories that capture Yosemite's diverse history, and to creatively serve the millions of visitors looking to refresh and rejuvenate.

In 2022, because of you, we supported key projects and programs throughout the park, including the monitoring of iconic wildlife species; the increased usage of lidar for multiple research projects; the expansion of Conservancy art, wilderness, volunteer, and outdoor programs — which reached more visitors than ever before; and so much more.



## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS/ATHENA DEMETRY.

**Lidar** (light detection and ranging) is a remote sensing tool that works by using a laser beam to determine the distance to an object. Lidar is a perfect complement to fieldwork, offering a more granular view of habitats.

In 2022, park researchers worked to unite lidar forest structure data with location data to evaluate conditions for a variety of songbirds. Together, these rich data sets are helping park managers develop restoration plans to maximize habitat for bird species and communities.

Yosemite researchers are also using lidar to assess forest vulnerability to drought and fire, analyze snowpack, and explore **tree mortality**, as well as study **Pacific fishers** and great gray owls, and more. From mapping the **habitats of songbirds** to assessing **forest vulnerability**, lidar is a core tool for understanding both the land and the environment.

Springs produce unique and novel ecosystems that can host rare native plant and animal species, and can provide year-round flows that buffer drought conditions.

With support from Conservancy donors in 2022, National Park Service staff undertook the first **inventory of springs** in the park, more than doubling the number of officially documented springs from 82 to 179. Staff utilized biological statistical modeling, solicited submissions from the Yosemite community about known spring locations, and interpreted information from U.S. Geological Survey vegetation surveys to identify over 80 new spring locations.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

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**Yosemite Bike Share**, our popular two-wheeled, people-powered transit program, launched in 2018 as a Conservancy-funded pilot designed to help people get around the Valley in the summer without having to get in their cars.

In 2022, we purchased 25 new bikes for the Yosemite Bike Share fleet, so even more visitors can enjoy quick, free rides in the Valley. Additionally, two seasonal employees were hired to help keep track of and maintain the bikes.

Thanks to your support, the Yosemite Bike Share team has served more than 26,000 riders since launching, and been able to expand the program, maintain the bikes, and continue to offer a fun, environmentally friendly alternative to driving.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

The Conservancy's **Wilderness programs** served more than 125,000 people in 2022. **Outdoor Adventures** participation was up 121% from 2021, which had previously been our busiest year on record. And we provided more than 850 meaningful interpretive programs to more than 15,000 participants. Of this, we ran 300 **naturalist walks** that served more than 8,100 participants. **Custom Adventures** programming also grew, with departures up 34% from 2021.

**Happy Isles Art and Nature Center** re-opened after a two-year pandemic hiatus and welcomed more than 37,000 visitors. In our 40th year of providing art programs, we hosted more than 3,700 class participants in 2022.



PHOTO: © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/ LORA SPIELMAN.





PHOTO: © LIZZIE RUSH.

Thanks to Conservancy donors, we made measurable progress on monitoring some of Yosemite's imperiled carnivores. Researchers equipped 15 **Pacific fishers** with GPS collars, leading to confirmation of three new kits born in Yosemite last year. And 17 distinct **Sierra Nevada red fox** visits were detected at eight camera stations.

Three interns from the **Scientists in Parks Fellows** program joined Yosemite's Vegetation and Ecological Restoration branch last summer to help promote understanding of the park's pollinator species. The interns developed a citizen science program that is placing Yosemite at the forefront of a nationwide citizen-science movement to survey pollinators. In August 2022 alone, close to 70 volunteers observed more than 550 pollinators in the park, with 2,100 alpine bees and 405 insects, such as the checkerspot butterfly above, observed at 16 sites.

Additionally, **habitat restoration for monarch butterflies and other pollinators** was the focus of new area within Ahwahnee Meadow, where invasive plants were treated in and around a 1.5-acre restoration area. Over the course of the 2022 season, more than 230 volunteers contributed more than 2,500 hours of service to this project.

Yosemite provides key habitat for rare **great gray owls** at the southern extent of their habitat. Unfortunately, park protections have proved ineffective in shielding them from the effects of climate change and fatal vehicle strikes. With support from Conservancy donors in 2022, researchers tagged five owls with GPS tracking devices to understand how park operations can enhance, rather than degrade, the meadows and forests the owls use for nesting and for foraging. This data informed speed enforcement, campground work sites, and meadow restoration work.



**Obata Art Weekend 2022** was held in Yosemite Valley, marking the event's second celebration of Japanese American artist Chiura Obata and his time in Yosemite.

Obata, a renowned artist and teacher who was born in Japan in 1885 and moved to the U.S. in 1903, used Japanese techniques to capture California landscapes, including in Yosemite, where he famously created dozens of pencil, ink, and watercolor drawings during a six-week trip in 1927. He later taught at the University of California, Berkeley.

Thanks to donor support, a full weekend celebration, featuring art workshops and demonstrations, as well as special guest speakers and ranger programs, is on track to becoming an annual park tradition.



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.



If you gaze up through the canopy of a giant sequoia, you may catch a glimpse of a donor-funded researcher working hundreds of feet above to determine what factors put **giant sequoias** at risk of fire and study how managers can promote the trees' resilience. Eighty-five trees are being studied in the Merced and Mariposa groves and at Giant Forest in Sequoia-Kings National Park. Researchers are collecting water samples to track where trees are accessing moisture, observing canopy foliage and beetle populations, and measuring sap flow, which indicates how trees are responding to stress during dry conditions and prescribed fire events. With your help, we are working to study and save these inspiring and iconic trees.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.



## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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Donor-supported youth programs were in full swing in 2022. **Parks in Focus** introduced 20 youth from underrepresented communities to Yosemite through photography, and participants provided more than 50 volunteer hours restoring Ahwahnee Meadow.

**Adventure Risk Challenge** hosted 36 after-school leadership workshops, as well as nine weekend trips for more than 60 students. More than **22,000 Junior Rangers** were sworn in and our summer event welcomed the highest number of participants ever.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF UDALL FOUNDATION.



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

Conservancy volunteers connected with more than 450,000 visitors and contributed **labor worth nearly \$360,000**. Work week crews maintained miles of trails in the park and cleared huge swaths of brush and downed logs, contributing more than 4,500 hours of work on more than 20 miles of trails.

Additionally, nearly 19,000 visitors learned about climbing through our grant-funded **Ask a Climber** program, through which six climbing stewards provided 800 volunteer hours. Yosemite Conservancy volunteers also contributed 450 hours to help complete work on more than 4,500 linear feet of climbing access routes, improving the vertical experience for an untold number of visitors to the park.



## Statement of Financial Position

As of Dec. 31, 2022

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash & Investments	\$24,973,492
Pledges, Receivables, & Other Assets	\$5,733,465

**Total Current Assets** **\$30,706,957**

#### Noncurrent Assets

Charitable Gift Annuities	\$129,905
Deposits	\$14,500
Land Held for Future Use	\$3,431,314
Property & Equipment, Net	\$1,314,388
Operating Lease Right-of-use Asset	\$770,362
Cash Held for Endowment	\$27,251
Investments Held for Endowment	\$4,624,841

**Total Noncurrent Assets** **\$10,312,561**

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$41,019,518**

### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$1,177,496
Operating Lease Liability	\$191,340
Grants Payable to Yosemite National Park	\$3,196,176

**Total Current Liabilities** **\$4,565,012**

Operating Lease Liability, Net of Current Portion	\$603,319
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **\$5,168,331**

### NET ASSETS

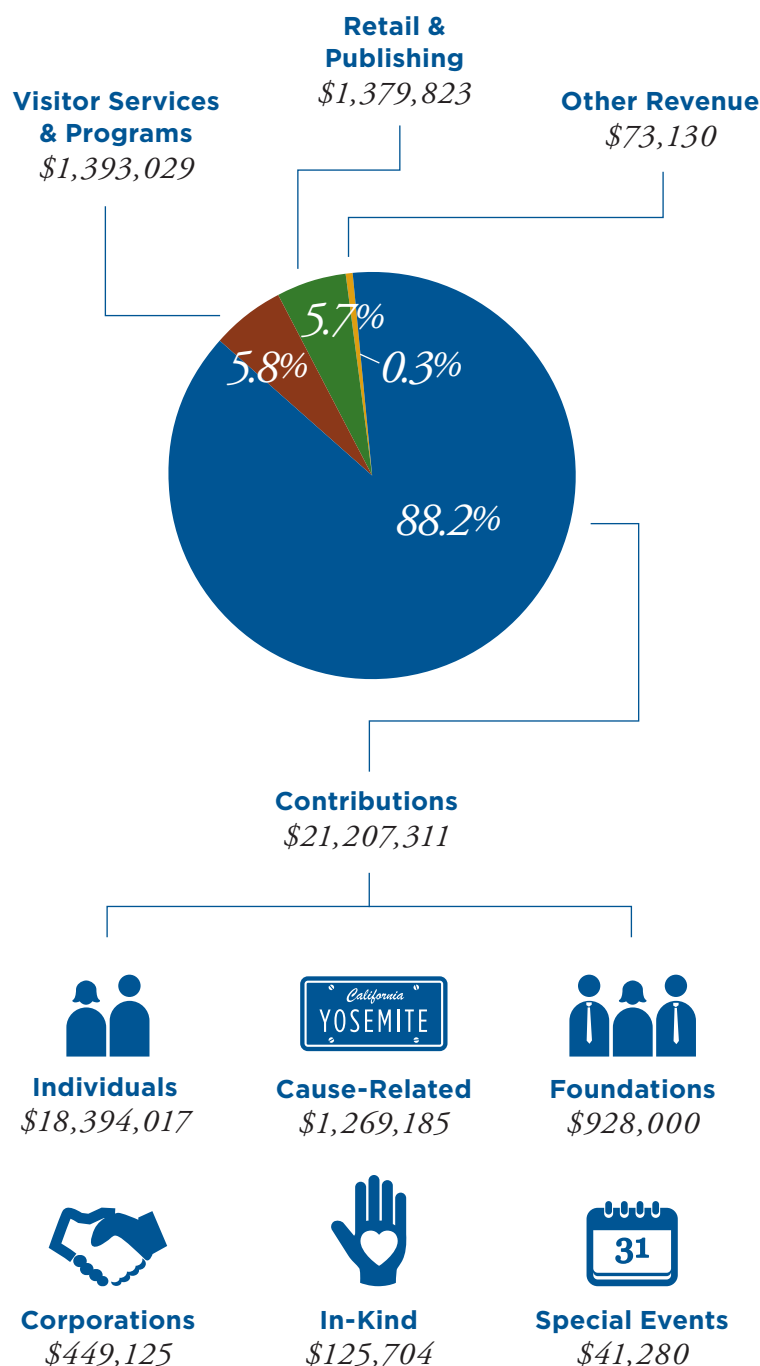
Without Donor Restrictions	\$28,543,586
With Donor Restrictions	\$7,307,601

**Total Net Assets** **\$35,851,187**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES  
& NET ASSETS** **\$41,019,518**

## Support & Revenue

\$24,053,293





## Statement of Activities

As of Dec. 31, 2022

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$21,207,311
Retail & Publishing	\$1,379,823
Visitor Services & Programs	\$1,393,029
Other Revenue	\$73,130
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$24,053,293</b>

### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

#### Program Services

Park Enhancements	\$8,031,449
Retail & Publishing	\$1,418,946
Visitor Services & Programs	\$3,454,606

**Total Aid to Park \$12,905,001**

#### Support Services

Administrative	\$1,582,385
Fundraising	\$3,296,221

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$17,783,607**

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

**FROM OPERATIONS \$6,269,686**

### NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in Value of Charitable Gift Annuities	(\$35,103)
Investment Loss, Net	(\$2,248,156)

**TOTAL NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES (\$2,283,259)**

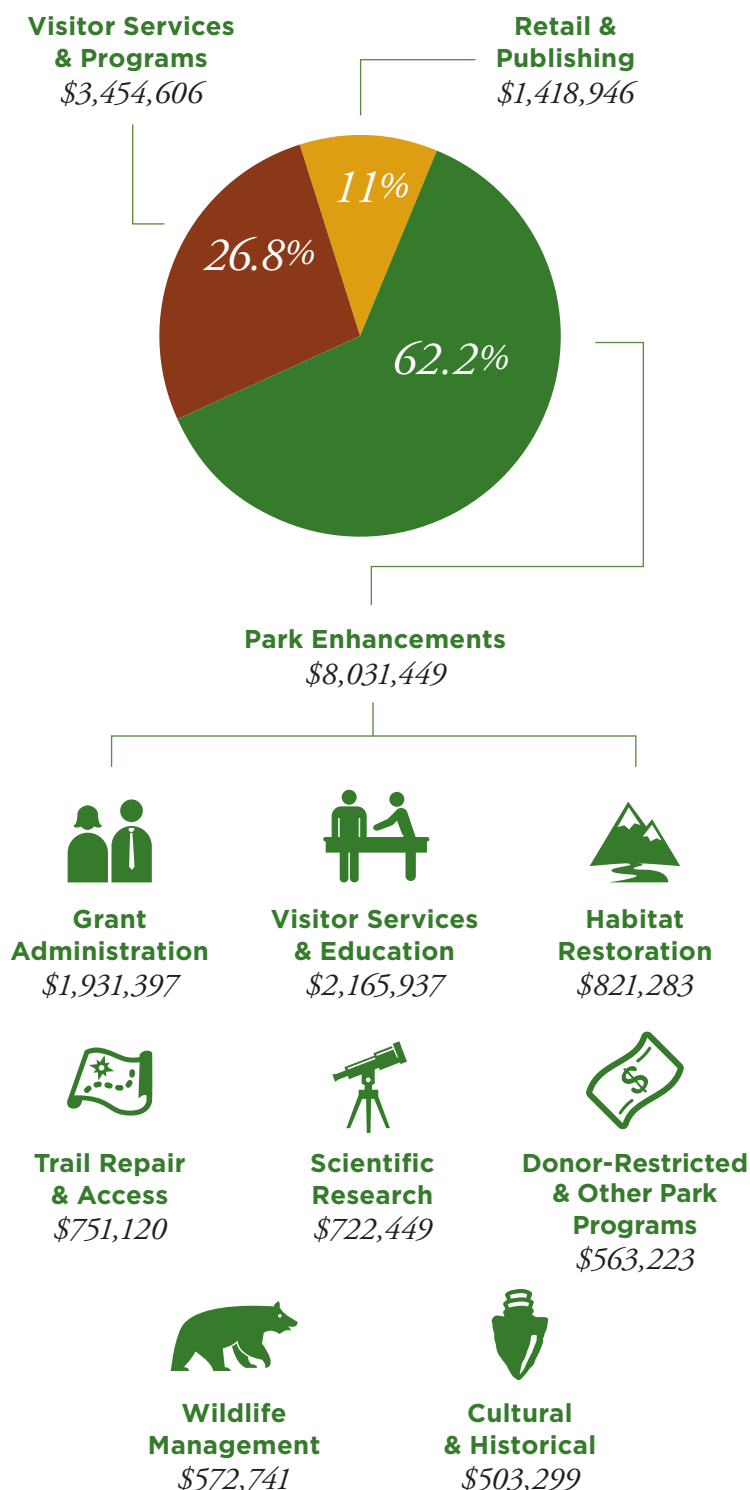
**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$3,986,427**

### NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$31,864,760
End of Year	\$35,851,187

## Aid to Yosemite National Park

\$12,905,001







“Yosemite is one of the few places with such accessible grandeur for all kinds of visitors. We are proud and privileged to be able to support the Conservancy’s efforts to protect, preserve, and improve one of the world’s great places.”

— **STEVE & MARY KAVANAUGH**  
Leadership Donors & Sequoia Society Members

“A highlight of family trips to Yosemite has always been a hike up the Mist Trail. The scenery is spectacular, the exercise significant and the mist refreshing — the more mist the better! Steve made his first trip up the fall when he was 4 and has been returning with generations of his family ever since — there is no doubt they will carry on the tradition. It’s an old and often-overcrowded trail that is due for an update to the user experience and safety. We are pleased to support Yosemite Conservancy.”

— **STEVE & GAYLE BRUGLER**  
Leadership Donors & Legacy Society Members



“We’ve spent many happy days in Yosemite, with my now-husband’s extended family and eventually our own daughter. This July, we’ll celebrate our 37th wedding anniversary and the 40th anniversary of our first date in Yosemite. Following in the footsteps of my husband’s parents, we also became donors to the Yosemite Fund, as it was called then, and made a bequest to the Yosemite Conservancy as well. Yosemite certainly changed my life in so many ways, and I am grateful.”

— **THERESA NELSON**  
Leadership Donor & Legacy Society Member



PHOTOS (TOP & MIDDLE): © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/NANCY ROBBINS. (BOTTOM) © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/ALI ZULGIS.



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

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As of Dec. 31, 2022

### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### CHAIR

Matt Adams\*

#### VICE CHAIR

Dana Dornsife\*

#### SECRETARY / TREASURER

Steve Ciesinski\* (*incoming Chair*)

#### PRESIDENT & CEO

Frank Dean\*

#### COUNCIL

Hollis & Matt\* Adams  
Jeanne & Michael Adams  
Blerina Aliaj & Alain\* Rodriguez  
Gretchen Augustyn  
Jenny Augustyn & Ali Meghdadi  
Bob & Suzy Bennitt  
Jessica & Darwin Chen  
Diane\* & Steve\* Ciesinski  
Kira & Craig Cooper  
Hal Cranston & Vicki Baker  
Carol & Manny Diaz  
Leslie & John Dorman  
Dana\* & Dave\* Dornsife  
Jewell\* & Bob Engstrom  
Kathy Fairbanks  
Sandra & Bernard Fischbach  
Cynthia & Bill Floyd  
Jim Freedman & Karine Joret  
Bonnie Gregory  
Rusty Gregory  
Karen & Steve Hanson  
Laura Hattendorf & Andy Kau  
Christy & Chuck Holloway  
Christina Hurn  
Mitsu Iwasaki  
Erin & Jeffrey Lager  
Bob & Melody Lind  
Steve Lockhart & Karen Bals  
Patsy & Tim Marshall  
Kirsten & Dan Miks  
Robyn\* & Joe Miller  
Zenaida Aguirre-Muñoz &  
Juan Sánchez Muñoz\*  
Kate & Ryan\* Myers  
Dick Otter & Judy Wilbur  
Sharon & Phil\* Pillsbury  
Gisele & Lawson\* Rankin  
Bill Reller  
Pam & Rod\* Rempt  
Skip Rhodes  
Stephanie & Mark Robinson  
Dave Rossetti\* & Jan Avent\*  
Greg Stanger\*  
Ann\* & George Sundby  
Alexis & Assad Waathiq  
Clifford J. Walker  
Wally Wallner & Jill Appenzeller  
Jack Walston & Sue Estes  
Helen & Scott\* Witter

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon

*\*Indicates Board of Trustees*

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## Contact Us

### Visit

[yosemite.org](http://yosemite.org)

### Email

[info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org)

### Phone

415-434-1782

### Fax

415-434-0745

### Mail

Yosemite Conservancy  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104

### Tax ID

94-3058041

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### CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Marion Ingersoll  
[mingersoll@yosemite.org](mailto:mingersoll@yosemite.org)  
415-362-1464

### LEADERSHIP GIFTS — NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NATIONAL

Caitlin Allard  
[callard@yosemite.org](mailto:callard@yosemite.org)  
415-989-2848

### LEADERSHIP GIFTS — SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Julia Hejl  
[jhejl@yosemite.org](mailto:jhejl@yosemite.org)  
323-217-4780

### PLANNED GIVING & BEQUESTS

Catelyn Spencer  
[cspencer@yosemite.org](mailto:cspencer@yosemite.org)  
415-891-1039

### ANNUAL, HONOR, & MEMORIAL GIVING

Isabelle Luebbers  
[iluebbers@yosemite.org](mailto:iluebbers@yosemite.org)  
415-891-2216

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Eryn Ligon  
[stock@yosemite.org](mailto:stock@yosemite.org)  
415-891-1383

### FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

Laurie Peterson  
[lpeterson@yosemite.org](mailto:lpeterson@yosemite.org)  
415-906-1016





YOSEMITE  
CONSERVANCY®

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