



Connected Communities Project



The Connected Communities Project aims to stimulate the economies of rural communities by improving trail access and connectivity and encouraging diverse user types to explore and recreate on public lands by linking 15 mountain towns by trails.

Introduction

The Connected Communities Project is a visionary effort led in partnership by federal land managers, SBTS, and community partners to connect 15 mountain towns for economic prosperity through outdoor recreation—an \$887 billion industry. It will create a vision for a recreation-focused lifestyle through community investment, shared stewardship, economic opportunity, and important new local jobs, all benefiting economically disadvantaged communities in California's Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada Counties, as well as Washoe County, Nevada. Our work will include planning, environmental review, trail creation, and maintenance of trails. The project's intent is to diversify recreation throughout the region and provide economic stability, as well as support fire recovery and prevention efforts. This project will create a learning landscape for outdoor and environmental education programs that include youth employment and volunteer participation. Our visionary goal is to establish a multi-use signature route highlighting these communities, which we are calling the Lost Sierra Route.

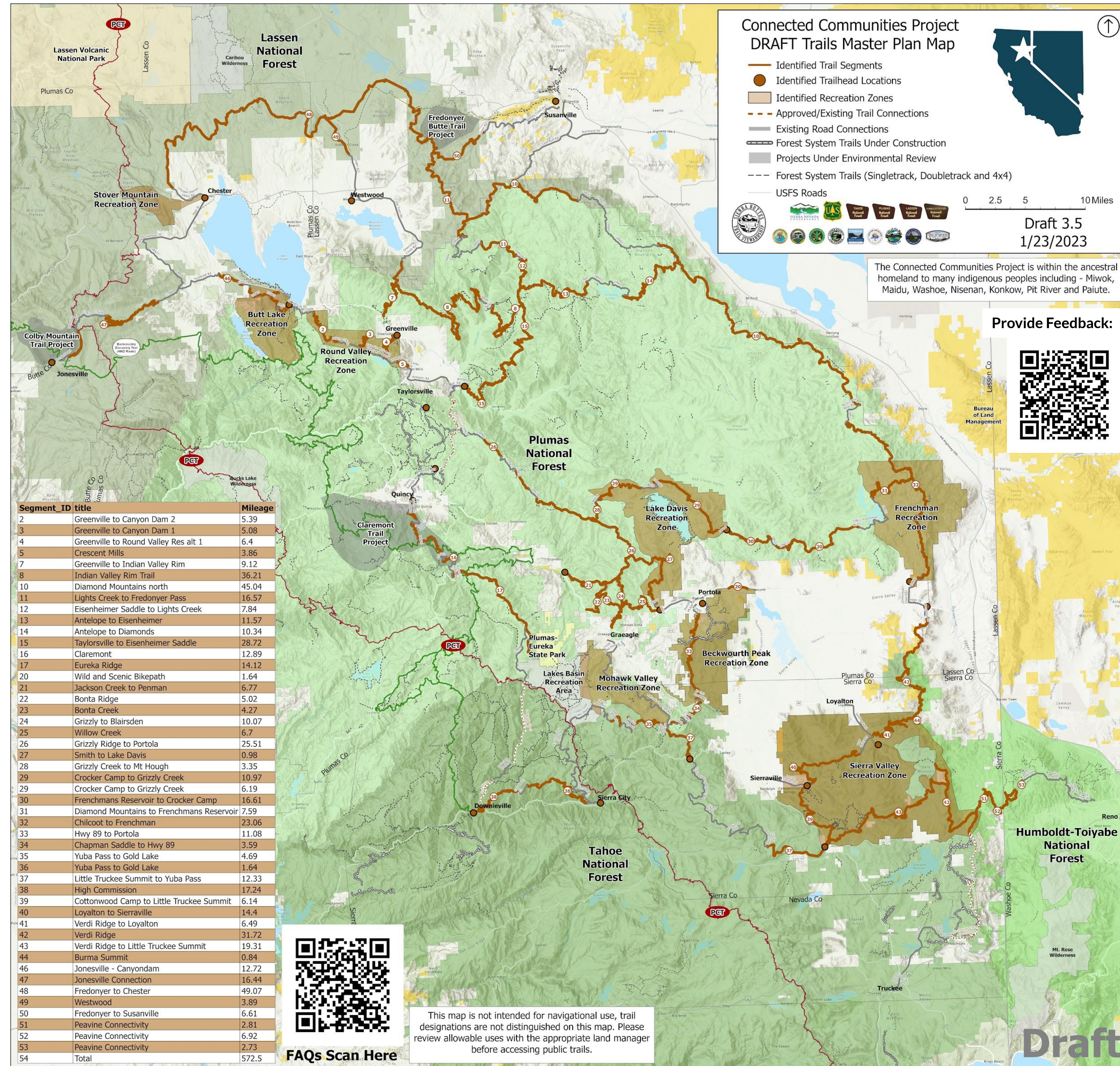
Goals & Objectives

The Connected Communities Project includes four main components:

1. Identify ideal trail corridors for a singletrack trail network to connect communities across the region and outline a signature route through the region dubbed the Lost Sierra Route
2. Conceptualize capital improvement projects required to support the trail network such as trailhead infrastructure
3. Highlight Recreation Zones as areas near communities that warrant additional planning and development
4. Develop desired conditions for fuels reduction and restoration within future project planning areas

Acknowledgements

While this project would not be possible without the critical partnership from federal land managers and continued community-member support, financial backing is also critical to the project's success. To date, the project has been primarily funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities and Vibrant Recreation and Tourism programs, but has also received financial support from Friesen Foundation, California Off-Highway Vehicle Division grants, Outdoor Industry partners, and matching funds brought by SBTS volunteers and donors.



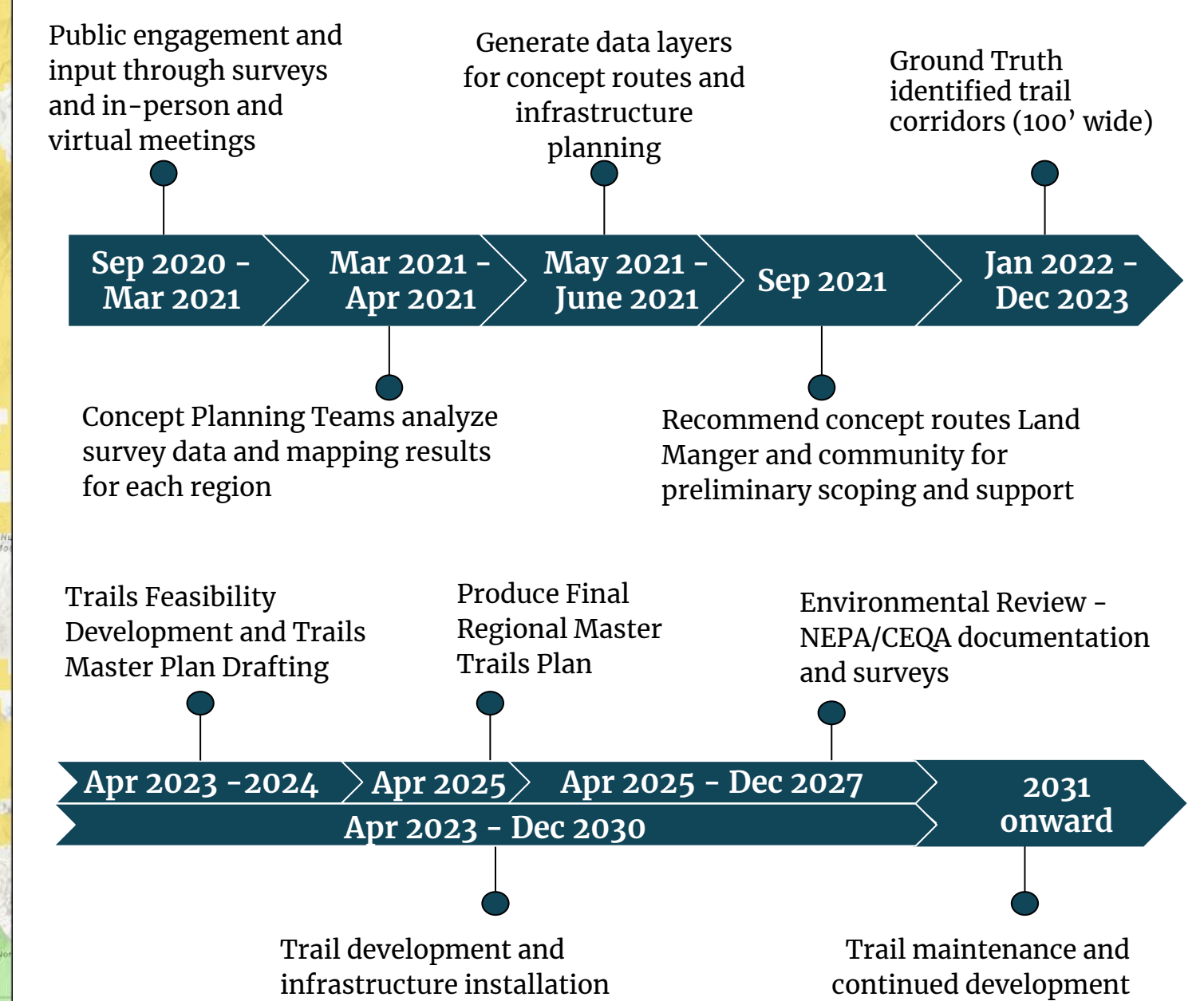
Project Components

572.5 mi Trail Segments - SBTS proposes single lane dirt trail development to Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed standard following Forest Service EM-7720-103 specification, adapted to local conditions. SBTS proposes motorized multi-use destination construction for enjoyment by all user types (hiking, trail running, mountain biking, e-biking, motorcycle riding and horseback).

21 Trailhead Locations - includes new and existing locations requiring infrastructure upgrades and site development

8 Recreation Zones - these are informal designations based on feedback gained from survey responses. They are identified as areas that warrant future additional recreation planning near communities and would include purpose built stacked loop trail systems with a focus on non-motorized opportunities.

Timeline



What It Will Take

We estimate a cost of around **\$54.7 million** to bring the Connected Communities Project to life:

- Phase 1: Planning— \$465,000
 - Funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy and private donations
- Phase 2: Environmental Review— \$6.7 million
 - \$2.05/ft of proposed trail
- Phase 3: Construction - \$40.4 million
 - Includes trail development and infrastructure costs
- Phase 4 - Maintenance - \$2.3 million
 - Includes Annual trail Maintenance costs at \$.70/ft



Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) SBTS started as a volunteer driven non-profit in 2003. SBTS is focused on building sustainable recreation-based communities through stewardship, job creation and world-class events. Providing quality outdoor experiences through trail construction and maintenance in the Lost Sierra.

2022 Accomplishments

- 67 Employees (30 youth)
- 25 Miles Trail Built
- 226 Miles Trail Maintained
- 592 Trail Volunteers
- 4,290 Volunteer Hours
- \$1.45 Million Gross payroll

Get Involved



Contact

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