



2023  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



A yellow CAT 301.7 excavator is shown in the foreground, working on a dirt trail. The operator is visible in the cab. The background features a dense forest of tall pine trees and a mountain range under a clear blue sky. The sun is setting behind the trees on the left, creating a warm, golden glow. The CAT logo and the number 301.7 are visible on the excavator's arm and body.

*our*  
**MISSION**

*To create high quality trail experiences by advocating for, building, and maintaining trails which are progressive, diverse, and promote community.*





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**Cover: Pump track construction by Landon Cramer**

**Inside Cover: Igo trail construction by Mike Ruffell**

**Left: A message left for us on the unfinished pumtrack**



# *a message from our* **DIRECTOR**

When it comes to trails, people say I can talk a lot. It's true, so I'll try and keep this brief for those that take the time to read it.

The picture to the right highlights how I think some people envision Redding Trail Alliance... the "Nate Show". That couldn't be anything further from the truth. Also located in that picture in the background is a trail crew member or volunteer. While I'm often front and center when it comes to talking about what we are doing, it's getting done because of the dedication and commitment from the people in the background. From the extremely supportive and unified RTA board, to our dedicated employees, countless volunteers and strong partners. We are only able to get done what we get done, not because of me, but because of each and every one of them.

Over the next few years, the trail scene in Redding is going to grow exponentially. I'm so excited to be here and be a part of it. The planning and building that is happening now will figuratively and literally shape the future of Redding Trails, so I encourage every one of you to be as involved as you possibly can. A big part of that involvement is financially supporting the work we do. As much as I would love it, trails aren't built with handshakes and high fives. So, while we enjoy you saying thank you, I implore you to go one step further and open your wallet to support the work. For those that are already doing it, trust me when I say we know who you are, and we thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts.

Ok, one more thing, then I'm done. I need to take this time to acknowledge a few key people who have made what we have done over the last number of years possible. Frank Schmidbauer for funding multiple trails and buying us an excavator! Craig Muir for funding the majority of Sweepstakes. And Jeb Allen for getting our butts back into Redding by funding the Swasey trail expansion environmental review and paying for the majority of the construction costs for those same trails! So, if you see any of these guys, shake their hand and thank them for being a local trail hero!







**TONY**



**JOHN**



**PAUL**



**CURT**



**JENEE**



**JESSICA**



**DADDY  
MIKE**



**TODD**

# The 2023 **BOARD**

**Tony Lewis**  
*President*

**John Waldrop**  
*Treasurer*

**Paul Lehman**  
*Secretary*

**Curt Babcock**

**Jenee Eberle**

**Jessica Bigby**

**Mike Ruffell**

**Paul Lehman**

**Todd Dodds**



# 2023 PARTNERS

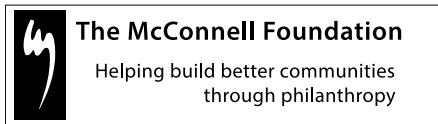


Photo Right: Attending the International Trails Summit with partners from the City of Redding, USFS, The Watershed Center, and not pictured, BLM.





# 2023 Corporate SPONSORS

Corporate sponsors are the financial backbone of our non-profit. With a yearly financial commitment of \$1,000, these generous companies recognize the benefit we are bringing to the community they live in and love. So if you are EVER in need of a service they provide, we encourage you to make sure and give them your business, knowing that you're supporting a company that supports the trails.



**JASON O. SMITH**  
D.M.D., M.S.



**FIRESTORM**  
WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION, INC.



**COM-PAIR**  
SERVICES





*a quick*  
**OVERVIEW**



**5 MILES OF TRAIL BUILT**



**3,000+ HOURS OF  
LABOR**



**\$80,000+ RAISED**



**8 PARTNERS ENGAGED**



# The 2023 PROJECTS



## PROJECTS WE FINISHED IN 2023

*Sloppy Joe Trail*

*Sweepstakes Trail*

*T-Party Trail*

*Salt Creek Heights trails*

## PROJECTS WE STARTED

*The Redding Bike Park*

*Igo Trail*

The 2023 year proved to be a bit of a conundrum when it came to building trails. It provided us with an equal amount of opportunities and challenges. The weather came early and stayed late. We were just as happy as everyone else to see our reservoirs fill back up after years of drought; but the reality is, if it's raining, we are aren't building.

After moving in to start work on the final mile of the Sweepstakes trail in November 2022, we immediately had to retreat as a winter storm covered the trail with snow that ended up staying there until late spring.

With the Mule Ridge expansion project undergoing the environmental review (NEPA) process, we still didn't have anything ready to build here locally in Redding. Enter opportunity one and two, a little thing called private property! Working with Jeb Allen the owner of Palomar Builders, we planned one mile of new trail at Salt Creek Heights. These new sections of trail, in conjunction with the existing Salt Creek trail and Salt Creek Heights trail, aka Three Bridges, would complete a single track circuit around the whole Salt Creek Heights subdivision!

Next up, was over three miles of new trails planned and multiple miles of existing trails improved and adopted to create the Canyon Hollow trail system. The fact that these trails are also on private property helped fast track this project. Originally planned to be constructed by the CCC through a grant obtained by the City of Redding, this project unfortunately got waylaid by the black hole of the covid pandemic. Fighting against staffing issues and a looming deadline, it seemed the project was not to be. Enter opportunity number two. We offered our services to help ensure the project was completed. With our trail dozer, a skilled operator and hand crew leader, we worked with the CCC's to deliver an exciting new trail system right here in the City of Redding.

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Photo: Pump track construction by Landon Cramer





**Photo Left: T-Party Trail reroute construction with Redding Trail Alliance and CCC crew**

As things started to warm and up and dry out, we loaded up the equipment and crew and headed back to Weaverville to finish up the final 1.25 miles of Sweepstakes. For those not familiar with this project, Sweepstakes was our Executive Director's baby, a 5 mile long high speed trail through huge old growth trees on the side of Weaver Bally, that is an easily shuttle to the top of. It's been our most ambitious project to date, and only came to fruition because of a collaborative partnership with the Watershed Center of Hayfork and the generosity of Weaverville local, Craig Muir. As with the rest of the Sweepstakes build, this last mile threw a number of curve balls our way, but nothing we couldn't hit with the accuracy of a three year old wearing a blindfold. In all reality though, the crew did amazing and after over a month of hard work, the final section ended up being some of the best we built.

Opportunity number three came along because of a sizable grant from the Community Foundation of the North State. If you have been following along with our endeavors over the years, you have most likely heard of the "Future Redding Bike Park". Planning for this park was started

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**Photo Above: Balancing act on top of unique rocky terrain on the Igo trail. By Jaret Brantley**

**Photos Below: A snapshot of a day in the life of trail building. Professional crew members are joined by willing volunteers on the Igo trail.**







**Photo: The final few feet connecting the upper and lower portions of Sweepstakes**

by us in late 2018, with a conceptual plan made and released to the public in early 2019. We remember telling people that we hoped to have the park done by 2021. Oh how silly we were. Even though they say hindsight is 20/20, nothing could have prepared us for what happened in 2020. Since then, many hoops have been jumped through, twirled and thrown into the air to make this project a reality. Ground was broke on September 5th on the pumptrack. Unfortunately we didn't get the shape done before the cooler weather came along and prevented us from paving it. That is scheduled for when the warmer weather returns in 2024, and construction of the rest of the park is to follow!



This brings us to our final project of the year, the all new Igo Trail at Swasey Recreation Area. Another project that has been in the works since 2019, and it still would be in NEPA limbo land, had it not been for the generosity of local trail advocate Jeb Allen. His generous contribution allowed us to pay a private firm to conduct the needed environmental review and compile the NEPA document. Having the NEPA in the books, and the project ready to go, we broke ground on the first of four new trails planned for the Swasey Recreation Area in late 2023.

**Photo: Volunteer Vs. Rootwad on Sweepstakes**



**Photo: Cody on Stu the Brown Plow cutting in singletrack trail in Canyon Hollow**



# our 2023 EVENTS



## 2023 EVENTS

*Banff Film Festival World Tour*

*Bigfoot Adventure Challenge*

*Redding Trail Mixer*

*Lemurian Classic*

*The Jackalope Lope*

2023 saw the addition of a few new events and exciting changes to existing events.

During the cold wet month of February, we brought together outdoor enthusiasts for an evening of moving and motivating films from the **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**. For the first time since the passing of the torch by Catalyst Young Professionals in 2020, we sold out the Cascade Theater! The energy created that night is something we look forward to every year and we owe that to our energetic and engaging outdoor community.

Next up was the **Bigfoot Adventure Challenge**. Wait, wasn't this called the Bigfoot Mountain Bike Challenge? Yup, and like its namesake, it's gotten bigger and hairier. Don't ask us about the hairier part. With Cornerstone Community Bank coming on board as the title sponsor for the event, we were able to get creative and really expand this event to engage a larger portion of our community!

We added a trail running/hiking passport and a gravel grinding passport along with our traditional mountain bike and junior passports. With the addition of new ways to engage with our trails and the outdoors in general, we saw a surge in participation and big crossover in people trying out new activities.

During the Bigfoot Challenge, we hosted a brand new event, the **Redding Trail Mixer**. With the goal to bring together all types of trail users to learn from and grow in appreciation of each other, we held this one day event at Swasey Recreation Area. With over 12 groups represented we feel it was a huge success and we look forward to building on it in 2024. This type of event

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**Photo: Lemurian race MC Jonz preps for the starting line gun shot. By Avery Rosenthal-Murray**





can only help ensure our trail system continues to be a symbiotic system of friendly, helpful and polite trail users.

Next we turned up the volume with the 2023 **Lemurian Classic**. Our largest Lemurian to date, we not only saw record numbers, but we saw record temps with the event being held in late May due to conflicting event schedules. 90 plus degree temps and high humidity led to probably the most challenging Lemurian we have ever held, but our participants rose to the challenge and only complained a little bit.

We also welcomed a new title sponsor, Ace Hardware on Eureka Way. With theirs and many other generous sponsors' support, the Lemurian Classic was by far our most successful fundraiser of the year, netting over \$30,000!

Fast forward to the fall and our first ever trail running race, the **Jackalope Lope!** For a few years now we have expressed and heard expressed to us, that our community was lacking longer trail running events. So taking the lessons learned and best practices developed from holding the Lemurian Classic over the years, we figured we could probably pull off a successful trail race.

Set in Whiskeytown this 10ish K and 30ish K trail race utilized the beautiful and rugged trails in the Brandy Creek and Boulder Creek drainages. We knew this race would be tough and had no idea how well it would be received. Due to the size of the event area and wanting to ensure we didn't bite off more than we could chew, we limited the size of the first year to 100 participants. Hoping that we might get 60 or 70 racers, we were absolutely floored when we sold out weeks prior to the event. With a successful first year in the books, we are already looking forward to 2024's Jackalope Lope.

2024 will see the return of all of these events and more!

**Photo: Various groups and agencies at the Redding Trail Mixer**



Photo: The start of the Jackalope Lope 10ish K

Photo: RTA nerds during the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour at the historic Cascade Theatre





# where the money COMES FROM

## 2023 GROSS INCOME SOURCES

### Corporate Sponsors

Local business that donate to our general fund

### Events

MTB Races, Trail Running Races, and Social Events

### Grants/Earmarked Funds

Funds received that are to be spent on a specific project

### Indirect Contributions

Matching funds from businesses, donations from other organizations, distributions etc.

### Direct Contributions

Individual donations received directly from the public

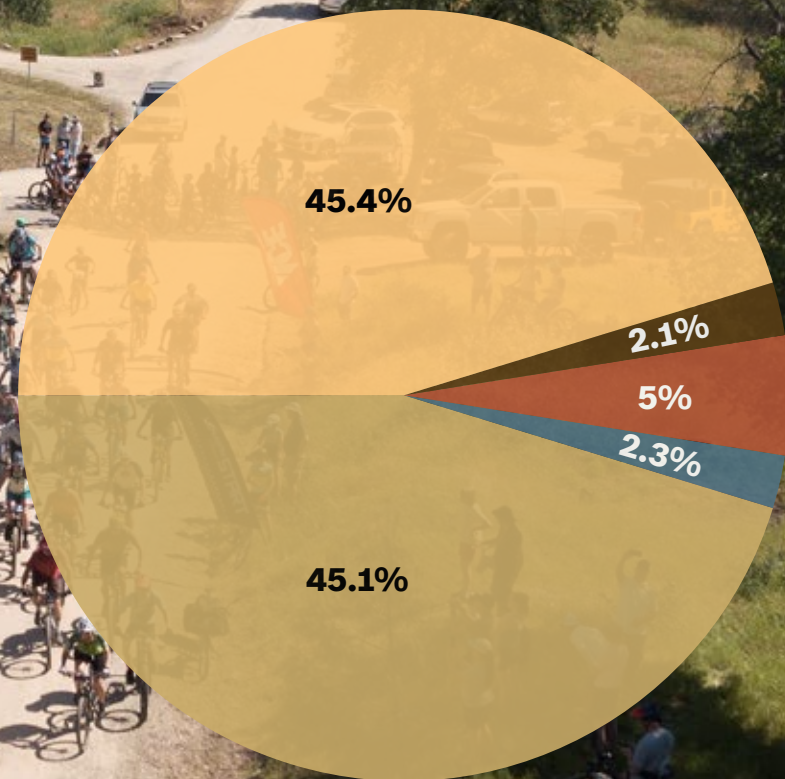


Photo: The pros and experts start the 2023 Lemurian Classic presented by Ace Hardware Eureka Way

# where the money GOES

## 2023 GROSS EXPENSES

### Fundraising/Events

Food, swag, porta potties, website/hosting services and other fees related to events

### Projects/Programs

Trail projects, maintenance, volunteer programs and associated labor payroll

### Insurance

Workers compensation, liability, accident insurance

### Operating Expenses

Fees/Subscriptions, office lease, marketing, merchandise, mileage reimbursement etc.

### Administrative Expenses

Administrative payroll pertinent to daily operations of the organization

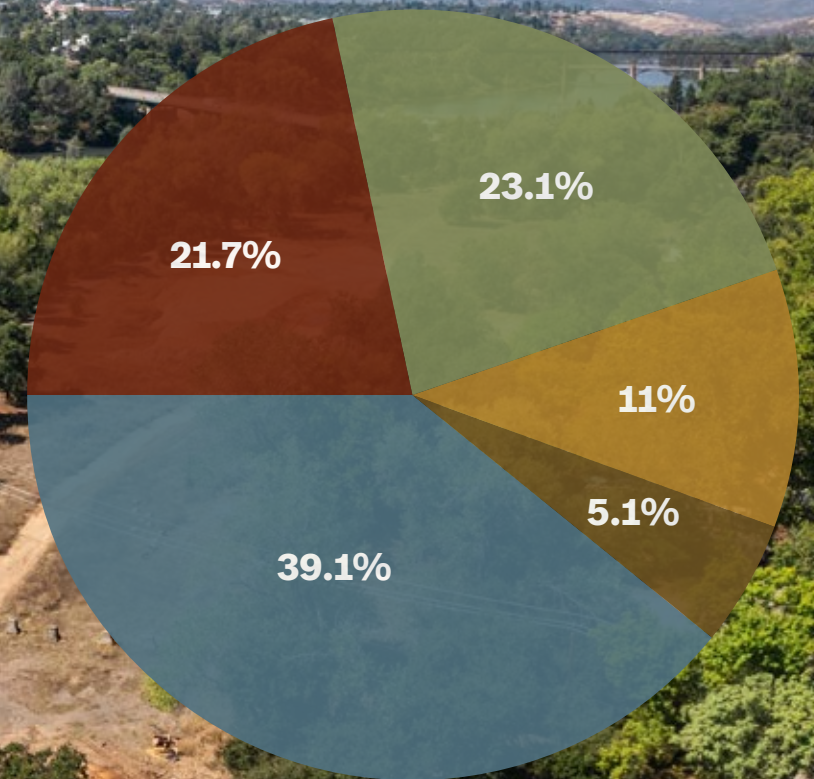


Photo: Day one of construction on the new Redding Bike Park. Photo by Landon Cramer



# Thank **YOU**

As highlighted by the message from our director, 2023 was all about partnerships and growing as an organization to understand that our passion and vision is only enhanced when we collaborate and engage others who also want what's best for our trails and community.

As we move into 2024, we are excited to say that things aren't slowing down, and we would love for you to be a part of it. So, if you have helped us in the past, we thank you and ask that you consider continuing your support. If you haven't been able to get involved, now is the time. With multiple new programs, projects and events we guarantee that you can find something you want to be a part of.

To find out more, visit  
[reddingtrailalliance.org/get-involved](https://reddingtrailalliance.org/get-involved)

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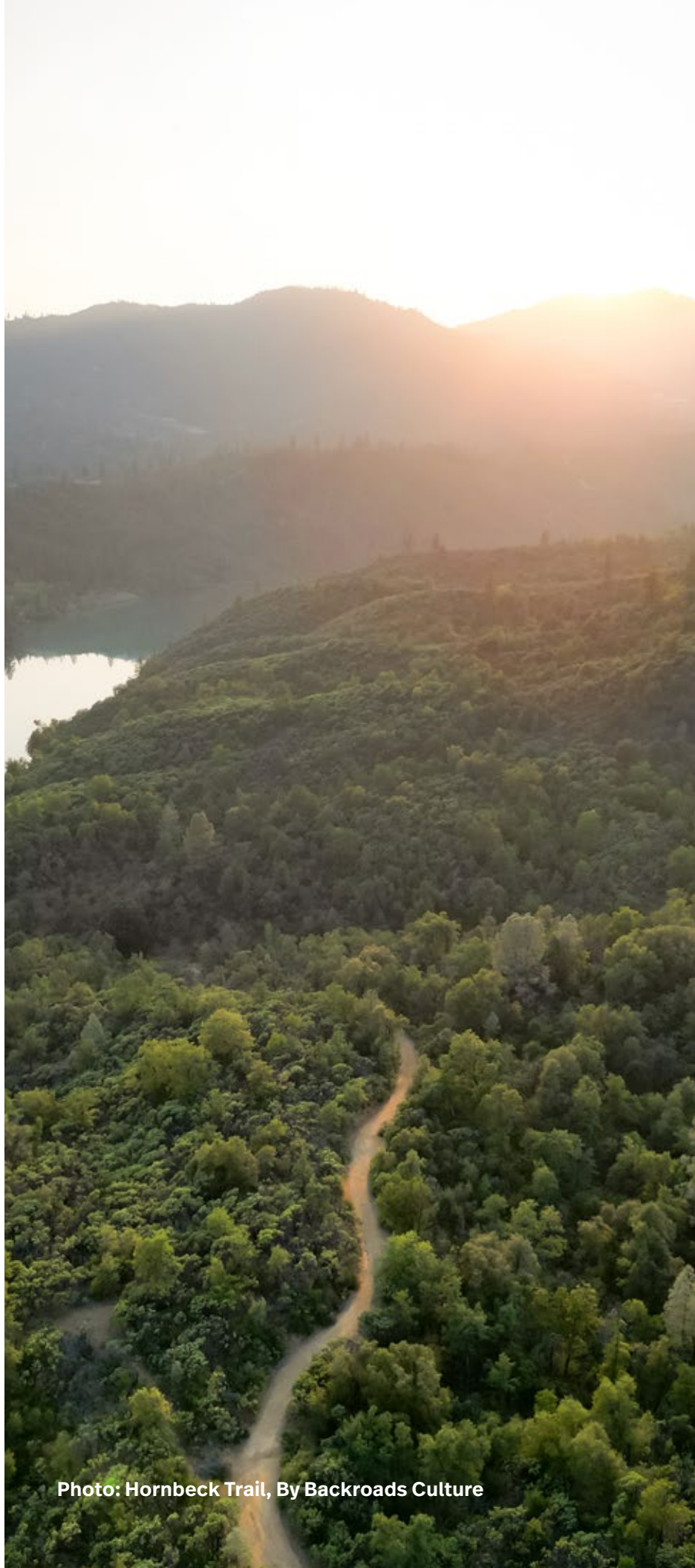


Photo: Hornbeck Trail, By Backroads Culture