



# BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## May 21, 2018—Minutes

### ITEM NO.

1.00 Call to order 5:00 PM – Butte County Public Works Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct, Chico, CA

2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

2.01 Roll Call – **Members:** Nick Repanich, Thad Walker, Trish Puterbaugh, Peggy Moak

**Alternates:** Jim Shary, Pete Moak (voting Alt)

**Guests:** Alan Mendoza (Sierra Club); David Brillenz (District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District; Plumas National Forest), Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works); Angel Gomez (Butte Environmental Council and Environment/Watershed FAC Applicant); Dick Waugh (Beckwourth Trail)

2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public

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### 3.00 Consent Agenda

3.01 Review and approve minutes of 4-23-18 – M: Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Puterbaugh. Approved as modified below 3-0, 1 abstention (Moak)

Modification to 4.01: Add “FAC members discussed concerns with representative members being from government/local agencies as opposed to private citizens – is there any inherent conflict? Update: this matter will be referred to Coordinating Committee for discussion and decision.”

### 4.00 Agenda

4.01 Alan Mendoza, Sierra Club presentation involved an overview of the local club, at about 200 members, and their opinions on local trails and improvements needed. (See attached for a complete report, as provided by the speaker)

4.02 Forest Projects Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for USFS projects affecting Butte County residents’ forest management, recreational, environmental, socio-economic interests(Chair)

- Trish Puterbaugh shared an OSV Revised DEIS ROD Objection letter from a coalition of environmental groups (emailed on 5-21-18 to FAC distribution list)
- Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District (Russell Nickerson, District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – The committee received a brief written report from Russell Nickerson:
  - Jones Meadow – we will not be making a decision in May. I am hopeful that we will have a decision by August.
  - Little Bear FHP – We may be signing this decision sooner depending on comment received. The comment period closes this week.
  - You will see we are trying to do some master special use permits with our utility companies to consolidate the multiple special use permits per company into one master permit.
- Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, David Brillenz (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – Dave shared the news that the Challenge Fuels Reduction Project has been modified, reduced in size to 2800 acres mostly outside of the Owl PAC areas and converted to a Categorical Exemption status. He shared that Mary Sullivan, Rec officer, has moved to the Tahoe District and that he is very short staffed at present. Clay Davis (NEPA Planner) has returned from his assignment. The focus on projects will be WUI Interface Fuels Reduction. The Quincy Library Group and Fire Restoration Grant funds are going away, and it has been tough to find qualified archeologists to work on NEPA plans, which is holding up progress. PNF Staff will be working on June 19-21 to develop list and tentative scope of future projects.

- Dave briefly discussed the Feather River Ranger District Collaborative initiative, with the first meeting to be held on June 5. These are not Brown Act meetings, so this will need to be addressed if more than 2 FAC or Coordinating Committee members attend any given meeting.

- 4.04 Trails Committee Update: Thad Walker provided an overview of the results of the Trails Survey, with over 700 respondents. (see attached Presentation)
- 4.05 Dennis Schmidt, Director of Public Works, provided updates on local road projects and OHV Grants progress.
- Going to Board tomorrow, to retain BCRCDC for Environmental review of the Granite Basin trails project
  - Crews are working up in the mountains, repairing damage and performing maintenance.
  - Roads – hoping to get Oro Quincy out to Bid 100% plans late July, bid, award and construct this fall.
  - Centerville – most likely is going to get hung up on environmental, probably construct in 2019.
  - Jordan Hill Road – tour last week with Sup. Teeter and Dave from PNF, is traversable in 4x4, but not easy or quick – about 4 hour trip from Coutolenc to Concow Road.
  - Four Trees Road Grant is on hold due to other priorities
- 4.06 Applicants for Ag/Timber and Watershed/Environment – Tabled until after Coordinating Committee meeting
- 4.07 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is June 25, 2018 - Chico, 5:00 PM
- Law Enforcement OHV Grants and Plans for Patrols (LNF, PNF, BCAA, PCSO) – June Meeting
  - South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
  - Butte County Fire Safe Council
  - Other
- 4.08 Public Comment – Dick Waugh shared continuing efforts on the part of the Oregon-California Trails Association on the historic Beckwourth Trail. The Beckwourth Trail is an emigrant trail that runs from Sparks, NV to Bidwell's Bar in Lake Oroville. The trail is named for Jim Beckwourth, who established the trail in 1851 to help bring people to Marysville. Dick spoke about how the Oregon-California Trails Association has been active in helping to find, map, and preserve historic trails such as the Beckwourth Trail. He has been most active on the Nevada side of the trail of late. The long-term goal is to have the trail re-established so that hikers and others can travel the trail along its historic route from Nevada to California.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

## Moak, Peggy

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**From:** ALAN MENDOZA <ajmendoza777@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 11:35 AM  
**To:** Moak, Peggy  
**Subject:** RE: Forest Advisory Committee - Sierra Club Presentation

Hi Peggy,

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to give the FAC our input. Here is a copy of the notes I had made up for the meeting:

### Sierra Club Outings Notes for FAC

I would also like to note that here in Butte County not only are there nearly 2000 Sierra Club members who are avid hikers, but the COOA (Chico Oroville Outdoor Adventurers-the main meet-up group) now also has over 2000 members who are doing 100+ hikes per year; plus both OLLI and Adventure Outings (Chico State) are doing many hikes; plus the Native Plant Society is leading lots of hikes; plus all the mountain bikers on the trails; plus we now have a huge new influx of trail runners. This suggests that our current and future trail infrastructure/maintenance, emergency support services and trail designs will require more attention and better forward planning and coordination from all the involved responsible agencies to meet the needs of so many different users.

SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT: To explore, protect and enjoy the planet.

We strongly support the Leave No Trace Program and actively try to clean up trails whenever we can and support trail adoption and maintenance efforts. We also sell a hiking book to promote Butte County trails and encourage good wilderness ethics.

We actively are involved with the long term Lassen Foothills project with the Nature Conservancy to create a wildlife corridor by buying land or putting it in land trusts leading from the Lassen Park/high country to the foothills to allow wildlife to move freely from winter to summer grazing areas. We have the largest deer herd in California up in Tehama County between Antelope and Mill Creek and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest bald eagle rookery here in Butte County and a huge influx of waterfowl every winter. Lots of wildlife here to see and enjoy. The Sierra

Club also is very supportive of legal hunting, fishing because those activities make people much more willing to fight to preserve wild spaces for future generations.

Specific Butte County trail suggestions/comments:

1. Love to see the Lassen and Plumas National Forests rehire full-time Trail Coordinators as they have had in the past. This would create one person who can see the big picture and get things done or pointed in the right direction. When Lisa Sedlak was the Trails Coordinator for the Lassen N F, she accomplished a great deal (cleared trails with volunteers, maintained trail signage, got hiking maps made up for the Ishi Wilderness and other wilderness areas – this brought in hikers and money to our local counties).
2. Table Mountain – we are working the with Native Plant Society to support the effort currently to get state Fish and Game/ Wildlife Conservation Board to buy the 20 acres from the Boeger family, who are currently a willing seller. This would improve the public’s access to Coal Canyon Falls. Currently people have to trespass through the barbed wire boundary on their property near Fern Falls. We also would like to see support for the state acquiring the private parcel from Cherokee Road west to Beatson Hollow to alleviate the ongoing trespass on the trail to Phantom Falls and especially beyond to Beatson Hollow and the Beatson Falls. I have the contact information at California Dept. of Fish and Game.
3. BLM Forks of the Butte Creek - fix trails on Butte Creek. BLM trail on the west side of Butte Creek accessed from Garland Road is in very poor shape and outright dangerous in several spots. Really needs work and the bridges built in the 1960’s are rickety. The Indian Springs trail on the east side coming down from the De Sabla Reservoir also has poor access to the creek at the bottom. It would also be wonderful if the BLM could link the trails by extending the Indian Springs trail to the Doe Mill bridge to create a better hiking experience. Right now the trails only go for about 1 ½ miles each. That is not enough to get people to drive down there to hike. We have been working with CalWild (California Wilderness Coalition) on these issues. The best way to get action is to contact the Recreation Planner at the Redding BLM office. Butte Creek also has one of the best spring Chinook salmon runs in the state. We also agree with CalWild that the 19 mile stretch of the creek above the Forks of the Buttes deserve wild and scenic river status and would like to see support from our local elected officials for this.
4. Feather Falls - we thank the Plumas N F for rebuilding the bridge on the lower falls trail and for all the great new trail descriptions they have made available online. Would love to see more campgrounds developed in FF area to encourage overnight trips from out of area people. The Seven Falls access is in very poor condition; that could be a major attraction if a trail could be put in. Other trails in the Feather Falls area are in need of maintenance – Dome Trail/Curtain Falls, Bald Rock Dome, Hartman Bar, etc.
5. Chico – In upper Bidwell Park we support closing the park road beyond the main swimming holes as has been proposed and the placing of a bridge over Big Chico Creek in Upper Park near the end of the Yahi Trail connecting to the South Rim trails. This would relieve the pressure on the trails on the north side of the creek. We also would love to see adding a trail or connector to Sycamore Canyon, which the city of Chico is in the process of acquiring.
6. In the Oroville Wildlife Area we think the DWR could do a lot more to keep their commitment to make Lake Oroville a major destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The Loafer Creek/Roy Rogers and Dan Beebe

trails are in very poor condition and become muddy messes in the winter. DWR just committed to spending \$1 million on a bathhouse at Lake Oroville, but the trails are not getting any help yet.

7. High Lakes area - although mostly not in Butte County, the easiest access is from Butte County and we have worked with Friends of the High Lakes to encourage responsible use by OHV users. There are also some great old hiking trails up there. They are, however, in very poor current condition, but could offer great overnight backpacks/camping to places like Murphy Lake and Oliver Lake if the roads in could be improved or access from the Chambers Creek trail on Hwy 70 was cleared. The Chambers Creek trail is now impassable 3 miles up due to brush fields. Trail could be cleared relatively easily with the proper equipment.
8. We would love to see both Gray Lodge and Llano Seco here in Butte County expand their trail systems to bring in more people to see waterfowl, if it can be done in an environmentally acceptable way. Only very short hikes can be done there now.

On April 9, 2018 at 3:50 PM "Moak, Peggy" <pmoak@buttecounty.net> wrote:

Okay. Alan, if you have any handouts, I can include a pdf in the agenda packet – just send it my way... thanks,

*Peggy Moak*

Butte County Treasurer-Tax Collector

[Treasurer-Tax Collector's Department](#)

[25 County Center Drive, Suite 125, Oroville, CA 95965](#)

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**From:** ALAN MENDOZA <ajmendoza777@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Monday, April 9, 2018 3:12 PM

**To:** Moak, Peggy <pmoak@buttecounty.net>

**Subject:** RE: Forest Advisory Committee - Sierra Club Presentation



**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF BUTTE COUNTY

# Butte County Trails Plan

Update for Forest Advisory  
Committee

# Trails Plan Working Group

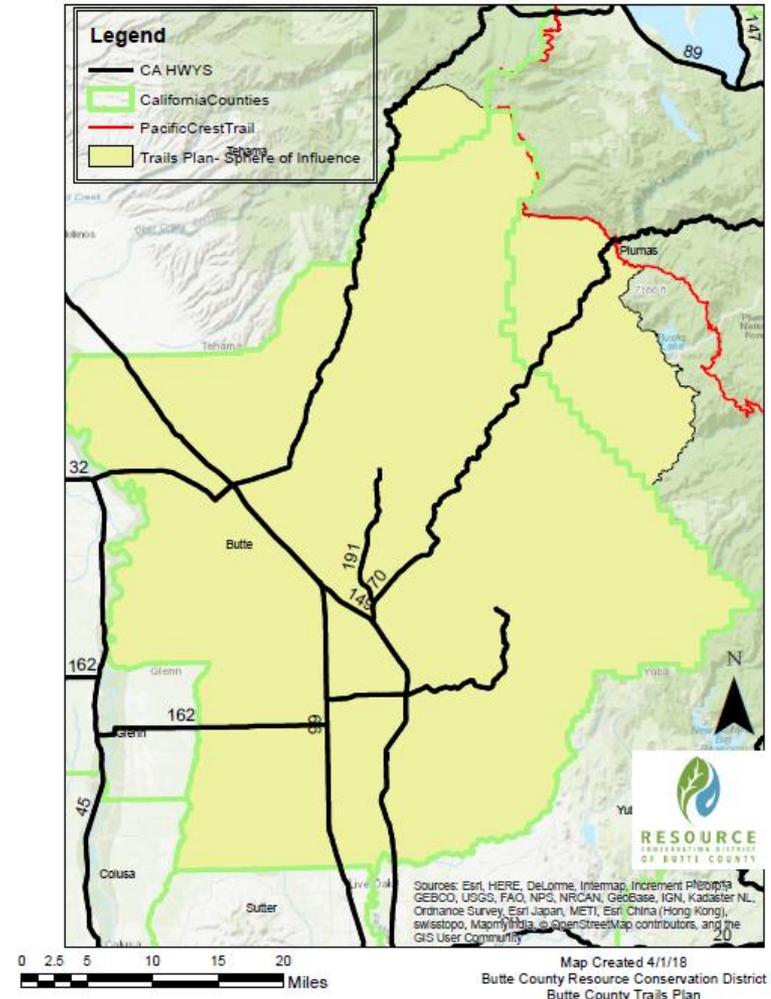
- Started November 2016/ 6 meetings
- Representation from user groups, agencies, non-profits, event promoters, map makers, tourism groups, county government and private interests
- Action Orientated Plan
- Targeted to be finished this summer

# Butte County Trails Plan

## Plan Area

- Butte County + nexus recreation areas
- Areas where Butte County Residents go for recreation
- Areas best accessed through Butte County

Butte County Trails Plan- Sphere of Influence



# Butte County Trails Plan

## Scope of Plan

- Macro Approach
- Natural Surface Trails –Motorized/ non-motorized
- Recreation Access
- Does not include: bike and pedestrian infrastructure, blue trails or OSV
- Highlights importance of connectivity to trails

# Butte County Trails Plan

## Purpose

- Identify existing trail resources
- Direct attention toward maintenance and infrastructure of existing trails
- Determine current trail user experience
- Identify funding sources for maintenance of existing trails, development of new trails and increasing support resources
- Go from Macro to Micro- on the ground projects

# Trails Survey

- Designed as user experience survey
- Distribution targeted to user groups that utilize trails recreation
- Also included component for non-trail user
- Social Media, press releases, web-site
- Started April 1/ Closed April 30
- 755 Responses

# Trail User Survey

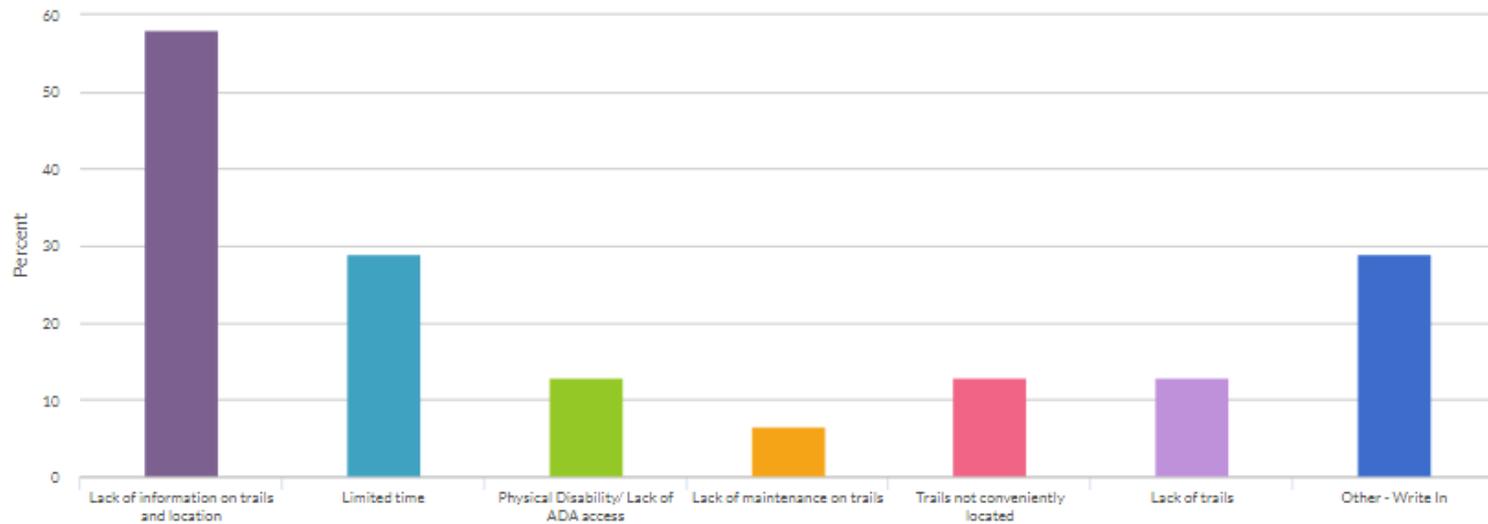
## Average Age 52

# of Surveys	Year Born
22	1957
22	1963
21	1956
19	1961
19	1969
18	1958
18	1962

## Survey Location

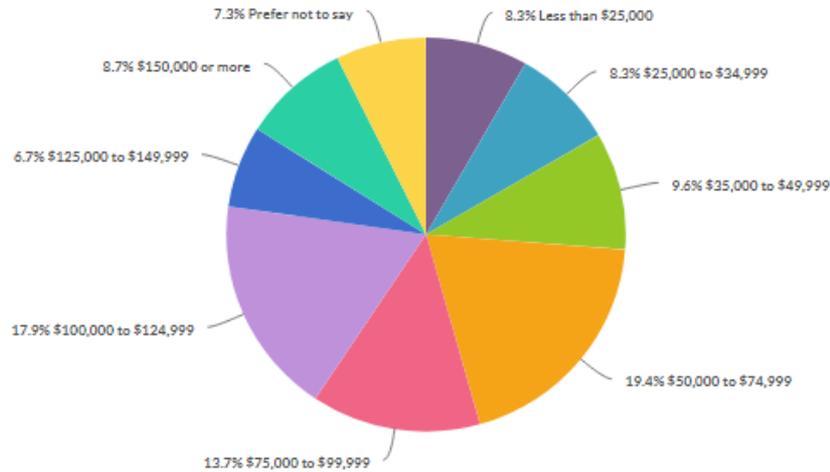
# of Surveys	Zip Code	Location
117	95966	Oroville/ Lumpkin
107	95926	Chico N
104	95928	Chico S
79	95969	Paradise/ Concow
58	95973	Chico
57	95965	Oroville
41	95954	Magalia

10. If you have not used a trail in the Butte County area in the last 12 months, why not? Check all that apply.



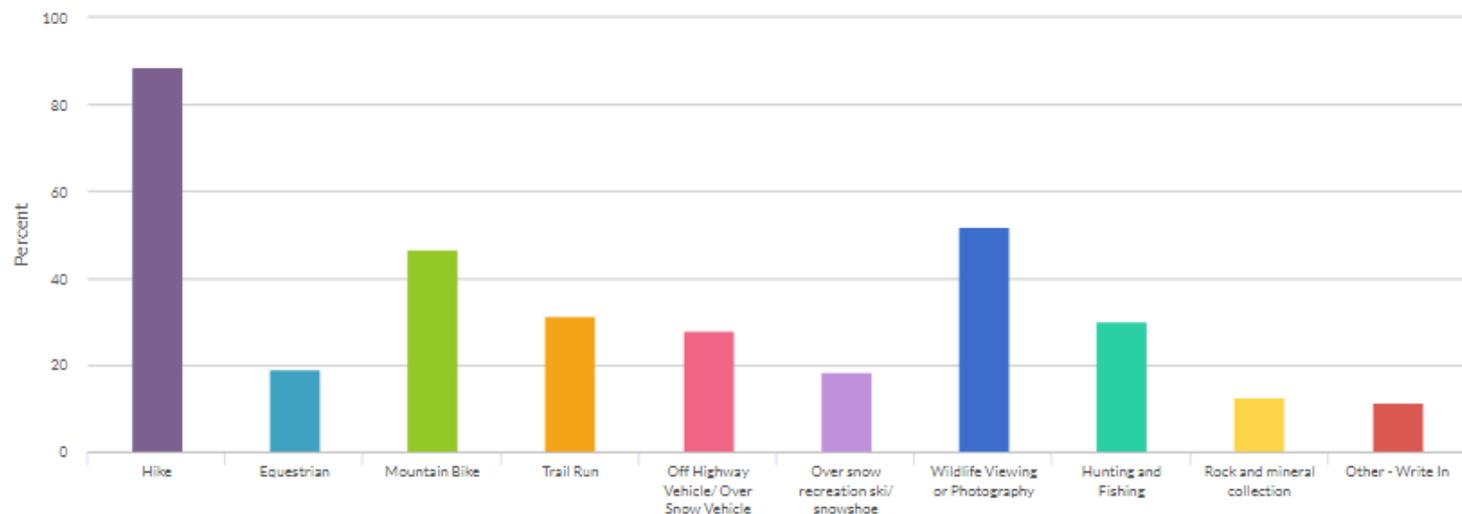
Value	Percent	Responses
Lack of information on trails and location	58.1%	18
Limited time	29.0%	9
Physical Disability/ Lack of ADA access	12.9%	4
Lack of maintenance on trails	6.5%	2
Trails not conveniently located	12.9%	4
Lack of trails	12.9%	4
<a href="#">Other - Write In (click to view)</a>	29.0%	9

7. What is your average household income?



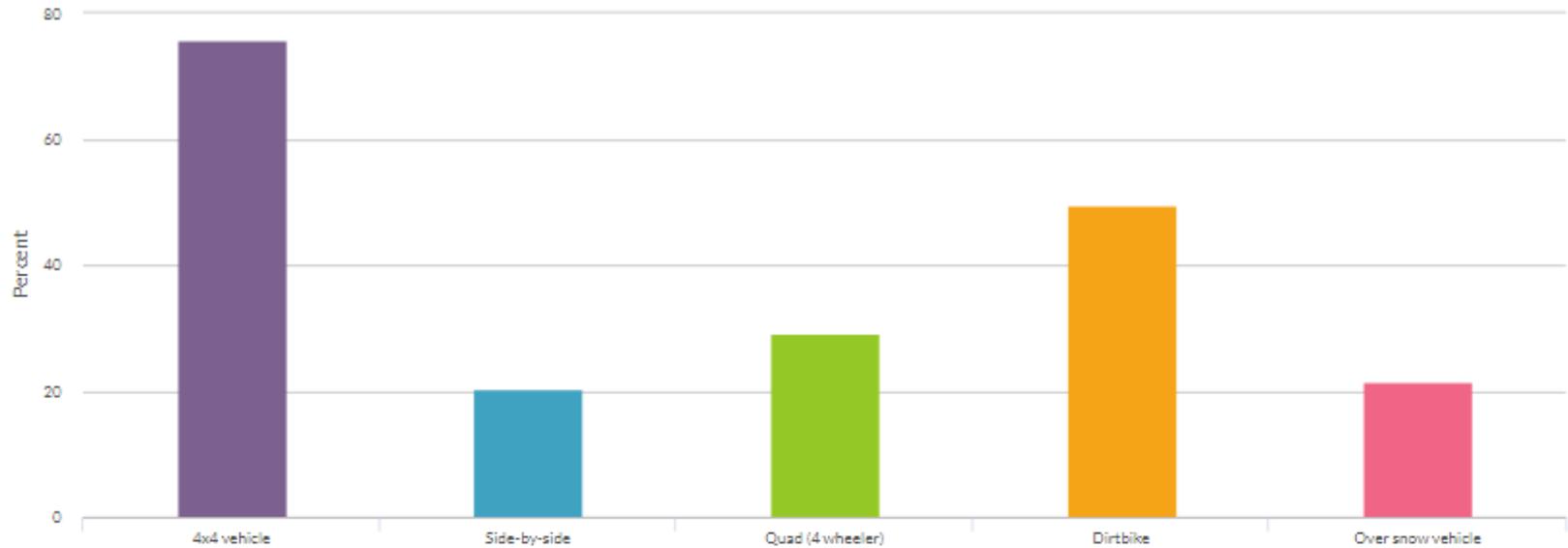
Value	Percent	Responses
Less than \$25,000	8.3%	57
\$25,000 to \$34,999	8.3%	57
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9.6%	66
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.4%	133
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13.7%	94
\$100,000 to \$124,999	17.9%	123
\$125,000 to \$149,999	6.7%	46
\$150,000 or more	8.7%	60
Prefer not to say	7.3%	50

12. What are all of your trail uses, check all that apply?



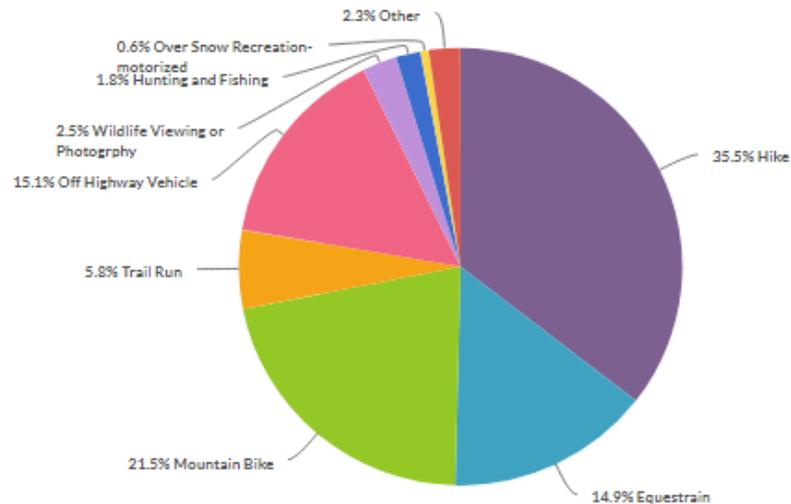
Value	Percent	Responses
Hike	88.8%	580
Equestrian	19.0%	124
Mountain Bike	46.7%	305
Trail Run	31.2%	204
Off Highway Vehicle/ Over Snow Vehicle	28.0%	183
Over snow recreation ski/ snowshoe	18.5%	121
Wildlife Viewing or Photography	51.9%	339
Hunting and Fishing	30.2%	197
Rock and mineral collection	12.6%	82
<a href="#">Other - Write In (click to view)</a>	11.3%	74

### 13. What forms of OHV use do you participate in?



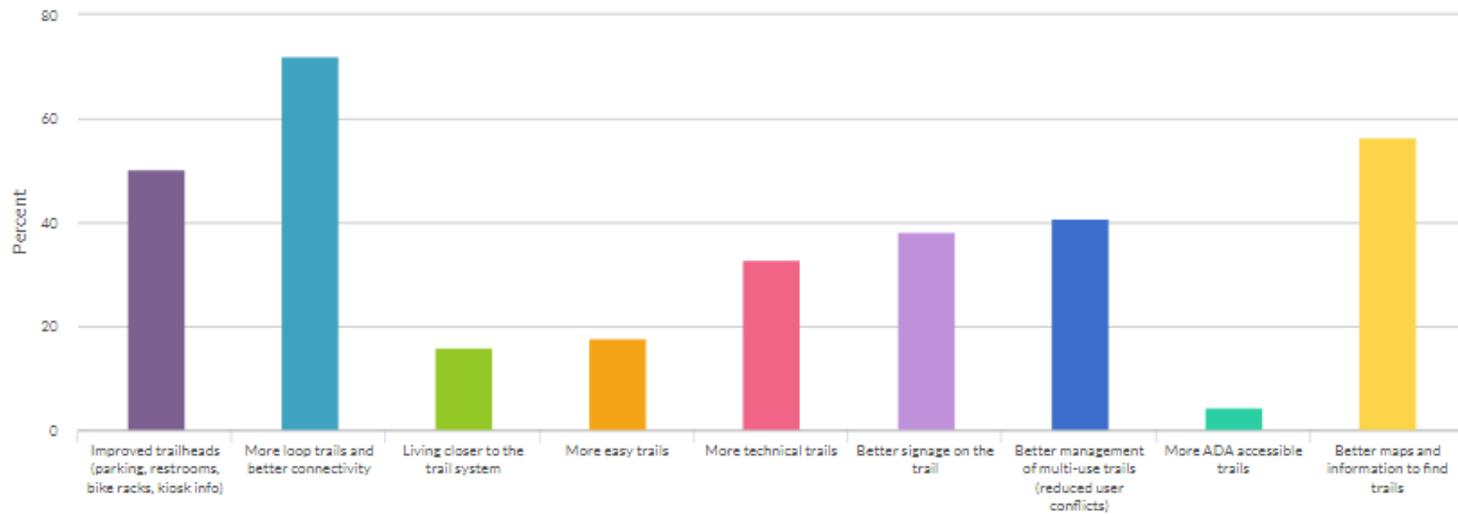
Value	Percent	Responses
4x4 vehicle	75.8%	138
Side-by-side	20.3%	37
Quad (4 wheeler)	29.1%	53
Dirtbike	49.5%	90
Over snow vehicle	21.4%	39

#### 14. What is your primary trail usage?



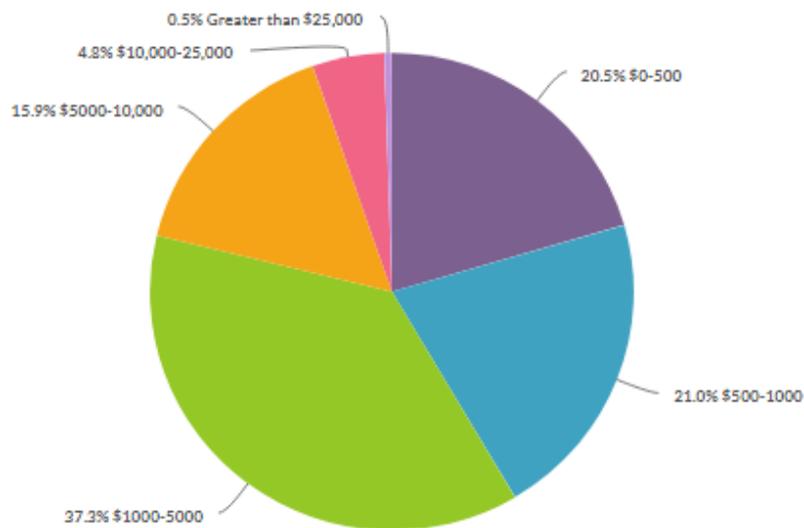
Value	Percent	Responses
Hike	35.5%	231
Equestrian	14.9%	97
Mountain Bike	21.5%	140
Trail Run	5.8%	38
Off Highway Vehicle	15.1%	98
Wildlife Viewing or Photography	2.5%	16
Hunting and Fishing	1.8%	12
Over Snow Recreation- motorized	0.6%	4
Other	2.3%	15
		<b>Totals: 651</b>

16. Select all the items below that would increase your use of trails in Butte County.



Value	Percent	Responses
Improved trailheads (parking, restrooms, bike racks, kiosk info)	50.2%	317
More loop trails and better connectivity	72.0%	455
Living closer to the trail system	16.0%	101
More easy trails	17.6%	111
More technical trails	32.9%	208
Better signage on the trail	38.3%	242
Better management of multi-use trails (reduced user conflicts)	40.8%	258
More ADA accessible trails	4.3%	27
Better maps and information to find trails	56.5%	357

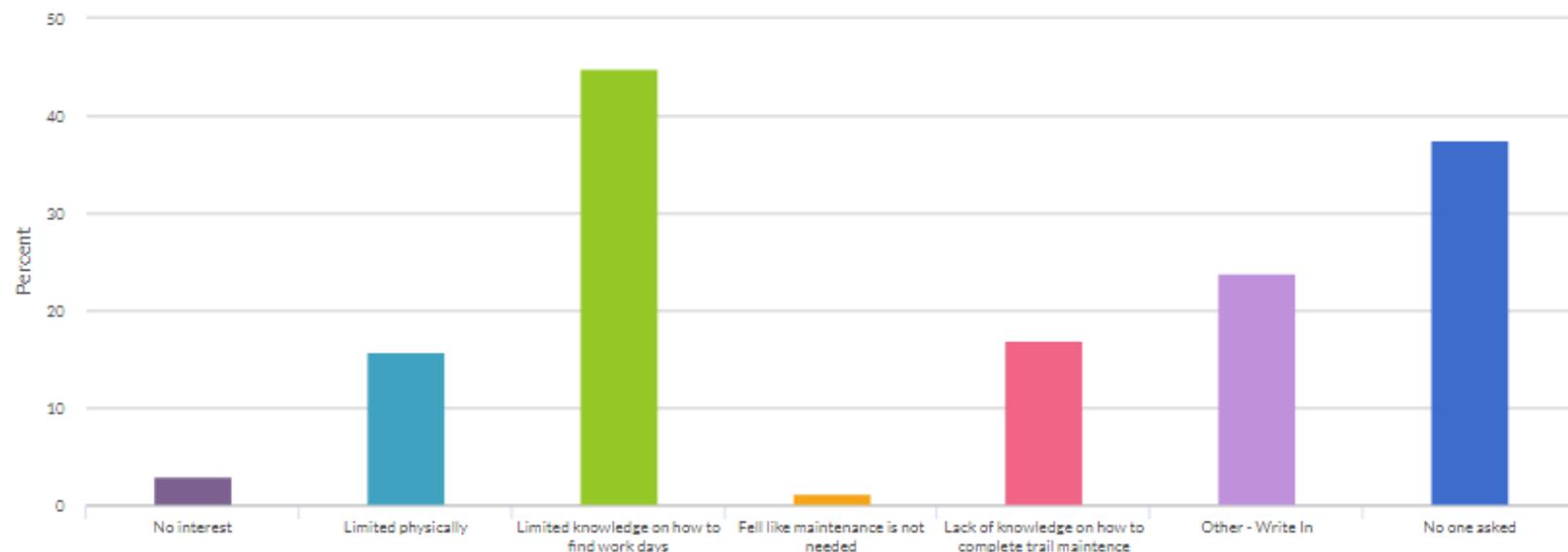
19. On average how much does your household spend on trails based recreation each year (not just Butte County)? Be sure to include: travel, equipment, gas, lodging, etc. in your estimation.



Value	Percent	Responses
\$0-500	20.5%	132
\$500-1000	21.0%	135
\$1000-5000	37.3%	240
\$5000-10,000	15.9%	102
\$10,000-25,000	4.8%	31
Greater than \$25,000	0.5%	3

Totals: 643

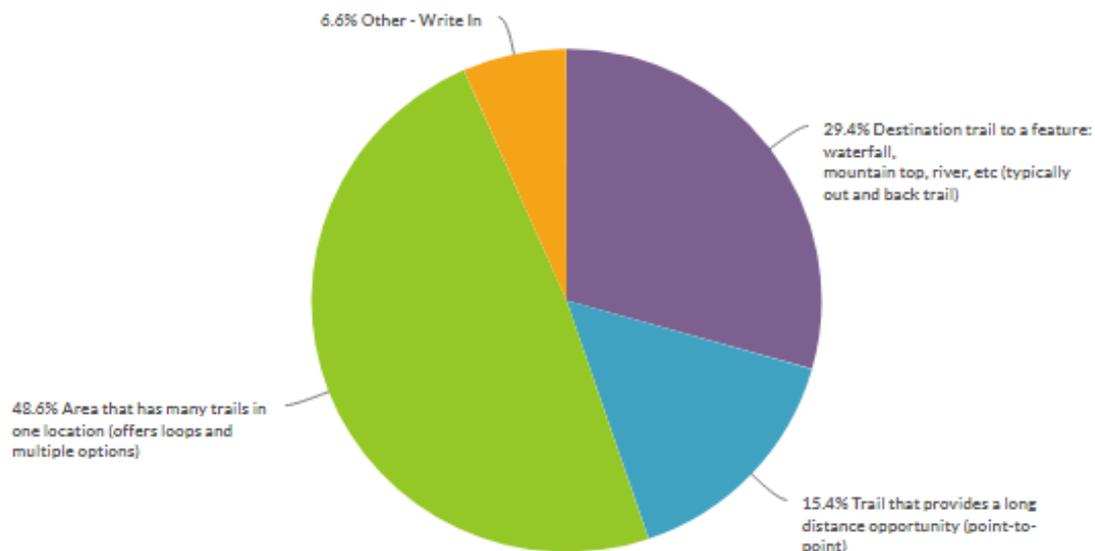
25. Why have you not participated in any trail maintenance in the last two years, select all that apply?



Value	Percent	Responses
No interest	2.9%	12
Limited physically	15.7%	64
Limited knowledge on how to find work days	44.9%	183
Fell like maintenance is not needed	1.2%	5
Lack of knowledge on how to complete trail maintenance	16.9%	69
<a href="#">Other - Write In (click to view)</a>	23.8%	97
No one asked	37.5%	153

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
State or Federal Grants				
Count	368	211	9	13
Row %	61.2%	35.1%	1.5%	2.2%
Private fundraising/ Donations				
Count	267	303	24	7
Row %	44.4%	50.4%	4.0%	1.2%
User Fees				
Count	50	225	204	122
Row %	8.3%	37.4%	33.9%	20.3%
Sales tax that would be managed by non-government district				
Count	52	230	213	105
Row %	8.7%	38.3%	35.5%	17.5%
Occupancy tax increase paid through hotel lodging				
Count	70	262	201	66
Row %	11.7%	43.7%	33.6%	11.0%

38. If new trails were developed in Butte County area, what type of trails would you most like to see?



Value	Percent	Responses
Destination trail to a feature: waterfall, mountain top, river, etc (typically out and back trail)	29.4%	178
Trail that provides a long distance opportunity (point-to-point)	15.4%	93
Area that has many trails in one location (offers loops and multiple options)	48.6%	294
<a href="#">Other - Write In (click to view)</a>	6.6%	40

Totals: 605