

The Western States Trail Foundation



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

IMPACT REPORT

Fall 2022

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, 2022 President,
The Western States Trail Foundation*

2022 is a year of unprecedented challenges for us – trail access concerns, a heightened awareness of horse and rider safety, and a yet-to-come assessment of the impacts from the Mosquito Fire have us more focused than ever on our core mission. 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 will continue - Thank-you for your ongoing support!

MOSQUITO FIRE RECOVERY

The Fire Scope: Starting on 6 Sept near the Oxbow Dam, the fire quickly grew to some 76,000 acres, including the central portion of the Western States Trail. Fully-contained by 15 Oct, damage assessment and recovery is in-work.

● Landmark

Damage Assessment: The fire impacted about 25 miles of the Western States Trail, from the Swinging Bridge to the early portions of the California Street section west of Foresthill. Our new wells at Chicken Hawk and Deadwood survived, as did the Swinging Bridge and the Eldorado Creek Bridge.

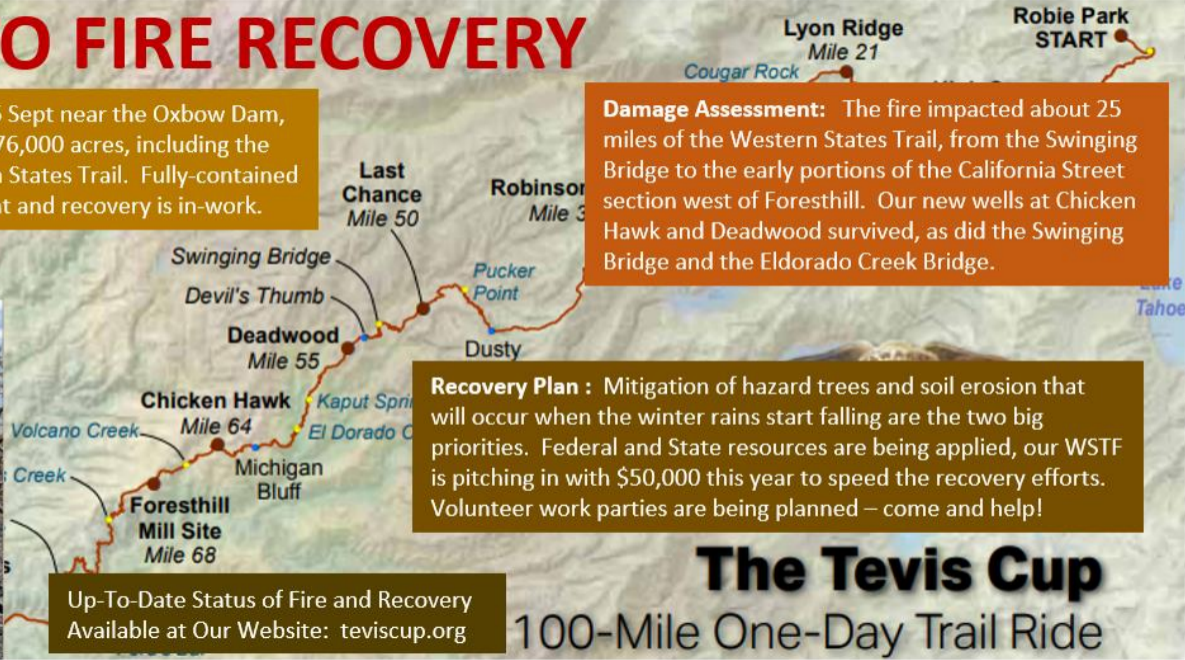
Recovery Plan : Mitigation of hazard trees and soil erosion that will occur when the winter rains start falling are the two big priorities. Federal and State resources are being applied, our WSTF is pitching in with \$50,000 this year to speed the recovery efforts. Volunteer work parties are being planned – come and help!

Up-To-Date Status of Fire and Recovery Available at Our Website: teviscup.org

The Tevis Cup
100-Mile One-Day Trail Ride



Photo: Carol Hewitt



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 . . .

Website Re-design for teviscup.org!

Our re-designed website “went live” in January with an enhanced “look and feel” to access our ride information – historical and real-time

Our re-designed web page has received about 5000 hits per month, with visitors from over 60 countries

The Tevis website received over 17,000 hits during our July Ride Weekend from folks following our Ride!

Growing Our Donor List

Our list of year-over-year sustaining donors to the WSTF has grown to over 300. This list is used for outreach in our direct-mail campaigns and for passing along news and updates to our core supporters.



Another FORUM hits the Presses!

This year’s FORUM was mailed in May to over 5000 horse enthusiasts, and was immediately viewable worldwide at teviscup.org.



Continuation of the Tevis “Virtual Ride”

Initiated in 2020, the Virtual Ride brings the trail to life for a world-wide fan base. Over 800 participants went the distance in 2022, raising funds to support our ongoing obligations!

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).

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Upgrading the Auburn Overlook / Tevis Cup Finish

The WSTF has partnered with the Auburn State Recreation Area to finalize the planning for a significant upgrade at this “gateway to the canyons” that so many hikers, runners, and equestrians enjoy throughout the year. Also contributing is the Auburn Endurance Capital Committee with their purchase of an ADA-compliant water bottle filling station / fountain for the Overlook.

The WSTF strives to form partnerships that can best leverage a broad base of resources to achieve our Mission to “Preserve and Protect” . . . two examples:

Shown Here: Granite Chief Re-Route Details

Trail Re-Routing in the Granite Chief Wilderness

As a result of joint planning between the WSTF, the WS Endurance Run (WSER), and the US Forest Service, the USFS has secured an \$800,000 grant to re-route the trail in miles 15 to 22 of the Tevis Ride – placing the trail onto a ridgeline that is less erosion-prone, and less densely vegetated. The 3-year project is now underway – and the WSTF has contributed \$38,000 to help meet this year’s overall project budget.

Shown Here: Approved Overlook Site Grading Plan

HORSE WELFARE:

Annual Veterinarian Studies Continue

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) led a study to evaluate the possible Beneficial Role of Calcium Supplementation for horses that were withdrawn from competition due to metabolic issues.

See More At Our Website: teviscup.org

WSTF Action Plan for Ride Day Horse-Care

The Western States Trail Foundation (WSTF) joins the entire endurance community in grieving the accidents that occurred at the 2022 Tevis Cup ride. Our commitment going forward:

(1) The WSTF will work to improve emergency response with faster and more effective strategies. Ride-day horse-rescue teams will be stationed along the course in areas identified as higher risk. We will also pre-stage rescue equipment and provide veterinarian support to all rescue efforts.

(2) Working with the WS Endurance Run and appropriate government agencies, we will identify those trail sections most in need of repair. Our goal: improve the trail bed – widen it, and remove obstacles as much as possible – specifically for horse safety.



LOOKING AHEAD:

With a continued focus on preserving the legacy of the Western States Trail, staging the annual Tevis Cup Ride (while keeping those entry fees down), 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.

Of greater immediacy, in 2022 we initiated a Western States Trail Reconditioning Project, with calls for volunteer hours or donations to help us identify, prioritize, and upgrade sections of our trail most in need. Financial commitments have already been made – we need your help! Your invitation to get involved is at <https://teviscup.org/wst-reconditioning-project/>

Collectively, all of the effort described in this brochure is made possible by your generous financial support. Please consider a 2022 donation to sustain our efforts – contributions qualify as a charitable deduction for tax purposes, and can be directed to our office in Auburn (below). Our need has never been greater – please join with us to preserve and protect the legacy of the WS Trail.

The Western States Trail Foundation
150 Gum Lane, Suite 103 Auburn, CA 95603



The Western States Trail Foundation
150 Gum Lane, Suite 103
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) - 823-7282
wstf@teviscup.org

Address Block