

ANNUAL REPORT 2022*

Santa Monica Mountains Fund

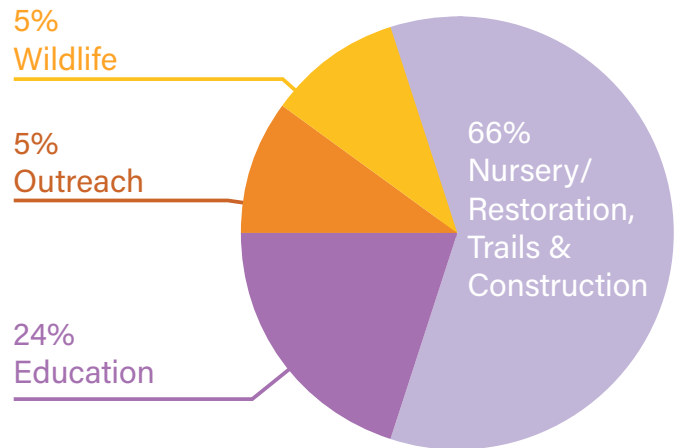
Santa Monica Mountains Fund was established on January 22, 1988 to protect and encourage appreciation and understanding of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by supporting the National Park Service. SAMO Fund is the Official Park Partner with the NPS to further education, science, and research; improving park facilities and trails; engaging community members and youth in education; and leading efforts to steward the natural and cultural resources of these beautiful parklands.

Income 2022

Donations \$ 140,639
Grants \$ 686,995
Contracts \$ 618,004
Sponsorships \$ 22,590
Fundraisers \$ 11,608

Expenses 2022

Park Programs \$ 2,153,602
Fundraising \$ 109,138
Operations \$ 151,053



Funding By Program

A total of \$ 2,153,602 or 89% of our expenditures were in supporting Park programs and projects with 11% used for operations and fundraising.

**The audited financial statements are available at www.samofund.org/financial*

Environmental Stewardship through Education

Open Outdoors for Kids program brings approximately 25,000 fourth graders from primarily Title 1 school to the Santa Monica Mountains to enjoy a day in the park to learn about plants, animals, and Native American heritage. University students are placed in paid internships to work with NPS Leadership to conduct this program.

SAMO Youth is an employment mentoring program bringing university students from

underserved communities on a life-changing journey with NPS rangers. Some alumni of the program act as returning junior leaders to support the program, while others are promoted to year-long mentorship employment opportunities to work with NPS leadership.

Oxnard Youth Ecologists ("OYE") are Latinx high schoolers from Oxnard and nearby who receive stipends to learn habitat restoration job skills with our Monarch and Milkweed

program at the Rancho Sierra Vista Native Plant Nursery.

Girls Outside hosted Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high school girls in a pilot program introducing the teens to the outdoors where they learned basic camping, hiking and outdoor principles and engaged them in leadership training.



HABITAT RESTORATION, TRAILS AND CONSTRUCTION



Native Plant Nursery at Rancho Sierra Vista is the key site for learning through internships and employment for local youth "at-promise" from diverse communities that would otherwise not have access to programming. The crew grew over 55,000 plants that were used for restoration purposes in the Santa Monica Mountains and gave away tens of thousands of milkweed plants to the public in primarily underserved areas of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. A Monarch & Milkweed educated the public about the loss of the Monarch butterfly population.

Native Plant Nursery at Liberty Canyon Crossing was constructed from the ground up by terracing the ground, fencing the area, and installing drainage and irrigation systems. Seedlings were propagated from specific sites around the Santa Monica Mountains. These seedlings will be planted to provide the foliage to create a native habitat and attract wildlife to the new Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing which is under construction in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The *Restoration Crew* planted 100,000 small trees and

plants to continue to recover the land and restore habitat after the 2018 Woolsey Fire decimated 88% of the Park's land. These events were open to hundreds of community volunteers.

Construction projects include Paramount Ranch Rebuild Campaign secured \$500,000 to help rebuild Paramount Ranch to a working set and visitor center. This is a multi-year campaign with construction beginning in 2023. Funds also supported the construction of a new foot bridge on the Backbone Trail, yet another project related to fire recovery.

The *Trail Crew* maintain more than 500 miles of public trails that crisscross the Santa Monica Mountains. These trails are the first experience most visitors have in the SMMNRA and require ongoing rigorous care. The trails are monitored for safety concerns for hikers and bikers, trash is picked up, brush is cleared, and weather wear-and-tear is repaired. The crew is also responsible for the historical routes through the mountains.

Wildlife Research Program supports staffing of multiple research projects for coyotes, deer, red legged frogs and other small animals. Satellite collars and wildlife tracking cameras allow NPS biologists and wildlife technicians to track and understand the movement of mountain lions and bobcats. The Fund also supports the research work relevant to the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which was the impetus to the campaign leading to its construction.

The Nature Neighbor Program contributes to local understanding of wildlife behavior and reduces fears and negative feelings towards local wildlife. It features a *Break-the-Poison-Chain* campaign that highlighting the risks of rodenticide to wildlife and giving away hundreds of signs to raise awareness about anti-coagulants.

Wildlife Research and Protection



Outreach: Native American Cultural Preservation, Volunteers and Other Special Initiatives



Cultural preservation projects include archeological research projects on the National Park's land.

Cultural activities at the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center introduce the public to a variety of Native American arts, tools and artifacts, and educate the public through storytelling and dance about the indigenous communities who

lived on the land now owned by the Park Service.

A robust *Volunteer Program* supports the Santa Monica Mountains with activities such as restoration, plant propagation, Program, the Mountain Bike Unit and National Trails Day. These programs engage the public in the beautify and conservation efforts of the National Park Service.

