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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FUND



OFFICIAL PARTNER TO
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Annual Report



ABOUT SAMO FUND

Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO Fund) is the official nonprofit partner to both the National Park Service and California State Parks in the Santa Monica Mountains. Established in 1988 by local citizens, SAMO Fund was founded to support the preservation, restoration, and public enjoyment of these iconic lands.

Our mission is to support education, resource protection, ecological restoration, research and community engagement that preserves the ecological and cultural elements of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. We work in partnership with the National Park Service, California State Parks, and local organizations to ensure these public lands remain vibrant, resilient and accessible to all.

Enhance the Santa Monica Mountains

Grow Resilient Funding: Strengthen financial sustainability by diversifying revenue streams, engaging donors, forming partnerships and improving impact measurement.

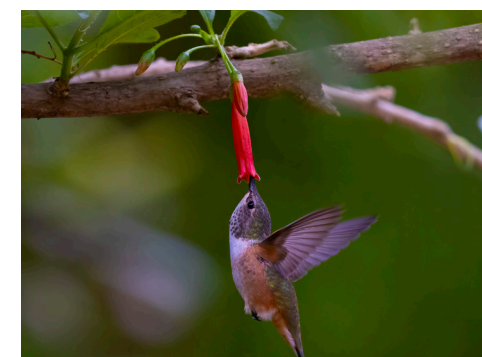
Increase Visibility: Amplify awareness and engagement through targeted communication, outreach and community events to broaden the Fund's presence.

Expand Youth Workforce: Provide meaningful employment and development opportunities for

youth, promoting environmental stewardship and conservation leadership.

Build Partnerships: Forge collaborations with local businesses, government, nonprofits and community groups to enhance conservation efforts and leverage collective resources.

Foster Environmental Stewardship: Cultivate a sense of responsibility and ownership by empowering individuals and communities to actively engage in conservation through education, volunteerism and leadership development.



2024 Financials

88% of our total budget goes towards supporting programming

A total of \$2.75 million or 88% of our expenditures were in supporting park programs and projects with 12% used for operations and fundraising.

Income 2024

- Donations \$ 388,295
- Grants \$ 960,600
- Contracts \$ 1,841,068
- Sponsorship and Fundraisers \$ 6,980

Expenses 2024

- Park Programs \$ 2,759,190
- Fundraising \$ 165,167
- Operations \$ 222,388

Park Programming 88%

Fundraising 5%

Operations 7%



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

Photo Credit: TJ Hastings (1,2), Sandeep Dhar (3), Kerry Perkins (4)



PROGRAMMING & PROJECTS

SAMO Fund Succeeds

Monarchs and Milkweed

SAMO Fund's nursery offers complimentary milkweed and various native plants to individuals interested in contributing, in exchange for a small commitment of volunteer hours. Annually, thousands of native narrowleaf milkweed seeds and plants are distributed to residents and community members who aim to support the migration of monarch butterflies.

Native Plant Nursery

Over 50,000 native plants are grown here annually, curating a world-class herbarium for current and future scientific research. Native seed collection ensures conservation-quality seed samples of over 600 species of the plants native to the Santa Monica Mountains. Interns, entry-level workers and volunteers are educated on California native plant botany, horticultural practices and habitat restoration techniques.

Project Nursery at the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing

SAMO Fund is one of several partners involved in establishing a native plant nursery aimed at cultivating suitable flora. These plants will be utilized for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, enhancing animal habitats and seamlessly integrating the crossing into the connected ecosystems, thereby supporting the biological microsystems crucial for sustaining life.

SAMO Youth

SAMO Youth provides employment experience and mentorship for students aged 18-30 interested in pursuing environmental careers. Established in 2000, with just 10 students, the program now has hundreds of alumni and serves new cohorts annually.

Break the Poison Chain

A joint campaign with NPS to provide information on how to avoid using rat poison when dealing with pest problems on your property. Educational yard signs and resources are used by community members to spread the message.

Native Seed Farm

Our Seed Farm grows native plants to restore fire-damaged and degraded landscapes across the Santa Monica Mountains. Staff and interns collect, clean, and propagate seeds from local ecosystems, producing thousands of plants each year. The farm also serves as a training site, teaching young people restoration skills and supporting regional biodiversity and climate resilience. Seeds cultivated at the farm are grown at the Native Plant Nursery.



Open Outdoors for Everyone

Open Outdoors for Everyone is jointly managed by SAMO Fund, providing an education program for 4th graders from Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. This complimentary program brings around 20,000 4th graders to the park for a day of adventure and learning with National Park Service and State Park Rangers.

Cultural Preservation

The area is home to over 10,000 years of human history, having been inhabited by the Chumash people and then ranches in the 19th century before urban development. SAMO Fund supports archeological research working with NPS on the cultural resources team, as well as cultural activities at the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center.

Trail Maintenance

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area offers over 500 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, providing public access to hills, canyons and streams throughout the mountains. SAMO Fund works to help maintain, improve and restore routes throughout the mountains.

Nature Neighbor

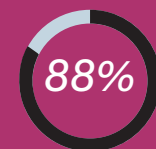
Nature Neighbor provides advice and tools for protecting property, pets, and family, while reducing urban impact on wildlife and habitat. The Nature Neighbor Project aims to educate communities in understanding how to live close to wildlife, value natural habitats, and approach the challenges of co-existing with nature.

Restoring the Park

During the past two years, 100,000 native plants in 5 key areas affected by wildfires and ranching were planted in the Santa Monica Mountains. Rancho Sierra Vista is one of the areas, the other four are Paramount Ranch, Cheeseboro Canyon, Peter Strauss Ranch and Rocky Oaks.

Paramount Project

Paramount Ranch is a movie backlot and recreation site in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Originally used by Hollywood studios from the 1920s to the 1940s, it was purchased by NPS in 1980. It is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. The Woolsey Fire of 2018 destroyed the ranch and SAMO Fund raised \$500,000 matched by federal funds to secure \$1 million for reconstruction.



88% of our budget goes towards supporting amazing programs like these



We consistently receive the highest rating on Charity Navigator



Year after year, SAMO Fund receives Platinum rating from GuideStar