



2020
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



2020 Snapshot

MISSION To create high quality trail experiences by advocating for, building, and maintaining trails which are progressive, diverse, and promote community.

ABOUT We are a group of mountain bike and outdoor enthusiasts who have a passion to contribute to the growth and improvement of our local trail system. We get excited about new trails, well built trails, trail improvements, pump tracks, community cycling events, and pretty much anything that gets us out on single track. Our team is diverse in skills, day jobs, and interests but we all come to the group with a shared desire for progress and community with regard to Redding's trail system.

We work with local government agencies to plan, maintain and build trails. We connect with the community through hosting volunteer maintenance days and community outdoor events. We also team up with other local outdoor groups to ensure trail efforts are in alignment. Our team is excited to see Redding grow and evolve into a top notch mountain bike location.



info@reddingtrailalliance.com



www.reddingtrailalliance.org



[redding_trail_alliance](https://www.instagram.com/redding_trail_alliance)



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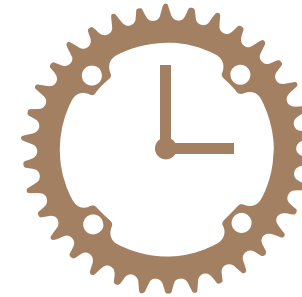


In 2020 Redding Trail Alliance, along with various partners and volunteers were able to create an estimated 3 miles of new trail and maintain over 60 miles of existing trails. New trail construction included the following trails.

- Learner Loop
- Mule Mt. Trail Reroute
- Snail Trail Extension
- Blue Lead Trail in Weaverville



Through grants, partners, sponsors, donations and events, Redding Trail Alliance raised over \$165,000 for trail and bike park development.



Over 3,500 hours spent maintaining and building trails. An estimated 1,700 hours of that time was volunteer labor with over 60 unique volunteers!



We aren't the only ones who love trails! In 2020 we partnered with other non-profits, government agencies and private landowners to ensure our projects met the needs of the community to guarantee long terms success. Our partners include

- McConnell Foundation • City of Redding • Bureau of Land Management • US Forest Service • Trail Labs Co.
- The Watershed Research and Training Center • Trinity Trail Alliance • Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association
- Schmidbauer Family Foundation



2020 Partners



& Sponsors



New Trail Construction

Learner Loop

Snail Trail Extension

and Mule Mt Trail reroute



Owen surveying a rock armored section of trail on the new Learner Loop at Swasey.

The addition of Stu The Brown Plow to our family has allowed the creation of new trails at unprecedented speed. All three new sections completed in the beginning of 2020 were built with Stu and a small hand crew. First up was a section of the Learner Loop. This section was the downhill portion of the loop and features fun flowy trail that mountain bikers of all abilities and ages can access near the main parking lot. Next up was a reroute on the popular Mule Mt. Trail. This section of trail takes users off an old road and puts them on a section of fun and sustainable single track. The last project of the season was the Snail Trail extension. This project continues the fun of our most popular trail for a little bit longer, adding a unique section of trail as it snakes through a mellow drainage.



A fabricated rock garden on the Learner Loop trail. This gives riders an optional line to practice their technical skills.



The motorized wheelbarrow wasn't available so our volunteers worked with what they had to move rocks for armored rock crossings on the lower Snail Trail.

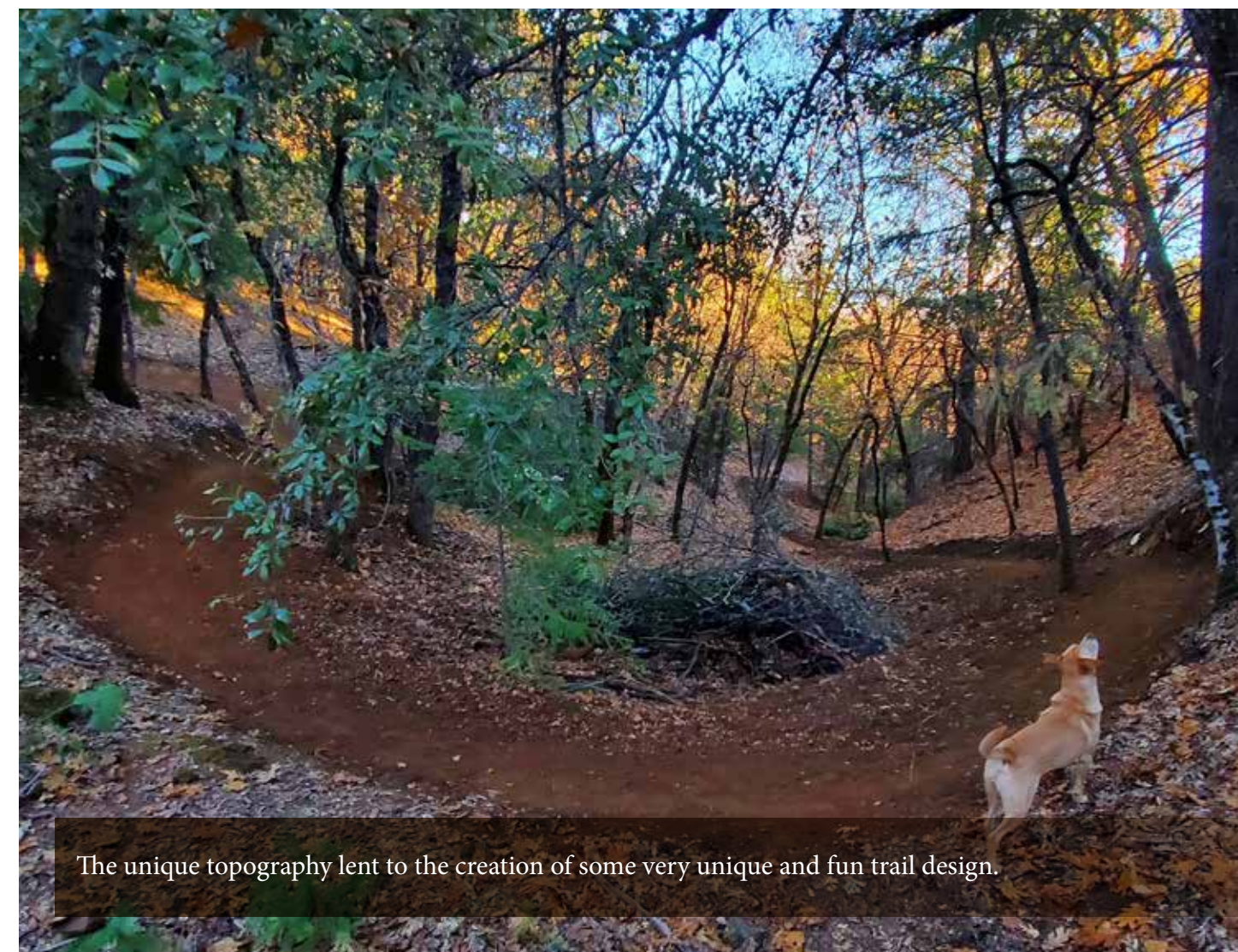
New Trail Construction Blue Lead

One trip down the Blue Lead trail caused one 60 year old Weaverville resident to exclaim that “It made him feel like a kid again”

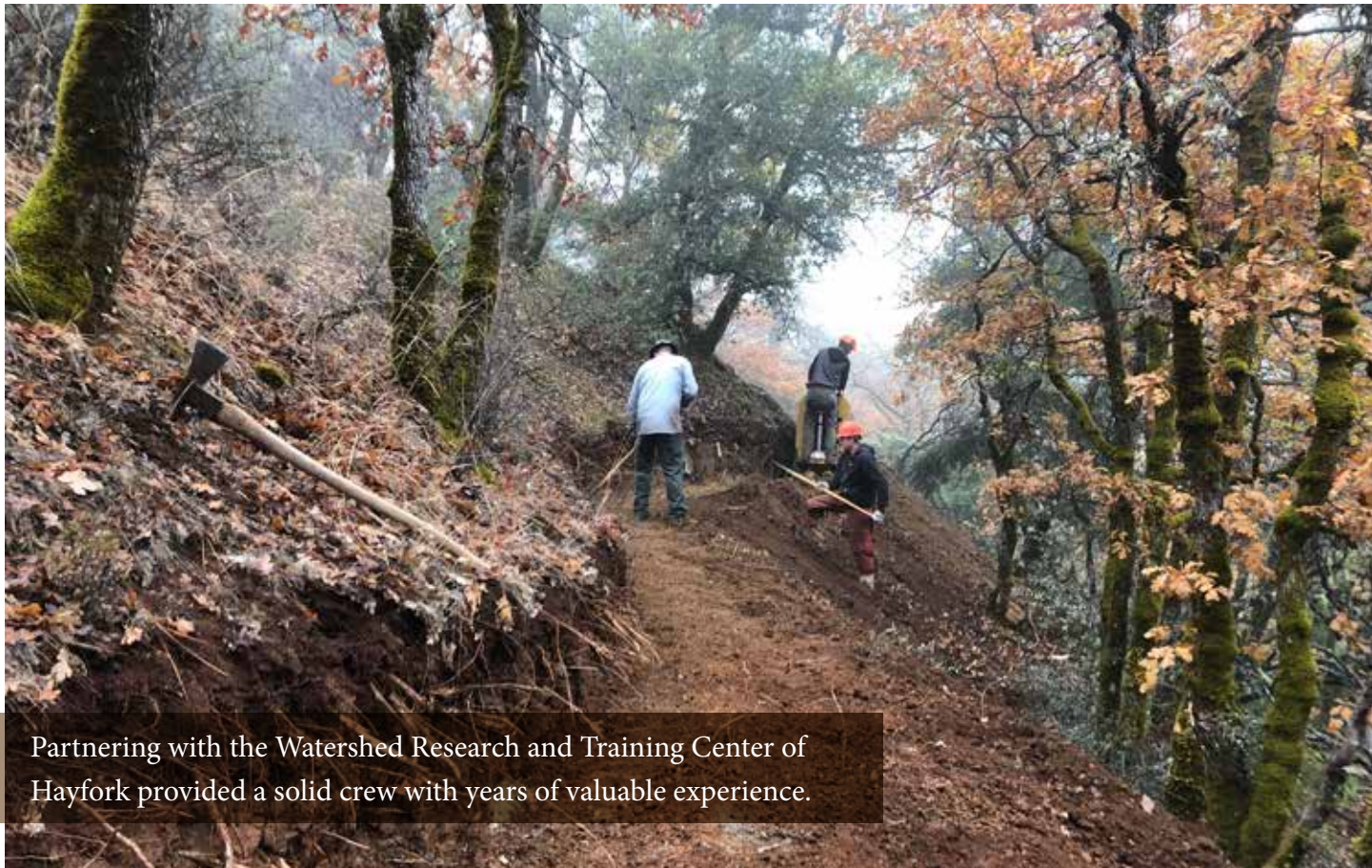
New Trail Construction Continued

One of our most exciting projects to date, we anticipate that the new Blue Lead trail is going to be “the hot trail” of 2021! Working with the Forest Service and The Watershed Research and Training Center, we spent multiple days crawling through brush, visiting bear bedrooms, and finding unique trail opportunities that only this type of terrain we explored could offer. This two mile portion of the new trail in the Weaver Basin is located on private land, which allowed for the trail to be built without the normal NEPA that would be required on Federal Lands. This land is currently owned by Frank Schmidbauer who also owns Trinity River Lumber. Not only did Frank allow these new trails to be built on his property, but he allocated \$40,000 toward their construction. With permission to go and funding in hand, we broke ground on November 2020 after the first significant rain of the year and continued through the middle of December. The trail crew was comprised of both Redding Trail Alliance and Watershed Center employees. This paid trail crew worked hand in hand with volunteers from Redding and Weaverville.

The finished result is unlike anything else found in the Weaver Basin trail system. We could try and describe the trail here, but nothing would compare to first hand experience. So, once the weather warms up a bit and the ground has a chance to dry out, we recommend a trip down Blue Lead. For recommended routes that include this new trail, keep an eye on the 2021 Bigfoot MTB Challenge.



The unique topography lent to the creation of some very unique and fun trail design.



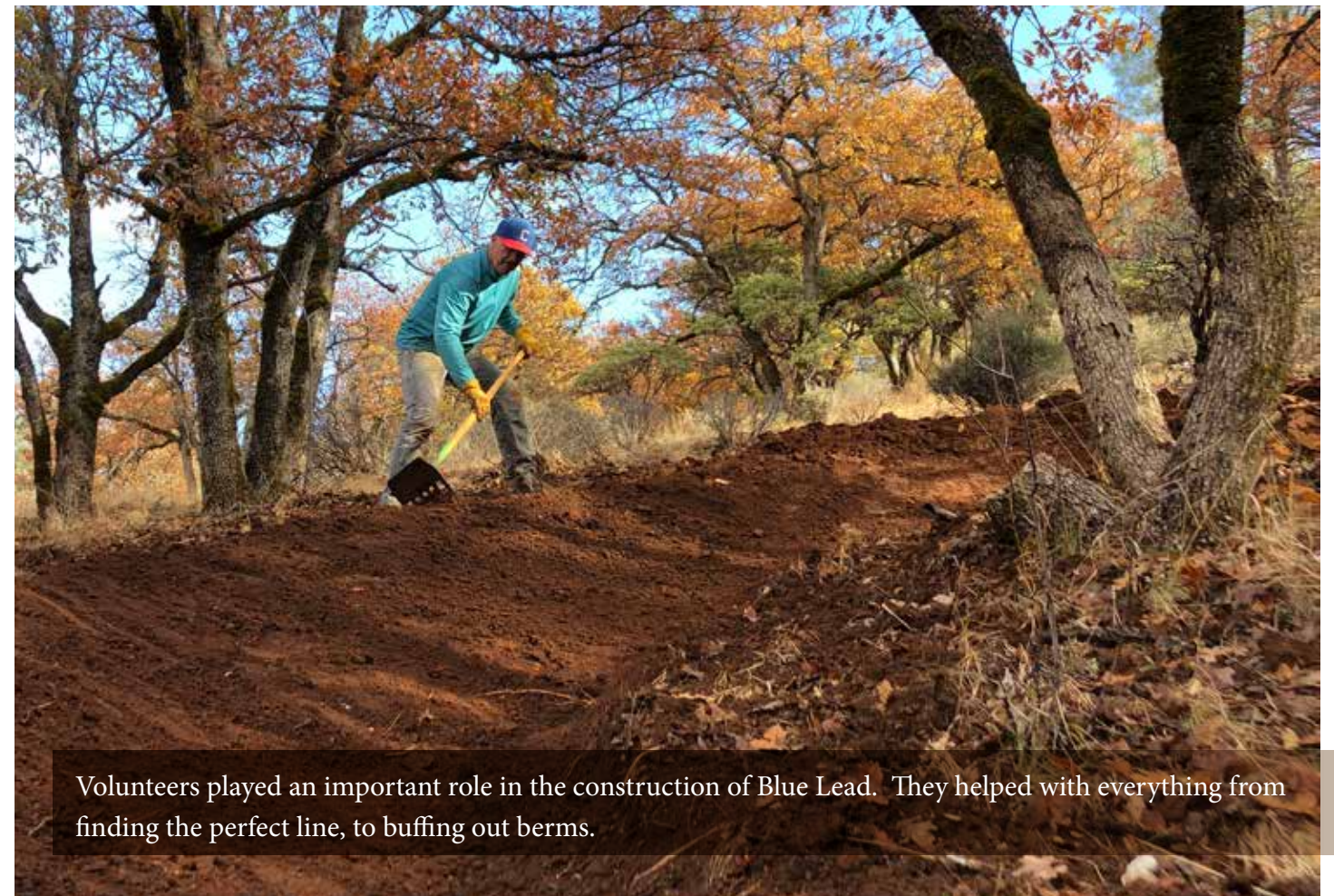
Partnering with the Watershed Research and Training Center of Hayfork provided a solid crew with years of valuable experience.



The crew after the final push to connect Blue Lead with the current trail system.



Tom Evans from the Watershed Center piloting Stu on steep terrain.



Volunteers played an important role in the construction of Blue Lead. They helped with everything from finding the perfect line, to buffing out berms.

Trail Maintenance



Trimming brush in the early summer heat

While our primary mission is to create new and exciting trails, the unfortunate reality is the majority of our time is spent on maintaining existing trails. This would not have been the case had our trails never been ravaged by the Carr fire. Before the fire, our trails for the most part were completely covered by a canopy of healthy established trees, both evergreen and deciduous. These trees not only provided shade from the hot summer sun, but they were superheroes when it came to protecting trails. The protective barrier that the trees provide for trail tread is one of the most effective means to prevent erosion. Since the fire, we have completely lost that protection and our trails have rutted out and begun to erode at a much faster pace. In 2020 we graded the ruts out and created drainage on the areas in Swasey Recreation that needed it. Moving into 2021 we plan on doing the same for the West Side trails, Keswick and Cloverdale area.

Another issue, that requires even more of our time is the “suckers” that have grown back from the healthy root systems of both oak trees and Toyon bushes. Unlike a tree growing from a seed, these suckers grow into bushes at an incredible rate requiring trimming an average of twice a year to keep them from encroaching on the trails.

While problems keep arising from the ground, they are also falling to the ground regularly. The burned snags from the fire litter our trails on a regular basis. Whether it’s from wind, snow or a bird landing on them wrong, reports of downed trees that need clearing come in on almost a weekly basis. A grant from Golden Valley Bank allowed us to purchase an E-bike, trailer and multiple saws and hedge trimmers. This has made getting into removed downed trees a much easier task!



The E-bike and electric chainsaw we were able to purchase with a grant from Golden Valley Bank.



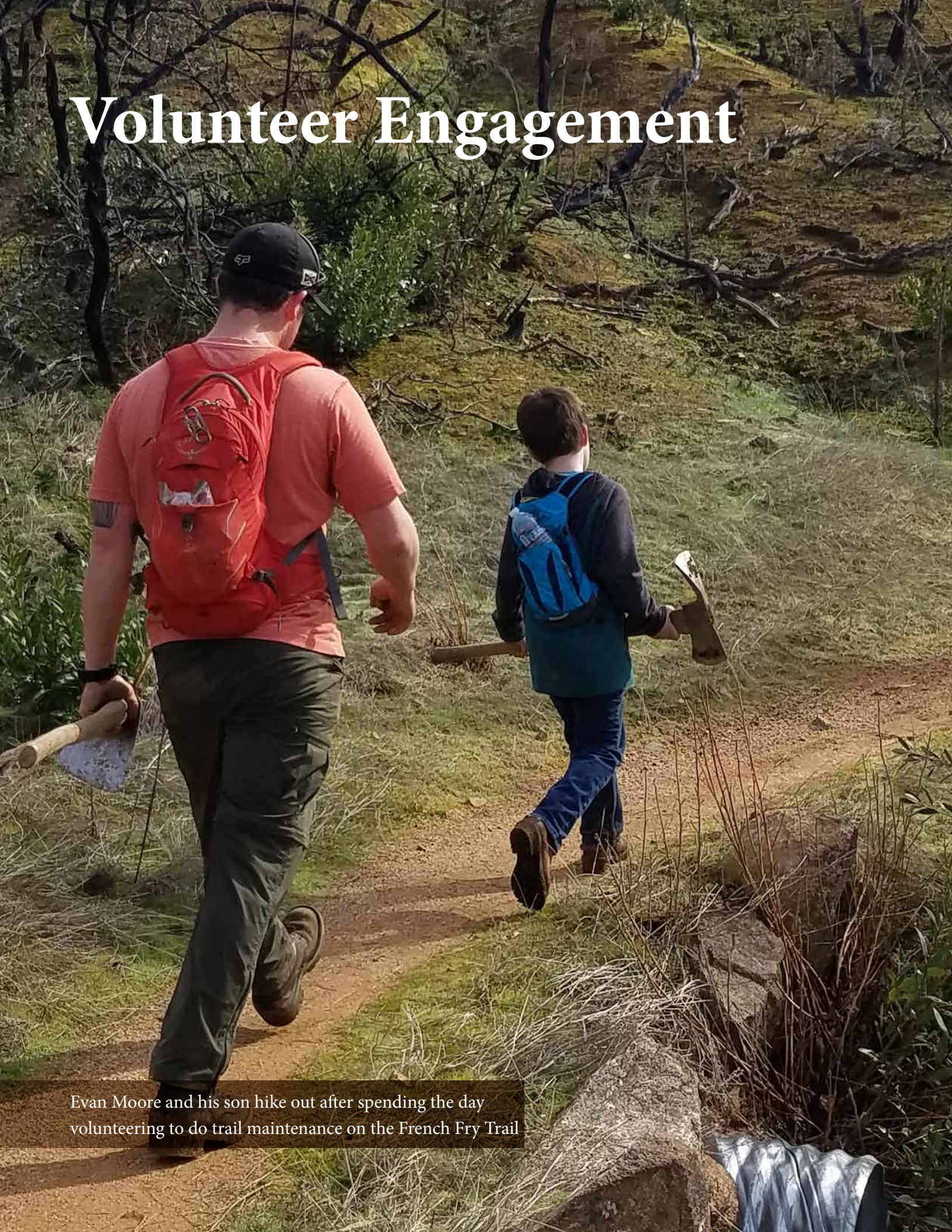
Our picture collection of snags blocking the trails is quite large.



Probably the least fun and glamorous aspect of trail maintenance, trimming brush.



Volunteer Engagement



Evan Moore and his son hike out after spending the day volunteering to do trail maintenance on the French Fry Trail

With the outpouring of people wanting to help with trail maintenance after the Carr Fire, we decided to implement a monthly volunteer day going forward. We chose the 1st Saturday of the month so that people would be able to put it on their calendar and make time to help out.

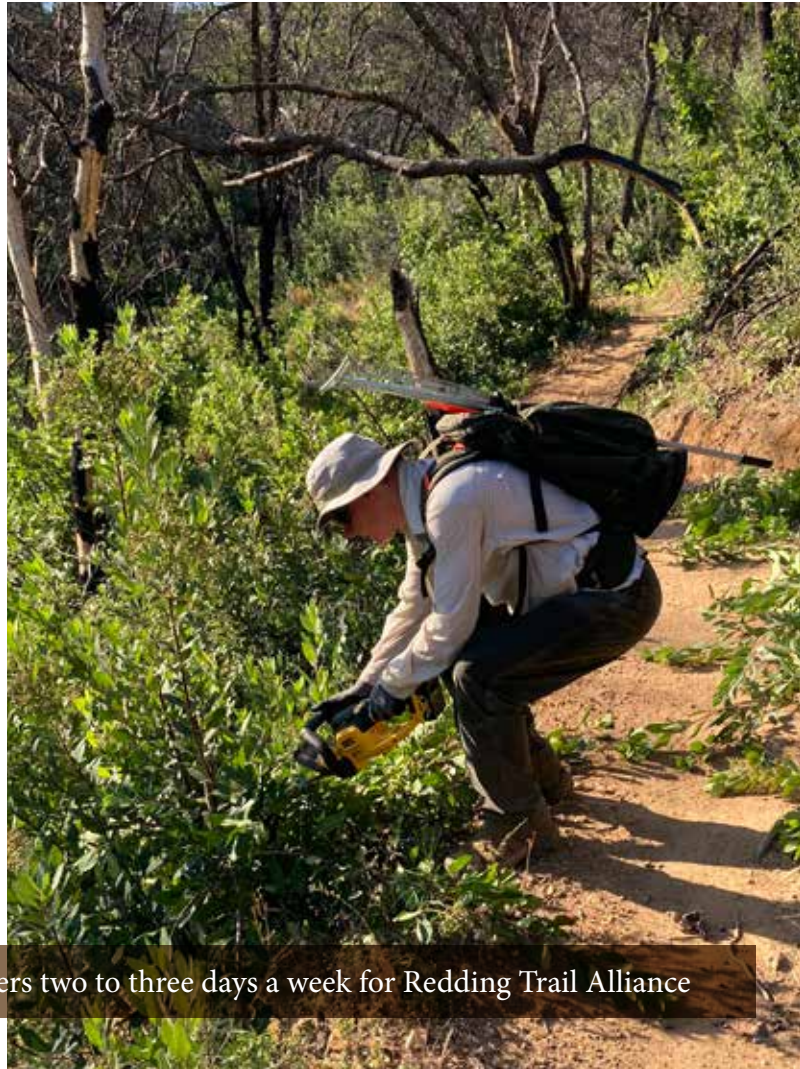
Our first volunteer day was addressing some problematic areas and doing routine maintenance on Owen's Run and other nearby trails. We had 40 volunteers show up! Not only did we get a lot of handwork done, but people were able to build relationships with fellow trail enthusiasts as well as a relationship with a trail they have been using and will continue to use. One volunteer voiced that he "would never look at trails the same way again". Besides our monthly volunteer days, we encourage volunteers to join us during our weekly work days. As of the preparing of this report we have 199 people who have signed up to receive our weekly trail work emails!

Along came COVID and put a stop to our larger volunteer days. Another thing COVID did was cause a huge uptick in trail users. While we love the fact that people are out exploring the trails and getting exercise, it only magnified the need for continued maintenance. We continue plugging along with small groups that allowed for a safe work environment. This has led to the creation of some Super Volunteers. These are individuals who regularly join us and have become essentially professional trail crew members, but they are doing it out of a combination of love for the trail and a giving heart.

During the 2020 calendar year we are so proud to say that people have volunteered over 2,000 hours toward making Redding Trail Alliance's mission a success!



Feeding hungry volunteers after a morning of hard work, pre-covid.



Volunteers from both Redding and Weaverville working on the new Blue Lead trail!



Two of our Volunteers clearing brush from the badly overgrown Clikapudi Trail

Super Volunteer Mike Berg regularly volunteers two to three days a week for Redding Trail Alliance



High school students that are part of the Redding Composite MTB Team finish a new section of trail that they raced on only weeks later





Community Engagement Bigfoot MTB Challenge

Learning how to have fun from the social distance champion of the world.

While 2020 has been somewhat of a stain on the fabric of time, one thing it has shown us is that people LOVE trails. During the stay at home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our trails saw an unprecedented upturn in use. In the smack dab middle of this all, we put on an event. That's right, we had our most successful, in terms of participation, community mountain bike event. The newly named Bigfoot MTB Challenge (formerly the "Mayor's Mountain Bike Challenge") served as a great distraction from all the negativity swirling around peoples' daily lives. This passport style event allowed people to participate while still observing all guidelines issued by local and state health organizations. As mentioned above, this was our highest ever level of participation with 305 passports turned in, up from our previous high in 2019 with 237 passports!

SOME OF THE MANY MEMORABLE EMAIL QUOTES

"I want to thank you for such an awesome challenge. I am a travel ICU nurse that has been in Redding for the last year and this is the first year I've heard of this challenge and in April I went on my first ever mtb bike ride. This was the perfect way for me to get into the sport and get to know the trails. This was also a great distraction from working in the Covid ICU and being on lockdown at home. I had a great time with this challenge-thank you!" -Kourtnee (Redding)

"Many thanks to all who are involved in the challenge!! These past couple weeks have been somewhat trying due to the "unprecedented times" and lack of work, the challenge has helped to slough off some of the worries :). I will surely be hitting the trails this weekend! I have the Cosmo route in my sites :)" -Dennis (Redding)

"I'm new to mountain biking, bought a beginner MTB at the Chain Gang pretty much the first day of quarantine to get outside. I've loved how the passport gives me ideas for places to go." -Sean (Redding)

"As a beginner, I love the challenge of getting to learn how to mountain bike and knowing which trails to go on because of this fun challenge!" -Marianne (Redding)

"Thank you for putting on the Bigfoot Mountain Bike Challenge. I live in Red Bluff and wasn't aware of how incredible the trail system in Redding truly was. I will definitely be using your trails more consistently!" -Pablo (Red Bluff)



People of all ages are able to enjoy the Bigfoot MTB Challenge.



The top 15 blackout finishers and there prize jerseys!

Community Engagement

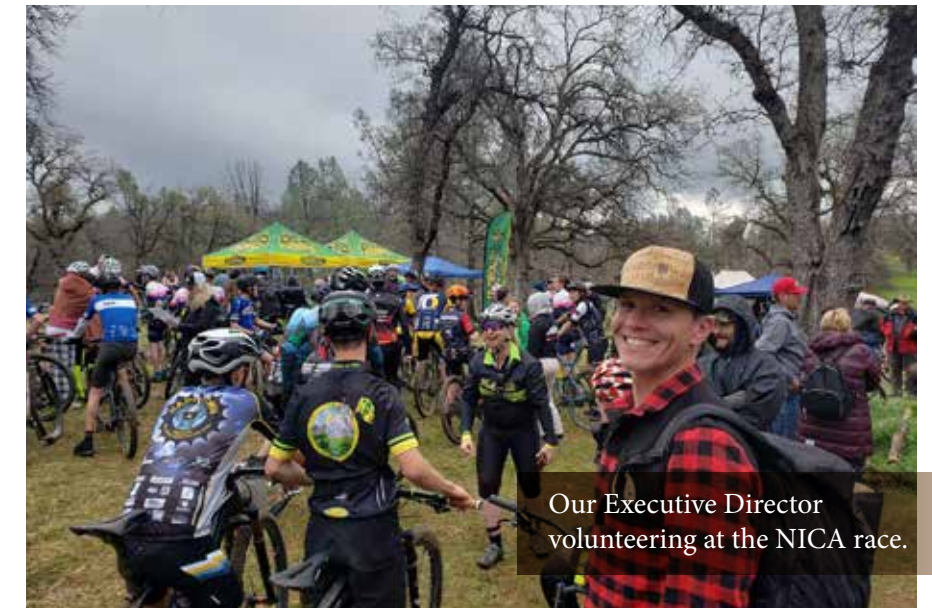
Nor-Cal High School MTB Race AKA The Swasey Shred



One of the many waves of High school MTB racers lining up to take on the Swasey Shred!

Community Continued

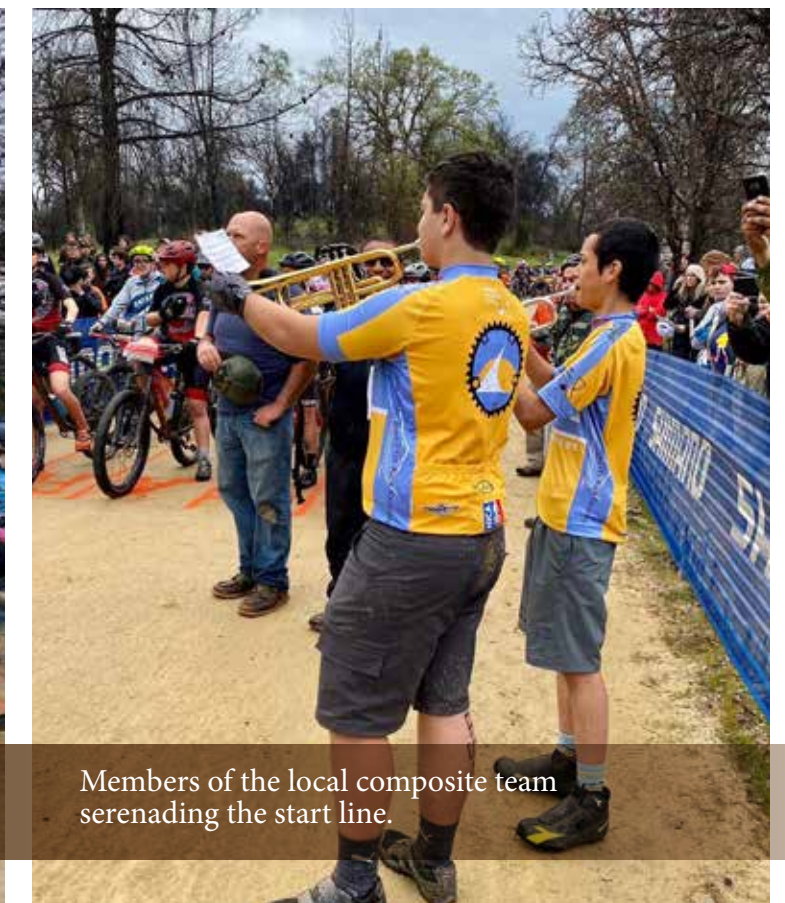
Another event that we had a part in bringing to Redding was a Nor-Cal High school Mountain Bike Race. The magnitude and scope of this event was something to behold. Over the course of two days, we had close to 2,000 high school kids racing their mountain bikes at Swasey Recreation Area on some trails that we had built and all of which we maintain. With these kids came their families and team coaches. Not only was this a huge boost for the local economy over the weekend but the trickle down effect of avid cyclists being exposed to our amazing trails and returning to ride them and explore is going to be something that continues to bolster our tourism.



Our Executive Director volunteering at the NICA race.



One of the many waves of girls lining up to race.



Members of the local composite team serenading the start line.



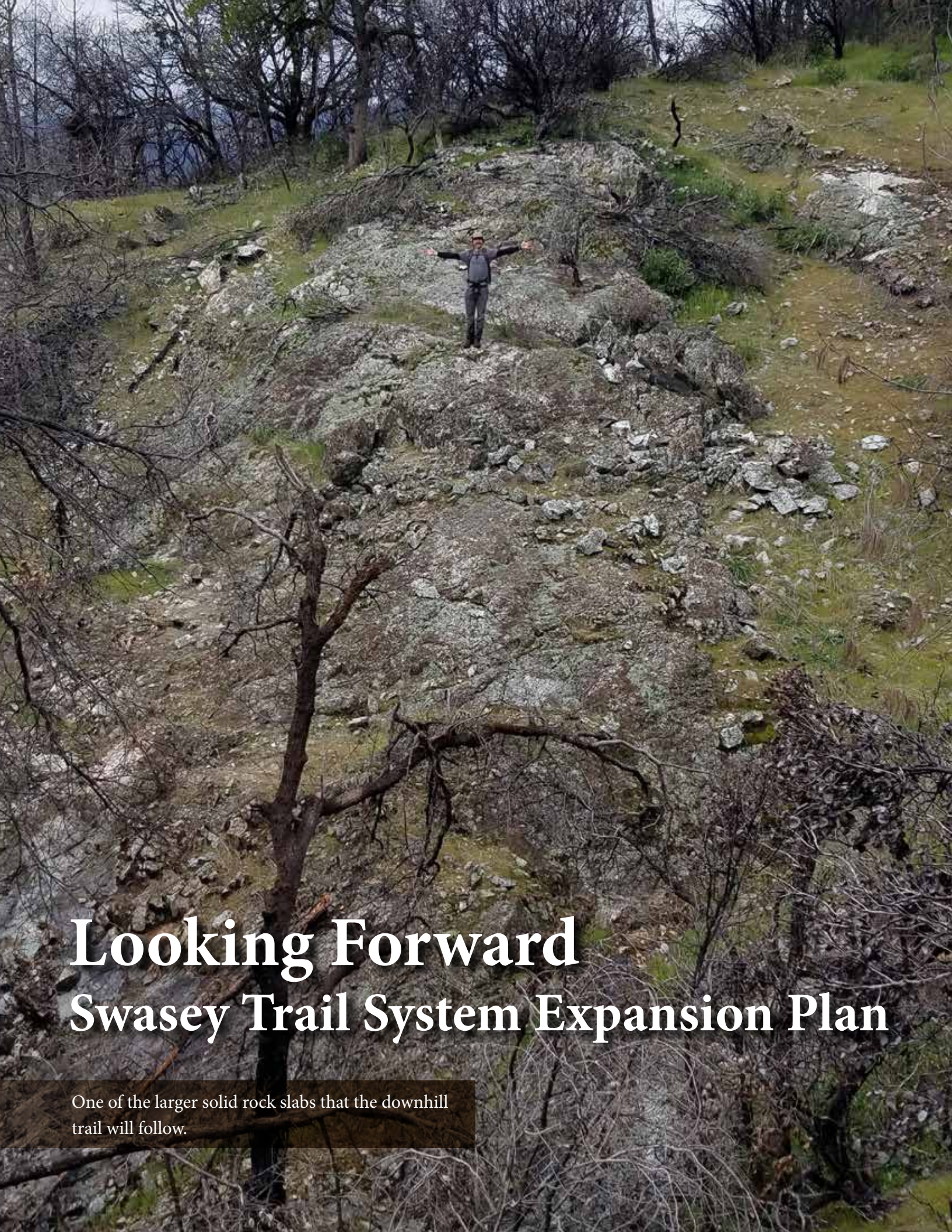
Community Engagement The Lemurian Classic

Social distance racing. Jenna Kane from Mt. Shasta finishes first in the Pro Womens class

Community Continued

Amid uncertainties caused by a global pandemic we began to plan the 33rd annual Lemurian Classic mountain bike race. One thing we knew for sure was that we were going to do everything we could to not let a year go by without letting people test their skill and endurance in this truly classic mountain bike race. As the year progressed and we got closer to the event date, we worked closely with Shasta County Public health and our local Bureau of Land Management field office to ensure that the event would be held safely and wouldn't go against any local or State Covid safety guidelines. When it became evident that a regular cross country event wasn't going to happen because of the crowd it would draw, we went digital. Entering uncharted territory we had to essentially rewrite the rules for how the race would be run. Racers had 16 days to complete their respective course and record their ride on Strava. Links to their ride were sent in and the route was reviewed for accuracy. We had no clue how this race format would be received by racers. With participation numbers almost exactly what they were last year, we can say with certainty that it was a huge success! Due to the support of our generous sponsors and all those who participated, Redding Trail Alliance was able to raise over \$20,000 from this one event!



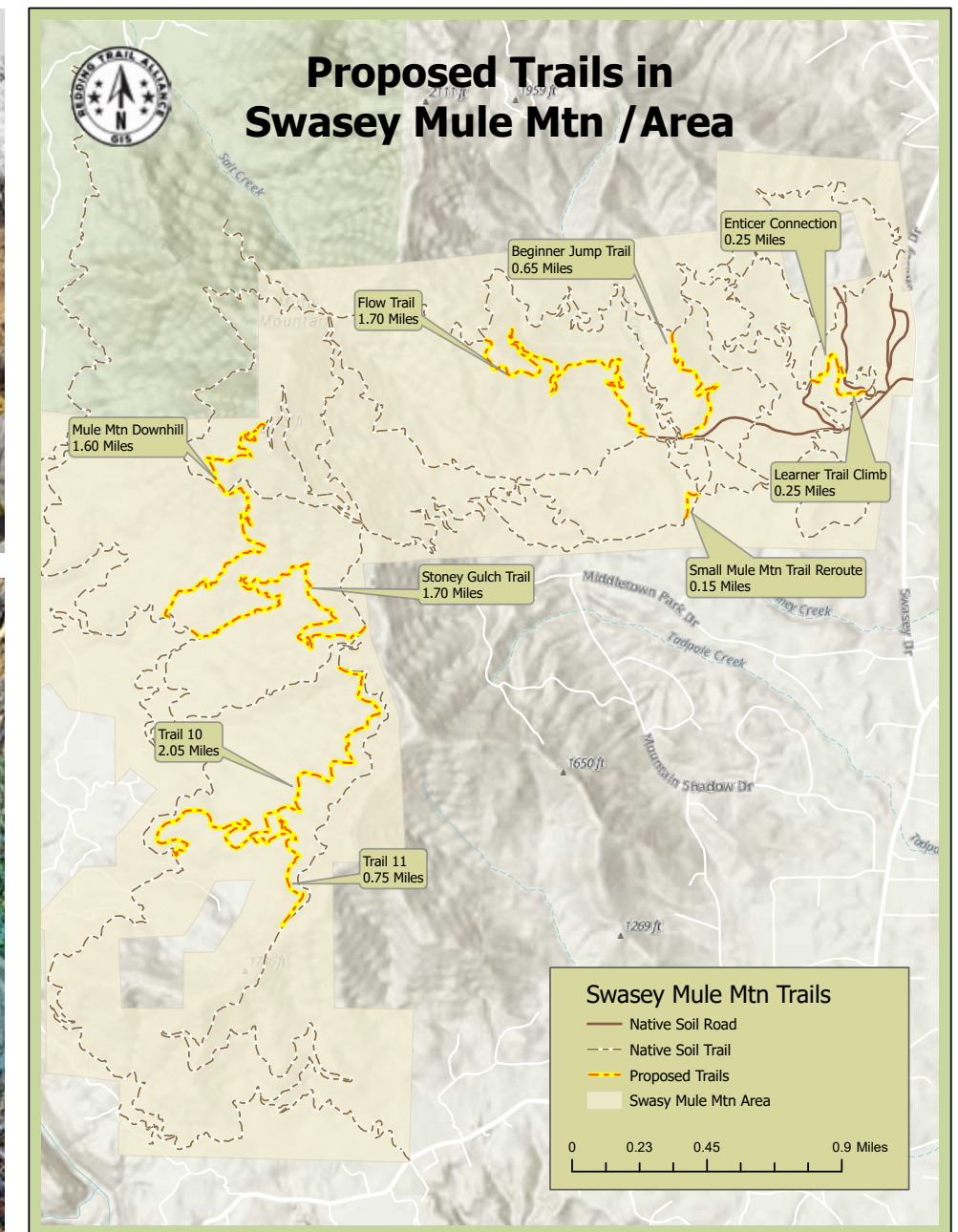


Looking Forward Swasey Trail System Expansion Plan

One of the larger solid rock slabs that the downhill trail will follow.

In between new trail construction and the endless maintenance that is required to keep our trails open, we squeezed in enough time to map out an estimated 9 miles of new trails to be constructed at Swasey Recreation Area. These new trails are what we have dreamed of accomplishing since our founding in 2016. Working closely with BLM, they expressed their excitement for the plan and their full support in providing the needed environmental analysis for the NEPA report. These trails range from a hand built rugged downhill trail with extremely technical features, to a beginner jump trail that ends right in the back parking lot off Delano Drive. If all goes according to plan, we will be able to start construction on these trails next winter! We also helped layout an estimated 10 miles of new trails to be constructed in the Weaver Basin trail system.

Another project that is right around the corner is the Redding Bike Park. We are currently meeting regularly with the Landscape Architect at Wormhoudt Inc. as they refine the final design. Once the design is approved the project will go out to bid for construction. Currently we are planning on building the pumptrack so that grant money can be used to expand other areas of the park.



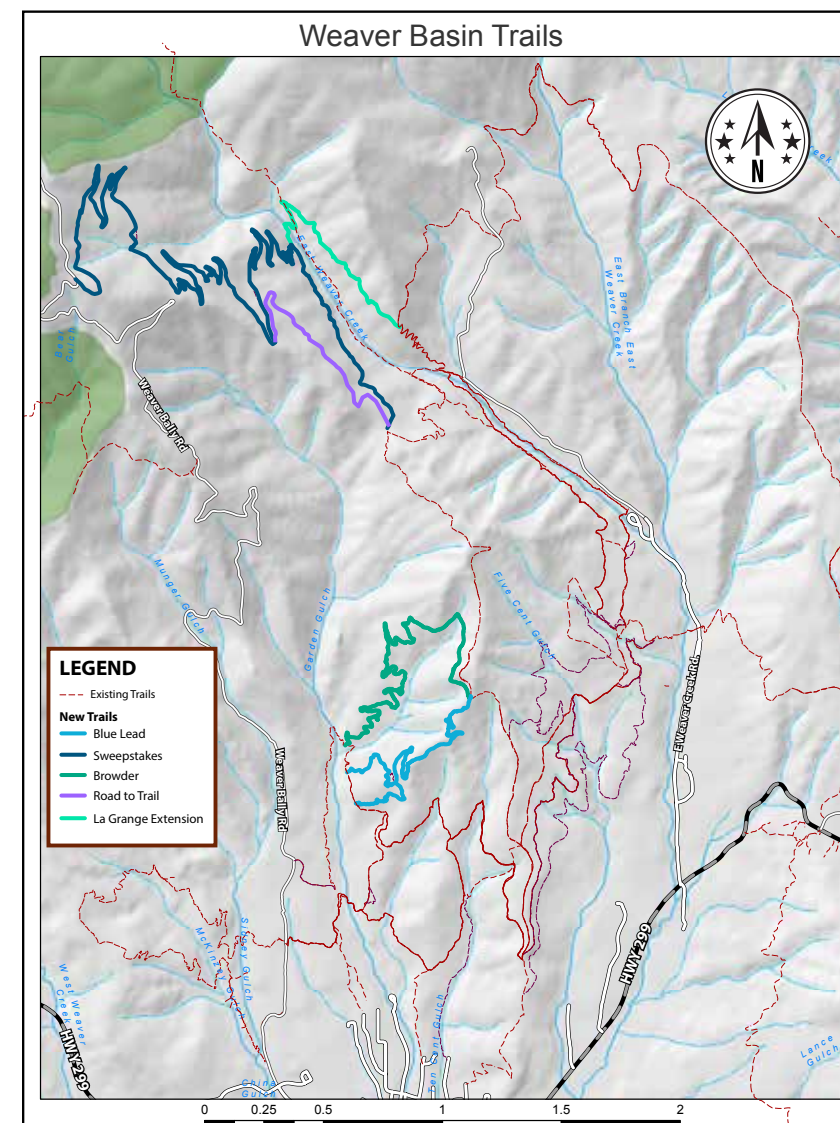
Looking Forward (or down) Weaver Basin Trail System Expansion Plan

Mike McFadden, Nate and Owen peer off a large cliff. Bets were made on how many children would be conceived at this amazing viewpoint.

Looking Forward cont.

Partnering with the Forest Service, Trinity Trail Alliance and The Watershed Research and Training Center, we were able to get over 11 miles of new trail flagged and mapped in the Weaver Basin Trail system. Lots of experience and personality came together to create a solid plan for adding trails to an already outstanding trail system. The planned trails will offer new routes, challenges and experiences to all forms of trail users.

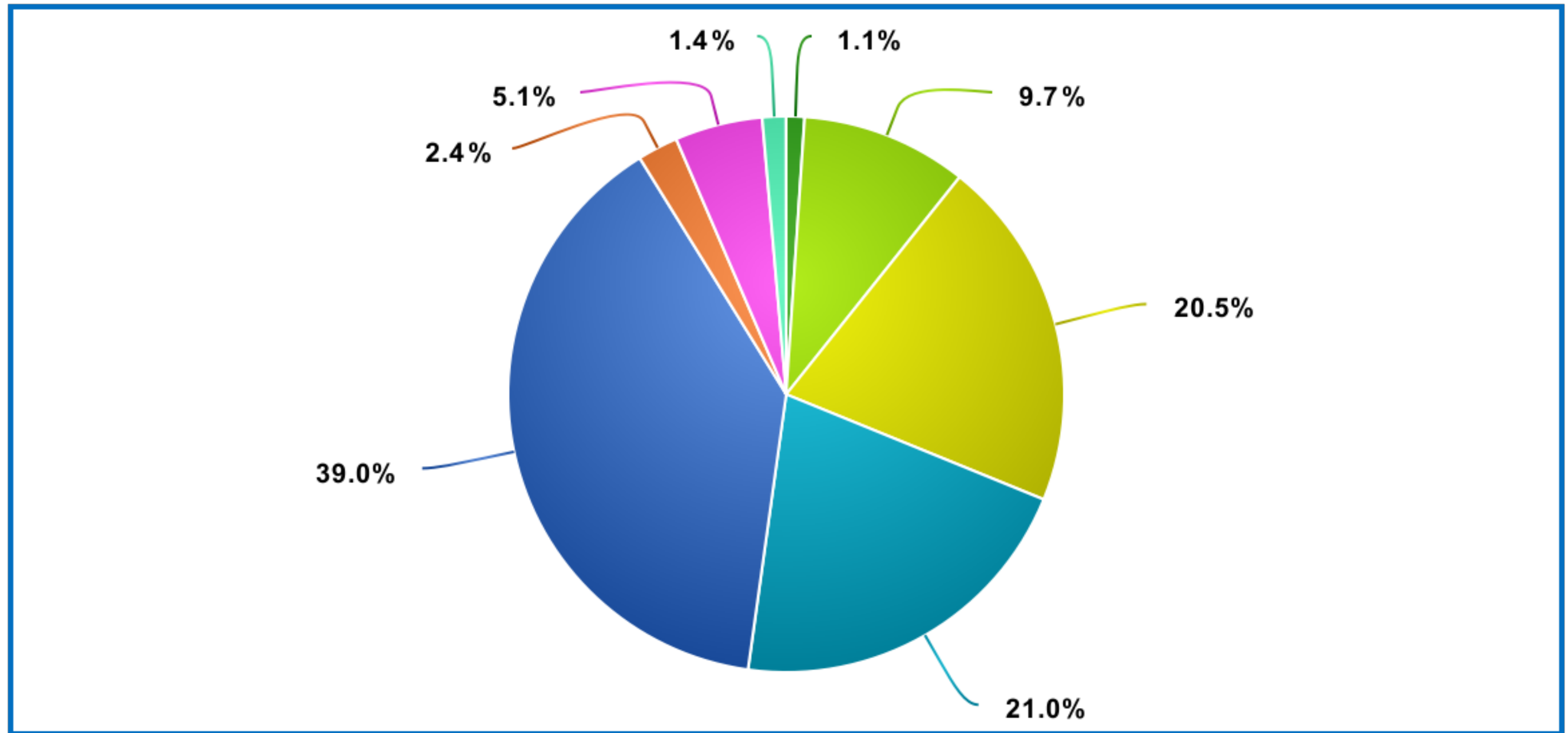
Currently 2 miles of the newly planned trails have been constructed. This portion is located on private property adjacent to Forest Service property. The property owner, Frank Schmidbauer, not only has allowed trails to be built on his property, but he fully funded those two miles plus some! Keeping the good news ball rolling, we are excited to announce that the project has been awarded another \$100,000 by local philanthropist Craig Muir. Craig is a Weaverville native who believes in his community and is spearheading multiple efforts to breathe fresh life into it. With this support, we will be able to see the majority of the plan shown below come to fruition in the next few years!



The Sweepstakes Trail runs through gigantic old growth trees.

2020 sources of funding

Jan 1 THRU Dec 31



- Small Business Contributions
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Individual Public Contributions
- Events
- Grants
- Merchandise Sales
- Government Funding
- Goods & Services

From the entire Board and Crew at Redding Trail Alliance **THANK YOU**

for believing in us and making 2020 such a successful year! As a nonprofit, we rely solely on community support to accomplish our mission. As the organization has grown and we assist local land managers with larger and more complex trail projects and maintenance, your support is of the utmost importance to us.



PICTURED L TO R: John Waldrop - Treasurer, Stephanie Wright - Board, Tony Lewis - President, Paul Lehman - Board, Kris Kristoffersen - Board, Nathan Knudsen - Executive Director, Mike Ruffell - Board, Camille Knudsen - Secretary, & Owen

Prepared By:

Nathan Knudsen

Executive Director

Redding Trail Alliance

3335 Placer Street, Suite 389

Redding, California 96001

530-515-0908

info@reddingtrailalliance.org

