



CENTRAL OREGON TRAIL ALLIANCE



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

7,200

Volunteer hours logged in 2020

1,650+

Members strong by the end of 2020

EMMY ANDREWS

**Was hired as COTA's first Executive
Director and first-ever paid employee**

As our members, volunteers, and trail users are painfully aware, 2020 did not turn out exactly as planned. Well, no battle plan survives first contact, but conflagrations and pandemics tend to destroy the best of plans.

As you'll see, COTA managed to accomplish a lot in 2020, thanks to stellar efforts by our Board of Directors, volunteers, and financial supporters. During a spring stand-down on trail work, we adapted our work practices to the new COVID reality to protect ourselves and our volunteers and conform to the personal protection and social distancing requirements of the State of Oregon and our land manager partners.

We were successful with getting vital trail maintenance done, thanks to a tremendous amount of work by a smaller than normal collection of outstanding volunteers. To keep everyone safe, many seasoned trail volunteers worked alone or in pairs and we held only small work parties observing compliant group sizes and safety protocols. In the Bend Chapter, we dubbed 2020 the "Summer of Swampy," and focused most of our work on the Swampy Lakes area trails.

We missed being able to involve more of our local community in trail work events, and we look forward to the day when we can safely gather with you again. We also wanted to do more to train the next generation of trail workers and crew leaders, but we have shifted that plan to 2021.

COTA's volunteers logged 7,200 hours in 2020, which was similar to our total for 2019. Due to the impact of COVID and the fires, more hours than normal were spent on administrative tasks such as developing and implementing our COVID protocols and establishing a paid Executive Director position. Emmy Andrews took the reins as COTA's Executive Director and first-ever employee on January 4, 2021.



CENTRAL OREGON TRAIL ALLIANCE

BEND CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 13th
6:00pm - 8:00pm

virtual meeting on **zoom**



CENTRAL OREGON TRAIL ALLIANCE

CHIP IN FOR TRAILS WIN THIS BIKE

FATBACK RHINO FLT



+11%

Facebook followers

+332%

Instagram followers

+3%

Twitter followers

2,000

Meetup members , +16%

- » COTA continued leadership roles in the Deschutes Trails Coalition, an advocacy organization dedicated to the long-term sustainability of both the forest environment and the trail system within it.
- » We continued participating on the steering committee of the Oregon Mountain Bike Coalition, a statewide organization assembled in 2017 to provide advocacy and support for mountain bike trail organizations throughout Oregon.



SUMMER OF SWAMPY

Our Bend chapter dubbed 2020 the "Summer of Swampy," and focused most of our work on much needed maintenance in the Swampy Lakes area trails.



BEND

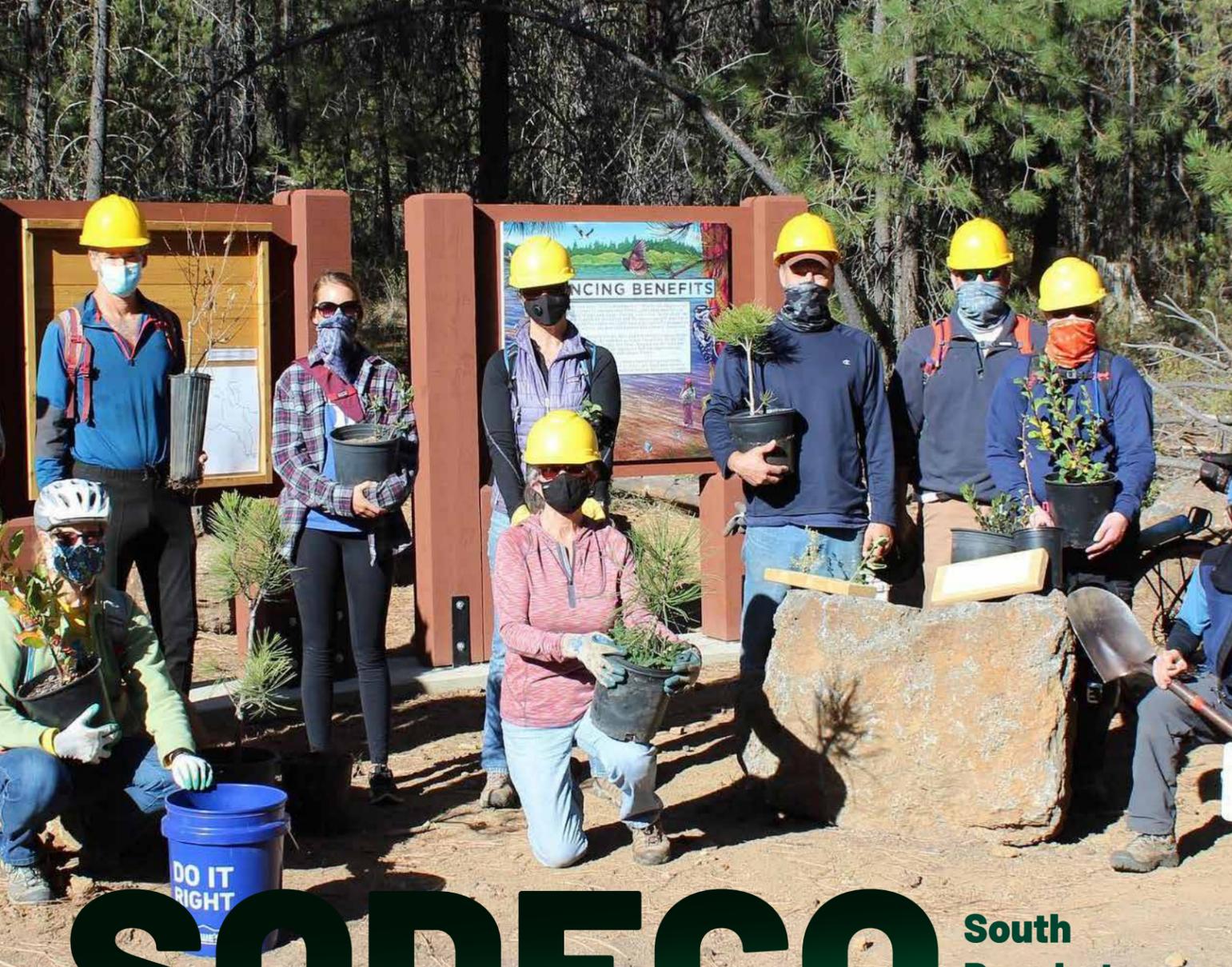
Focus Bend-based efforts on a small number of critical projects including:

- » Overdue maintenance on the Swampy Lakes trail system,
- » Grooming our winter Fatbike trails through last season and the beginning of this one,
- » Major brushwork on the upper portion of the Tylers Uphill route,
- » An extensive effort at keeping the trails free of downed trees, and
- » Individual efforts in addressing drainage issues throughout the Bend trail system.



We partnered with the Central Oregon Nordic Club (CONC) to help the Forest Service fund and build a replacement bridge on the Tumalo Creek trail at its South Fork crossing. COTA and CONC contributed about **\$5,000 and 600 hours of volunteer labor** to help make that happen.





SODECO

South
Deschutes
County

- » We held the grand opening of the new Sunriver trail system recognizing the completion of the first phase of trails, trailhead kiosks, and several rounds of volunteer restoration projects.
- » Roughed in an additional 4 miles of trail connecting the Sunriver system with the Wanoga system and held three volunteer work events to begin the finishing work.



MADRAS



We accumulated **620 hours** of volunteer work adding **13 new trails** to the Madras East Hills, bringing our total to **33 trails and 19 miles in Madras.**



PRINEVILLE



In Prineville we began construction on the 66 west side expansion, including contractor-built wood features and about 2 miles of machine build trail along the rim.



In Redmond we built two access gates in the Cline Buttes area to prevent damage to private fencing.



Our major Ochoco project, **Lemon Gulch**, took a big step forward when we flagged **52 miles** of trail corridor for the Forest Service to begin NEPA review in 2021.



REDMOND



OCHOCOTRAILS

We also continued our valuable collaboration with the Ochoco Trails group, working on future projects in the Ochocos and Crooked River National Grasslands



SISTERS

» **Mark Miskoviec** joined the Board as the new Sisters Chapter Representative

» Met with the Sisters Ranger District to begin new trail project planning



FOR 2021 WE ARE PLANNING TO:

- » Continue improvements in the trail system west of **Bend**.
- » Begin work converting the **Bandit Springs** winter trail system into a summer trail system.
- » Assist the Forest Service to progress the **Lemon Gulch** trail project as they begin NEPA work.
- » Continue the **Lower 66** expansion in Prineville.
- » Continue construction on additional phases of the **Cascade View trail system** on the west side of Cline Buttes.
- » Continue to develop the **Madras East Hills** trail system.
- » Work toward the development of additional trails at **Peterson Ridge** (in partnership with Sisters Trail Alliance and the Forest Service).
- » Finish the **Afternoon Delight** trail connecting the **Sunriver** and **Wanoga** trail systems.
- » Begin construction of the **Chain Reaction** trail in the Sunriver trail system and the **Royal Flush** trail connecting Afternoon Delight with Duodenum.
- » Continue our campaign of education on the protocols for and spirit of **protecting and sharing our trails**.
- » **Support Oregon Equestrian Trails** as advisors in completing their parallel trail construction on a portion of the Metolius-Windigo trail.
- » Continue to **grow our membership base** and **donor support** so that we can expand our capacity to implement our mission.
- » Continue to **increase our social media presence** and **engagement** with our communities.
- » Respond to member and public input on management of over 700 miles of singletrack trails in **partnership** with the **U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Parks, Crook and Deschutes counties**, the **City of Madras**, and other land managers.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Emmy Andrews
Executive Director



Bruce Schroeder
Chairman of the Board



Alex Anderson
Secretary



Adrian Jones
Treasurer



Emma Maaranen
Bend Chapter Rep



Aaron Lazelle
Crook County Chapter Rep



Brennan Morrow
Madras Chapter Rep



Bob Gilbert
Redmond Chapter Rep



Mark Miskowiec
Sisters Chapter Rep



Dan Youmans
South Deschutes County
(SoDeCo) Chapter Rep



Drew Barber
Member at-large



Shaina Forsyth
Member at-large



Cody Gardner
Member at-large



Travis Holman
Member at-large



Laurel Hunter
Member at-large



Woody Keen
Member at-large





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