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2021 was another bumpy ride, and despite its challenges, SBTS came out on the other side with resiliency and continued commitment to contributing to the economic growth of the Lost Sierra. We rolled into 2021, deep in the pandemic, and for the second straight year had to cancel our bike festivals, reduce trip offerings at Yuba Expeditions and limit attendance at volunteer workdays.

On the bright side, we had 14 trail projects lined up with $2 million in secured grant funds for our pro and youth trail crews, and were on a roll gaining unprecedented support for the Connected Communities Trails Master Plan and the development of the Lost Sierra Route.

Then another setback happened as fires burned for 118 days, losing the historic towns of Greenville, Indian Valley, and Canyon Dam resulting in a loss of 1,070,000 acres of wildlands. All National Forests in Northern California closed due to public safety concerns, so we closed the doors on both Yuba bike shops and shut down all trail operations. The number of SBTS employees went from 72 to 13 overnight, as our staff scattered across the country escaping both fire and smoke.

Even while we were on fire, we kept our heads up and worked even harder with fewer people.

We developed safety plans that allowed our pro and youth trail crews to get back to work and were able to complete all 14 projects, building 12 miles of new trail and maintaining 241 miles. We hosted 499 volunteers and we reopened the Mount Hough Trail System which had sections burned and bulldozed during the Dixie Fire. We were even able to run Yuba shuttles in October, to get people up on the mountain and discover that those sweet ribbons of singletrack were all still there and solid as ever.

We also hired a consulting company who worked at a discounted philanthropic rate to help us with Strategic Planning and created two new philanthropic giving programs: Vision Circle (individual giving program) and the Partner Collective (industry donors). Through these programs we were able to increase private donations from 3% of our gross revenue in 2020 to 38% in 2021.

We focused our efforts on Connected Communities, advancing the project through Phase 1 of Planning, into Phase 2 of Ground Truthing, and Phase 3 of Environmental Reviews for sections of the 600+ mile Lost Sierra Route. We identified 11 Recreation Zones with opportunities for Main Street trailheads, ADA accessible trails, stacked loop trail systems of motorized and non-motorized trails, and interpretive signage to educate users about the area’s history, diversity and ecology.

Through it all, we emerged from 2021 as a healthier and more resilient organization, with 17 active projects, including 142 miles of “shovel-ready” trail to be built, and $2.6 million in grant funds secured for 2022.

We’re ready for 2022 to be a great year. Filled with plenty of Dirt Magic. We are ready to host the Lost & Found on Saturday, June 4th and bring our Mountain Epic volunteer weekends back to Quincy, Downieville and Graeagle starting in April.

None of what we do would be possible without your love and support. Thank you very much, whether you wrote a check or grabbed a shovel, we appreciate you and ask that you keep believing in and supporting us.

After all, we have a lot of Dirt Magic to make together.

- Greg Williams, SBTS Executive Director
Thursday after Greenville burned was the hardest day in the field I have ever had. I showed up to work two minutes late and very much not wanting to be there after we had lost one of our towns. Yet, standing by the crew vans were 13 youth crew members, on time for work, prepared to go into the field and face the day. It’s hard to put into words the feelings I felt that day as I worked high on a ridge: it was a combination of grief, shock and a little bit of hope. Here were a group of hardworking teenagers facing an unknown world and still working hard on themselves.

I don’t know what is next for Plumas County after this disaster. Watching those youth crew members work hard despite everything going on around them gave me the push I needed to keep going that day. And maybe that’s how we will work together past this disaster: just keep moving a little forward together.

- Mandy Beatty, Trails Manager
2021 Impact

"During my time on the trail, I experienced many moments of pride, but one that stood out to me was when a fellow crew member and I built our first checkstep without the aid of a crew leader. It was difficult and required much effort and critical thinking. But when it was done I felt accomplished and fulfilled.”

FINANCIALS

2021 REVENUE - $2,134,7000.91

2021 EXPENSES - $1,866,964.27

YOUTH

3 Youth Crews

6 Youth Crew Leaders

39 Youth Crew Members

PROS

2 Pro Crews

7 Pro Crew Members

VOLUNTEERS

47 Volunteer days

499 Volunteers

STAFF

72 Employees

MILES MAINTAINED
241

MILES BUILT
12

MILES IN PLANNING
46
Yuba Expeditions started the 2021 season with renewed optimism, a full demo fleet and all shuttle vans ready to bring riders to their favorite adventure points. The season started out strong but by the end of July the entire region was socked in with thick smoke and our crew watched as the Dixie Fire and the Fly Fire made their way closer to the towns we know and love. Both locations were forced to shut down and all National Forest access was closed by mid August. It wasn’t until the end of October that we were able to assess the damage and reopen Yuba Expeditions just in time to run a few more shuttles before we welcomed winter to the Sierra.

Yuba Expeditions serves as an access point for visitors to the Lost Sierra and is an integral part of the community in which we operate. In 2021 Yuba Expeditions in Quincy and Downieville provided 2,075 shuttles (compared to 9,636 in 2019), and supplied at least twice as many smiles.

Yuba Expeditions is a vital part of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship model as it provides public outreach and messaging to the trail user-community. Our goal is to reinforce trail safety and etiquette, recruit trail volunteers, create local jobs and provide community service by partnering with local community groups such as Plumas County schools and small local businesses. Yuba Expeditions provided bike repair service to the 2021 Lost Sierra Composite team, which consisted of 50 high school youth, ensuring access to functioning and safe bikes. In 2021, Yuba Expeditions in Quincy hired two local high school students and in one in Downieville, which provided these youth an opportunity to build a solid foundation in the bicycle and recreation industry. Yuba provided their youth employees with flexible employment opportunities which coincided with their extracurricular and school responsibilities.

Whether you are a hiker, biker, horseback rider, a high schooler or senior citizen, the folks at Yuba provide a one stop shop for advice, demos, bike repairs, maps, and sweet swag.

- Mason Werner, Yuba Manager
  Chris Atkinson, Sales and Customer Service Manager
Board and Staff

SBTS Leadership
Greg Carter
Rob Bixler MD
Jesse Passafiume
Debbie Bonovich
Rick Stock

Executive Management
Greg Williams
Executive Director
Kyla Passcuci
General Manager

Administration
Megan Mansfield
Stewardship Program Coordinator
Kalah Wann
Donor Relations Manager
Corine Lightner
Administrative Assistant
Jeff Sperry
Volunteer Coordinator

The Breaux Group

Yuba Expeditions
Mason Werner
Yuba Manager

Chris Atkinson
Downieville Sales
Customer Service Manager

Jon Palmer
Downieville Service Manager

Collin O’Mara-Gree
Downieville Shuttle Driver

Codie Leste
Quincy Shuttle Driver

3 High School Shop Interns
- Names must remain anonymous due to minor laws

 Trails
Mandy Beatty
Trail Programs Manager
Henry O'Donnell
Trail Boss
Kameron Williams
Pro Trail Crew
Scott Englund
Pro Trail Crew
Ben Edwards
Pro Trail Crew
Javier Rosa Nieves
Pro Trail Crew
Andrew Mulford
Connected Communities GIS Mapping
Alex Terry
Youth Trail Crew Coordinator
Trinity Stirling
Youth Crew Leader
Connected Communities Project Coordinator
Shane Koskinen
Youth Crew Leader
Helen Lewis
Youth Crew Leader
Will Ross
Youth Crew Leader
Will Harmon
Youth Crew Leader
Thea Nicoles
Youth Crew Leader

39 High School Youth Crew employees
- Names must remain anonymous due to minor laws

Marketing and Events
Patrick Cavender
Design and Production
Mark Pecotich
Marketing
Marty Scheel
Partnerships
Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator
Kurt Gensheimer
Writer
Mike Ferrentino
Story Teller
Heather Williams
Race Registration Coordinator
Breakaway Promotions
Race Coordinator
Cory Caldwell
Expo and Event Prizing

A heartfelt THANK YOU to
Jesse Passafiume and Debbie Bonovich
for your services on the SBTS Board for
20+ years
Thank you to our donors, partners, supporters and volunteers. We couldn't do this without you!!