

Southern California Mountains Foundation

A Year of Progress and Possibilities



Annual Report 2024

MOUNTAINFOUNDATION.ORG



Southern California Mountains Foundation

A Year of Progress and Possibilities

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LETTER

from the Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy Gorin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STACY GORIN
Executive Officer

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on Fiscal Year 2024, we are proud of the progress we have made in our mission to connect communities to public lands.

This year has been marked by significant achievements in conservation, education, and community engagement, all made possible through the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, staff, corpsmembers and partners.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our cause.

Together, we are making a difference.



ABOUT US

The Southern California Mountains Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources in the Southern California mountain region.

We focus on education, conservation, and volunteerism to promote healthy forest ecosystems and vibrant communities.

Key Achievements FY 2024

Conservation Initiatives

Successfully restored 320 acres of habitat through ecological restoration on public lands.

Recycling Initiatives

Delivered and recycled 295 tons of bottles/cans, tires and e-waste from local communities.

Education Programs

Engaged over 118,235 visitors in environmental education and interpretive programs, promoting awareness and stewardship.

Workforce Development

Provided paid job training and vocational education to 130 Corpsmembers, young people ages 18-26 from San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Trail Maintenance

Maintained and improved 15.5 miles of trails, ensuring safe and enjoyable access for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Volunteer Hours

Recorded over 29,390 volunteer hours, demonstrating the strong community support for our mission.

Fire Prevention

Provided 30 smoke checks from FireLookout towers, protecting and watching over the forest and local communities.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

September 30, 2024

(With Comparative Amounts as of September 30, 2024)

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,191,735	\$ 2,340,915
Accounts and grants receivable	2,499,932	2,250,825
Inventory	48,241	27,938
Prepaid expenses and deposits	111,719	88,132
Total current assets	4,851,627	4,707,810
Non-current assets:		
Property and equipment, net (Note 3)	1,181,290	1,396,453
Total non-current assets	1,181,290	1,396,453
Total assets	\$ 6,032,917	\$ 6,104,263
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 125,775	\$ 287,073
Advances on governmental contracts	561,075	395,883
Lease payable (Note 4)	208,600	202,721
Total current liabilities	895,450	885,677
Non-current liabilities:		
Accrued vacation payable	156,170	142,699
Lease payable (Note 4)	994,277	1,202,877
Total non-current liabilities	1,150,447	1,345,576
Total liabilities	2,045,897	2,231,253
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Net investment in property and equipment (Note 5)	(21,587)	(9,145)
Undesignated	4,008,607	3,882,155
Total without donor restrictions	3,987,020	3,873,010
Total net assets	3,987,020	3,873,010
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,032,917	\$ 6,104,263



PROGRAMS AND IMPACT

Conservation - Our conservation programs focus on ecological restoration, reforestation, and wildlife protection - monitoring and maintaining 1,482 active restoration sites. This year, we planted over 140 native plants and started over 1,200 native plants in the three greenhouses co-managed with the San Bernardino National Forest and worked to remove over 2,500 pounds of invasive species that threaten local ecosystems.

Education - We offer a variety of educational and interpretive programs aimed at fostering a love for the environment and promoting stewardship of public lands. We engaged over 118,235 visitors in environmental education and interpretive programs, promoting awareness and stewardship.

Volunteerism - Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. From trail maintenance to educational outreach, our volunteers contributed over 29,000 hours of service, helping us steward public lands and meet our mission.

Workforce Development - We offer a variety of educational programs aimed at fostering a love for the environment and helping young people thrive. Our Urban Conservation Corps provides paid job training to over 130 young people ages 18–26 each year, giving them hands-on learning experiences in the great outdoors and real-world conservation skills. Beyond environmental stewardship, these programs build resilience, confidence, and leadership—preparing participants to succeed in work, school, and life.

Through our partnership with John Muir Charter School, individuals have the opportunity to earn their high school diploma at one of our on-site charter schools while gaining meaningful work experience. Together, we are creating a generation of skilled, empowered, and environmentally conscious young adults ready to shape a sustainable future.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

417
Volunteers

Our volunteers were the driving force behind this year's success, contributing countless hours to programs, events, and community projects. Their dedication helped expand our reach and deliver meaningful impact across every initiative.

15.5

Maintained 15.5 miles of trails



286

Participated in 286 educational events



240

Assisted in planting 240 native plants and trees



65

Engaged in 65 community outreach activities



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We hosted numerous community events, including:



Music in the Mountains

Five concerts were attended by over 4,000 people

Conservation Education

Educated 6,011 participants on stewardship and sustainability



Volunteer Appreciation Day

Recognized the efforts of our dedicated volunteers

URBAN CONSERVATION CORP CONTRIBUTIONS

UCC

The Urban Conservation Corps helps young adults protect the environment while gaining job skills, earning their diploma, and building the confidence to thrive in work and life.

35

Fuels Reduction
Work Acres
Treated

296

Tons of recyclables
collected and
diverted from
landfills

130

Corpsmember
trained, employed
and introduced to
jobs in
conservation

65

Engaged in 65
community
outreach activities

63

Tons of Beverage
Containers
Recycled

96

Tons of E-Waste
Recycled

135

Tons of Tires
Recycled

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Summit OHV Staging Area Eight Years of Renewal

What was once a scarred landscape is now thriving habitat. Over eight years, SCMF and San Bernardino National Forest staff—alongside OHV volunteers and Urban Conservation Corps crews—chunked compacted soil, seeded natives, watered, and pulled invasives. This long-term project, **funded through Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Department restoration grants**, restored the land and built careers. One Corpsmember who started planting seeds here is now a full-time Forest Service restoration professional—proof that conservation projects can launch futures. Summit’s restoration shows how partnerships create healthy public lands, promote responsible recreation, and inspire the next generation of land stewards.



In 2016 Megan was an Urban Conservation Corps AmeriCorps member.



2024 Megan is a restoration technician for the San Bernardino National Forest traveling back to monitor the site she started working on 8 years earlier.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Grass Valley Fuels Reduction Project

Protecting Forests, Growing Leaders

The Grass Valley Fuels Reduction Project is a partnership between the San Bernardino National Forest and SCMF's Urban Conservation Corps. Together, we are addressing critical wildfire risk in the San Bernardino National Forest while investing in the next generation of environmental stewards. UCC Crews worked under the direction and lead of Forest Service Battalion Chief Brian Grant, to complete treatments that included limbing tree branches up to 6 ft. from the ground to ensure ground fires don't jump to the crown of the trees, crews also focused on removing 75% of the brush and creating burn piles out of limbs and brush for future prescribed burning planned and carried out by the USFS. In total UCC crews completed fuels reduction work on over 33 acres, despite working in steep terrain and dense vegetation. Projects like these teach Corpsmembers critical skills in forest and fuels management, forest health, chainsaw training and other industry recognized certifications that help corpsmembers transition into jobs as wildland fire fighters or forestry technicians with our agency partners.



PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

We couldn't have come as far or accomplished as much without the help and support of all of our wonderful partners!



PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

We are grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors, including:

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS

- Vista Recreation
- Mitsubishi Cement Corporation
- Visit Big Bear
- Big Bear Mountain Resorts
- Live Nation
- Soboba Casino and Resort
- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
- San Bernardino Valley
- Southern California Edison
- Big Bear Moose Lodge
- Lockridge Tools
- Fennemore

OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- National Forest Foundation
- Friends of the Desert Mountains
- Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
- Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Yamaha Access Initiative
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps
- The Wildlands Conservancy
- The Corps Network
- Big Bear Valley Education Trust
- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
- Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- San Bernardino Community College District
- John Muir Charter School
- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- CalRecycle
- City of Big Bear Lake
- City of Coachella
- Palm Springs
- City of San Bernardino
- San Bernardino National Forest
- Cleveland National Forest
- Angeles National Forest
- CalFire
- Department of Natural Resources
- CA State Parks
- California Conservation Corps
- County of San Bernardino
- County of Riverside
- Bureau of Land Management
- CA Department of State Hospitals
- CA Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- CA State Parks - Off-Highway Vehicle Motor Recreation Division
- California Volunteers
- Coachella Valley Association of Governments

PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

We are grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors, including:

INDIVIDUAL DONORS (includes membership)

- Jen Donahue
- Joshua Conley
- Doris Gorin
- Butchers Block & Building Materials
- Matt & Claudia Scriven
- Paul Allen
- Susie Schmelzer
- Shirley Farr
- Wayne and Karen Olmsted
- Jennifer and Christopher Davis
- Will Rahill
- Joshua Frederick
- Bernard Bridges
- Greg & Bynette Mote
- Estelle Hooker
- Steven Yellon
- Scott Allen
- T&M Vanesley
- Jeff Gill
- Richard Fowell
- Daniel Morrison
- N. Mons Bergsten
- David Cutler-Kreutz
- Richard Morgan
- Susan Munson
- City of Big Bear Lake
- Murray Cappel
- Michelle Frier
- Inez Elgie
- Cheryl Quasny
- Andromeda Stevens
- Mike Wingen
- Debi Burton
- Brad Thompson
- Ryan Beihl
- Christina Silva Salgado
- Donald Kasper
- Ron Helms
- Charles & Elizabeth Rennie



LOOKING AHEAD

Goals for FY 2025

- Expand our wildfire prevention and fuels reduction efforts through strategic partnerships like the Headwaters Resilience Partnership.
- Support Agencies and local tribes with project implementation to build capacity in the region.
- Promote and maintain recreational access to public lands in partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest.
- Continue to grow our volunteer program to engage more community members in our mission.
- Expand native plant nursery infrastructure and operations to meet the needs of the region's reforestation and ecological restoration needs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners. Your support and dedication are the foundation of our success.

Together, we will continue to protect and preserve the natural beauty of Southern California's mountains for future generations.