

IMPACT REPORT

2023

A YEAR OF
GROWTH &
RESILIENCE

TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST
EST 1981

Table Of Contents



**Our
Organization**

01



Our People

02



Our Impact

03



**Looking
Ahead**

04



Building a Legacy, Embracing the Future

Welcome to our Impact Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to the greater Yosemite region throughout the year.

Celebrating Our 2023 Achievements

Dear Community,

As we pause to reflect on another impactful year at the Tuolumne River Trust, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Guided by our longstanding mission, vision, and values, our 2023 journey is a testament to the power of collective effort, the endurance of our cause, and the unwavering spirit of those who believe in the importance of protecting and restoring the Tuolumne River.

Our origin story, rooted in the fierce advocacy of rafters, kayakers, anglers, and a myriad of river lovers, reminds us every day of the battles we have fought and the victories we have claimed. The memorable designation of 83 miles of the Tuolumne as a "Wild & Scenic River" in 1984, stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength of unity. Today that river flows freely, echoing the stories of our past and the dreams of our future.

At the heart of our success lies the synergy of our team, a vibrant blend of passionate advocates, educators, conservationists, and community torchbearers. These remarkable individuals embody the essence of the river—resilient, dynamic, and forever interconnected. We have worked diligently across the entire Tuolumne River watershed, bridging urban and rural communities and fostering an environment where nature and people flourish.

As we look back at 2023, we celebrate our achievements in the Sierra Nevada, where we have restored lands ravaged by wildfires, ensuring that future generations witness the majesty of cathedral forests. In the Central Valley, our partnerships have tackled pressing environmental justice issues, educated our youth, and built parks that bring joy and refuge to many. And in the Bay Area, our voice has been pivotal in advocating for policies that underpin the health and vitality of the entire watershed.

Yet, the river's journey and ours are ever-evolving. As challenges arise from climate pressures or competing demands, our commitment remains unchanged: to serve as stewards, champions, and guardians of the greater Yosemite Region.

I invite you to explore [our Impact Report](#), not just as a record of our accomplishments but as an inspiration to join us. For the Tuolumne is more than a river; it is a symbol of unity, legacy, and hope for a future where every ripple tells a story of care, commitment, and community.

Sincerely,



Patrick Koepfle

Executive Director

Our Organization



Tuolumne River Trust

Rooted deeply in our over 40 years of history, the Tuolumne River Trust has been a symbol of a profound connection between nature, community, and commitment.

Our journey started from a coalition of rafters, kayakers, and advocates and is a testament to the power of collaboration. Today, as we look back at our triumphs, it's our rich legacy that shapes our present, propelling us toward another 40 years of environmental stewardship.



We protect and restore the the Greater Yosemite Region, fostering a thriving sanctuary for all.

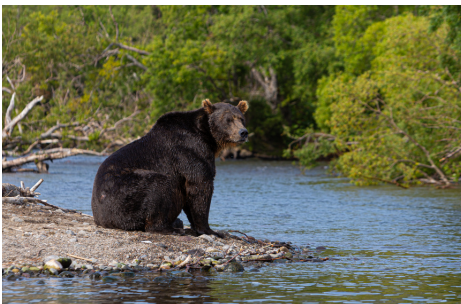


Our ambition paints a picture of a region abundant in biodiversity, suitable for recreation, and protected for future generations.



For over four decades, we've consistently interwoven education, advocacy, and restoration, focusing our efforts to protect the three vital watersheds of the greater Yosemite regions: the Tuolumne, Merced, and Stanislaus.

Scan the QR code to watch a video telling our story.



We create resilience for wildlife and neighboring communities impacted by wildfire in the Greater Yosemite Region.

In the Central Valley we champion youth education, promote access to recreation, empower youth to advocate for environmental justice and drive community centered policy solutions.



In the Bay Area our policy work advocates to improve river flows, educate the public that their water comes from the Tuolumne River, and champion's policies ensuring the watershed's enduring health.

**As we move forward,
our history remains a
beacon, guiding us in
our mission to
preserve, restore and
celebrate the
Tuolumne River and
the greater Yosemite
region.**

Mission and Scope:

Protect and restore the Tuolumne River, ensuring the health of biological and human ecosystems from the Sierra Nevada to the San Francisco Bay.

Honoring Indigenous Stewardship:

We honor the Indigenous peoples, including the Miwok, Ohlone, Yokuts, and others, who have historically cared for these lands.

Engagement & Equity:

We are committed to engaging with local communities, addressing their evolving needs, and implementing inclusive and sustainable solutions, all while fostering an inclusive organizational environment.



Community & River Symbiosis:

We advocate for a healthy relationship between the River and diverse communities, understanding their interdependence and ensuring equitable access to the River's benefits.

Future Vision & Participation:

We pledge to sustain the River ecosystem and surrounding communities through education, advocacy, and restoration, inviting collaboration from all who resonate with this vision.

420,000

SEEDLINGS PLANTED IN THE RIM FIRE BURN SCAR

2,600

ACRES REFORESTED

198

PARTICIPANTS IN OUR TUOLUMNE RIVER ADVENTURE CLUB

10,000

ACRES OF BOTANICAL SURVEYING

Our People



Uniting Talents, Fueling Impact



Our team, a diverse mosaic of advocates, educators, conservationists, community leaders, and so much more, reflects the essence of the river we cherish – dynamic, resilient, and deeply interconnected.

Drawing strength from our rich legacy, each member contributes unique expertise, guiding our efforts to preserve the Tuolumne for generations to come. [Get to know the people behind the Trust.](#)

100%

Of our employees say the Tuolumne River Trust makes them feel proud that their work has a long-lasting impact and fulfills their own personal values.

66%

Of our team identifies as female.



Meet our team

Our Volunteers

Heroes don't always wear capes; sometimes they wear mud-streaked boots. Our volunteers, new faces, and seasoned hands alike, have tirelessly worked towards bettering forest health, rejuvenating habitats, and weaving our communities even closer.

48 VOLUNTEER
EVENTS

505 TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS

182 FIRST-TIME
PARTICIPANTS

3,442
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS



Our Supporters

TRT's Annual Report recognizes the generous donors who supported TRT during the past fiscal year, which began July 1, 2022 and ended June 30, 2023.

The Tuolumne River Trust extends our deepest appreciation to our supporters who help advocate for increased water flows, protecting wildlife habitat, educating youth and protecting our forests. The commitment of our donors—individuals, foundations, corporations, governments, nongovernmental organizations and multilateral agencies—is what enables us to work in partnership to protect the Tuolumne River and the greater Yosemite region for generations to come.



MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

18%

OF OUR BOARD IDENTIFY AS RACIALLY DIVERSE

46%

OF OUR BOARD AND ADVISORS IDENTIFY AS WOMEN

100%

BOARD PARTICIPATION



MEET OUR BOARD



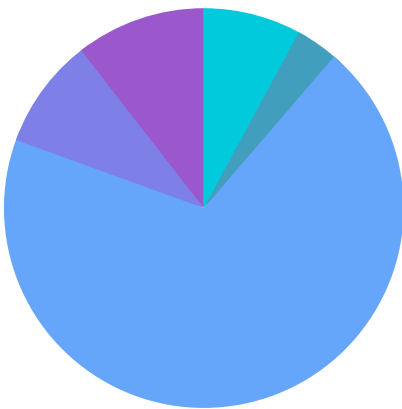
Our Impact



Your dollars at work

Every donation to the Tuolumne River Trust directly fuels the protection, restoration, and advocacy for our cherished watersheds, ensuring a vibrant future for both nature and our communities.

Allocation of Funds



- **Infrastructure** 7.89%
- **Marketing & Events** 3.42%
- **River, Meadow, and Forest Restoration** 69.23%
- **Advocacy** 8.94%
- **Community Engagement** 10.52%

***The financial statements for the period July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 are not audited at the time of this publication's release. Please visit www.tuolumne.org/impactreport23 to access the audited financial reports.

Financial Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Income

Individual Donors	\$344,255
Foundations	\$839,150
Government	\$2,504,818
Corporations	\$10,848
Investment Gain/Loss & Interest	\$25,735

TOTAL **\$3,724,806**

Expenses

Personnel	\$1,778,517
Program & Project Expenses	\$1,218,119
Marketing & Events	\$115,629
Infrastructure	\$266,713

TOTAL **\$3,378,978**

NET INCOME **\$345,828**

Empowering Future Leaders: Connie's Journey of Growth and Community Engagement with TRT's Programs

As a freshman in high school, my son Constantine (Connie) enrolled in TRT's All Children Thrive (ACT) and Park Youth Committee (PYC) programs.

After a year in these programs, as a mom, I couldn't be prouder of the man Connie is becoming. He is now an AP student, on the baseball team, and will continue to be a volunteer with ACT and PYC.

TRT's programs have taught him how to lead with confidence. He takes pride in his work and volunteers his time in the community because he now sees the value in protecting and restoring his own community.

TRT's programs are local, accessible, and focused on our community creating pride and ownership within our youth community.

—Shanyn Avila



***“With your support,
TRT educates
hundreds more
students, just like my
son, and help them
see the value of being
leaders in their
community and taking
action to protect and
restore their
neighborhoods.”***



Forest Health

The Forest Health program is deeply committed to bolstering the resilience of the Greater Yosemite Region's Forests. In 2023, we made considerable strides in achieving our mission. A total of **4,000 acres** underwent mechanical fuel reduction, and we successfully **planted 420,000 seedlings** across **2,600 reforested acres**.

Our team grew stronger with the addition of four new staff members, and we extended our botanical survey reach to **10,000 acres**. We also procured an additional **\$7 million**, which will facilitate the reforestation of an **extra 3,000 acres**.

Habitat Restoration

This year, we made remarkable progress in our Habitat Restoration program. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of **505 volunteers**, we managed to host 48 events, maintain over **25 miles of trail**, and remove **500 pounds of trash**.

Our most significant achievement was the planting of **4,128 trees**, contributing immensely to the diversity and richness of our forest ecosystem.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to preserving and enhancing our beautiful, natural spaces. **Scan the QR code to learn more.**





Environmental Justice and Park Equity Initiatives

Environmental Justice and Park Equity Initiatives are crucial because they ensure that all community members, regardless of their background, have equal access to clean, safe, and vibrant public spaces, fostering a more inclusive and healthy environment for all.

We led webinars on California Environmental Justice, engaging **130 riverside community members** in 'watch parties.' **Ten surveys** were completed by local organizations. As we progressed to the Modesto 2050 General Plan, **76 community members** reviewed drafts across three events, with input from **15 staff** from nine organizations. Under the Park Equity Program, **44 residents** and community partners discussed park access, and TRT's community gathering hosted **35 participants**.

The City of Modesto's TRRP Master Plan Update drew **250-300 residents** in public sessions, with TRT and partners emphasizing the significance of community-focused park development.

Education and Community Engagement

We worked with **18 high school students** from Modesto on our Park Equity initiative and engaged **198 participants** in our **Tuolumne River Adventure Club** events. A highlight was the launch of our **ACT Modesto Park Equity StoryMap** and bilingual Park Survey, enhancing the reach and accessibility of our work. Among our participants, many had their first experience with outdoor activities, such as canoeing, camping, and fishing. These memorable experiences foster deeper connections with nature and emphasize the importance of our collective responsibility to preserve it.



Advocacy

Since 1981, the Advocacy Program at the Tuolumne River Trust has been devoted to protecting the Tuolumne River from further degradation, with a mission to reverse existing damage and ensure sufficient water is retained in the river for essential ecological and recreational purposes. In 2023, we bolstered our campaign to increase river flows by engaging in two key policy proceedings: the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's licensing of Don Pedro and La Grange Dams and the State Water Board's update of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Our efforts bore fruit in April when the US Supreme Court turned down the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts' challenge to the State Water Board's authority to issue a Water Quality Certification for the dam licenses, providing a significant boost to our mission to enhance river conditions. Invaluable partnerships, such as those with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and Morrison Foerster, LLC, we expanded our advocacy for higher flows on the lower Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers.

Meanwhile, we progressed our bid to dedicate our water rights to permanent instream flow and urged bodies like the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), and other Hetch Hetchy water users to withdraw their opposition to the Bay-Delta Plan.

Despite facing obstacles, including challenges to our calls for transparency and accuracy in water supply and demand projections, we have remained resolute in our mission, believing that our endeavors will positively contribute to the long-term health of the Tuolumne River and the communities that rely on it.



**Learn
More**



Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, one thing is for certain: We will continue working to ensure that the Tuolumne River watershed is protected, restored, and resilient for generations to come. However, climate change is impacting the region and fire knows no boundaries. Our work in the Merced and Stanislaus watersheds is growing as the need to protect the forests is increasing to protect the greater Yosemite region.

We are increasing the scope of our work by growing our team, expanding careers in climate, advocating for increased water flows to protect the health of the river and salmon populations, restoring critical habitats for wildlife, and expanding partnerships with diverse communities around the watershed including those groups historically underrepresented. We will evaluate new land ownership opportunities for restoration, expand and improve parks and park access in the Central Valley, and provide environmental literacy to youth and multi-generational families creating connections to the River and stewards for generations to come.

Whether through political advocacy, floodplain, and meadow restoration, river clean-ups, trail maintenance, community organizing, education programs, park planning, or reforestation or forest fire prevention, we will stay focused on stewarding healthier watersheds that can withstand future uncertainties.



It takes a community of guardians to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Tuolumne River and the greater Yosemite ecosystem. Your gift to the Tuolumne River Trust will have a lasting impact today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:



**SCAN TO LEARN
GETTING INVOLVED**



VOLUNTEER



ADVOCATE



GUIDE TO GIVING



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Tuolumne River Trust
P.O. Box 3727
Sonora, CA 95370

GIVING IS GREAT!

GIFT US YOUR SUPPORT TO PROTECT AND
RESTORE THE GREATER YOSEMITE REGION



Notice: This impact report was proudly printed with
the California's recognized leader in eco-friendly
printing on 100% recycled paper.

www.tuolumne.org