



2021 Wilderness Conservation Corps
Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness

2021 Stewardship Report

Dear Friends,

A trail is a promise to the next generation that no matter what happens in the surrounding landscape, an avenue, or an easement, will be there for the curious to explore America's great backcountry. By 2010, that promise was not being kept in our region. So we took the promise on, and have kept it through thick, thin, and now a couple of years of a global pandemic.

The success of our operations comes from **staying focused on a simple mission**, to restore and maintain backcountry trails, and to connect people with their public lands. We operate unwaveringly by the tides of funding trends and we don't play the whack-a-mole game of chasing agency priorities. At times, that has taken a stubborn resolve, turning down opportunities because they didn't fit with our mission in times we could have really used the support.

But the numbers show that our strategy has been effective. In 2021, we maintained more than 100 miles of trails and opened up another 48 miles between projects in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide and Siskiyou wilderness areas. With a total footprint of around 380 miles, we maintained about 40% of our adopted trail miles.

In 2021, we also strengthened our promise to a new profile of trail. **This organization was born out of a need to rebuild the hardest to reach, most remote, most damaged trails in the middle of nowhere** that had already disappeared. Over a decade of consistent and intentional growth, we have built an operation that the community counts on to maintain a lot of the more popular trails that weren't on our radar in the earlier years.

We've become a stalwart partner of the agencies, providing regular maintenance on popular routes like the Clear Creek National Recreation Trail and the heavily-trafficked Rogue River Trail. We've also gone on to invest in trails like the Rogue-Siskiyou's Upper Rogue and Fish Hook Peak Trails. These are short and easy day hikes ideal for the whole family, less appealing to the hardcore backpackers and backcountry equestrians who we also diligently serve.

We couldn't do this work without the community behind us. **Your support gives us the independence to stay focused. Thank you.** Go on a new hike in 2022, maybe to Fish Hook Peak, Little Silver Lake, or the Upper Rogue. Always Leave No Trace. And long live the backwoods trails.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Howe
Executive Director




photo by: Trevor Meyer



WILDERNESS CORPS :

Wilderness Corps crews are the cornerstone of our stewardship activities. They spend their summer backpacking into project sites where they work up to eight days at a time.

Back Row: Kristina Schreiber (Colorado), Dan Crowley (California), Will Skillen (Georgia), Aaron Kunz (California), and Abby Rodgers (Texas)

Front Row: Katy Swenson (Texas), Anna Slager (Maine), Tiffani Ayres (Oregon)

photo by: Trevor Meyer



VOLUNTEERS :

Volunteers continue to be a driving force of our field activities. They participate in a handful of annual multi-day trips to keep open our marquee routes, including the Trans-Kalmiopsis Route

These volunteers have completed over 100 hours of service in 2021



Luke Brandy



Jerit Carpenter



Nate Chotlos



Eric Isaacs

STAFF :

Our staff team is responsible for everything from program administration to managing the day-to-day operations of field crews.



Gabe Howe
Exec. Director



Trevor Meyer
Program Director



Karly White
Program Director



Nick Hodges
Crew Leader



Owen Brodie
Asst. Crew Leader



Meredith Yox
Admin. Specialist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board Members:

Wenonaa Spivak - Chair
Roxanne Tenschler- Recorder
Ryan Ghelfi - Treasurer
Dave Eye - Director
Dave Brennan - Director
Edem Gomez - Director
Haley Cox - Director

Agency & Nonprofit Partners:

Travel Southern Oregon
Siskiyou Field Institute
Medford BLM
Rogue River - Siskiyou NF
Klamath NF
Six Rivers NF
Umpqua NF
Goulder Family Fnd.
Mckenzie River Gathering Fnd.
Bullitt Fnd.
Blackbaud Givind Fund
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Mayer Donor Advised Fund
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Business Sponsors:

Oregon Solarworks
Wilderness Fastpacking
Indigo Creek Outfitters
Recreational Equipment Inc.

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Bryant Zwart

2021 Volunteers:

Aaron Babcock
Andris Olins
Beth Gurney
Liam Gurney
Jerit Carpenter
Bryan Duggan
Carolyn Sahr
Daniel Burdis
Dave Brennan
Dave Eye
Edem Gomez
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Nate Chotlos
Aubrey Sharp
Roxanne Tenschler
Ryan Ghelfi

Agency Field Partners:

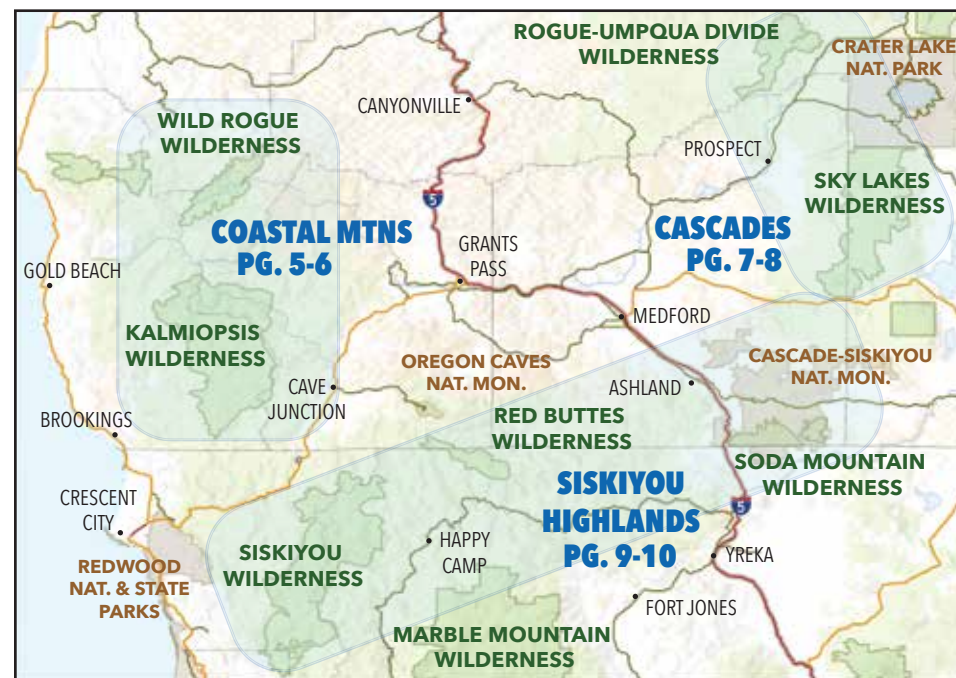
Natalie Ghelfi
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Tom Christensen
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Greg deNevers
Valerie Norton
Kristin Ballard
Steve DiCicco
Amalie Dieter
Angie Panter
Wayne Chevalier
Brian Long
Jon "Pono" Abreu

TRAIL NAME & #	MILES WORKED	AREA	LAST WORKED	NOTES
ROGUE UMPQUA DIVIDE #1470	13.5	ROGUE - UMPQUA	AUGUST 2021	Worked from Abbott Butte to Rocky Rim Jct
ROCKY RIM #1572	3.5	ROGUE-UMPQUA	AUGUST 2021	Worked from #1470 Jct to Rocky Ridge #1571 Jct
SANGER CREEK #1271	2.9	SISKIYOU	JULY 2021	
BLACK BUTTE TIE #1273	3.2	SISKIYOU	JULY 2021	Impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
BLACK BUTTE #1272	2.1	SISKIYOU	JUNE 2021	Impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
WEST FORK CLEAR CREEK #5224	2.0	SISKIYOU	JULY 2021	Worked southbound from #5223 Jct
CLEAR CREEK #5223	17.6	SISKIYOU	OCTOBER 2021	Large logs cleared around Wilderness Falls
5&10 DIVIDE	14.1	SISKIYOU	DECEMBER 2021	
OSGOOD DITCH #1276	1.6	SISKIYOU	MARCH 2021	Impacted by 2020 Slater Fire
E. FORK ILLINOIS #1274	12.2	SISKIYOU	JULY 2021	
TWIN VALLEY #5232	3.5	SISKIYOU	JULY 2021	
LONE PILOT	1.9	SODA MOUNTAIN	SEPTEMBER 2021	Logs cleared north of Lone Pine Ridge
SHORTY NOBLE WAY #1185	1.0	KALMIOPSIS	MARCH 2021	
BABYFOOT LAKE #1126A	1.1	KALMIOPSIS	SEPTEMBER 2021	
BABYFOOT RIM #1126	1.8	KALMIOPSIS	SEPTEMBER 2021	
YORK BUTTE #1140	1.5	KALMIOPSIS	JUNE 2021	Fully restored
EMILY CABIN #1129	1.8	KALMIOPSIS	OCTOBER 2021	
BAILEY MOUNTAIN #1109	1.4	KALMIOPSIS	MAY 2021	Worked from Carter Creek - Blake's Bar
JOHNSON BUTTE #1110	1.2	KALMIOPSIS	MAY 2021	Brushwork still needed north of spring
LITTLE CHETCO #1121	3.5	KALMIOPSIS	SEPTEMBER 2021	Fully restored down to Madstone Cabin site
UPPER CHETCO #1102	2.7	KALMIOPSIS	MAY 2021	Worked from Taggarts Bar to Johnson Butte
ILLINOIS RIVER #1161	6.0	KALMIOPSIS	MARCH 2021	Worked from Oak Flat (west) to Indigo Creek
KALMIOPSIS RIM #1124	3.0	KALMIOPSIS	OCTOBER 2021	Worked from #1126 Jct to #1121 Jct
BUTTE FORK #957	1.0	RED BUTTES	MARCH 2021	Fully restored around Hello Creek after Devil's Fire
WHISKEY CREEK #914	1.5	RED BUTTES	APRIL 2021	Work still needed around halfway mark
LAKE IVERN #994	1.9	SKY LAKES	AUGUST 2021	
HALIFAX #1088	3.1	SKY LAKES	AUGUST 2021	
SEVEN LAKES #981	2.6	SKY LAKES	AUGUST 2021	Worked from #979 Jct to PCT
MCKIE CAMP #1089	2.8	SKY LAKES	AUGUST 2021	
ALTA LAKE #979	6.5	SKY LAKES	OCTOBER 2021	
MIDDLE FORK #978	13.2	SKY LAKES	AUGUST 2021	
ROGUE RIVER NRT #1160	6.0	WILD ROGUE	APRIL 2021	Worked from Marial to Huggins Canyon
FISH HOOK LOOP #1180	2.5	GOLD BEACH RD	NOVEMBER 2021	Fully restored
LITTLE SILVER LAKE #1184	2.0	GOLD BEACH RD	JUNE 2021	Treadwork still needed descending to lake
UPPER ROGUE RIVER TRAIL #1034	7.5	HIGH CASCADES RD	NOVEMBER 2021	Worked from Crater Rim TH to Hamaker Camp

ABOUT THE REPORT:

As the Club's footprint has expanded, we have broken the geography into three sections. The Coastal Mountains (P. 5-6) includes the Wild Rogue, Kalmiopsis, and surrounding areas. The Cascades (P. 7-8) includes the Sky Lakes and Rogue-Umpqua Divide wilderness areas, as well as sections of the High Cascades Ranger District. The Siskiyou Highlands (P. 9-10) encompasses the Red Buttes and Siskiyou wilderness areas, as well as the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and Soda Mountain Wilderness Area.

- COASTAL MOUNTAINS - PG. 5-6
- CASCADE MOUNTAINS - PG 7-8
- SISKIYOU HIGHLANDS - PG. 9-10



A YEAR IN REVIEW:

We maintain a portfolio of approximately 380 miles of adopted trails. Our promise is to maintain each trail mile once every three years. With wildfire trends, each year the conditions get tougher, but we continue to keep the most remote reaches of the Siskiyou backwoods alive.

TRAIL MILES MAINTAINED : **106**

TRAIL MILES RESTORED : **48**

MILES BY WILDERNESS

KALMIOPSIS	25
SISKIYOU	59
WILD ROGUE	6
RED BUTTES	3
SKY LAKES	30
ROGUE - UMPQUA DIVDE	17
SODA MOUNTAIN	2

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS : **1,960**

TOTAL INTERN HOURS : **4,166**

TOTAL FIELD STAFF HOURS : **3,300**

Below: Fish Hook Peak Trail #1180 in November, 2021 | Right: Clear Creek Trail #5223 in July, 2021



BEFORE

AFTER



KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS
WILD ROGUE WILDERNESS

THE WORK

Trails Maintained

Kalmiopsis

- Little Silver Lake #1184
- Fish Hook Peak #1180
- Babyfoot Rim #1126
- Babyfoot Lake #1126A
- Kalmiopsis Rim #1124
- Emily Cabin #1129
- Bailey Cabin #1131
- Bailey Mountain #1109
- Upper Chetco #1102
- Johnson Butte #1110
- Little Chetco #1121
- Shorty Noble Way #1185
- Illinois River Trail #1161
- York Butte Trail #1140

Wild Rogue

- Rogue River Trail #1160

Forgotten routes rediscovered

Trevor Meyer stares into a massive swath of untouched mountains that go as far as he can see, a STIHL chainsaw hanging over his shoulder. He's spent the last two weeks on the Fish Hook Peak Trail.

"The trail was gone," says Meyer, pointing to a sapling he cut straight from the tread. It had about 20 growth rings, indicating at least how many years it had been since the trail was last maintained.

"It's not in Federal Wilderness," says executive director Gabriel Howe, pointing out that trails SMC has restored have been used in fire suppression tactics. He also says the trail is perfect for local families looking to explore their public lands. "The elevation profile is really moderate, and it leads to a summit with great views."

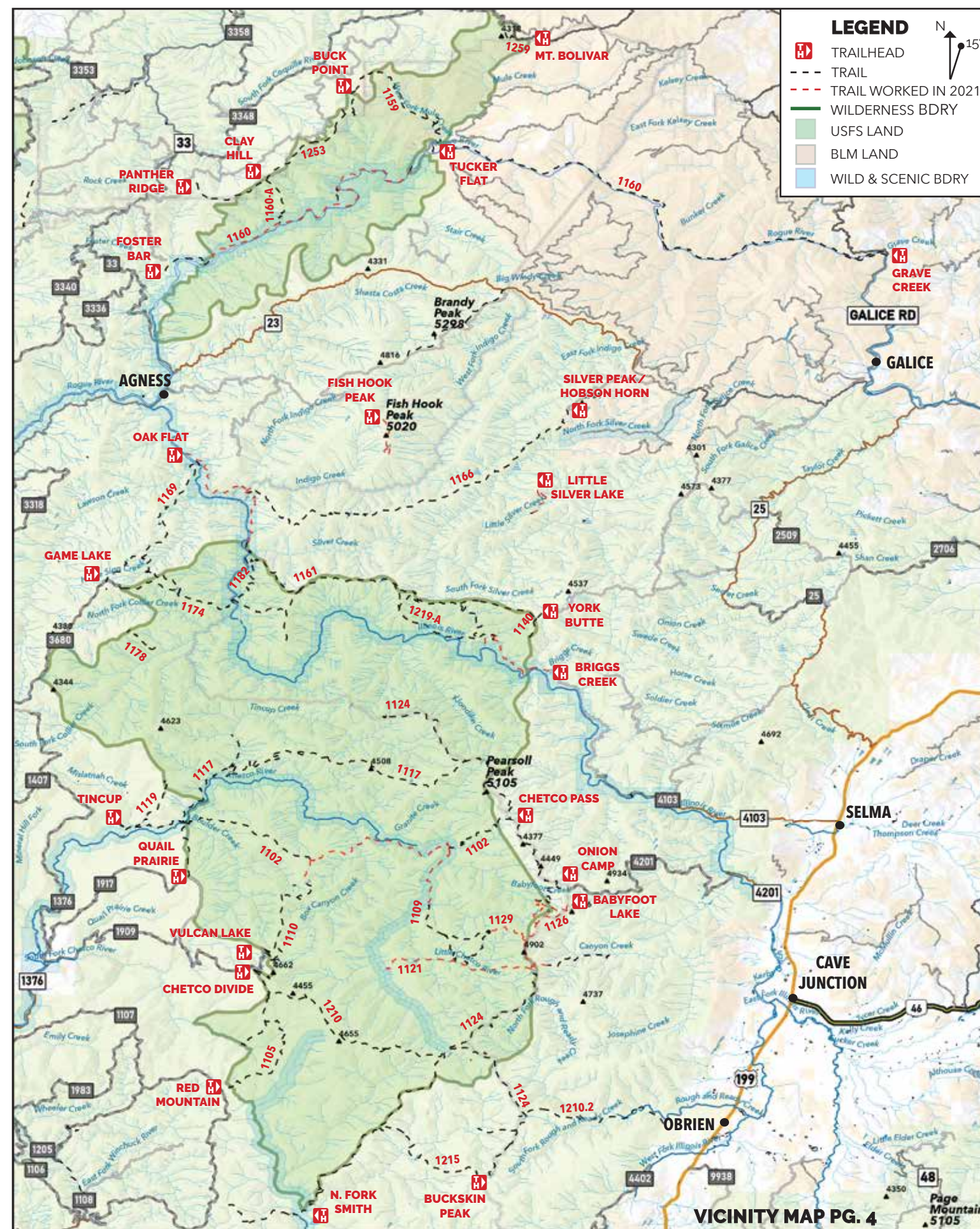


Above: Trevor Meyer on the Fish Hook Peak Trail, November, 2021 | photo by: Nick Hodges

Fish Hook is not Meyer's first rodeo. Through his five seasons with the Club, he's been instrumental in bringing landscape-scale trail configurations back to life. But it's unlike most of the more remote trails the Club clings to. The Fish Hook Peak Trail is a 2.2-mile jaunt just a few miles off of the heavily-trafficked

Bear Camp Road.

SMC also made it to the nearby Little Silver Lake Trail, another short and sweet out-and-back suitable for day hikers, marking a departure from the long-distance backpacking routes that Howe and Meyer have typically focused on.



VICINITY MAP PG. 4



SKY LAKES WILDERNESS

Sky Lakes and Upper Rogue

In the High Cascades Ranger District, our Wilderness Corps improved 20 miles of trail that had been severely impacted by the 2017 Red Blanket Fire, much of it within the 25-mile Wolf Loop.

In October, our staff worked on about 3.5 miles of the Seven Lakes Trail #981, getting ahead on long-forgotten drainage projects to maintain natural water flow and reduce erosion. Later, staff restored 7.5 miles of the Upper Rogue River Trail #1034, a 47-mile National Recreation Trail that connects Lost Creek Dam to Crater Lake National Park.



Above: 2021 Intern Anna Slager using the single crosscut saw while working on the Middle Fork Trail #978, Sky Lakes Wilderness. | photo by: Owen Brodie

THE WORK

Trails Maintained

Sky Lakes

- Middle Fork #978
- Halifax #1088
- Mckie Camp #1089
- Lake Ivern #994
- Seven Lakes #981
- Lake Alta #979



SKY LAKES WILDERNESS est. 1984



ROGUE-UMPQUA DIVIDE WILDERNESS

THE WORK

Trails Maintained

Rogue Umpqua

- Rogue Umpqua Divide #1470
- Rocky Rim #1572

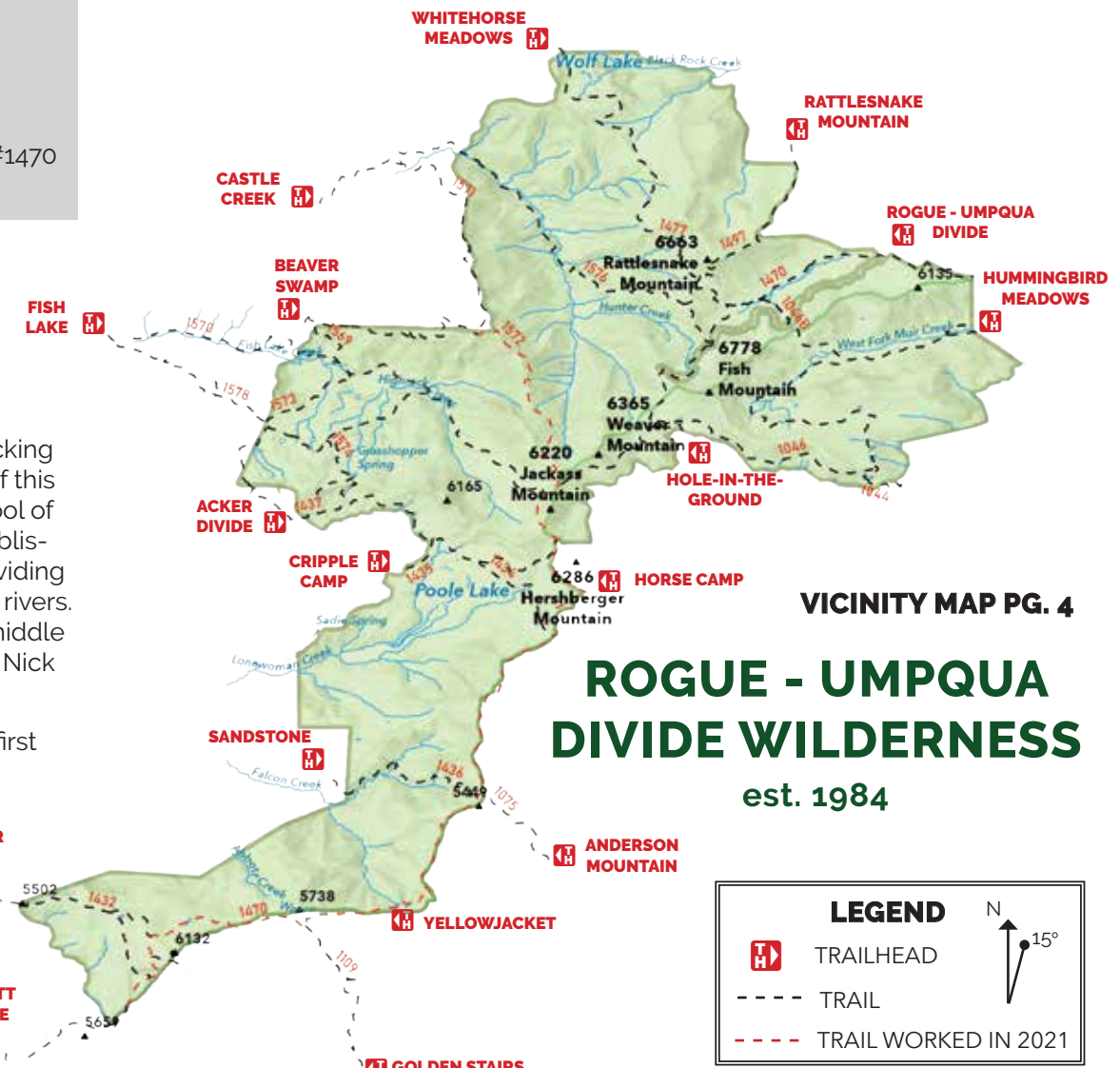
Rogue-Umpqua Divide

On a dewey August morning, the red glow of flickering headlamps breaks light before any signs of dawn. Shortly after, the whirring sound of backpacking stoves interrupts the silence of this 35,701 acre wilderness. The cool of the morning will soon fade to blistering heat on this ridgetop dividing Oregon's Rogue and Umpqua rivers. "That's why we get up in the middle of the night," says crew leader Nick Hodges. "To beat the heat."

"We get as much done in the first three hours of the day as we do in the last five," notes the Club's executive director, Gabriel Howe. "You have to make them count."

2021 brought us further into the Cascades and into the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness with new partners at the Umpqua National Forest.

"Pono, one of their staff members at the Tiller District, gave us the support it took to be successful," says Howe, "This is about as far



ROGUE - UMPQUA DIVIDE WILDERNESS est. 1984

north as I think we'll push, but we'd like to take on some heavy lifts in the Rogue-Umpqua and extend the area into our permanent footprint."

Just west of Crater Lake National Park, the volcanic geology supports dense conifer

forests, subalpine meadow habitat, and attractive lake basins. Our Wilderness Corps worked a full 10 days in the wilderness.

Along sections of the Rocky Rim Trail #1572 and Rogue Umpqua Divide Trail #1470,

our crews removed more than 150 trees, encountered heavy brush, and restored disappearing and braided tread. We are working with the Umpqua National Forest to secure more agreements to continue work there.



SISKIYOU WILDERNESS
RED BUTTES WILDERNESS
SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

A trail network recovered post - Slater Fire

This massive swath stretches from Pilot Rock and the Greensprings Summit, west to the Red Buttes, north from there along the Grayback Range to the Oregon Caves, and also south from the Red Buttes into the 180,000-acre Siskiyou Wilderness. It features marquee summits including Mt. Ashland, Mt. Emily, Grayback Mountain, Preston Peak, and El Capitan, to name just a few. Ten years ago, the map would have shown a labyrinth of trails through this frontier. But those trails were an illusion. They had disappeared from the landscape.

Brush fields, logjams, and faded tread plagued entire trail networks that were once well traveled. Getting from the PCT to the Oregon Caves National Monument was impossible because a connection of trails through the Red Buttes Wilderness had completely fallen apart. Access to the high Siskiyou from the Illinois Valley was lost where the Sucker Creek and East Fork Illinois River Trails had fallen into disrepair. The list goes on.

But after six years of investment, there are a handful of trail opportunities to be rediscovered. It's now possible to hike from Takilma, OR up to Young's Valley and from there to Devil's Punch-



Above: Despite being spread over a large area, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and the Red Buttes Wilderness are connected by the Siskiyou Crest - a collection of mountains identifying the highest peaks in the Siskiyou range.

bowl or No Man's Trailhead, or even out the South Fork Smith River. And long distance hikers and horse packers have taken to the 80+ mile journey from Pilot Rock all the way to the Oregon Caves.

Work goes on as we make our way further into the Siskiyou Highlands. In 2021, a core group of volunteers labored their way through a series of winter weekends on the Butte Fork-Applegate Trail, getting ahead of damage done by the 2020 Devil's Fire. The blaze left plenty of canopy intact, but burned ground vegetation, leaving unstable soils that had slid into the trail.

As the year went on, our Wilderness Corps found their way to the East Fork Illinois River Trail #1274, which marches upward from the community of Takilma, OR to Young's Valley and beyond. They

took about 125 trees from the East Fork trail that had fallen since our last visit there in 2017.

"The East Fork Illinois is euphoric, like Illinois Valley gold," writes program manager Trevor Meyer. "The old-growth forest occupying significant swaths of the trail's edge is a spectacle to behold."

His crew moved on from there to the Black Butte Trail #1272, Sanger Creek Trail #1271, and went on to log out the Clear Creek National Recreation Trail.

In the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, we partnered with the local friends' group to co-lead a hike in the Greensprings, and maintained the Lone Pilot Trail with our partners at the Medford Bureau of Land Management for Public Lands Day.

THE WORK:
 Trails Maintained:
Red Buttes:
 • Butte Fork #957
 • Sucker Creek #1237
Soda Mountain:
 • Lone Pilot Loop

OREGON CAVES NAT. MON.

7050
 GRAYBACK MTN

7424
 DUTCHMAN PEAK

7333
 RED BUTTE

6722
 RED BUTTE

6952
 RED BUTTE

7096
 RED BUTTE

6772
 RED BUTTE

7241
 RED BUTTE

7218
 RED BUTTE

7490
 MT. ASHLAND

7424
 DUTCHMAN PEAK

7333
 RED BUTTE

6952
 RED BUTTE

7096
 RED BUTTE

6772
 RED BUTTE

7241
 RED BUTTE

7218
 RED BUTTE

7490
 MT. ASHLAND

7424
 DUTCHMAN PEAK

7333
 RED BUTTE

6722
 RED BUTTE



Above: Our 2021 Wilderness Corps spent several days clearing massive logs along the Clear Creek National Recreation Trail. | photo by: Trevor Meyer



THE WORK

Trails Maintained

Siskiyou

- E. Fork Illinois #1274
- Osgood Ditch #1276
- Black Butte #1272
- Black Butte Tie #1273
- Twin Valley #5232
- Clear Creek #5223
- W. Fork Clear Creek #5224
- Raspberry Lake #5231
- 5&10 Divide Trail



VICINITY MAP PG. 4

Corps Program

We are expanding our Corps program, engaging more interns and starting work earlier in the spring than in previous years. Interns will serve two-month (or longer) terms with three start dates. We have retained a strong workforce of staff for program support.

2022 Geography

We have major projects planned throughout our footprint, with early crew work planned in the Coastal Mountains and later moving into the Siskiyou Highlands and Cascades. We continue to offer more training opportunities and provide more enrichment opportunities for Corps interns.

Staffing

Our staffing is strong. Program managers Nick Hodges and Karly White are managing field operations. We have seasonal staff returning, including three 2021 interns who have accepted staff positions, and program managers continue providing the continuity it takes to maintain our stewardship programs. We've added a permanent part-time administrative specialist to the team.

Covid hiatus provides opportunity to pivot volunteer program

In 2022, we are building a volunteer program that includes more outings to rebuild interest in stewardship after the many disruptions caused by Covid. In the coming year, volunteer efforts will focus on supporting ongoing staff and intern work. Email info@siskiyoumountainclub.org to learn more and sign up for a trip.

*Below: Crew Leader Nick Hodges on the Fish Hook Peak Trail #1180 in November 2021
photo by: Trevor Meyer*



Siskiyou Mountain Club

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Long live the backwoods trails

Below: Views of the Siskiyou Crest, Red Buttes Wilderness. | photo by: Trevor Meyer

