



Annual Report

2018

Providing For Yosemite's Future

OUR MISSION

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

CHAIR'S & PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Friend of Yosemite



Bob Bennett, Chair



Frank Dean, President

We've marked several notable public-lands milestones in recent years, including the Yosemite Grant Act's 150th anniversary and the National Park Service's 100th birthday. 2018 brought its own milestones: the 150th anniversary of John Muir's first Yosemite trip, and the 50th of the National Trails System and Wild and Scenic Rivers acts.

Park-related anniversaries are worth commemorating, of course, but we don't have to wait for those occasions to reflect and rejoice; every year — every month — brings something to cheer about. In this report, we're celebrating the key to that success: you! In 2018, you helped us provide \$12 million in total support to the park, through more than three dozen grants, enriching programs, wilderness services and more.

With your help, park crews measured glacial ice on Yosemite's eastern edge and surveyed natural resources in Ackerson Meadow. They studied butterflies and songbirds, restored areas affected by backcountry travel, and installed roadside "speed feedback" signs to protect wildlife.

Your gifts supported programs that improve experiences for the park's millions of visitors and inspire the next generation. Yosemite's Preventive Search and Rescue team promoted seasonal safety, thousands of kids earned Junior Ranger badges, and undergraduates explored park-related careers.

Meanwhile, more than 800,000 people benefited from Conservancy-run programs and services, by participating in theater, art and adventure programs; shopping in bookstores; picking up permits and bear-proof canisters; or getting guidance from volunteers.

2018 also marked a notable end — and a beginning. In mid-June, Mariposa Grove reopened after a multiyear effort to restore giant sequoia habitat; in autumn, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Bridalveil Fall restoration project.

While we can't possibly fit all our gratitude into this report, we hope these pages offer a glimpse into the many ways your gifts made a difference.

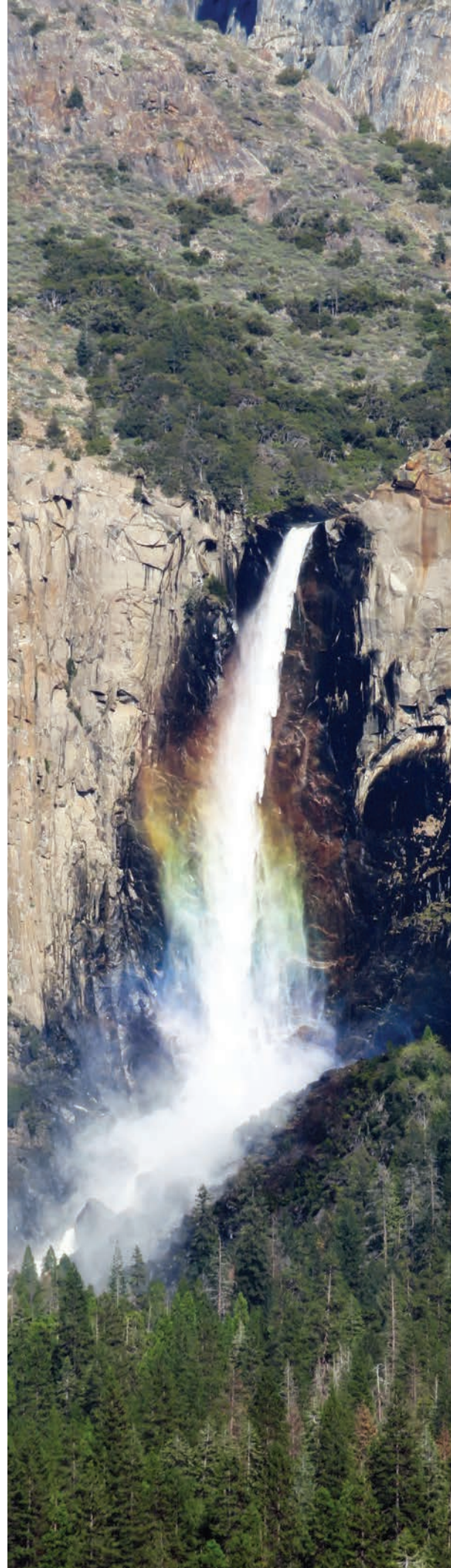
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Bennett".

Bob Bennett, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Dean".

Frank Dean, President

PHOTOS: (COVER) © AL GOLUB. (RIGHT) © CAROLYNN BOTELL.





As the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System and Wild and Scenic Rivers acts approached in 2018, park crews were working in a place where the two acts converge: Lyell Canyon, where the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) parallels the wild and scenic Tuolumne River. With your support, they shifted sections of the PCT upland, and restored riverside wetland to ensure the long-term health of the trail and meadow.

.....

Your Gifts at Work

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, your support helped restore trails and ecosystems, advance research and enhance visitor experiences. You'll see the results of your donations in new Search and Rescue tent housing, on improved backcountry trails, and in the thousands of historical Yosemite images now available on the digital NPGallery. You might hear about the impact of your gifts, too, from people who connected with Yosemite through the Parsons Memorial Lodge series, live theater shows or Conservancy art workshops — or from youth-program participants whose first camping trips were made possible by your support.

Your investment in Yosemite's future ripples out well beyond a few stories and statistics, but these snapshots represent the diverse ways your gifts made a difference last year. Thank you for supporting your park!

.....



PHOTOS: © COURTESY OF NPS

Park crews, including young adults from the California Conservation Corps, improved more than **118 miles of trails** throughout Yosemite, from the remote backcountry to the new Washburn Trail in Wawona.

.....



Mariposa Grove reopened in June 2018, following the **largest restoration project in park history**, which included removing pavement, installing boardwalks and educational displays, and rehabilitating four acres of giant sequoia habitat.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

Yosemite rangers and **Climber Stewards** promoted stewardship on and off the ground, as they held 17,000 conversations with visitors through the **Ask a Climber** program, coordinated climbing trail restoration projects, and conducted patrols on the walls.



PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) © NPS/SIDNEY WOODRUFF. © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/RYAN KELLY.

Biologists working to restore and protect the park's **native aquatic species** released 125 California red-legged frogs in Yosemite Valley, studied western pond turtle genetics and conducted surveys of endangered yellow-legged frogs.





PHOTO: © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/JOSH HELLING

Our retail team opened a **new Conservancy bookstore** in the park: **The Depot**, at the Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza, a welcoming, convenient stopping point for visitors heading to or from the sequoias.



Our seasonal **volunteers donated more than 14,000 hours to the park**, sharing their time and talents to provide vital information to visitors, support Preventive Search and Rescue operations, restore wetland habitat, and more.

PHOTO: © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/MARK MARSCALL



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF UDALL FOUNDATION

More than 300 middle and high school students from underrepresented California communities experienced Yosemite through **Adventure Risk Challenge, WildLink** and **Parks in Focus**, three of the youth programs donors supported in 2018.



PHOTO: © FRED TURNER

We helped more than 3,000 people connect with Yosemite through our naturalist-led **Outdoor and Custom Adventures** programs; no matter where they went, from sequoia groves to high summits, participants learned about ecology, history and “Leave No Trace” ethics.

Statement of Financial Position

As of Dec. 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Investments	\$20,687,119
Pledges, Receivables & Other Assets	\$2,611,249

Total Current Assets \$23,298,368

Pledges Receivable, Net of Current Portion	\$324,524
Deposits	\$14,500
Land Held for Future Use	\$2,515,456
Investments, Net of Current Portion	\$1,230,781
Charitable Gift Annuities	\$119,352
Property & Equipment, Net	\$595,136

Total Noncurrent Assets \$4,799,749

TOTAL ASSETS \$28,098,117

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$678,558
Grants Payable to Yosemite National Park	\$3,192,100

Total Current Liabilities \$3,870,658

NET ASSETS

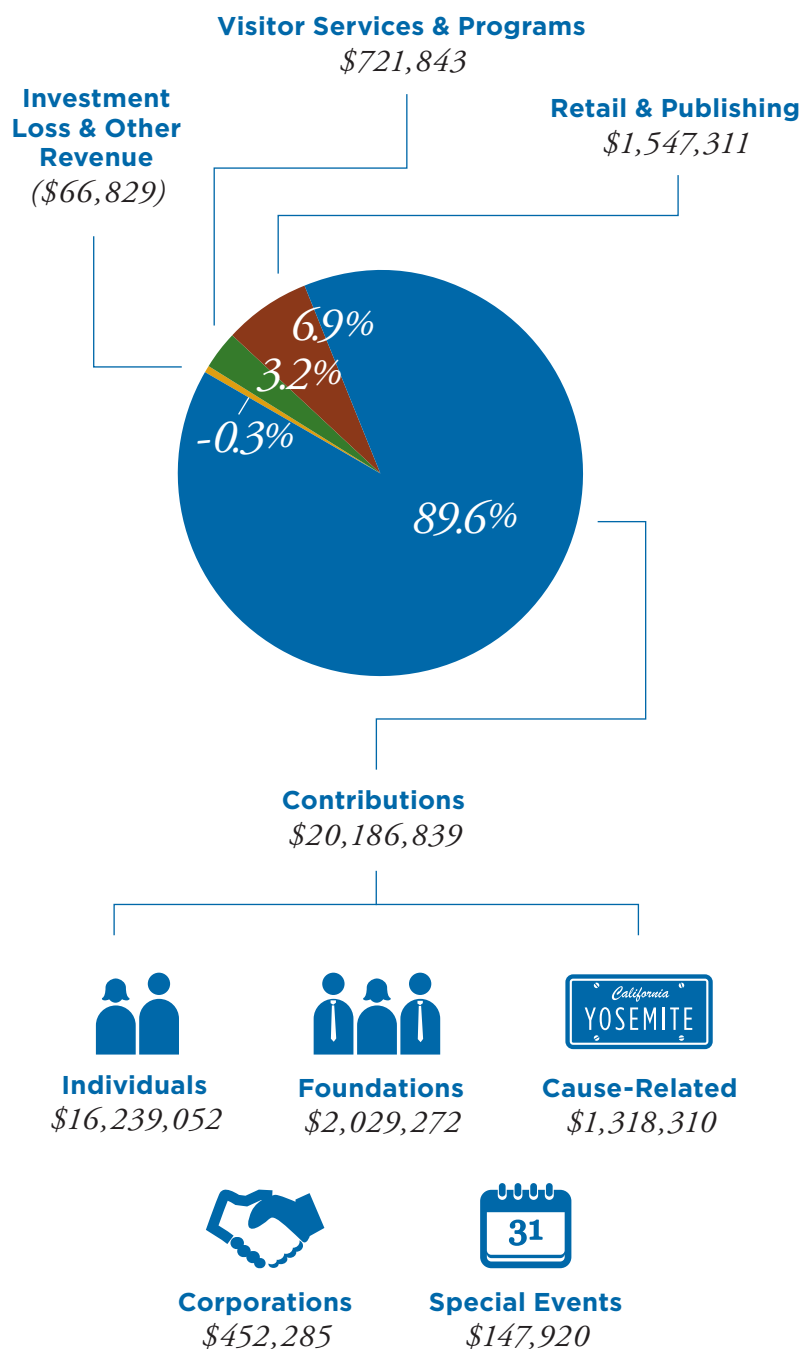
Without Donor Restrictions	\$16,809,250
With Donor Restrictions	\$7,418,209

Total Net Assets \$24,227,459

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$28,098,117

Support & Revenue

\$22,389,164



Statement of Activities

As of Dec. 31, 2018

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$20,186,839
Retail & Publishing	\$1,547,311
Visitor Services & Programs	\$721,843
Investment Loss & Other Revenue	(\$66,829)

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE **\$22,389,164**

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program Services

Park Enhancements	\$8,232,356
Retail & Publishing	\$1,155,015
Visitor Services & Programs	\$2,591,206

Total Aid to Park **\$11,978,577**

Support Services

Administrative	\$1,161,343
Fundraising	\$2,616,281

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$15,756,201**

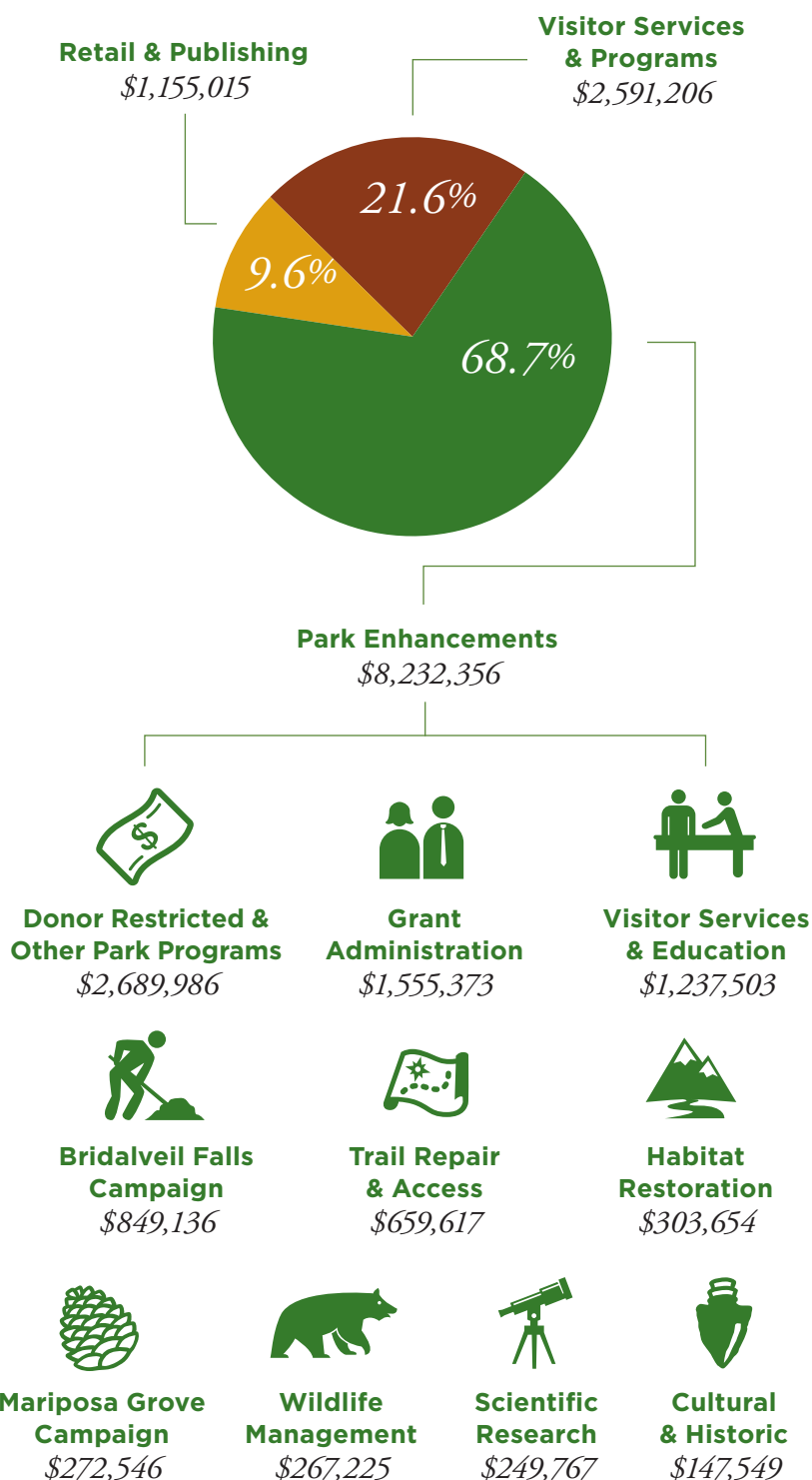
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$6,632,963**

NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$17,594,496
End of Year	\$24,227,459

Aid to Yosemite National Park

\$11,978,577



Thank You, Donors

Yosemite Conservancy is extremely grateful to acknowledge the John Muir Heritage Society and Legacy Society individual donors, foundations, businesses and volunteers, who supported our work at a leadership level from Jan. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2018, below. 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.

PHOTO: © SEBASTIEN GABRIEL

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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PHOTO: © CHIP CALDWELL

“Yosemite Conservancy allows me to support many fond memories spent throughout the park over the past 60 years. The legacy continued last year when 36 family members gathered in the park, with several asking, ‘When are we going back?’”

— CHIP CALDWELL

John Muir Heritage Society donor,
 Legacy Society member

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"I first visited Yosemite as a young kid from New England, who had a love of mountains and hiking all over. Today, that love continues by filling the map with all the trails I wanted to hike on that first visit. By supporting Yosemite Conservancy, I'm able to give back to an amazing place."

— ELIZA HART

John Muir Heritage Society donor

Legacy Society

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

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