

TTER FROM THE DIRECTOR Winter, 2020 Dear Friends,

In this special issue of the Siskiyou Hiker, we've taken our annual stewardship report and wrapped it up into a periodical for your review. Like everyone, 2020 has been a tough year for us. But I hope this issue illustrates that this year was a challenge we were up for.

We had to make big changes, including a hiring freeze on interns and seasonals. My staff, board, our volunteers, and I all had to flex into what roles needed to be filled, and far-ahead planning became almost impossible.

But we were able to wrap up technical frontcountry projects in the spring, and finished work on the Briggs Creek Bridge and a long retaining wall on the multi-use Taylor Creek Trail. Then my staff planned for a smaller intern program that was stronger beyond measure. We put practices in place to keep everyone safe, and got through the year intact and in good health.

This year we had a greater impact on the lives of the young people who serve on our Wilderness Conservation Corps. They completed media projects and gained technical skills. Everyone pushed themselves and we took the first real steps in realizing greater diversity throughout our organization.

And despite protocols in place to slow the spread of Covid-19, we actually grew our volunteer program. Major credit and thanks is due to my staff, our volunteer board of directors, our brave interns, our courageous volunteers, and our committed supporters.

Your support is a bright light in an uncertain world. So thank you.

Now enjoy this special issue of the Siskiyou Hiker, and get out to pursue the bounty of your public lands.

Always Leave No Trace, and long live the backwoods trails.

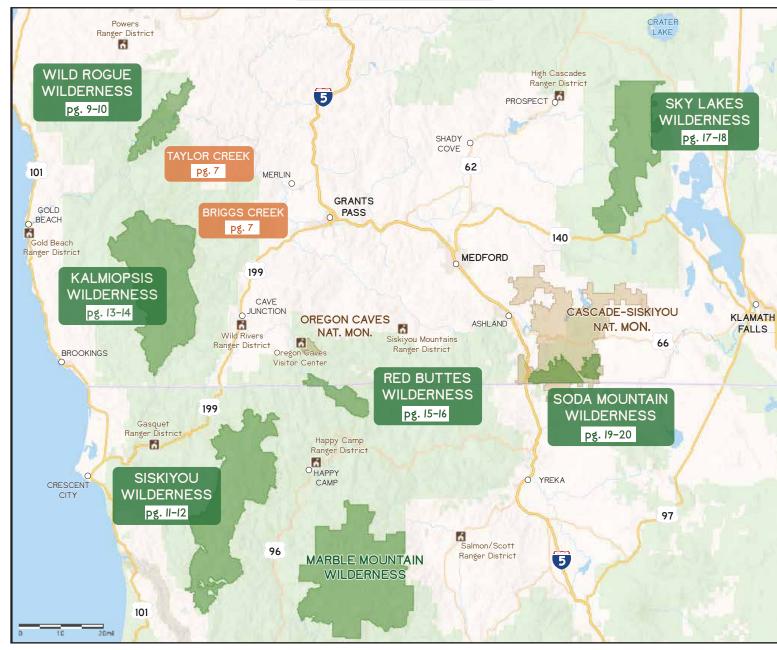
Sincerely,

Gabriel Howe. Executive Director





The places we work:







A PROMISE **KEPT**

We kept our promise to perform annual maintenance on at least one third of our 333-miles of adopted trails.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER • 1,678

TOTAL TOTAL FIELD STAFF \$4,500 HOURS

TOTAL MILES • 113 TOTAL MILES • 17
MAINTAINED • 113 RESTORED • 17



"It was definitely a transformative experience. I learned that the best things take the most amount of work and dedication. The more time and effort you put into something, the more rewarding it will be."



BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE



Upper Chetco Trail #1102, Kalmiopsis Wilderness







Clay Hill Trail #1160A, Wild Rogue Wilderness

TRAIL NAME & #	MILES MAINTAINED	MILES RESTORED	AREA	LAST WORKED	NOTES
TANNER LAKE TRAIL #1243	3		RED BUTTES	Summer 2020	May have been impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
SUCKER CREEK TRAIL #1237	3		RED BUTTES	Spring 2020	May have been impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
BUTTE FORK TRAIL #957	3.75		RED BUTTES	Spring 2020	Good shape
HORSE CAMP TRAIL #958	4		RED BUTTES	Spring 2020	Hard to follow in the meadow
CAMERON MEADOWS TRAIL #953	5		RED BUTTES	Fall 2019	Minor brush above Frog Pond
ROGUE RIVER TRAIL #1160	18		WILD ROGUE	Summer 2020	
CLAY HILL TRAIL #1160A	4.25		WILD ROGUE	Spring 2020	
MULE CREEK TRAIL #1159	7		WILD ROGUE	Spring 2020	Minor brush/tread issues about halfway up
DEVILS BACKBONE TRAIL #1162	1.3		WILD ROGUE	Summer 2020	
LITTLE CHETCO TRAIL #1121	3	3.5	KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	
UPPER CHETCO TRAIL #1102	12		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2020	Minor brush/tread issues above Box Canyon Creek
ILLINOIS RIVER TRAIL #1161	15		KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	Some logs down and tread issues throughout. Landslide at Silver Creek
FLORENCE WAY TRAIL #1219-A		4	KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	
PUPPS CAMP WAY #1174	2		KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	
SOUTH BEND MTN TRAIL #1189	1		KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	Clear from Polar Spring to Pupps Camp Way junction
EMILY CABIN TRAIL #1129	2	2.5	KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	
SHORTY NOBLE WAY #1185	1		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2020	
RED MOUNTAIN TRAIL #1105	2.5		KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2020	Clear from Chetco Divide to Navy Monument Trail junction
E. FORK ILLINOIS RIVER TRAIL #1274	4		SISKIYOU	Summer 2020	May have been impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
BLACK BUTTE TIE TRAIL #1273	1.5		SISKIYOU	Summer 2020	May have been impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
OSGOOD DITCH TRAIL #1276	1.5		SISKIYOU	Winter 2019	May have been impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
FORKS OF BLUE TRAIL #4E07		7	SISKIYOU	Summer 2020	Some brush and logs still remain near E. Fork Blue Creek
MIDDLE FORK ROGUE TRAIL #978	6		SKY LAKES	Summer 2020	
HALIFAX TRAIL #1088	3		SKY LAKES	Summer 2020	Good shape
ALTA LAKE TRAIL #979	6.5		SKY LAKES	Summer 2020	
MCKIE CAMP TRAIL #1089	2.75		SKY LAKES	Summer 2020	Hard to follow in spots near Solace Meadow
PILOT ROCK TRAIL	2		SODA MOUNTAIN	Fall 2019	

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PROMISE **KEEPERS**

Volunteer Crews

Volunteer Program Grows

Despite complexities associated with safety measures we implemented for Covid-19, 2020 was a strong year for our volunteer program. Karly White took on our volunteer programming, coordinating over 1,700 hours of on-the-ground labor mostly throughout the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

"We actually had more volunteers than we did in 2019," says White. "People were really eager to get out. So we waited until it was safe and exercised caution," she adds. White says her program stands out because of the wide footprint we cover. A trip that she remembers fondly was in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness over Memorial Day Weekend.

"We worked the most remote section of the Upper Chetco Trail," she says, pointing on the map between Taggart's Bar and Box Canyon Creek. "It's always passed over because it's so hard to get to, and it had fallen into bad shape." She and her volunteers were able to get to it. "That was really important," adds

White also had the chance to work on the Halifax Trail. "That was special for me because I opened that trail in



2017 as an intern," she notes. "In 2017, it hadn't been worked for decades and was in complete shambles. We maintain trails on a three year rotation. This year that rotation came up, so I got to see what three years of no maintenance looks like."

Volunteers are responsible for keeping up on our maintenance promise, and this year they completed work throughout our footprint. A few notable projects our volunteers completed:

- · Kalmiopsis: Upper Chetco Trail #1102, Red Mountain Trail #1105
- Red Buttes: Sucker Creek Trail #1237, Cameron Meadows #953
- Sky Lakes: Halifax Trail #1088

"In the wake of a pandemic, getting out became a really important part of participants' mental health," says Gabriel Howe. "We're lucky that we can provide a safe way to be part of some meaningful service."

Field Staff

During the 12 week Corps program, our field staff are responsible for ground level management of those crews, but they continue working throughout the year to complete the most technical projects in our hopper. In 2020, they:

- Kalmiopsis: Rebuilt the Briggs Creek Bridge
- Taylor Creek: Built a 2,000ft retaining wall
- Wild Rogue: Maintained the Wild Roque Loop

Karly White started working in 2017 as an intern, and grew into a permanent, full-time position. Now she's in charge of outreach, volunteers, and taking care of back-end administrative tasks.

Trevor Meyer also started in 2017 and grew into a full-time position. "The bridge and wall were big projects we were able to get done with help from staff on the Wild Rivers Ranger District," he says. Meyer remembers walking across the bridge after it had burned. "It was wet and there was hardly anything to keep you from falling 20 or 30 feet. For the public to be able to cross the bridge without having to worry about dying is an accomplishment."

As we look into 2021, we plan on promoting two seasonals into permanent positions and building permanent career tracks for our young staff.



Wilderness Conservation Corps

Corps Program: Steady and **Steadfast**

Our Corps interns receive a monthly stipend, a scholarship, and free housing at our Gold Hill facility for their 12 week program. This was our first season having one staff member, Trevor Meyer, dedicated entirely to the Conservation Corps program. Meyer rose the ranks from 2017 when he himself was an intern, and was able to design a program that emphasized some extracurricular achievements, including a media project each intern completed. View some of those on our website.

siskiyoumountainclub.org/ 2020internmedia

Interns also kept up with daily reading. One of intern Owen Brodie's favorite assignments was reading Black Faces in White Spaces. The book by Carolyn Finney expands on why African Americans are so underrepresented in outdoor recreation and environmentalism. "It really connected us to what was going on on the outside," says Brodie.

"Being away from the world allowed us to more critically analyze what was, and is, still happening." He says it allowed him to get a greater depth on the situation. "It was like a sabbatical and gave me more appreciation."

For intern Gabe Benson of New Jersey the project that sticks out most was the work he did in the northern Kalmiopsis. That's where Benson and his crew opened up an approximately 26-mile loop along the Illinois River. "The Florence Way Trail was really bad," says Benson. "We'd start work at six and end around five," he says.

Our Conservation Corps continues to do the heavy lifting on major field projects. Their major accomplishments include:

- Kalmiopsis: Little Chetco Trail #1121, Emily Cabin Trail #1129, Florence Way Trail #1219-A, Illinois River Trail #1161, Pupps Camp Way #1174
- · Siskiyou: Forks of Blue Trail #4E07, Black Butte Tie #1273
- Wild Rogue: Rogue River Trail





"Our group grew into a family, and it was truly something special.

After our days off, we wanted to have the group together out in the wilderness again."

Owen Brodie 2020 Intern



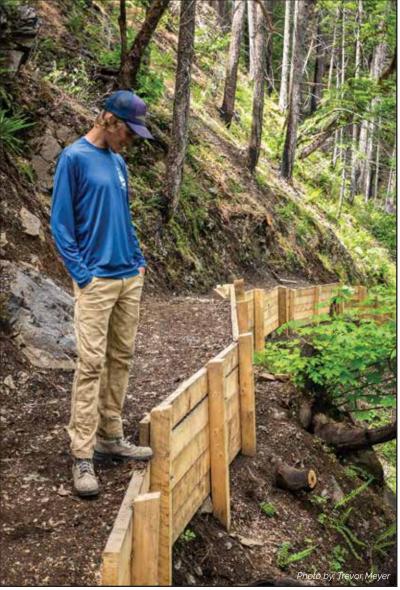
INFRASTRUCTURE

Taylor Creek Retaining Wall

Just to the north of Briggs Creek, the Taylor Creek Trail drops 12 miles, providing an awesome opportunity for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. About a half-mile of that trail was being supported by a retaining wall that burned in the 2018 Taylor Creek Fire. With support from the Forest Service, we purchased materials and rebuilt the wall with Alaska yellow-cedar. The Wild Rivers Ranger District helped with ground work and coordination.







Briggs Creek Bridge

At the eastern terminus of the Illinois River Trail there's a 70-foot steel-truss bridge that spans Briggs Creek. The wooden planks burned in the 2018 Klondike Fire, creating a dead end or an impossible start for anyone who wanted to hike the trail. In May 2019, the Forest Service signed an agreement to replace the bridge. We used funds from that agreement and had ground support from staff with the Wild Rivers Ranger District to complete the project.

The bridge is in great shape and will last for decades.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Interns:

Hector Avendano Gabriel Benson Owen Brodie Alexandria Chapin Eric Fung Bryson Leander

Staff:

Nick Hodges Gabriel Howe Trevor Meyer Laina Rose Karly White

Board Members:

Dave Brennan - Chair Wenonoa Spivak - Secretary Ryan Ghelfi - Treasurer Dave Eye - Director Mac Jefferson - Director Peter Krasilovsky - Director Haley Cox - Director

Agency & Nonprofit Partners:

Travel Southern Oregon Friends of Cascade - Siskiyou Nat. Mon Medford Bureau of Land Mgmt. Roque River - Siskiyou Nat. Forest Klamath Nat. Forest Six Rivers Nat. Forest Umpqua Nat. Forest Goulder Family Fnd. GE Fnd. Mckenzie River Gathering Fnd. Oregon Community Fnd. North C.O.A.S.T Forest Fnd.

Business Sponsors:

Oregon Solarworks Trails & Tarmac Indigo Creek Outfitters Climate City Brewing Recreational Equipment Inc. Ashland Food Co-op Southern Oregon Spoons Northwest Nature Shop Daybreak Racing Golden-Fields Construction **Backcountry Press** Austin Kasner: Edward Jones Adv. Jason Vos Homes

2020 Major Donors:

Alan Armstrong Scott Allison Kathie Bate Annette & Andrew Batzer Tim Bewley Mark & Arlene Bradley

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Doug & Marina Kendig

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Linda Mullens

Luke Reuteman

Paul Rostykus

Wendy Seldon

Bill Sizemore

Jeff Spindler

Nancy Tappan

Chris Valle-Riestra

Judy Wright Reid

Victoria Sturtevant

Mary & Kenzin Wahl

Tara Troutner

Bryant Zwart

Alec Slater

Tom Peil

Nick Rail

Barbara Jones

Above: Forest Service Ranger Steve DiCicco joined our field crew on the Rogue River Trail this past summer. 2020 Volunteers: Scott Allison Paula Gubrud & Lee Howe Emma Anderson Aaron Babcock Steve Weyer & Maria Geigel Allen Johnson & Lynn Brandy

Dan Barklund Larry Basch Zach Bever Erin Brandy Luke Brandy Nik Brown Daniel Burdis Jerit Carpenter Nate Chotlos Laurie Christomos Kevin Daniel Serena Doose John Engelhardt Dave Eye Shawn Flot Bill Gray Suzie Gruber Beth Gurney Liam Gurney Emily Hanscom Teresa Heist Eric Isaacs

Rebecca Johnson

George Lescher

Bob Litak Jennifer McDaniel Steve Meyer Cheryl Nelson Angie Panter Zhu Parker Jerry Pendzick



Agency Field Partners: Kristin Ballard, USFS Steve DiCicco, USFS Amalie Dieter, USFS Andrea Humbert, USFS Haleigh Martin, BLM



Luke Nalley Calena Reeves **Gary Roberts** Chuck Smoker Jeff Spindler Eric Spivak Sage Stowell Jeff Thieret Rich Ugland Daisy Varley Jude Vawter Aaron Wissler





Acreage: 35,221 Miles of Trail: 37.6

Miles adopted by SMC: 27.5 (percentage of total): 73%

World famous river, lesser known wild land

This winter, our executive director Gabriel Howe made his annual pilgrimage along the 40-mile Rogue River Trail. "I had expected the usual winter trail conditions, the fallen logs, the little landslides," he says. "But this was different. There were hundreds of trees down, major landslides, and long sections that were a danger to the public." The worst damage was on the lower Forest Service section of the National Recreation Trail.

A winter storm had brought low-elevation snow to the area, loading trees with significant weight from snow. Many trees fell over, leaving one of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's mostused trails defunct.

"We had no fiscal support for work in the Wild Rogue Wilderness from the Forest Service, but I could see the trail was going to have to be closed if we didn't get in there early," Howe says. So in early March, Howe organized a team of volunteers including retired field director Aaron Babcock, who is an expert sawyer.

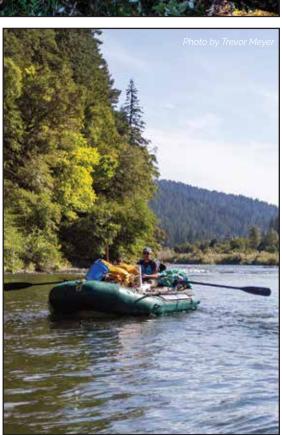
Babcock recruited a couple of boaters to provide raft support and spent five days running a power saw on the lower river. He was joined by a staff member from the Willamette National Forest, Wayne Chevalier, as well as retired SMC Board Chair Angie Panter. The crew of all-volunteers worked four days on the worst section of the trail between Marial

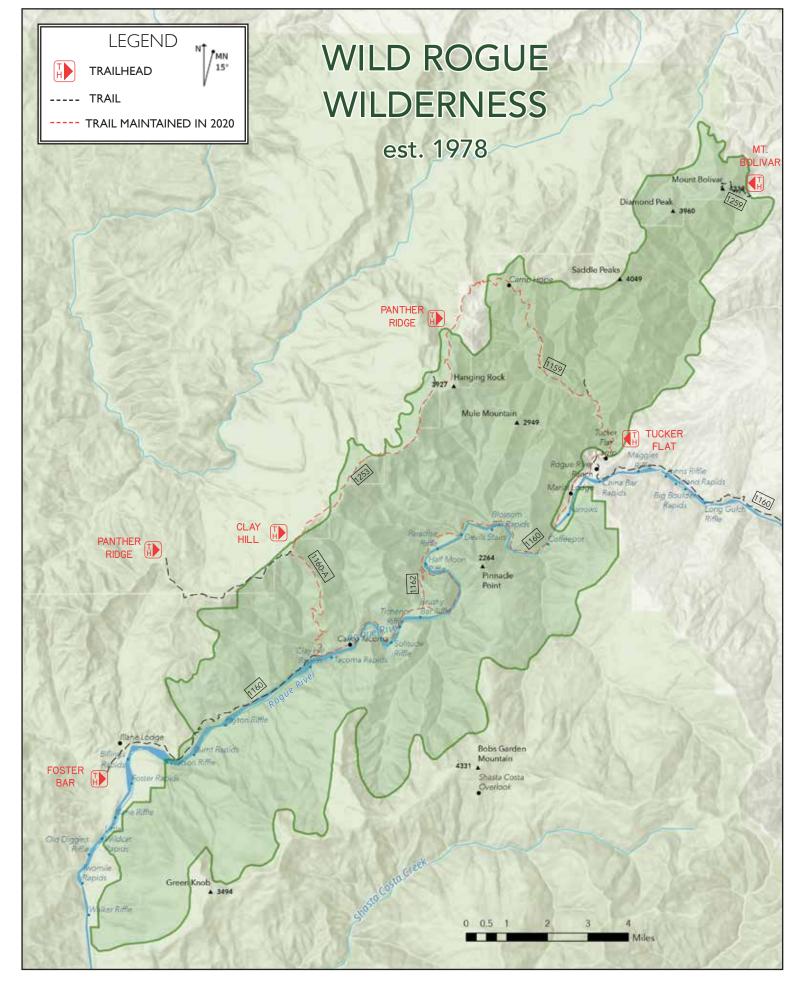


and Clay Hill.

The Gold Beach Ranger District was able to log out the rest of the trail by August. As popularity of the Rogue River Trail swelled in the wake of the pandemic, unaddressed landslides were a growing issue and the Forest Service didn't have the capacity to address it alone. So the Club dispatched our Conservation Corps to the river for an eight-day hitch.

"The Gold Beach Ranger District provided raft support for the trip," says Howe. "That allowed our intern crew to camp in style and focus on the hard work. It also cost us about \$10,000," he adds. "Ten grand that we won't get back." He says the Club will not provide more support on the Rogue River Trail without fiscal support from the Forest Service. "We took a huge financial hit this year on the Roque Trail. We can't keep doing that."







Acreage: 179,867 Miles of Trail: 119

Miles adopted by SMC: 100 (percentage of total): 84%

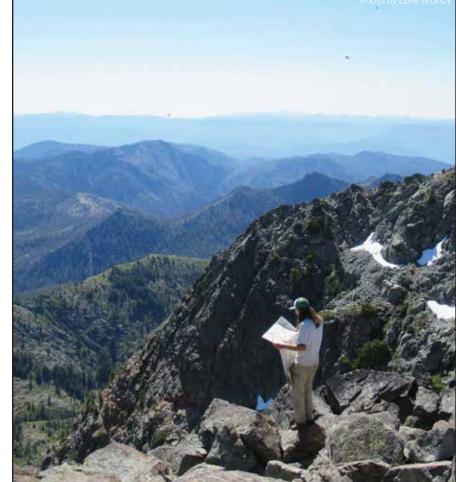
Matterhorn summits and old-growth forests

The arteries of Clear Creek and the South Fork Smith River start from ridge systems that hover around 5,000 - 6,000 feet. Large meadows, like the popular Young's Valley, catch 60+ inches of rain per year, feeding those drainages where ancient oldgrowth forests have remained intact.

We were able to open the defunct Forks of Blue River Trail in 2020 with fiscal support from both the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests. The trail was heavily brushed in and choked to death with 100s of downed logs. It's now in good shape and ready for boots and horse hooves. Working the Forks of Blue represented our largest restoration undertaking this year.

"I'm really glad you guys got to that," says Aaron Babcock, the Club's previous Field Director who still volunteers with us.

We had plans to go into the Clear Creek Trail in September with a small team of staff to take out gargantuan logs on the trail there. But those plans were pushed back by the Slater Fire.

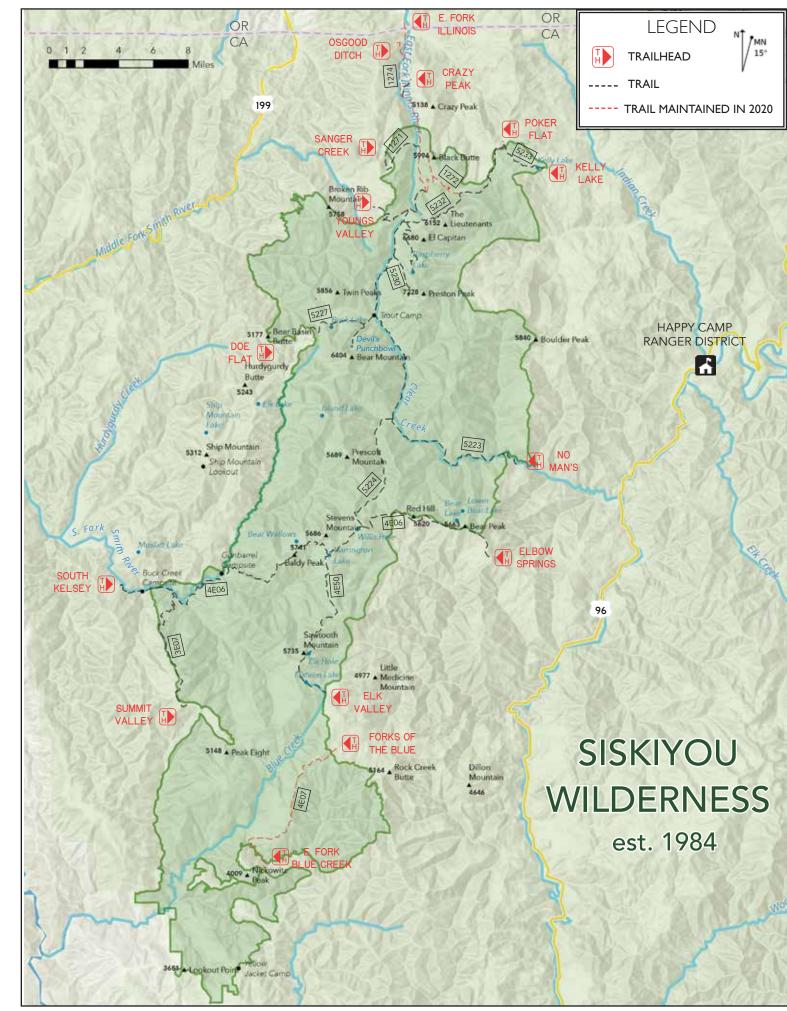








Photos by Trevor Meyer





Acreage: 180,102

Miles of Trail: 185

Miles adopted by SMC: 155 (percentage of total): 84%

Area:

Rogue River - Siskiyou Nat. Forest

Rugged wonderland of solitude

As fire continues to shape this mysterious, rugged landscape, the Kalmiopsis Wilderness seems to get only wilder, broader, and less forgiving. But we have matched the area's volatile conditions with an equal amount of commitment, and continue to get ahead in the Kalmiopsis.

While the area continues to lose its conifer forest habitat to increasingly rapid fire cycles, the area has retained its most redeeming qualities for those willing to scratch below the surface: pristine creeks and clear rivers, highly diverse vegetation, stark beauty, and unmatched opportunities for solitude. The Kalmiopsis is a refuge of isolation, a mecca for those seeking an advanced wilderness experience, and a hard reminder that nature cannot be tamed.

Much of our work there this year was cyclical, but what stands out is our restoration work on the area's north end. We kept the 28-mile arterial Illinois River National Recreation Trail maintained.

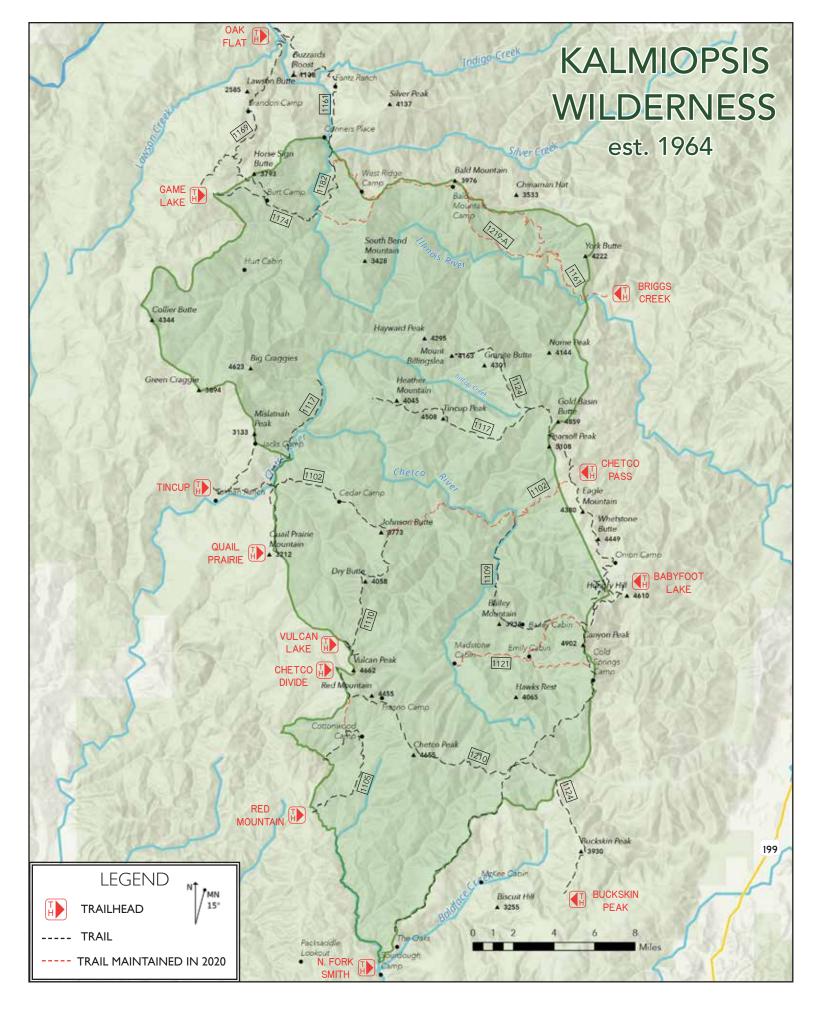
though the west end requires more work, and restored the Florence Way Trail. Work on the Florence Trail opened up a loop that had been impassable for over a decade. The Illinois River Trail will continue to require annual maintenance.

We also moved forward with major restoration work in the Little Chetco area and started work into Madstone Cabin. In 2021, much of the work will be concentrated to the area's west side where the Klondike and Chetco Bar fires opened up canopy for the sun to reach brush that grows rapidly in fertile soils typical of the coast.









Photos by Karly White

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Acreage: 20,133
Miles of Trail: 60

Miles adopted by SMC: 48.5 (percentage of total): 81%

Area:

Rogue River - Siskiyou Nat. Forest Klamath Nat. Forest

Pacific Crest connection to the Oregon Caves

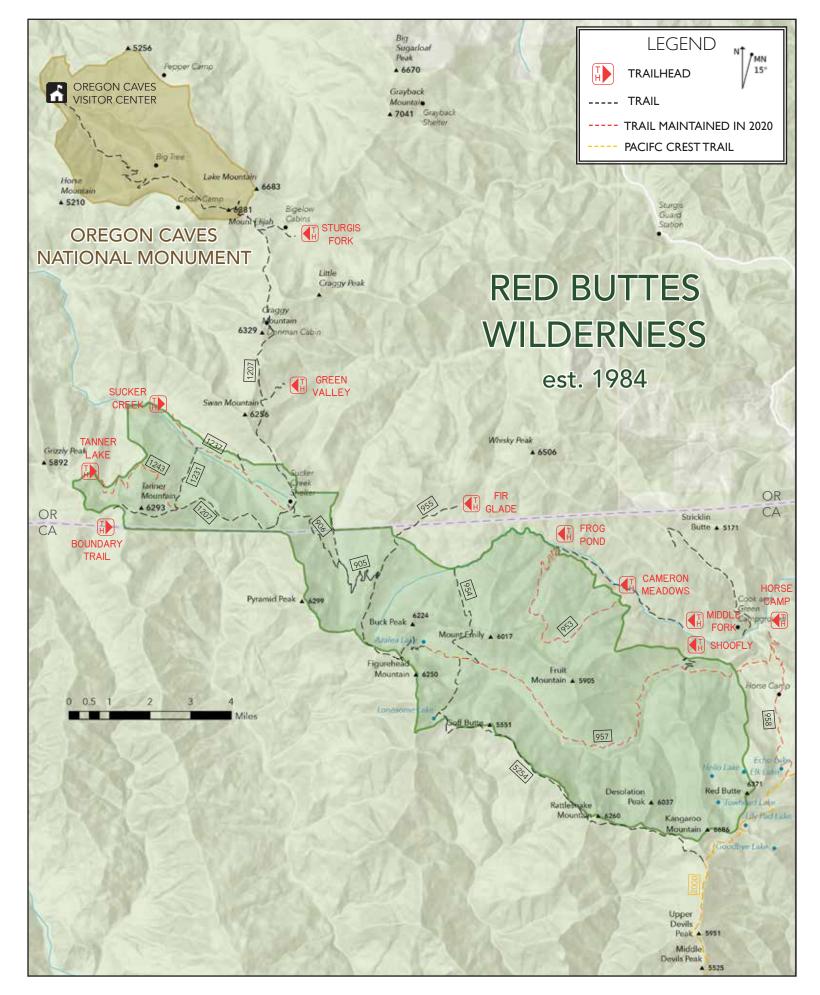
Small in size, but grand in stature, the Red Buttes Wilderness rises from the Applegate and Klamath valleys to the Siskiyou Crest where 6,000-foot peaks punctuate ridgelines that connect the Pacific Crest Trail to the Oregon Caves National Monument. Rich old-growth forests lead to expansive meadows peppered by larger-than-life cedars and dreamy lake basins.

While initial reports are out from the 2020 Devil's Fire that swept through the area, it will take until next spring to really gauge the extent of the damage. But we'll be there to restore what needs to be done with support from our partners at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.









Photos by Karly White



Acreage: 113,687
Miles of Trail: 214

Miles adopted by SMC: 32.5 (percentage of total): 15%

Area:

Rogue River - Siskiyou Nat. Forest Fremont - Winema Nat. Forest

Wolves, volcanoes, and alpine summits

The Sky Lakes Wilderness is Siskiyou Mountain Club's claim to the Cascades. Our crews started working in the Sky Lakes in 2016 to reopen the 27-mile Wolf Loop that had disappeared by the time we reached it. But by the end of 2017, we had the route open and in

good shape.

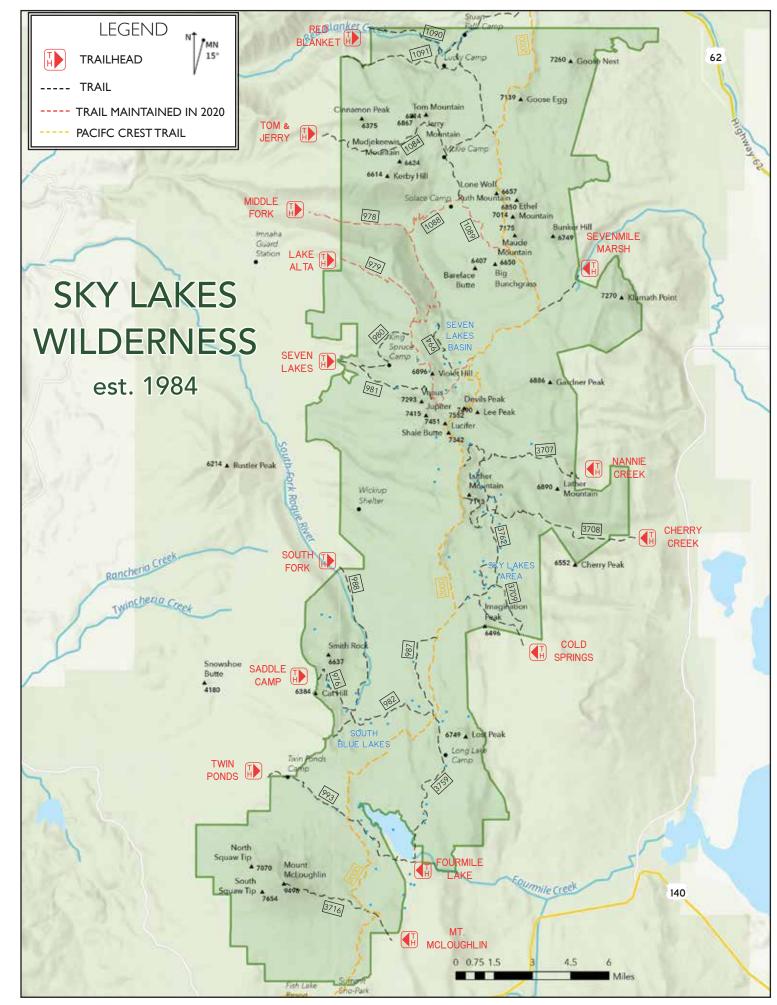
Much of the loop was in heavy timber that burned in the 2008 Middle Fork Fire, presenting a sustained challenge. As brush grows and dead timber falls, it takes annual maintenance to keep routes like this open until most of the timber is down and the brush is shaded out.

Middle Fork Trail #978





BEFORE AFTER





Acreage: 24,707 Miles of Trail: 25

Miles adopted by SMC: 18 (percentage of total): 72%

Medford Bureau of Land Management

Heart of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

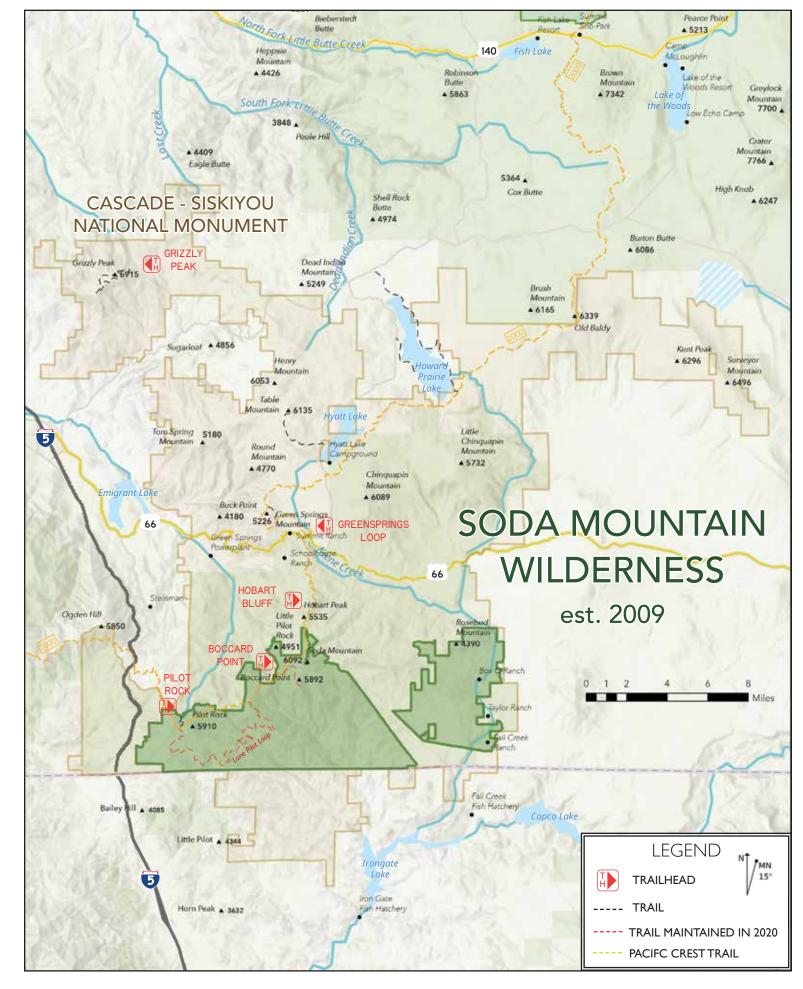
Just minutes from the bustling streets of Ashland, OR, the Soda Mountain Wilderness is a refuge where time slows down, endemic species flourish, and three ecosystems collide. With over 25 miles of trails, including access to the famous Pacific Crest Trail, this wilderness designated in 2009 is ideal for beginners and experts alike.

In 2020, our work was localized to the Lone Pilot Trail, but moving forward we have a new agreement with the Bureau of Land Management that will open up new stewardship opportunities for the community to participate in.











It's been a tough year for everyone, but we made good moves in 2020 to strengthen our staff's positions and build longevity. Once focused on seasonal expansions of labor, we're working harder to create continuity and careers for our core team. That included adding a retirement plan and health insurance to our benefits package, and hourly staff enjoy a favorable housing agreement at our Gold Hill facility.

So as we step into 2021, we're more focused on creating lasting positions for our most talented and committed staff members, and less focused on creating seasonal explosions of growth. That way we can grow our leadership slowly, surely, and maintain the outstanding quality we've built a reputation on.

Things to look forward to in 2021:

 Expansion of our map offerings.
 We are making updates to current maps, and adding visitor maps as well as issues for the Kalmiopsis and Siskiyou wilderness areas.

- Extensive work in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. We are working with the Bureau of Land Management to build a stewardship program that integrates community involvement to maintain this national treasure.
- Work in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness. We landed a small grant with the Umpqua National Forest to restore gaps in the trail system there.
- Siskiyou Wilderness Area. This year we had major work planned that was averted by late-season fire activity. Plan to see us on Clear Creek and its extensions in 2021.
- Continued maintenance on our existing footprint. Those loops and those arteries we've rebuilt aren't going anywhere and you can count

on continued access to the 333-mile footprint we've adopted.

 More introductory and training offerings. You can expect more trips for new and novice trip participants.
 We're designing trips that appeal to more people with little or no experience in the backcountry.

As we look ahead, we hope 2021 comes with some relief. But nonetheless, we don't expect that, and we're still ready for whatever challenges lie ahead.

Get out there and enjoy. Plan a trip for next year, and always Leave No Trace. Thank you for your support, and long live the backwoods trails.

Sincerely,

The SMC Team

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

Financials for 10/01/2019 - 9/30/2020

REVENUE

REVENUE TYPE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Business Support	\$ 10,108	3%
Foundation Support	\$ 52,332	17%
Government	\$ 101,101	33%
Individual Donations	\$ 120,293	40%
Map Sales	\$ 20,440	7%
Total Revenue	\$ 304,274	

EXPENSES

EXPENSE TYPE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Administrative	\$ 41,758	14%
Fundraising	\$ 27,414	9%
Program	\$ 229,344	77%
Total Expenditures	\$ 298,517	



OUR MISSION

The Siskiyou Mountain Club is a 501(c)(3) public charity that formed to restore, maintain, and promote primitive trails in the Siskiyou backcountry and to provide outdoor service opportunities for the public. We coordinate stewardship projects, lead outdoor adventures, and publish useful information for the public.

Want to discuss plans for charitable giving?

All contributions are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Service tax code. Our tax-id number is 27-3418419

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Siskiyou Mountain Club

-- Est. 2010 --