

# 2019 Stewardship Report

Photo by: Trevor Meyer



## Siskiyou Mountain Club

Est. 2010

*Long live the backwoods trails*



-- Est. 2010 --



Fall, 2019

Dear SMC Stakeholders,

It was 10 years ago, on a balcony in Greece during our honeymoon, that we agreed to each other that hell or high water we would restore a route winding from one side of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to the other. We'd been hiking in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for a few years by then, but never crossed this route because of the impenetrable trail conditions we encountered.

It was then that Siskiyou Mountain Club was born, and we made a promise to restore the Trans-Kalmiopsis Route.

The next decade went by fast. We kept our promise, and the Club grew from a small group of scrappy volunteers into a thriving community organization with broad support. We grew a core staff team and built an 800-person membership while fostering important relationships. In front of all that, our seasonal programs exploded.

Slow and steadfast, our crews started rebuilding a collection of signature trail routes that would have been lost forever. Now, after a decade of grind, Siskiyou Mountain Club is excited to share those signature routes that we resuscitated.



So as SMC embarks on its 10-year anniversary, we invite you to join us on this new summit. Learn about these routes and the places they go. Then join us for a group outing we have planned next year on each route (see back page). Share these places with your friends, your family, and let them become part of your outdoor life.

Always Leave No Trace, and long live the backwoods trails.

And, finally, thank you to all those who believe and invest in this vision, whatever form that commitment may take.

Sincerely,

**Gabriel Howe, Executive Director**

**Jillian Stokes, Founder and Lifetime Volunteer**

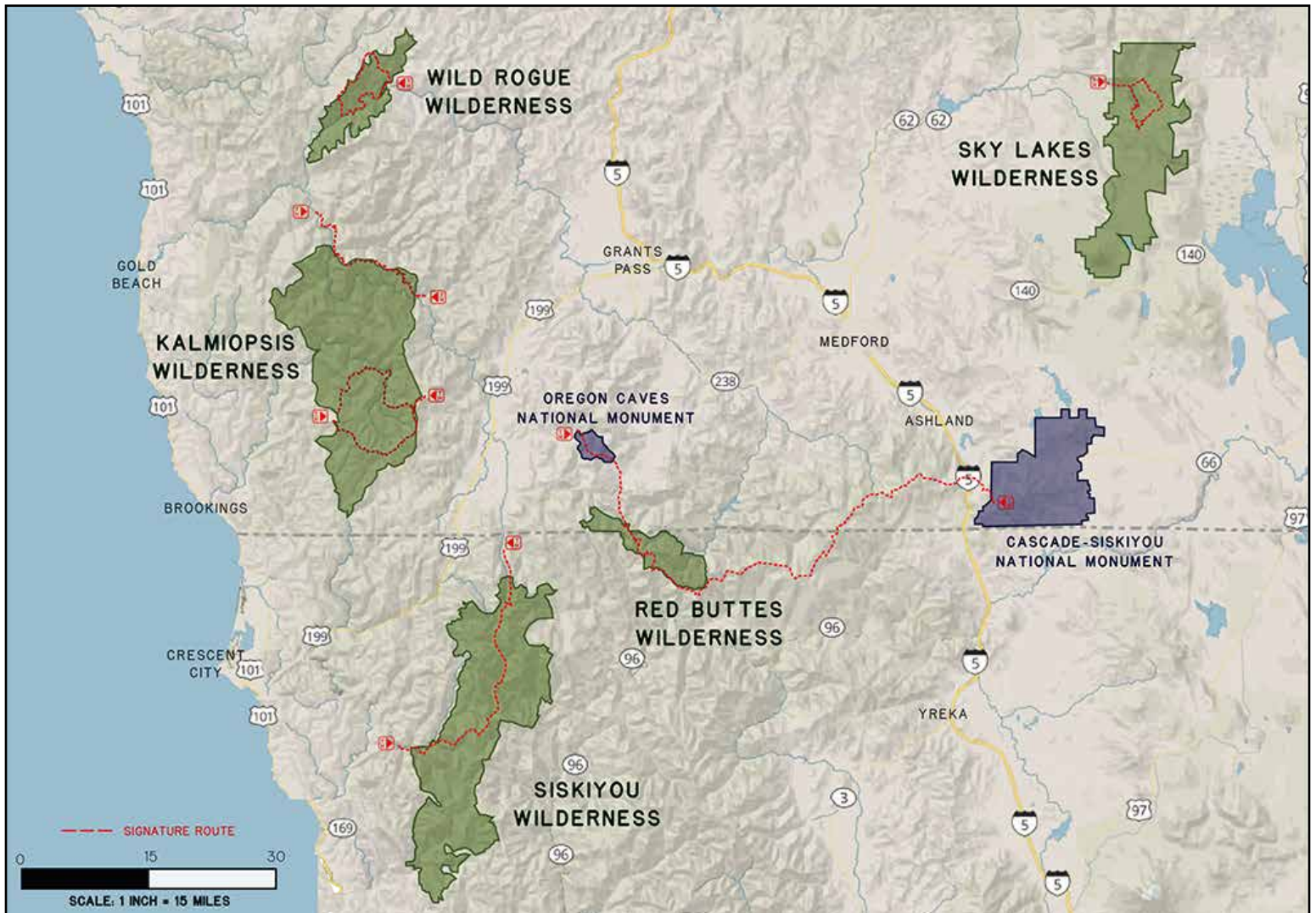
## ABOUT **SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN CLUB**

The Siskiyou Mountain Club is a 501(c)(3) public charity that partners with public agencies to leverage private dollars to match federal grant awards. We take those funds to pay staff, support interns, and coordinate volunteers. We also lead recreational outings, put on community events, and promote public lands through diverse communications channels.

2020 will mark our 10th year operating. In that time, our budget has grown to roughly \$350,000 with healthy ratios of revenue distribution.

## THE SMC **PROMISE**

We promise to maintain the trails we adopt **at least once every three years**. We currently have around **350 miles** of trails in a portfolio we've been building since 2010, and the routes we promise to maintain are incorporated into our board-approved strategic plan.



*The Wilderness areas we work in, with signature routes (described below) highlighted in red.*

# 2019 SEASON SYNOPSIS

**TOTAL MILES MAINTAINED** ■ 124

**TOTAL MILES RESTORED** ■ 61.5

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS** ■ 1,012

**TOTAL INTERN HOURS** ■ 3,290

**TOTAL STAFF HOURS** ■ 8,273



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

W. FORK CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

KALMIOPSIS RIM TRAIL



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

TRAIL NAME & #	MILES MAINTAINED	MILES RESTORED	AREA	LAST WORKED	NOTES
FIR GLADE TRAIL #955	5.7		RED BUTTES	Summer 2019	Good shape
STEVE'S FORK TRAIL #906		5	RED BUTTES	Summer 2019	
SUCKER CREEK TRAIL #1237		2.5	RED BUTTES	Fall 2019	Some moderate brush and a dozen logs down
BOUNDARY TRAIL #1207	8		RED BUTTES	Fall 2018	Hard to follow in places from Sucker Gap to Swan Mountain
CAMERON MEADOWS TRAIL #953	5		RED BUTTES	Fall 2019	A few logs down and moderate brush south of Frog Pond
FORT GOFF TRAIL #956	1.2		RED BUTTES	Summer 2019	
SHOOFLY TRAIL #953	1		RED BUTTES	Spring 2019	
WHISKEY CREEK TRAIL #914	1.8	1.5	RED BUTTES	Fall 2018	About 2 miles cleared from lower trailhead
HORSE CAMP TRAIL #958	3.9		RED BUTTES	Fall 2018	
LITTLE CHETCO TRAIL #1121		2.89	KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	
UPPER CHETCO TRAIL #1110	5		KALMIOPSIS	Summer 2019	Maintained, minor tread issues. Brush between Box Canyon and Jct. w/ 1110.
KALMIOPSIS RIM TRAIL #1124	16	12	KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	Some heavy brush near Onion Camp. Clear to Mt. Billingslea
ILLINOIS RIVER TRAIL #1161	30		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	In good shape
PUPPS CAMP WAY #1174		2	KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	100 trees between Collier Bar and South Bend Mtn.
SOUTH BEND MOUNTAIN TRAIL	1		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	In good shape
COLLIER BAR TRAIL #1182		3.5	KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	Trail rebuilt
BABYFOOT RIM TRAIL #1126	2.4		KALMIOPSIS	Fall 2018	
BABYFOOT LAKE TRAIL #1124A	1.25		KALMIOPSIS	Fall 2018	Annual maintenance needed
EMILY CABIN TRAIL #1129		2.5	KALMIOPSIS	Fall 2018	
BAILEY MOUNTAIN TRAIL #1109	5.2		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	Carter Creek to Slide Creek is good
SHORTY NOBLE WAY #1185	1		KALMIOPSIS	Spring 2019	Trail in good shape
CLEAR CREEK NAT. REC. TRAIL	19		SISKIYOU	Summer 2019	Two large logs down near Wilderness Falls
SOUTH KELSEY NAT. REC TRAIL	5	15	SISKIYOU	Summer 2019	In good condition from Elbow Springs to South Fork trailheads
BOUNDARY TRAIL #4E50		8	SISKIYOU	Summer 2019	Primitive trail maintained from Harrington to Elk Valley
W, FORK CLEAR CREEK TRAIL		6.5	SISKIYOU	Summer 2019	
MIDDLE FORK ROGUE TRAIL #978	8.5		SKY LAKES	Summer 2019	In good shape. Could be impacted by '19 Gopher Fire.
HALIFAX TRAIL #1088	3		SKY LAKES	Summer 2019	In good shape. Could be impacted by '19 Gopher Fire.

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# THE PEOPLE

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Our Professional Crew is a small team of employees who are self-supported and dispatched to the most acute trail challenges. We assign our Pro Crew to the most technical tasks and they may perform work outside of our current footprint.

## **Professional Crew**

Photo by: Trevor Meyer



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

## **Volunteer Crews**

Our Volunteer Crews mostly help keep up on routine maintenance and work anywhere from a half-day on front country trails to challenging, week-long forays deep in the backwoods.

Amy Barnhart is one of those volunteers who helped work in the Red Buttes Wilderness. She grew up in New England and has been in Oregon for 10 years. "I hadn't done any crosscutting since 2010 when I worked for Americorps," she says. "So I was re-learning." Barnhart wanted to contribute to the mission.

We don't depend on Barnhart and other volunteers to show up in huge numbers to provide dreamy photo ops and gaggles of volunteer hours. Our volunteers show up to get work done. They're made up of mostly small teams with skill, commitment, and grit.

"I hike some of the trails you work and I know they'd be gone without SMC," adds Barnhart.



## Wilderness Conservation Corps

SMC's Wilderness Conservation Corps is our 21st-century conservation service program. We hire college interns who work June through August. They are dispatched on assignments mostly within our footprint that require heavy lifting and heaps of labor. WCC crews are led by skilled staff members with field certifications from the USDA Forest Service.

Interns are recruited locally and from all over the United States. 2019 intern Laina Rose is a student at Southern Oregon University and she helped work on our signature routes. "The work was intense," she says, pointing out that her crew was waking up before light and working longer than 12 hours some days. "The area was beautiful she adds."

Jack Drimer worked with Rose all summer. "I'd be lying if I said I never wanted to quit," he writes. "Nevertheless, it is during these moments of adversity that I learned the most about myself." He says it's different than a regular job "where when you're finished you go home. We were in the elements 24/7."

Each evening interns read as part of their program. There was an Edward Abbey quote that Drimer took with him: "'All one to me -- sand-storm or sunshine I am content, so long as I have something to eat, good health, the earth to take my stand on, and light behind the eyes to see by.'"

Rose, Jack and their peers receive a stipend, housing, scholarship money, and the opportunity to receive college credits through their academic programs. Part of their program includes completion of courses through University of Montana's Arthur Carhart Wilderness Institute, and interns complete required readings and journaling.



Photo by: Trevor Meyer



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

# SIGNATURE ROUTES

2019 marked a year of signature trail routes restored throughout the reaches of Northwest California and Southwest Oregon. Our crews focused on working through gaps connecting already active trail networks.

These signature routes do not represent the only trails we maintain at least once every three years, but **they constitute the core of our promise**. They include:

Illinois River Trail

Lilla and John Leach Loop

Cascades to Caves Monument Route

Young Kelsey Route

Wild Rogue Loop

Wolf Loop

- *Kalmiopsis Wilderness*

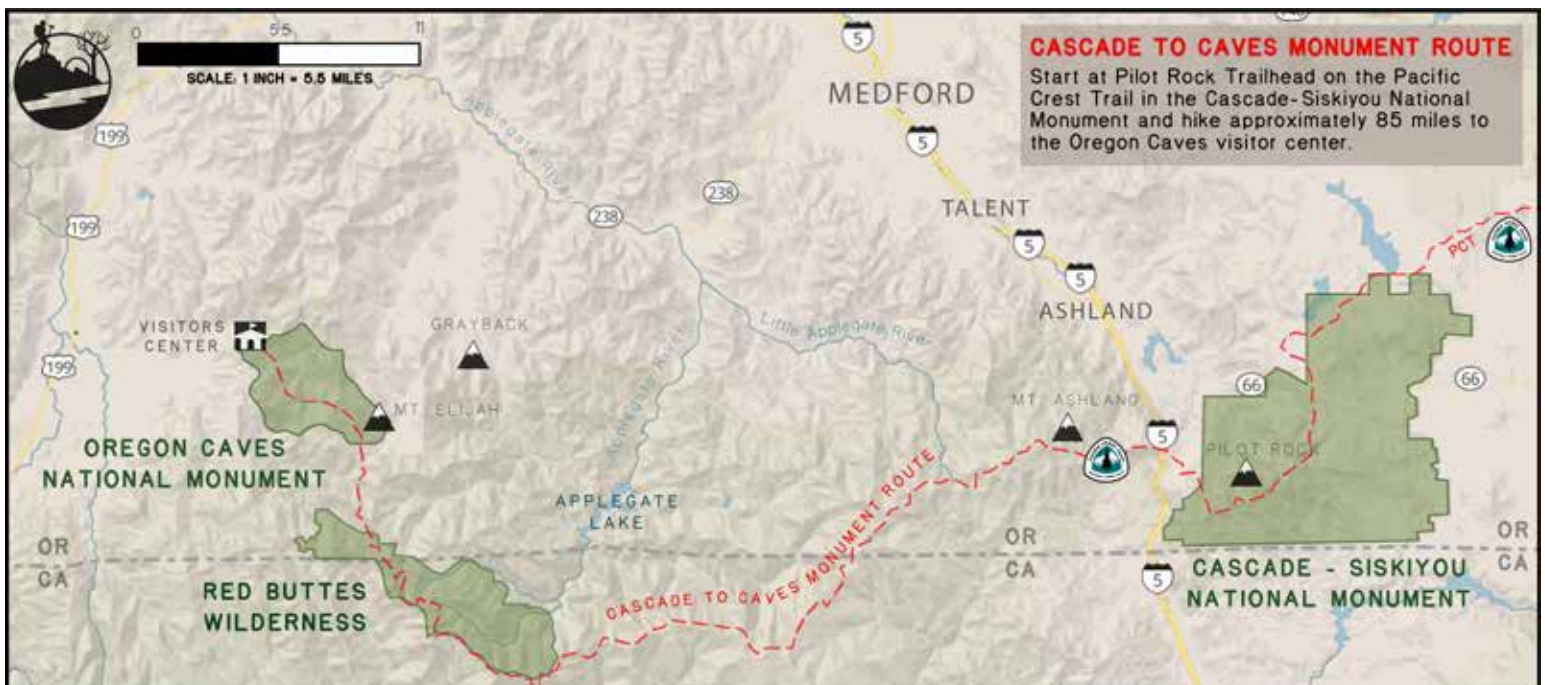
- *Kalmiopsis Wilderness*

- *Red Buttes Wilderness*

- *Siskiyou Wilderness*

- *Wild Rogue Wilderness*

- *Sky Lakes Wilderness*





# Cascade to Caves Monument Route

Miles: 85

Completed: Summer, 2019

## Area:

Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest  
Klamath Nat. Forest  
Red Buttes Wilderness  
Oregon Caves Nat. Monument

## Support for work:

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors  
REI

The route starts at Pilot Rock, a 500-foot basalt formation that turns the heads of many a driver as they pass I-5 at the Oregon-California border. From there it traverses west and meanders through the Red Buttes Wilderness, ending at the Oregon Caves Visitor Center.

REI has contributed nearly \$20,000 to the project over two years. "At REI we fight for life outdoors," says their Medford store manager, Veronica Malone. "The Cascade to Caves Monument route is a unique trail system that allows thru-hikers and weekend explorers to come together on a shared path with stunning views."



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

**BEFORE**



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

**AFTER**

The Cascade to Caves Route uses about 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, from Pilot Rock to Cook 'n Green Pass, then continues along a commanding complex of rocky summits rising higher than 7,000'. It then drops into an expansive basin peppered by cedars so big they're often mistaken for California Redwoods. From there, the route rises back to the high Siskiyou before reaching a labyrinth of marble caves.

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest recreation planner Brian Long has hiked some of it. "The route provides another great opportunity," he says, adding that it includes rare plant communities seen nowhere else in the world.

The route's western arm from Cook 'n Green Pass to Mt. Elijah had fallen into disrepair after decades-long neglect combined with sustained fire damage. Restoration work started in 2016 and was complete in summer 2019.

"We can't wait to get our team and community outside to enjoy it," adds Malone.

# KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS

## ***Lilla and John Leach Loop***

**Miles: 50    Last maintained: Spring, 2019**

**Area:**

Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest

**Support for work:**

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors

This 50-mile route rides along the Kalmiopsis Rim before dropping into Oregon's Wild & Scenic Chetco River. It traverses the canyon for about 10 miles and rises again to the Kalmiopsis highlands. The trail route is exceptionally rugged, with over 14,000 feet of elevation change.

Board member Ryan Ghelfi is an ultra-marathon runner with a passion for trails. He ran the route overnight in fall 2018. "There's nothing like looking out from a ridgetop and surveying land that is truly wild," he writes. "Perhaps next year I'll find the time to do it in one day."

The route Ghelfi ran with his wife, Natalie, incorporates rare botanical areas, commanding ridgescapes, mountain lakes, and offers the quintessential Kalmiopsis experience. It is not for the faint of heart or your soft-soled hiker, but it offers a depth of solitude and degree of challenge hard to find in the continental United States. And most trail users will take more time than the Ghelfis.

The route was first restored in 2015, but has taken heavy annual maintenance as the area exists in the damaging wake of multiple wildfires from over the last two decades.



## ***Illinois River Trail***

**Miles: 30**

**Last maintained: Summer, 2019**

**Area:**

Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest

**Support for work:**

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors

For the first time in over a decade, the entire trail is passible. The National Recreation Trail traverses the northern recess of Oregon's Kalmiopsis Wilderness Areas, highlighting rare botanical areas, old growth forests, mountain prairies, and, of course, the rugged banks of the Illinois River canyon.

The system trail had fallen into

disrepair as another cooperator picked at it in bits and pieces. But in 2019, with support from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, we were able to maintain the route in entirety. The work was performed by our Pro Crew. There is still a bridge at the trail's eastern terminus that burned in 2019 and will be replanked this fall.



# KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS

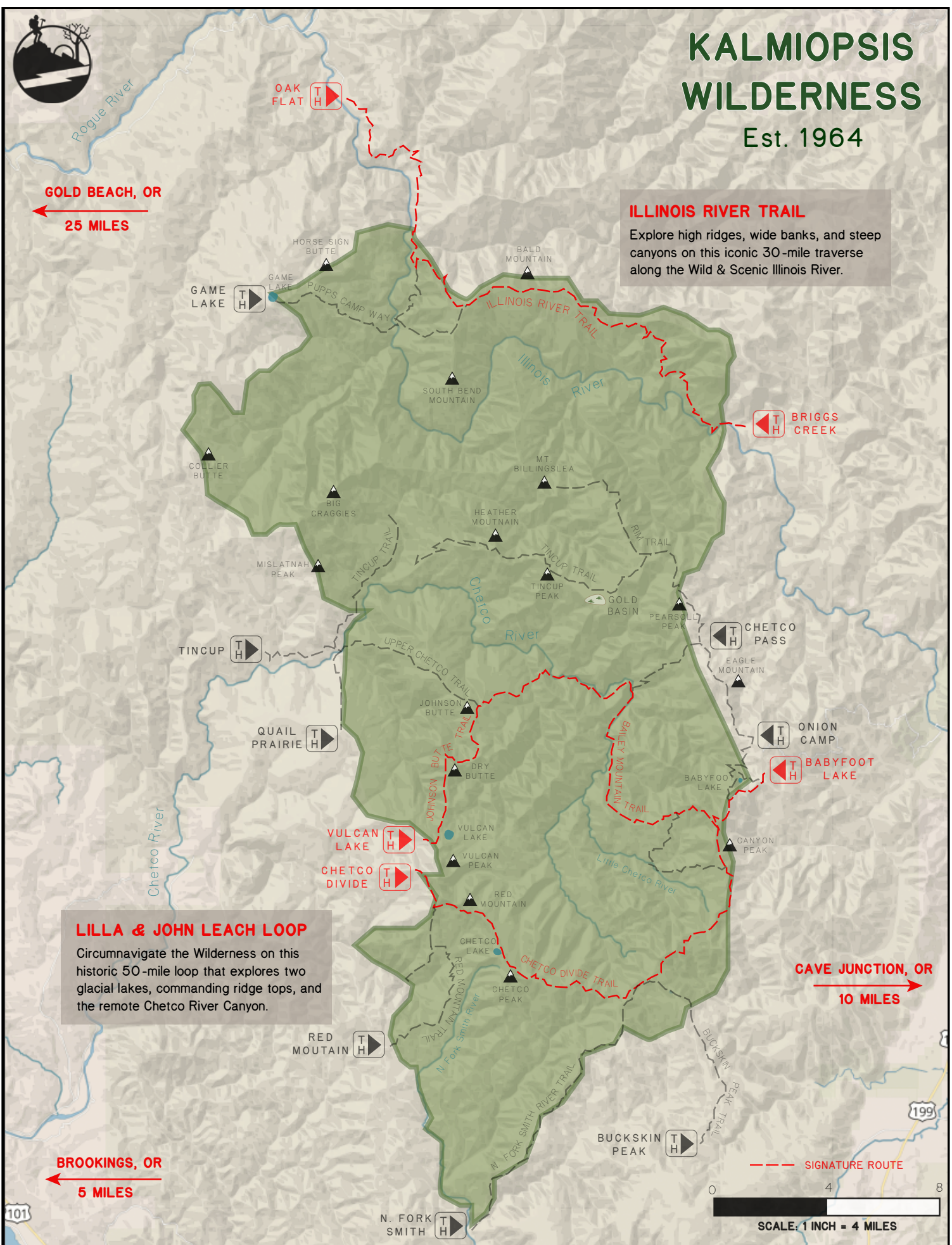
Est. 1964

## ILLINOIS RIVER TRAIL

Explore high ridges, wide banks, and steep canyons on this iconic 30-mile traverse along the Wild & Scenic Illinois River.

## LILLA & JOHN LEACH LOOP

Circumnavigate the Wilderness on this historic 50-mile loop that explores two glacial lakes, commanding ridge tops, and the remote Chetco River Canyon.



# SISKIYOU WILDERNESS

## Young Kelsey Route

Miles: 40

Last maintained: Summer, 2019

### Area:

Klamath Nat. Forest  
Six Rivers Nat. Forest  
Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest

### Support for work:

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors  
Del Norte Trail Alliance

This 40-mile route begins at the lower reaches of Oregon's East Fork-Illinois River, rising to the lush plateau of Young's Valley. From there walk along the pristine Clear Creek, then ascend its West Fork to the South Fork-Kelsey National Recreation Trail. Traverse a rugged highland area and finally descend to the South Fork Smith River where there are deep emerald pools and an old growth forest out of this world.

Field director Aaron Babcock has been putting time into the

route since 2016 when he started work on its northern arm. "There was some pushback," he says. "I think a lot of people thought we couldn't do it." But Babcock and his crews proved them wrong.

He continued piecing the sections together. This year our Pro Crew and Wilderness Corps were able to restore the West Fork-Clear Creek Trail and the Kelsey Trail, finally connecting this signature route through Northwest California's 180,000-acre Siskiyou Wilderness Area.



Photo by: Trevor Meyer



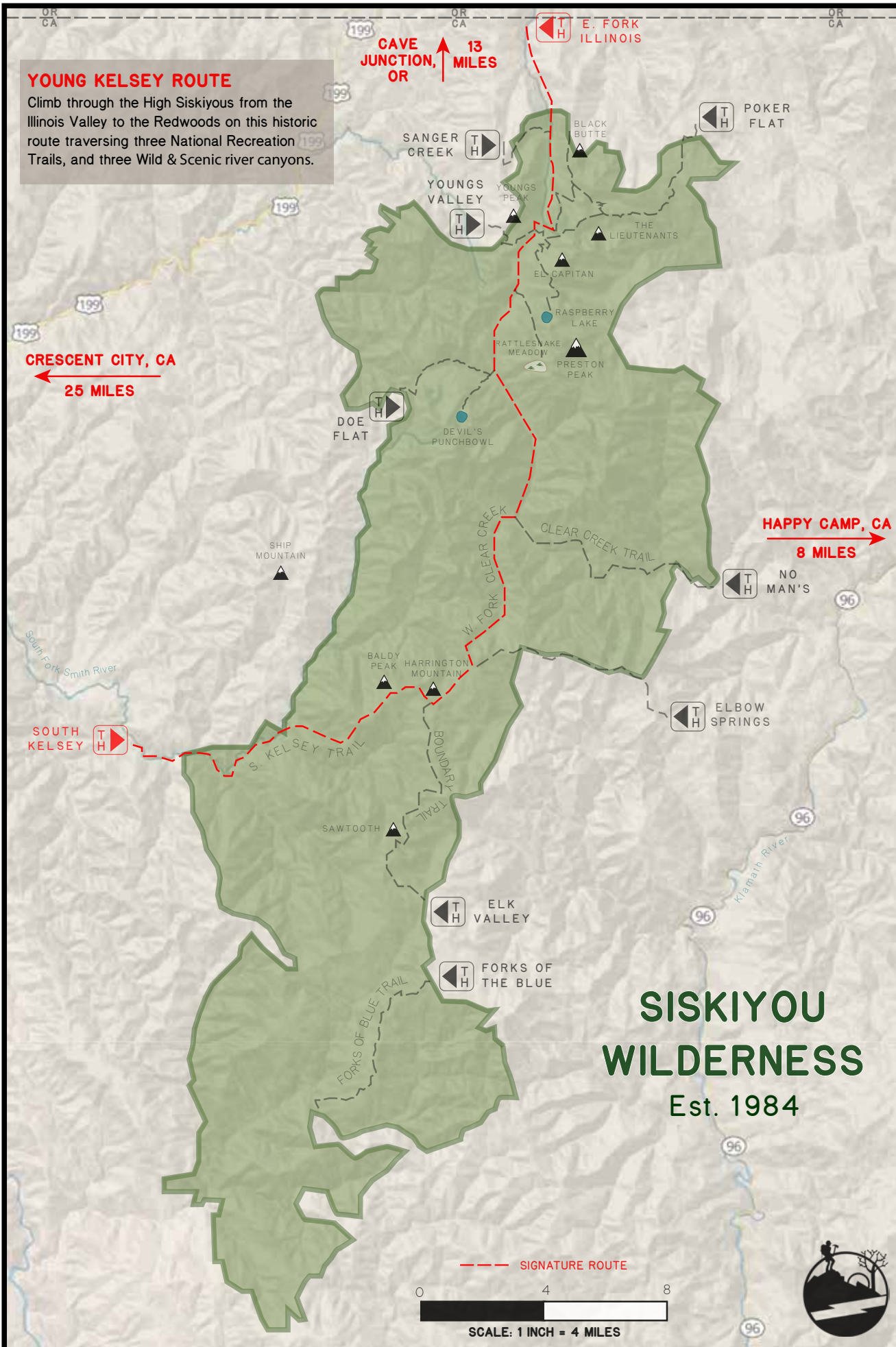
Photo by: Trevor Meyer



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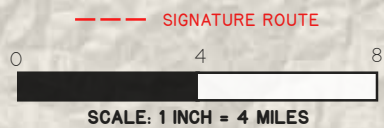
### YOUNG KELSEY ROUTE

Climb through the High Siskiyou from the Illinois Valley to the Redwoods on this historic route traversing three National Recreation Trails, and three Wild & Scenic river canyons.



# SISKIYOU WILDERNESS

Est. 1984



# WILD ROGUE WILDERNESS

## Wild Rogue Loop

Miles: 27

Last maintained: Fall, 2017

**Area:**

Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest

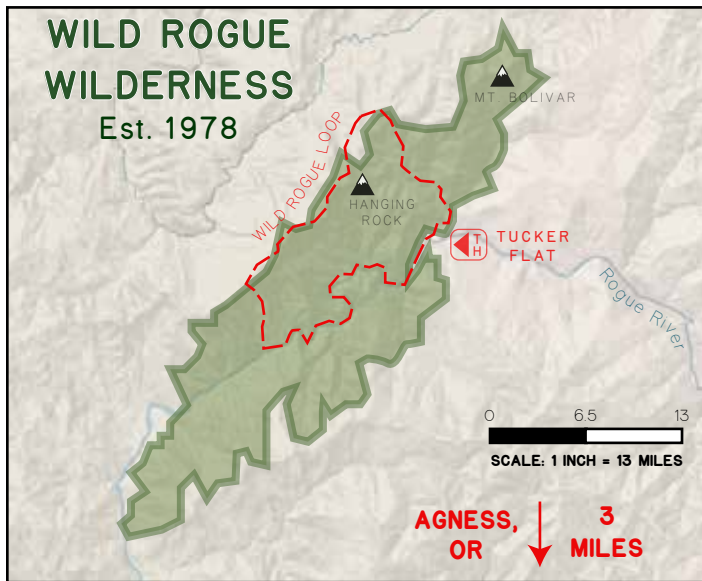
**Support for work:**

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors  
REI

The 27-mile route combined the Mule Creek, Panther Ridge, Clay Hill, and Rogue River trails to form an awe-inspiring loop that traverses Oregon's Wild Rogue Wilderness (35,600 acres). The deep gorges of Mule Creek rise to stands of old growth more pristine than most anything west of Interstate-5. Clay Hill is home

to a storied history, and the eight mile section of the Rogue River Trail from there to Mule Creek is especially unique.

The route was restored in 2015 and we've kept our promise ever since, though the Mule Creek Trail presently needs heavy maintenance since we maintained it last in fall 2017.



# SKY LAKES WILDERNESS

## Wolf Loop

Miles: 26

Last maintained: Summer, 2019

**Area:**

Rogue River-Siskiyou Nat. Forest  
Winema Nat. Forest

**Support for work:**

USDA Forest Service  
Private Donors  
REI

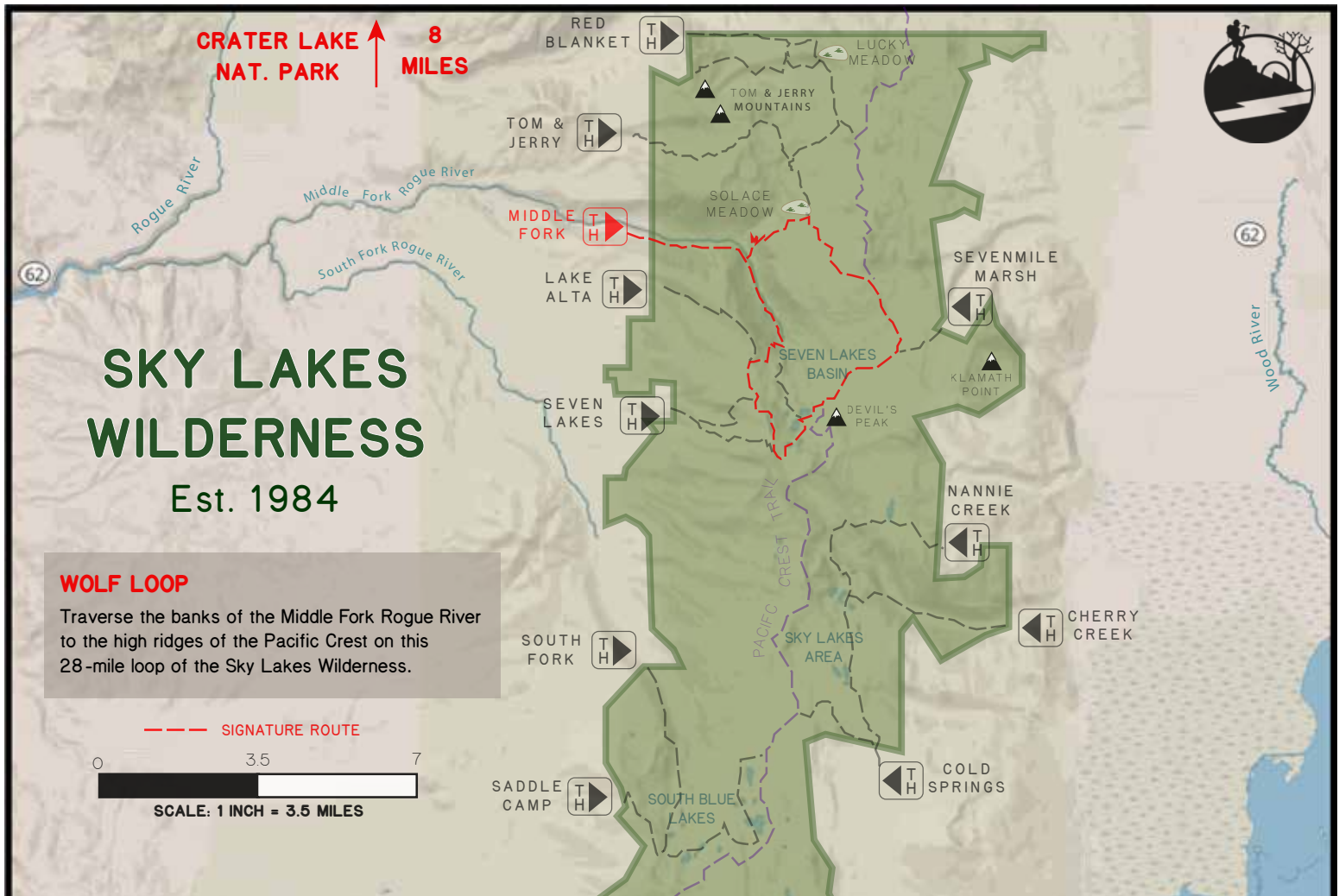
This 25-mile route threads along the banks of Oregon's Middle Fork-Rogue River to its headwaters at Alta Lake. It then winds through a lake basin to the Pacific Crest Trail and descends along the historic Halifax Trail. The route features high meadows, volcanic formations, and provides solitude very hard

to find in Oregon's Cascade Range.

We began work on the route in 2016, focusing on sections damaged by the 2008 Middle Fork Fire. Since then, the route has demanded regular maintenance. Over 500 logs were crosscut from it in 2019 by our Wilderness Corps.



2019 interns Jack Drimer and Laina Rose helped clear over 300 logs on the Wolf Loop in just ten days.



# FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

## Revenue streams 10/01/2018 - 09/30/2019

REVENUE TYPE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Business Support	12,015.00	3.33%
Foundation Support	50,505.00	13.99%
Government	148,319.00	41.06%
Individual Donations	136,580.37	37.81%
Map Sales	13,773.22	3.81%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 361,192.59</b>	

## Expenditures 10/01/2018-09/30/2019

EXPENSE TYPE	DOLLAR AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Administrative	42,428.36	17.89%
Fundraising	20,896.48	5.61%
Program	290,976.49	78.16%
Tuition Reimbursement	18,000	4.83%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$372,301.33</b>	

*Interested in partnering  
with us or supporting our  
work?*

### **CONTACT US:**

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info@siskiyoumountainclub.org

Siskiyou Mountain Club  
POB 3566  
ASHLAND OR 97520



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Klamath, and Six Rivers national forests for financial and ground support, as well as the close coordination. Thank you to the Oregon Community Foundation, Curry County Citizens for Public Land Access. To the donors, members, and advocates otherwise who have provided support for the last 10 years, thank you so much.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to the staff, interns, and volunteers who have made the sacrifice it takes to make trail magic in the Siskiyou backcountry.

## **Interns:**

Cameron Salazar  
Sasha Benson  
Laina Rose  
Leah Doeden  
Tyler Brahmstadt  
Kalani Aligarbes  
Jack Drimer

## **Staff:**

Trevor Meyer  
Aaron Babcock  
Zac Wilner  
Bob Ellis  
Haleigh Martin  
Zach Lopez  
Nick Hodges  
Karly White  
Gabe Howe

## **Board Members:**

Tami Kelly  
Doug Kendig  
Dave Brennan  
Mac Jefferson  
Dave Eye  
Ryan Ghelfi  
Wenonoa Spivak

## **2019 Volunteers:**

Jeff Thieret  
Luke Brandy  
Erin Brandy  
Andris Ollins  
Chris Oswald  
Emma Anderson  
Gary Roberts  
Angie Panter  
Jerry Pendzick  
Andrea Humbert  
Greg Walter  
Daniel Burdis  
Amalie Dieter  
Annie Schreck  
Rebecca Johnson  
Joe Gillespie  
Nate Chotlos  
Chad Countiss  
Mikaela Lee  
Jeff Spindler  
Bryan Duggan  
Luke Nalley  
Suzie Gruber  
Mark Bradley  
Brandon Mace  
Jilll Stokes  
Maria Katsantones

## **2019 Major Donors:**

Mark & Arlene Bradley  
Joe Gillespie  
Scott Allison  
Tom Peil  
Steve & Jen Marsden  
Rene Casteran  
Steve Weyer & Maria Geigel  
Paula Gubrud & Lee Howe  
Justin Rosas  
Kevin McDaniel  
Alan Frierson  
John Burns  
Dave Eye  
Nancy Tappan  
Annette & Andrew Batzer  
Steve Eddy  
Barbara & Kirk Jones  
Elizabeth Landreth  
Jeffrey & Deanna Moore  
Rich & Cheryl Ugland  
Anne Uzzell & Eric Ronemus  
Ed Gross  
Kathie Bate  
Brad & Stella Russell  
Cathy Dombi  
Luke & Erin Brandy



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## ON THE HORIZON

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In fall 2018 our donors helped us hire two additional permanent staff who received deputy titles and acted as assistants to programs already in place. It was a stretch for us, and for our supporters.

"And the investment has paid off," says executive director Gabriel Howe. "I've had my finger on the pulse of this group for 10 years, and we're stronger having retained this core team."

The Club increased our participation from volunteers and built new types of offerings for the community to participate. Putting more time into our Wilderness Corps program paid off, and we had the most productive, monumental season yet.

"We're ready to take on whatever challenges are ahead," adds Howe.

And now our deputies are prepared to take on their own programs.

### Looking ahead

In 2020, our small cadre of permanent staff are growing into fill program directorship positions under the guidance of our executive director.

Deputy director Karly White will be promoted to Director of Volunteers and Outreach. She will be responsible for growing our volunteer program and engaging more communities with our work.

Deputy field director Trevor Meyer will be promoted to Wilder-

ness Corps Director and focus on strengthening that program to provide a stronger experience for future interns and work closer with land managers.

And longtime field director Aaron Babcock will manage the Professional Crew (sometimes called our "Strike Team") as he looks for the next stewardship challenge to take on. So while this change in structure doesn't constitute another year of growth in budget, our impact will be deeper, wider, more focused, and more strategic.

We will continue on in our proven approach of using federal grant agreements to leverage support from volunteers, an 800-person member base, major donors, and contributing foundations.



Photo by: Trevor Meyer



Photo by: Trevor Meyer

*"We're ready to take on whatever challenges are ahead"*

*- Gabriel Howe, Executive Director*

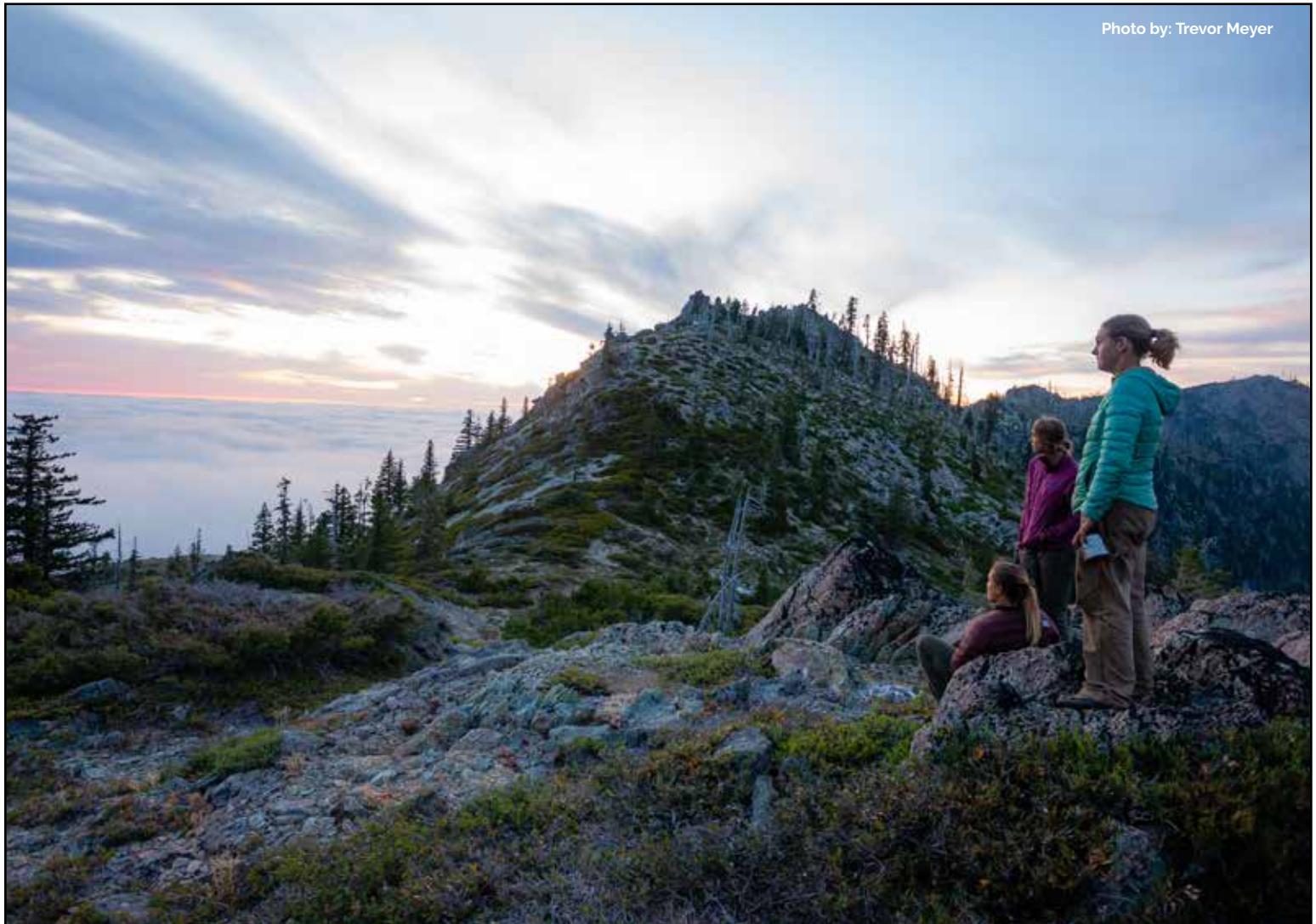


Photo by: Trevor Meyer

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# HIKE THE **SIGNATURE ROUTES**

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We are leading a series of hikes through our Signature Routes to celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2020. Join an experienced crew leader on a group backpacking trip you won't soon forget.

Just email [info@siskiyoumountainclub.org](mailto:info@siskiyoumountainclub.org) for details and to sign up.

*JUNE 5-7*: ILLINOIS RIVER TRAIL

*JULY 16-19*: YOUNG KELSEY ROUTE

*AUGUST 3-9*: CASCADE TO CAVES MONUMENT ROUTE

*SEPTEMBER 3-7*: LILLA & JOHN LEACH LOOP



*Long live the backwoods trails*