

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





WHO WE ARE

COTA is a 100% donation-based 501c3 nonprofit (EIN 91-1827339) that works with land managers and other stakeholders to plan for, build, and maintain singletrack trails throughout Central Oregon.

COTA maintains more than 500 miles of singletrack trails in Central Oregon and is actively advocating for more.

We have six chapters: Bend, Crook County, Madras, Redmond, Sisters, and South Deschutes County.

MISSION

COTA's mission is to develop, protect, and enhance the Central Oregon mountain biking experience through trail stewardship, advocacy, collaboration, and education.

VISION

COTA envisions a robust and diverse mountain biking experience that will endure for generations.



BUILD.

WE'RE TRAIL BUILDERS.

Building & maintaining trails lights our fire.

RIDE.

WE'RE MOUNTAIN BIKERS.

Mountain biking is exhilarating! We can't get enough and we want everyone to try it!

RESPECT.

**WE RESPECT ALL PEOPLE,
THE TRAILS, & THE ENVIRONMENT.**

#BUILDRIDERESPECT



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED TRAILS IN 2021!

A huge thank you to our Board of Directors, hundreds of volunteers, 2,100 members, and many financial supporters who made it possible. YOU are why Central Oregon's trails are so great. Thanks for your hard work and generosity!

COTA maintains more than 500 miles of singletrack trails across Central Oregon. We also stay busy working with local land managers to navigate the often lengthy and complex new trail approval process to provide more opportunities to ride.

In 2021, COTA hired its first paid employee, our Executive Director Emmy Andrews, but most of our work is done by volunteers. In 2021, we set a record logging 13,750 volunteer hours. Thank you volunteers!

We increased our membership base by 25% to 2,100. But we know there are more mountain bikers and others passionate about Central Oregon's trails out there. Will you give back to the trails by joining COTA today?

GET INVOLVED!

We'd be stoked for you to be part of our work!

- Become a member or donate
- Join our Meetup group
- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter

Chapter meetings are a great way to get to know people and learn what's going on. Chapter meetings are posted on Meetup, on our website, and in our newsletter. You can also contact a chapter representative.

Trail building and maintenance work events are the heart of what we do. Join us at one or many! No experience is necessary. Events are posted on Meetup. Youth are welcome (check out our website for details).

Log your volunteer hours! COTA's Volunteer Rewards Program offers great thank you gifts to volunteers who are current COTA members and log substantial numbers of hours.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF TRAILS

EVER WONDER HOW A TRAIL GETS BUILT?

A few people just go out in the woods with a couple shovels and some beers, right?

We WISH it was that easy!

In reality, our small staff and dedicated volunteers spend thousands (yes, thousands) of hours every year working with land managers and other stakeholders to plan for new trails.

We work hard to navigate a complex and multi-year process that balances the new trails COTA has proposed with the needs of other trail users, wildlife habitat, cattle grazing, logging operations, wildfire restoration, Native American and other historical resources, and so much more.

COTA has proposed 150 miles of new trails around Central Oregon. We believe these trails are needed to provide equitable access to everyone in Central Oregon, to keep pace with visitor and population growth and the growing popularity of mountain biking.

Building these trails is going to take a ton of work. It will take 10-20 years and a lot of advocacy work and will cost \$8-15 million to make it happen.

Check out these recent media pieces on the trail planning process and the cost of building trails.

www.opb.org/article/2021/11/01/new-mountain-biking-trail-tillamook-state-forest-16-years-in-making/

www.marketplace.org/2021/10/07/mountain-biking-trail-builders-demand/

We need your help to make new trails a reality!

- Be kind to others and yield when appropriate (Bikers yield to hikers and horses. Downhill bikers yield to uphill bikers.)
- Respect private land
- Respect other uses of public land such as cattle grazing (close gates) and logging closures (stay out of closed areas)
- Recognize that building rogue trails damages wildlife habitat and land manager relations, diverts resources from new trail building and maintenance, and is an inequitable and non-inclusive activity
- Respect posted rules and leave no trace
- Participate in advocacy efforts to write land managers and elected officials and show your support

COTA is proud to be an active part of these multi-stakeholder groups:

- Deschutes Trails Coalition
- Ochoco Trails Coalition
- Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition
- Oregon Trails Coalition
- Sisters Trails Working Group

GROWING OUR TEAM

COTA hired two additional staff members in 2022, bringing our small but mighty staff to a total of three.



Alex Brieger
Trails Program Manager



Vanessa Fron
Program Coordinator



Bill Lynch
Board of Directors



Bryna Curry
Secretary, Board of Directors



Danielle Caruso
Marketing Director, Board of Directors

Most of our work continues to be done by our hardworking Board of Directors and volunteers. We added these notable volunteer positions in 2021.



Dan Murray
Development Director



Fred Betz
Grants Manager



COTA BY THE NUMBERS

2100 MEMBERS

6 CHAPTERS

3 COUNTIES

180 WORK EVENTS

500 MILES OF SINGLETRACK WE STEWARD

150 MILES OF TRAIL IN THE PLANNING PHASE

13,750 VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED

10 MILES OF NEW TRAIL BUILT

100 CORE VOLUNTEERS

>250 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



WE'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR 2022!

Build and plan for more trails!

Bend: Continue working with land managers to gain their approval to build the new trails we have proposed.

Crook County: Continue building the Bandit Springs and Barnes Butte trail systems.

Madras: Continue developing the Madras East Hills trails.

Redmond: Finish Stinger trail, plan for future trails in the Cascade View system, and navigate the private land development at Cline Butte to continue to have a fun downhill-focused trail system on adjacent BLM land.

Sisters: Continue working to get new trails around Sisters approved.

SoDeCo: Continue construction of Chain Reaction and Royal Flush.

Take care of the trails we have.

- Stay on top of maintenance on trails across our six chapters.
- Evolve our crew leader and sawyer training and mentorship.
- Gain land manager approval of a proposal that would improve conditions at The Lair.
- Work with land managers to become the steward of record of Central Oregon trails that do not have an assigned stewardship group so that those trails will receive needed maintenance.

Advocate for trails and build a culture of respect and stewardship.

- Continue to advocate for the proposed Lemon Gulch trail system.
- Evolve our campaign on rider education.
- Build a culture of protecting and sharing our trails.

Continue to grow our membership base and donor support so that we can do all these things and more!



New Trail Planning

- Finalized a comprehensive new trail proposal that includes more than 50 miles of new trails in the Bend and SoDeCo chapters.
- The Forest Service is working to approve the first group of exciting projects from this proposal and hopefully we'll be building new trails by early 2023!
- Shhhh, it's not official, but if all goes according to plan, Bend will be seeing more sessionable downhill trails and a trail that will be popular when Flagline is closed.

Trail Stewardship

- Bend Chapter volunteers logged more than 5,000 hours maintaining trails in 2021. The Phil's Trail network, Tyler's, Wanoga trails, Upper Whoops, South Fork, and many more received a ton of love. Volunteers maintained berms and jumps, repaired braking bumps, narrowed trails that had widened, did rock work, brushing, improved drainage, repaired eroded areas, and much more.
- Rebuilt the puncheon on South Fork. This project took over 1,000 volunteer hours and was supported by a grant from The River Network and 10 Barrel Brewing.



BEND

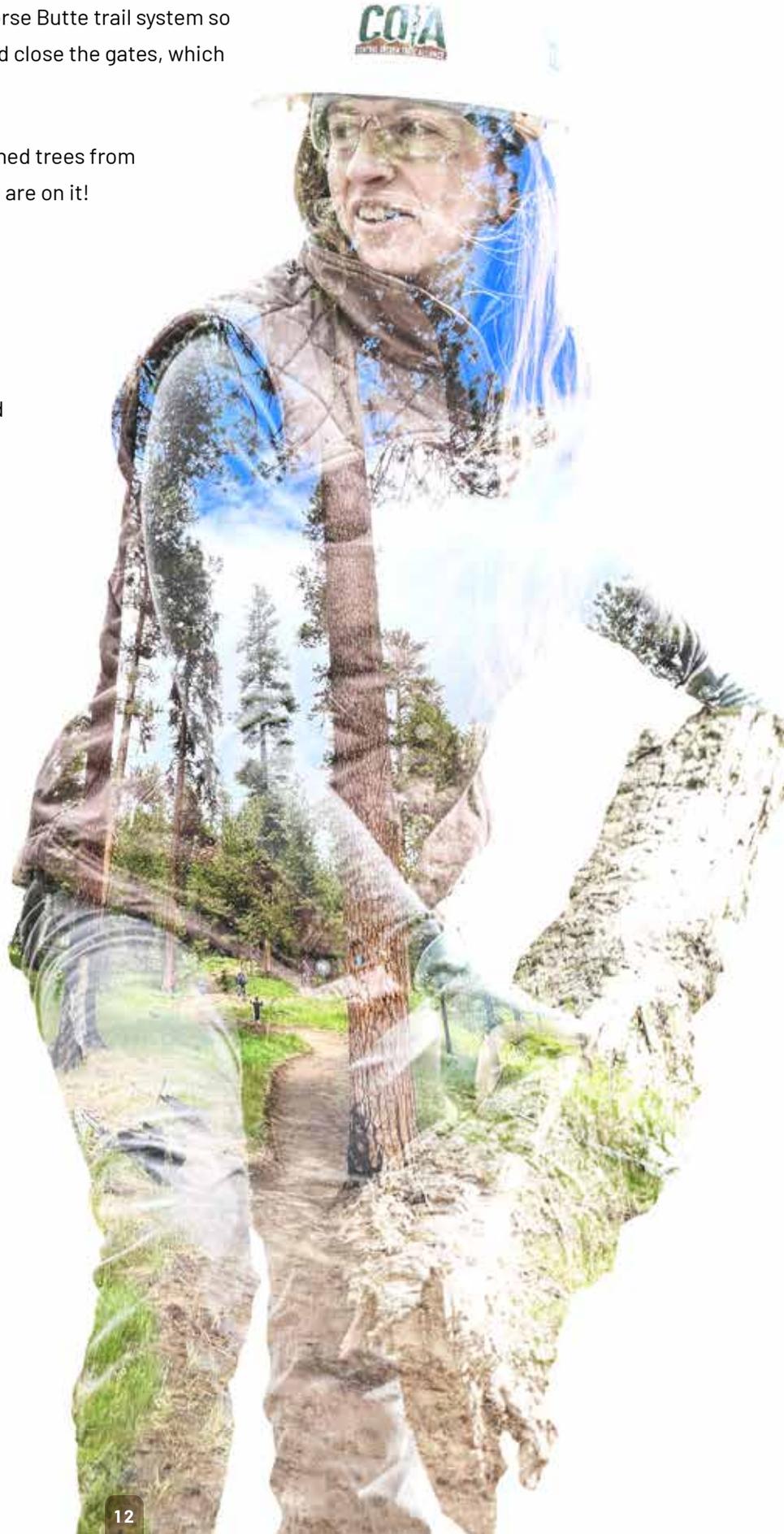
- Installed green rideovers at 5 gates in the Horse Butte trail system so riders no longer must dismount and open and close the gates, which benefits cyclists and ranchers!
- Our Sawyer team cleared at least 1,000 downed trees from trails. If a tree falls in the forest, our sawyers are on it!

Wanoga Fat Bike Trails

- 2020-2021 was the longest season yet with grooming from November 17 through the end of March.
- The 2021-2022 season ran from mid-December to mid-March.

Community

- Formed a freeride group so COTA can better understand and respond to the needs of this rider community and provide the support needed for areas including The Lair, Tiddlywinks, and the Phil's pump track/ bike park.
- Established the Women of COTA to work to address the dearth of female trail workers. This program was such a success for bringing new volunteers together and helping them take the first steps to doing trail work it will be expanded to all interested people in 2022!



CROOK COUNTY



New Trails!

- Completed the Quadruple Bypass trail on the 66 Trail system on the Facebook Data center side of Hwy 126.
- Built new trails at **BANDIT SPRINGS**, where we are converting an existing winter trail system to a 4-season system.
- Mapped the system of user-built trails at **BARNES BUTTE** and began modifying and adding new trails to improve the user experience. This popular trail system is within Prineville City limits.

Trail Stewardship and Advocacy

- Maintained existing trails in the 66 Trail system.
- Advocated for the Lemon Gulch trail system, a 50-mile trail system proposed by the Ochoco Trails Coalition.

MADRAS

The Madras East Hills trail system added 2.5 miles of new trails in 2021. The new trails—and many of the existing trails—are packed with fun and challenging features like tabletops and wood features.

The Madras Team also added a permanent cyclo-cross course for cross bike training and races that includes stairs, a bridge, and a wood wave.

And did you know Madras Trails welcome class 1 e-bikes?

REDMOND

Redmond Chapter received a grant from the Bend Sustainability Fund to complete the last part of the **STINGER** trail, which is part of a 12-mile system out of the **CASCADE VIEW** trailhead. Stinger climbs to some of the best mountain views around—check it out while it is still a hidden gem!

The times are a changin' at **CLINE BUTTE**. Although some Cline Butte trails are on BLM land, others are on private land that is now being developed. COTA will do our best to preserve the challenging downhill runs and work with BLM to continue to have a fun trail system there. We need your help to make it happen: give mountain bikers a good name by respecting private property, parking in appropriate places, and closing gates installed by ranchers. Thank you!

And did you know the **RADLANDS** trail system welcomes class 1 e-bikes?

SISTERS

Sisters Chapter worked hard alongside Sisters Trail Alliance and Oregon Equestrian Trails to come up with a plan for future trails in the Sisters area. The plan was presented to the U.S. Forest Service in August 2021, and we are now working through the complex and lengthy approval process. It's taking a lot of work, but the future of trails in Sisters looks bright!

Volunteers also worked hard to maintain **BIKE PARK 242**. This bike park has some great jump lines, wood features, and a nice progressive dirt drop area.

SOUTH DESCHUTES COUNTY

THE SUNRIVER TRAILS PROJECT RECEIVED THE BUILDING A BETTER CENTRAL OREGON AWARD FOR "BEST NEW RECREATION OPTION" FROM THE CENTRAL OREGON ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS.

New Trails!

- Worked with Black Sage Dirt Works to build the first phase of Royal Flush, an intermediate flow trail. Stay tuned; the last half mile of Royal Flush is coming soon.
- Completed the build of Afternoon Delight and improved its table-top jumps.
- Determined the route for the new Chain Reaction rock tech trail and began building.

Trail Stewardship

- Volunteers did tons of maintenance on the Black Rock, Roundabout, and Afternoon Delight trails.
- Built a new kiosk at the intersection of Forest Roads 41 and 280 with help from a local Boy Scout Troop and improved an existing kiosk.
- Installed trail signage along the new section of Afternoon Delight trail.





**BUILD
RIDERESPECT**



CENTRAL OREGON TRAIL ALLIANCE



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