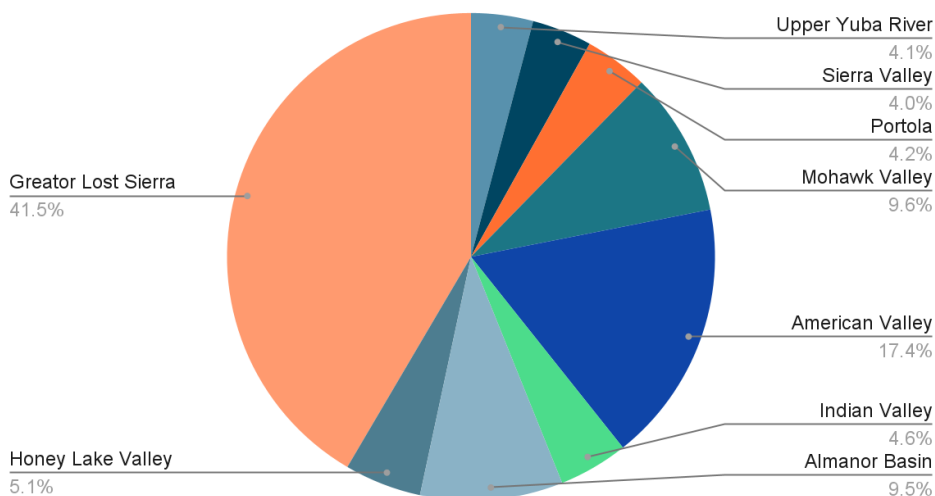


Connected Communities Survey Report

From November 2020 to March 2021, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship completed a survey process to gather public input on the Connected Communities project. Survey responses were sought by two methods, digital outreach and paper surveys. The paper surveys were distributed through businesses from each of the 12 connected communities. Displays were set up for a two week period in each community. Digital outreach spanned seven months with distribution by Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship newsletters and social media, reaching over 100,000 people with survey invitations.

1,179 survey responses were received, including 68% of which are local to the greater Lost Sierra and 32% of which are from out of the area and assumed to be previous residents or visitors. 467 responses were received from the connected communities regions. The distribution of survey responses are displayed in the graph to the right.

Regional Distribution of Responses Across The Lost Sierra

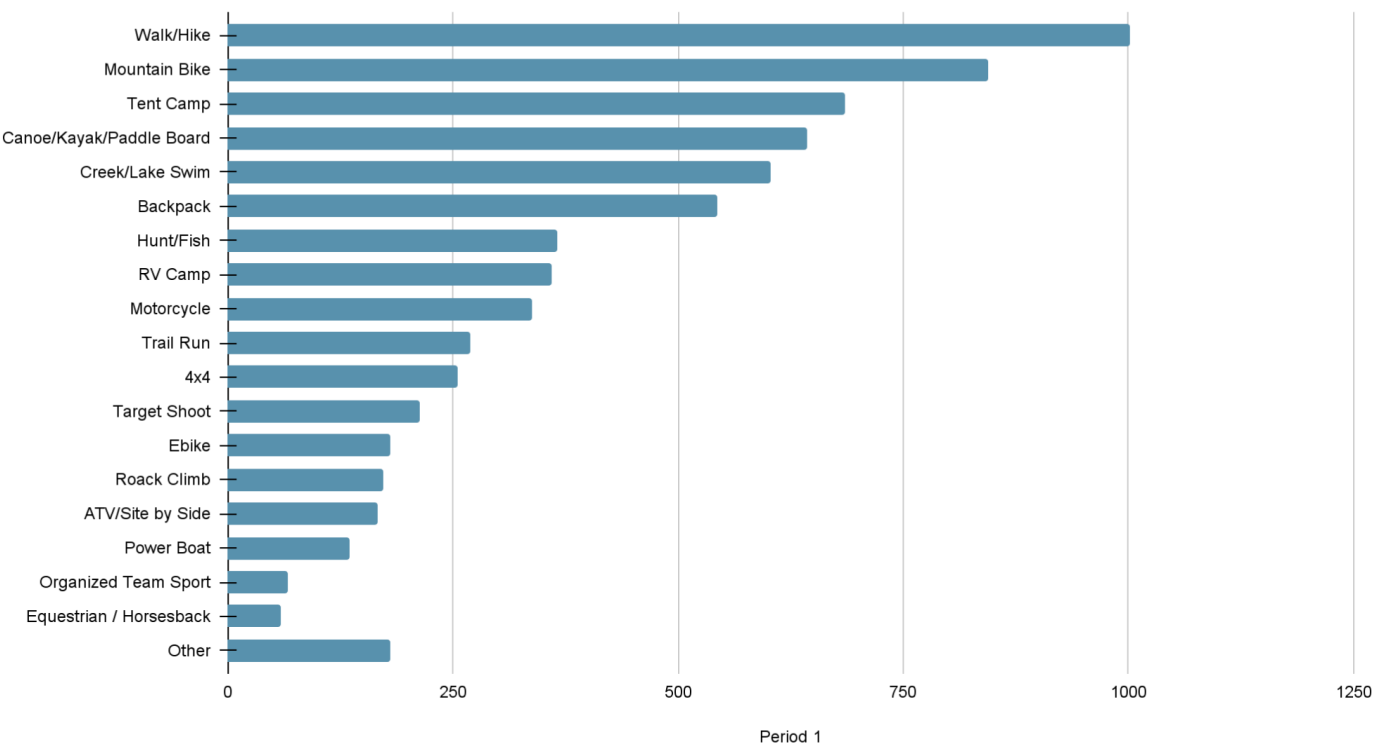


Comprehensive survey analysis is included on pages 2-3, brief analyses for each region are included on pages 4-11, and select testimonials are included on pages 12-13. All survey data is included in Appendix A.

Comprehensive Survey Analysis

The 1,179 survey responses received were from respondents ranging in age from <18-65+ with a diverse range of preferred outdoor recreation activities. The majority of respondents, 85%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 71% participate in mountain biking. Tent Camping, Canoe/Kayak/Paddle, and Creek/Lake Swim account for ~50% of outdoor recreation types identified by respondents. The below chart shows the distribution of all recreation activity responses received.

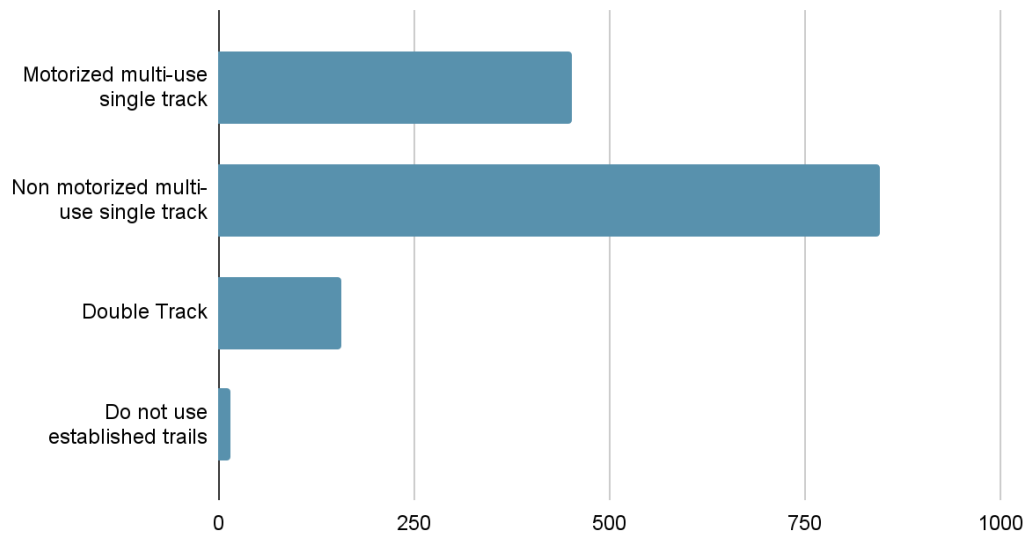
Participant Outdoor Recreation Activities



A resounding 94% of respondents would like more recreation trails near their town and 96% want trails that connect to other nearby towns. 73% of respondents prefer non motorized, multi-use trails, 39% prefer motorized multi-use trails. A full distribution of recreation trail preference is shown below.

80% of respondents use recreation trails on a weekly basis, 39% use them 3-5 times per week. When asked how Main Street trailheads would change respondents' trail use, 85% of respondents said they would use trails weekly, with 43% saying they would use them 3-5 times per week. Over 800 people wrote in their ideas for specific new trail routes. 88% of respondents said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreational trails near their town.

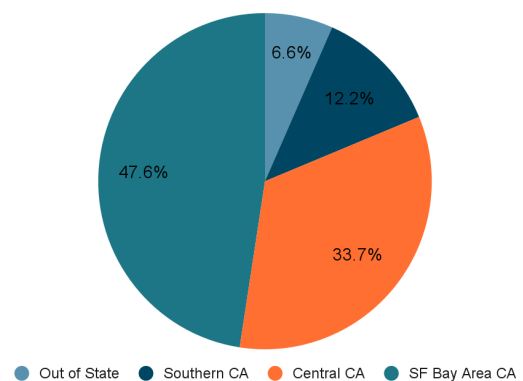
Recreation Trail Preference



Approximately 38% of survey respondents (237) identified as retail/hospitality business owners. Of the participating business owners, 87% believe that an in-town trail system with a Main Street trailhead would help attract customers to their business. We asked business owners to identify specific trailhead locations that might benefit them, and 94 responded with specific location recommendations. Most business owners identified downtown parks, large parking areas, or vacant lots downtown that would bring trail users directly into towns for trail access.

Approximately 1/3 of survey responses were received from zip codes outside of the Lost Sierra, these responses are attributed to past residents or visitors to the area. The distribution of survey responses from people outside of the Lost Sierra is displayed on the graph to the right. When reviewing trail use and importance between the Lost Sierra residents and visitors these groups appear to have mutually aligned interests. Specifically, both groups identify trails as being extremely important and identify that their trail use would increase with additional downtown trailheads. Given that both groups identify trail use would increase with downtown trail access, we can assume that and an increase in trails throughout the Lost Sierra would bolster Mainstreet economies throughout the Lost Sierra.

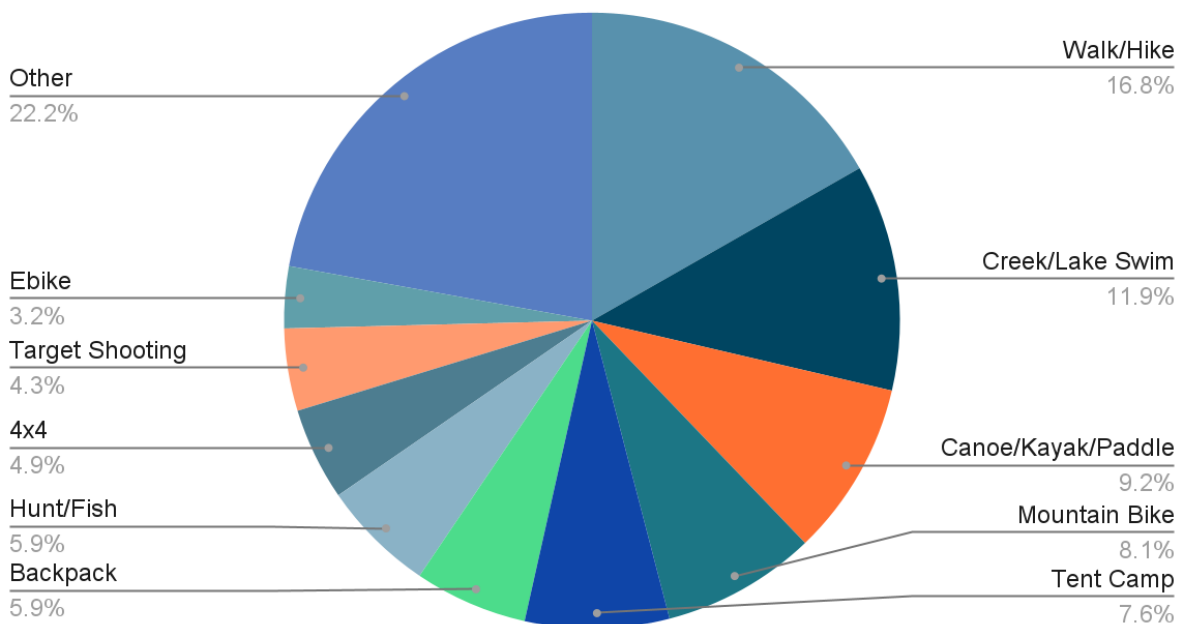
Survey Responses From Outside The Lost Sierra



Upper Yuba River Region

Downieville, Sierra City, Goodyear Bar and surrounding areas comprise the Upper Yuba River Region. 33 survey responses were received from Upper Yuba River zip codes. 94% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 53% rating access as extremely important. Within the Upper Yuba River Region the majority of respondents, 94%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 67% participate in Creek/Lake Swimming and 45% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to seven out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 72% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 38% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 19% prefer double track. 61% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, only 2% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (86%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 19 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 68% of respondents from the Upper Yuba River Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 15 Upper Yuba River Region business owners responded to the survey, 62% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business. 11 of the business owners took the time to comment in the open-ended response voicing concerns and suggesting trailhead locations.

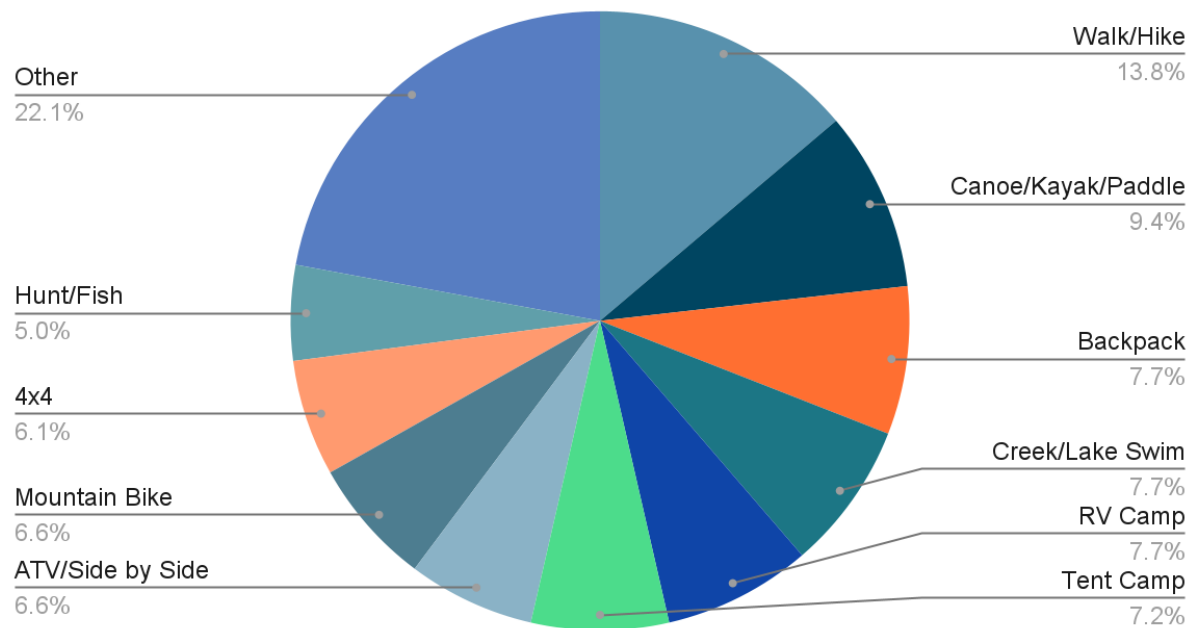
Yuba River Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Sierra Valley Region

Loyalton, Sierraville, Calpine, and surrounding areas comprise the Sierra Valley Region. 32 survey responses were received from Sierra Valley zip codes. 94% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 84% rating access as extremely important. Within the Sierra Valley Region the majority of respondents, 94%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 66% participate in Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boarding and 47% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to seven out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 59% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 25% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 22% prefer double track. 75% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 9% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (97%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 23 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 89% of respondents from the Sierra Valley Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 8 Sierra Valley Region business owners responded to the survey, 88% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business.

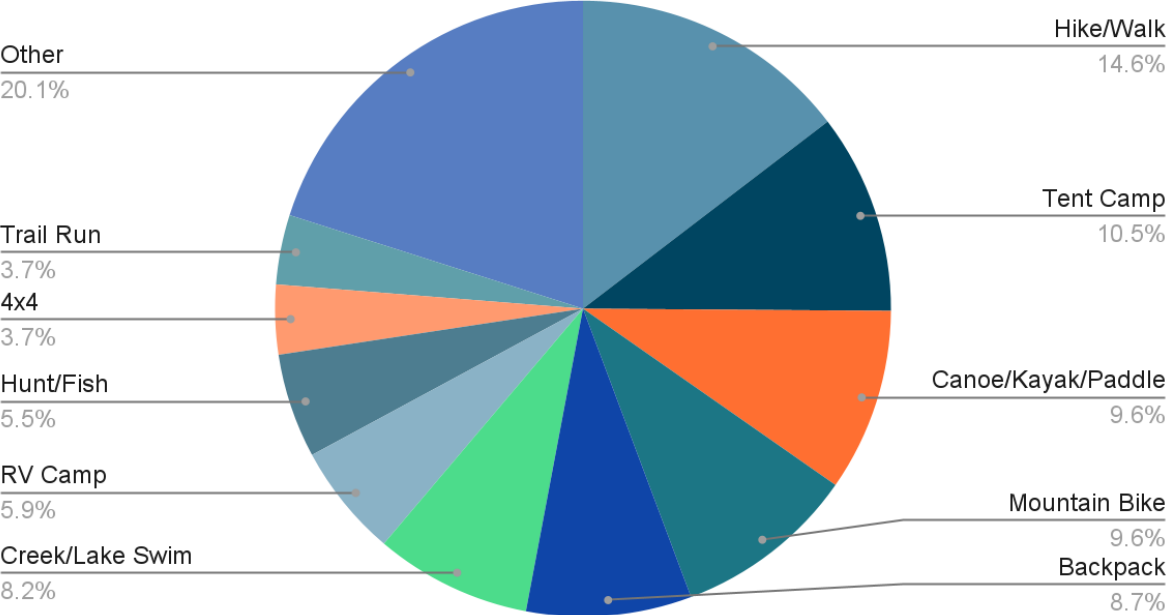
Sierra Valley Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Portola Region

The City of Portola and surrounding areas comprise the Portola Region. 34 survey responses were received from Portola zip codes. 97% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 71% rating access as extremely important. Within the Portola Region the majority of respondents, 97%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 70% participate in tent camping and 64% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to eight out of ten of the region’s top recreation types. 76% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 35% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 9% prefer double track. 67% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 9% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (94%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 32 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 88% of respondents from the Portola Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 9 Portola Region business owners responded to the survey, 89% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business. 6 of the business owners took the time to comment in the open-ended response voicing concerns and suggesting trailhead locations.

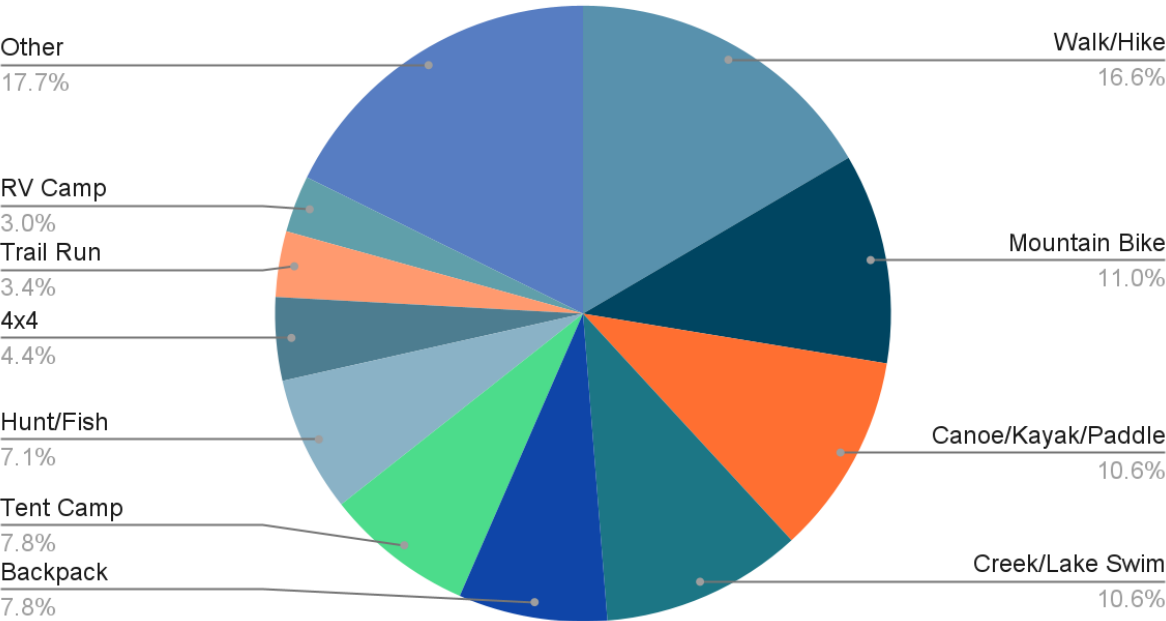
Portola Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Mohawk Valley Region

Graeagle, Blairesden, Clio and surrounding areas comprise the Mohawk Valley Region. 77 survey responses were received from Mohawk Valley zip codes. 100% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 76% rating access as extremely important. Within the Mohawk Valley Region the majority of respondents, 94%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 59% participate in Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boarding and 62% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to eight out of ten of the region’s top recreation types. 83% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 26% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 12% prefer double track. 74% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 5% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (93%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 65 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 87% of respondents from the Mohawk Valley Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 16 Mohawk Valley Region business owners responded to the survey, 87% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business. 11 of the business owners took the time to comment in the open-ended response voicing concerns and suggesting trailhead locations.

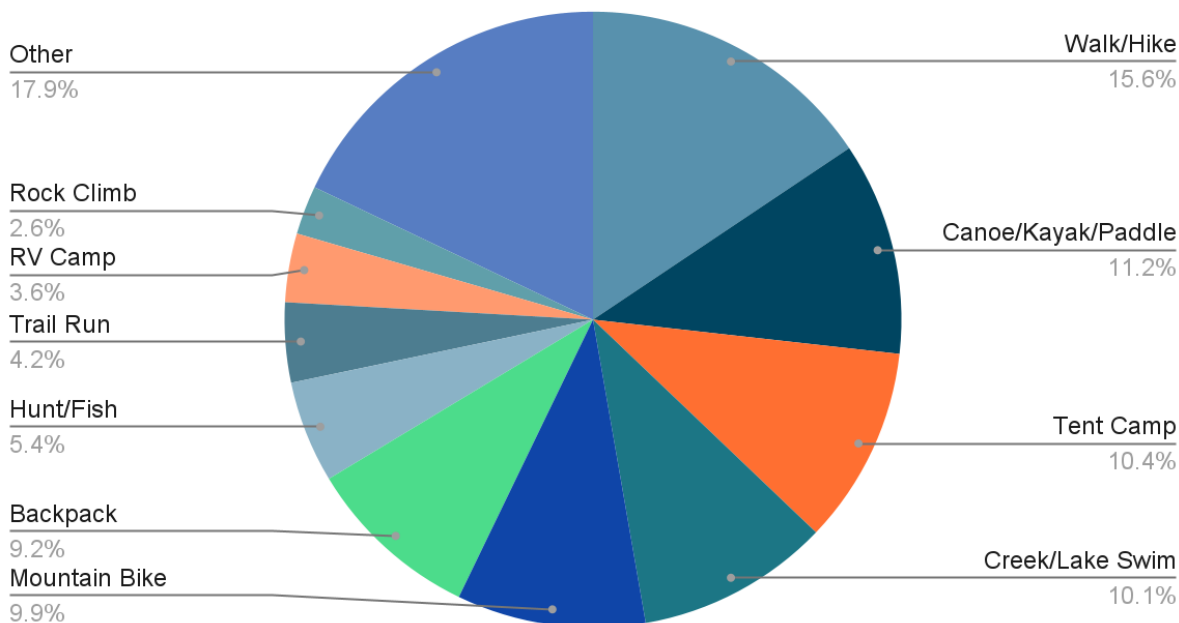
Mohawk Valley Region Top 10 Recreation Types



American Valley Region

Quincy, Keddle, Meadow Valley and surrounding areas comprise the American Valley Region. 140 survey responses were received from American Valley zip codes. 98% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 70% rating access as extremely important. Within the American Valley Region the majority of respondents, 96%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 69% participate in Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boarding and 61% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to nine out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 84% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 23% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 9% prefer double track. 74% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 7% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (91%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 104 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 78% of respondents from the American Valley Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 26 American Valley Region business owners responded to the survey, 85% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business. 17 of the business owners took the time to comment in the open-ended response voicing concerns and suggesting trailhead locations.

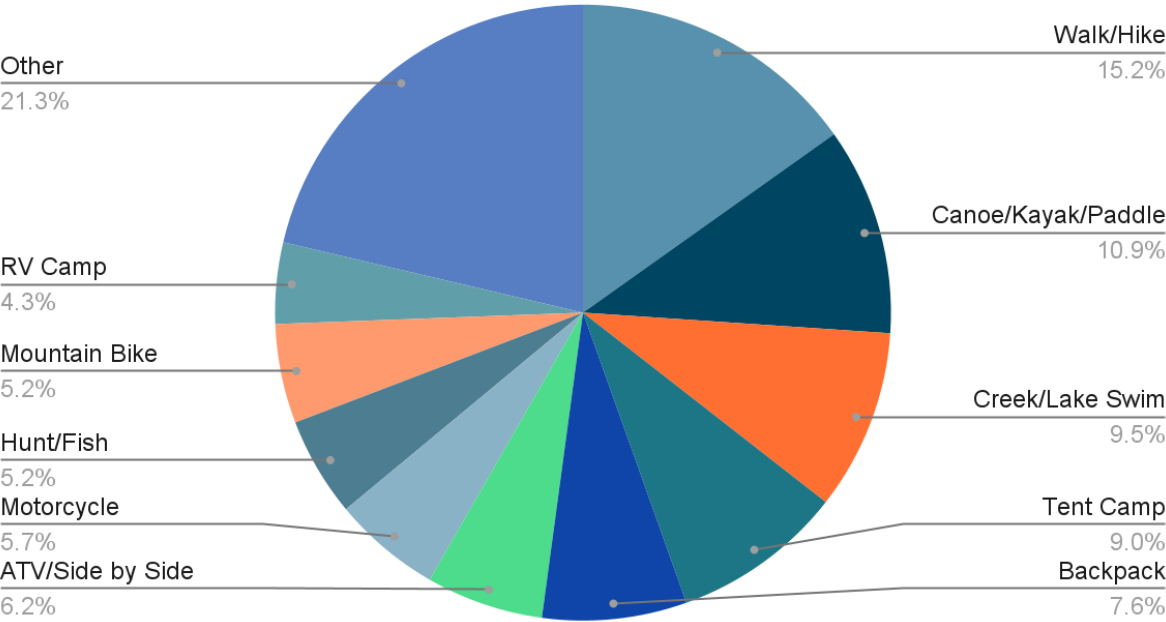
American Valley Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Indian Valley Region

Greenville, Taylorsville, Crescent Mills, and surrounding areas comprise the Indian Valley Region. 37 survey responses were received from Indian Valley zip codes. 100% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 46% rating access as extremely important. Within the Indian Valley Region the majority of respondents, 86%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 62% participate in Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boarding and 30% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to eight out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 81% of respondents prefer non motorized multi-use single track, while 49% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 19% prefer double track. 73% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 11% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (94%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 30 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 81% of respondents from the Indian Valley Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 16 Indian Valley Region business owners responded to the survey, 69% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business.

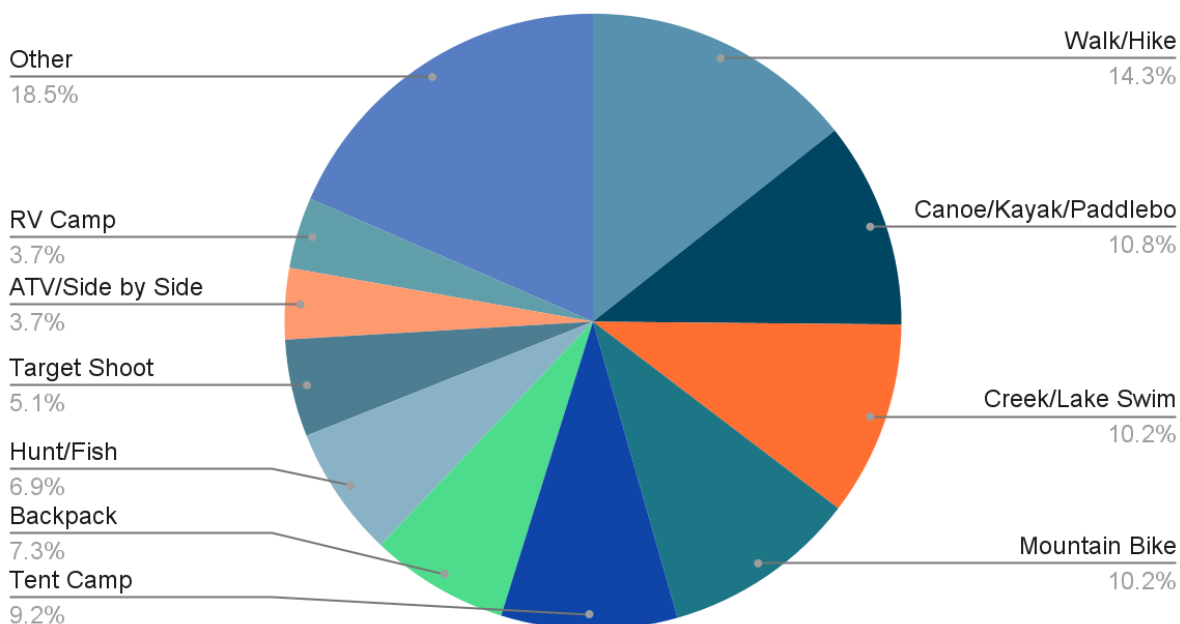
Indian Valley Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Almanor Basin Region

Chester, Hamilton Branch, Westwood, Canyon Dam, and surrounding areas comprise the Almanor Basin Region. 76 survey responses were received from Almanor Basin zip codes. 100% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 70% rating access as extremely important. Within the Almanor Basin Region the majority of respondents, 96%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 72% participate in Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boarding and 68% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to seven out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 84% of respondents prefer non-motorized multi-use single track, while 28% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 21% prefer double track. 72% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 13% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (96%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 58 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 84% of respondents from the Almanor Basin Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 25 Almanor Basin Region business owners responded to the survey, 96% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business. 18 of the business owners took the time to comment in the open-ended response voicing concerns and suggesting trailhead locations.

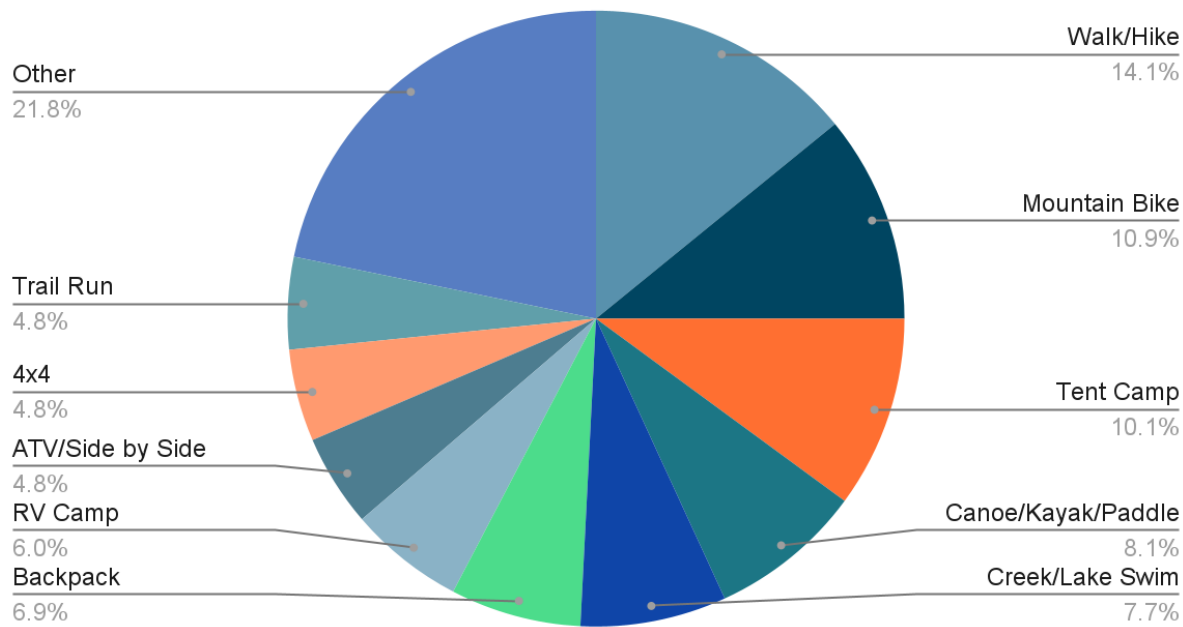
Almanor Basin Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Honey Lake Region

Susanville, Janesville, and surrounding areas comprise the Honey Lake Region. 41 survey responses were received from Honey Lake zip codes. 98% of participants feel that access to recreational trails is important to them including 76% rating access as extremely important. Within the Honey Lake Region the majority of respondents, 88%, recreate via walking/hiking, while 63% participate in Tent Camping and 68% mountain bike. A graph of the top ten recreation types for this region is provided below. An increase in trails would increase access to seven out of ten of the region's top recreation types. 76% of respondents prefer non motorized multi-use single track, while 30% prefer motorized multi-use single track and 30% prefer double track. 77% of respondents use recreational trails on a weekly basis, 10% of respondents believed that they would use trails more often per week with Main Street trailheads. A majority of respondents (95%) would like to see recreation trails that connect their town to other nearby towns and 26 took the time to list specific desired trail locations. 84% of respondents from the Honey Lake Region said they would volunteer to help build and maintain recreation trails near their town. 7 Honey Lake Region business owners responded to the survey, 86% of business owners believe that an in-town trail system with downtown trailheads would help attract customers to their business.

Honey Lake Region Top 10 Recreation Types



Select Testimonials

The Yuba River should have a trail along the old 49 route. At least from Downieville to Sierra City. There are super interesting walls left and some roadbeds. The forest service keeps trying to block we want access unblocked. ~ Yuba River Business Owner

"I hike cross country and on old established trails and I have done this all of my life. After living up here full time for 50 years I am saddened and angry at the misuse, rudeness, destruction of old hiking trails and the dangerous and rude behavior by most of the mountain bikers." ~ Yuba River Resident

I think the trails we have are sufficient. I think we just need to care for them. ~ Yuba River Resident

One of the problems with the motorized trails is that it is disconnected system with limited POI. With a strategic connected system of connected loops you could better manage all of the various uses. ~ Sierra Valley Resident

"I think this is a truly great idea that I would love to be involved with in any way, big or small. I've witnessed the positive impact that trails have on communities time and again and I would love Sierraville and other communities to benefit from that." ~ Sierra Valley Resident

"no more trails - already too many "illegally" built trails... carving up the Calpine area. Prefer to find my own way to where I end up - the trail less Traveled." ~ Sierra Valley Resident

The school in Sierraville would be a good spot for parking and trail information. Public bathrooms, bike work stand and tables should be provided. ~ Sierra Valley Resident

"I would LOVE to have a trail from the park that heads up to the north slope of Beckwourth Peak." ~ Portola Resident

"Around Lake Davis - not just 8 miles." ~ Portola Resident

It's quite dangerous walking or biking between Graeagle and Portola. It's beautiful along the river. I would ride my bike there frequently. Along the river or train tracks between Graeagle & Portola. ~Mohawk Valley Resident

I would love a hike/bike trail from White Hawk area to Blairsden. Riding/walking on Hwy 89 is really scary. I feel like there is great access already to peaks, meadows, lakes, creeks, mountains. etc. in this area. What I really find lacking is safe routes for non-motorized vehicles between towns and residential areas. You have to drive to trailheads - (sad emoji) ~Mohawk Valley Resident

"Anywhere from Main St. Quincy so I could hike right from my door and avoid usage of a car." ~ American Valley Business Owner

"I love SBTS. I do love trails. I just don't care for the Dineylandification of the region. The trail stoke primarily seems to feed the elite out of town scene from Marin/ Bay Area and Truckee more than locals. I live in Plumas County because I don't want the vibe of Tahoe Truckee in my backyard. There are benefits to this but the cost /impact to the authenticity of the region is too high." ~ American Valley Resident

"Anywhere above Indian Valley toward the ridge lines (Keddie, Hough, Jura, North Arm area, Round Valley lake, etc). There is so much National Forest area that is right now only accessible by logging roads. Would be so awesome to someday see some trails too!" ~ Indian Valley Resident

" Anywhere nonmotorized in the Indian Valley but not so isolated that you'd worry about Mtn. Lions. IV [Indian Valley] is the only community of the main four in Plumas County that does not have a designated non motorized trail." ~ Indian Valley Resident

I don't think there's any safe way to get all around Lake Almanor on foot or bike. A trailhead accessible from Downtown Chester would be great! We'd also love to have the terminus of a rails-to-trails project near downtown Chester, so people could coast on bike from Westwood. ~ Almanor Basin Business Owner

"Although I would mostly use non-motorized trails, I think we do also need motorized ones. There are many people locally who enjoy motorized trails, and if there weren't any, they might end up using the non-motorized ones. " ~ Almanor Basin Resident

Circle Lake Almanor with tie-ins to PCT to the west and Bizz Johnson Trail to the east. ~ Almanor Basin Resident

Ridge along Diamond Mountain south of Susanville. Fredonyer Crest trail system west of Susanville. Bizz Johnson Trail extension into Westwood. Stover Mountain Trail system west of Chester. All the trails in the Lassen/Almanor Basin Trails Concept Plan. ~ Honey Lake Resident

This initiative is what is going to allow our communities to thrive! Thank you all for the hard work! I'm excited to see the progress and possibilities unfold! It would be great to also look into other multi use pathway ideas in the Honey Lake Valley since we have such mild topography. Paved pathways connecting the smaller neighborhoods and townships around Susanville would be a great addition! This would allow for more non motorized commuting, easy access for families and individuals to closely connect with their neighborhood and maybe attract events such as running and cycling races in times of the year where singletrack is not available. You all rock!! ~ Honey Lake Resident

Connections from Peavine to Verdi using nonmotorized singletrack. Verdi to Loyalton non motorized singletrack. Reno to Truckee singletrack through Hunter Creek Lake between the two Mt. Rose Wilderness Areas. ~ Reno Resident

89 North. From Truckee, Heading North past Stampede Reservoir all the way to Sierraville. Include high ridgelines with views along the way. ~ Truckee Resident

Breweries at trailheads please! ~ Truckee Resident

This is exciting! Can't wait to have more trails!! ~ Truckee Resident

Be careful courting tourism – it can ruin community ~ Nevada City Resident

I'm third generation in the area, summer home tract. Not sure I want the secret out! ~ Lodi Resident

"I was in love with the idea of connected communities since the day I heard about it. Having a network of trail systems like this creates an entirely new ball game. My attraction to this probably looks similar to others like me in the ever growing mountain bike community. The ability to do a destination adventure via your bike for days on end. I believe this trail system only brings positivity to the Lost Sierra." ~Greater Sacramento Area Resident

"Love the fact that the trails you're proposing will allow mountain bikes, ebike and dirt bikes. Recreational access is very important." ~ Philadelphia, PA Resident

Appendix A

All survey data as exported from Survey Monkey