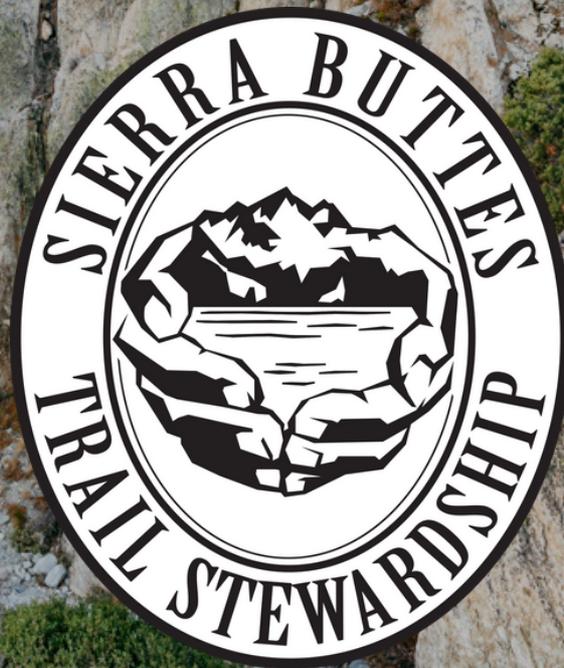


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SIERRA BUTTES TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

# 2021 Annual Report



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## Message from our Executive Director

GREG WILLIAMS

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**



## Youth Fire Resilience

REFLECTION FROM  
BUZZARDS ROOST  
SUMMER 2021

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

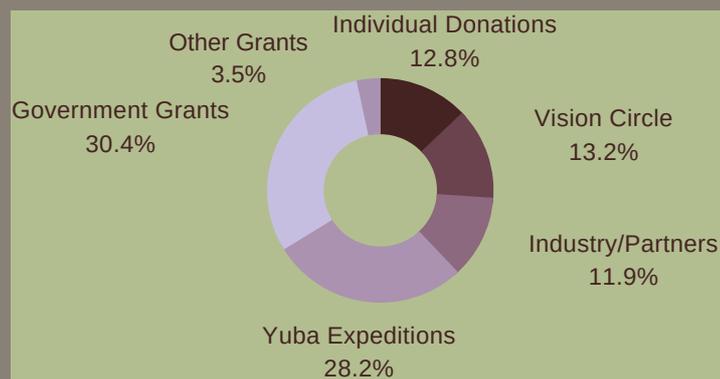


"During my time on the trail, I experienced many moments of pride, but one that stood out to me was when a fellow crew member and I built our first checkstep without the aid of a crew leader. It was difficult and required much effort and critical thinking. But when it was done I felt accomplished and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

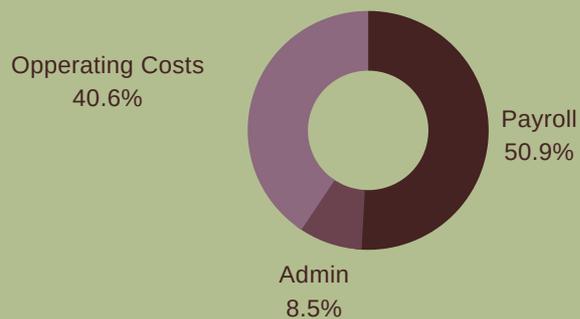
- 2 Pro Crews
- 7 Pro Crew Members

## VOLUNTEERS

- 47 Volunteer days
- 499 Volunteers

## STAFF

- 72 Employees



# MILES MAINTAINED

241

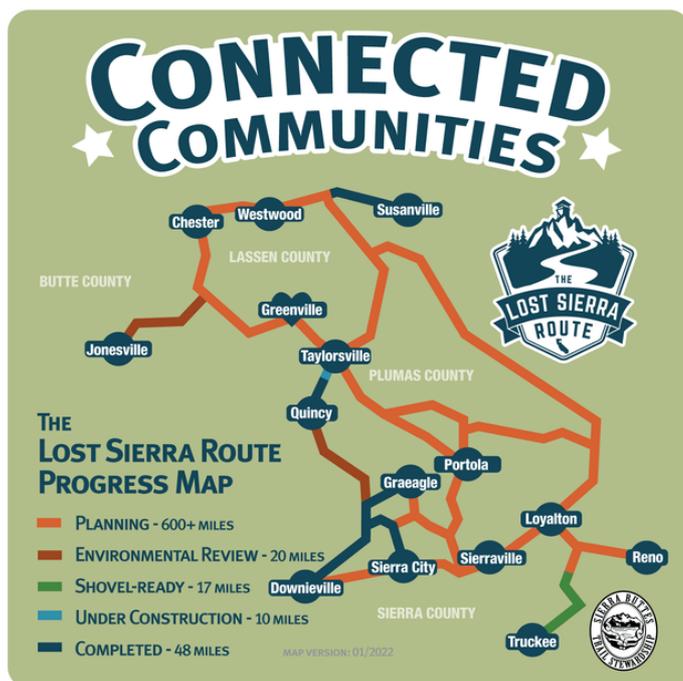
# MILES BUILT

12

# MILES IN PLANNING

46

**MT HOUGH RANGER DISTRICT** - BEN LOMOND - INDIAN CREEK - PCT - MILL CREEK - THREE LAKES - GRANITE GAP - GOLD LAKE - BUCKS CREEK LOOP - **SOUTH PARK** - MONUMENT - LAZER - OAKBOWL - FLUME - PLATFORM - SPANISH TRAVERSE - **BECKWOURTH RANGER DISTRICT** - LONG LAKE - MUD LAKE - **YUBA RIVER RANGER DISTRICT** - CHAPMAN CREEK - HASKELL PEAK - NORTH YUBA - CAL IDA - **HAT CREEK RANGER DISTRICT** - THOUSAND LAKES WILDERNESS - 3E04 - 3E03 - **NEW CONSTRUCTION** - BECKWOURTH PEAK - HOUGH-CHANDLER - KIDS CREEK FOREST





**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.

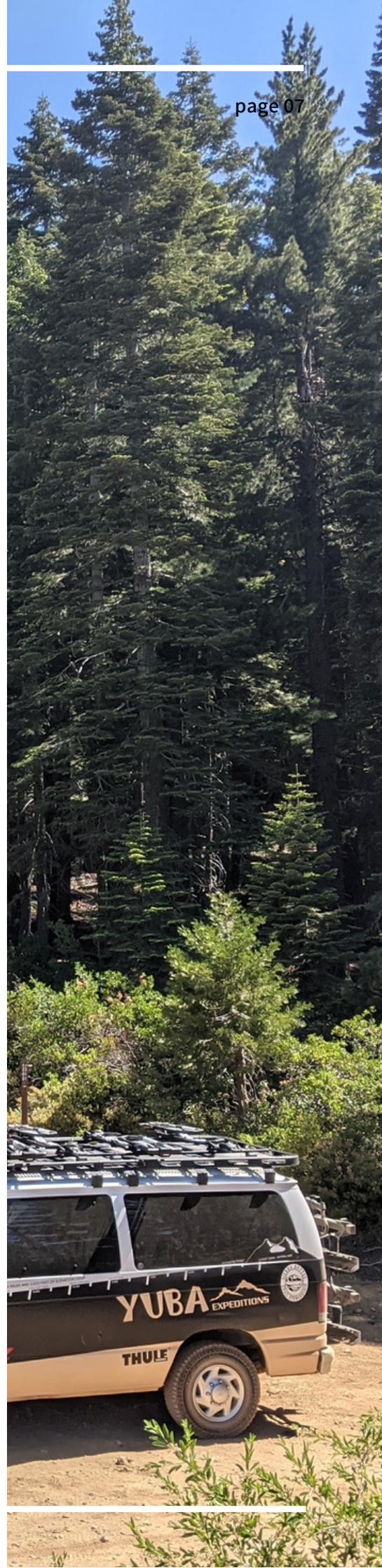
Yuba Expeditions serves as an access point for visitors to the Lost Sierra and is an integral part of the community in which we operate. In 2021 Yuba Expeditions in Quincy and Downieville **provided 2,075 shuttles** (compared to 9,636 in 2019), and supplied at least twice as many **smiles**.

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



## 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!!**

