

The Western States Trail Foundation



Dedicated to Preserving the  
Integrity And Heritage of  
The Western States Trail

# IMPACT REPORT

Fall 2021

No-Hands Bridge, Tevis Mile 96

# COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

- The Annual Tevis Cup Ride – held since 1955 – is managed each year by the Western States Trail Foundation (WSTF) with support from the Western States Trail Endowment Fund.
- The WSTF is chartered to stage the annual ride as well as to preserve and protect the historic legacy of the Western States Trail. Staying true to the values of our founder Wendell Robie, the WSTF also sponsors endurance horse welfare studies each year. Below is an update on our activities for the past year – we've been busy!



*Jeff Herten, 2021 President,  
The Western States Trail Foundation*

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

With the actions and support of our WSTF Board of Governors, our network of hundreds of volunteers, and the generosity of our donors, our stewardship of the Ride and the Trail is a continuing success. As shown in this report, our efforts to preserve and protect the legacy of the Western States Trail and the annual Ride are far-reaching. Thank-you for your ongoing support!



# YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK:



Trail maintenance is an annual activity – mostly accomplished with volunteer hours, but in some cases requiring capital expenditure. We partner with the Western States Run, the Placer County Dept. of Corrections, and the US Forest Service to keep the trail open!

Work Crews Restoring Water Flow to the Deadwood Well, 2021 (Tevis Mile 55).



A New Well Installed at our Chicken Hawk Stop (Tevis Mile 64), first available in 2021 for the Tevis Educational Ride and the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Tevis Cup Ride.



# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

## Full-Spectrum Approach!

Our activities to sustain the annual ride go year-round. And without the support of our community of riders, donors, volunteers, sponsors, and partners, our mission would be hard to fulfill. Some of our highlights of the past year . . .

## Successful 2021 Ride / post-COVID!

Although fewer horses were fully conditioned and available to ride this year (due to early-season COVID-related ride cancellations), the Tevis Cup returned to its proud traditions as 133 horses embarked on the journey to Auburn on 24 July.



## Initiated the Tevis "Virtual Ride"

With cancellation of the 2020 Ride came an idea to bring the trail to life in a "virtual" Ride. Over 1600 participants went the distance, raising funds to support ongoing obligations!

## Publicity Outreach



Our Tevis.org website and Facebook pages receive thousands of visitors each month.

Endurance Riding articles have been placed in a variety of equestrian publications and local newspapers.

The WSTF is a participating organization in the Auburn-sponsored Endurance Capital campaign



## Another FORUM hits the Presses!

This year's FORUM was mailed in May to over 5000 horse enthusiasts, setting new benchmarks for page count and advertisers and was immediately viewable worldwide at Tevis.org.

## Maintained Sound Financial Footing

Through good and careful management, we have preserved and protected a steady and sustainable balance for The Western States Trail Foundation (annual ride expenditures).

# HORSE WELFARE:

Among our proudest achievements is our annual veterinary study of equine performance and recovery in this, the toughest of endurance riding challenges.

Studies of the recent past have included Dehydration (as determined by body weight), Blood Analysis to determine electrolyte/fluid balance, and the Use of Ultrasound to detect early symptoms of fatigue or illness.

For the 2021 Ride, Dr. Langdon Fielding (DVM, DACVECC, DACVSMR) has led a study to evaluate the possible Beneficial Role of Calcium Supplementation for horses that were withdrawn from competition due to metabolic issues.

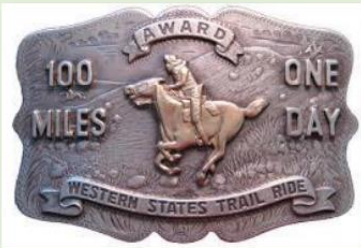
# LOOKING AHEAD:

With a continued focus on preserving the legacy of the Western States Trail, staging the annual Tevis Cup Ride, and keeping horse welfare front and center, our Western States Trail Foundation Board of Governors has its hands full!

Our long-term goals include proceeding with plans for a significant upgrade of the finish line area at the Auburn Overlook, working to ensure trail access and right-of-way (both for our event and for all visitors to the historic Western States Trail), and continuing with our annual equine health studies.

**All of this is made possible by your generous financial support. Please consider a 2021 donation to sustain our efforts – contributions qualify as a charitable deduction for tax purposes, and can be directed to our office in Auburn:**

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