



THE SHASTA - TRINITY TRAIL

Imagine a trail linking Redding with the Trinity Alps. Leaving your car behind, hike or ride from the Sacramento River to a nearby lake. From your front door, follow Clear Creek towards its headwaters. A trail that links the region's many special places – historic gold mining areas, beautiful mountain vistas, river canyons, and lakes. This could all become possible with the creation of the *Shasta-Trinity Trail*.

Vision

The Shasta-Trinity Trail is envisioned as an approximately 100-mile trail connecting some of the region's best destinations – the Sacramento River, Clear Creek, and Shasta, Trinity, and Whiskeytown lakes. Once in place, the trail would become a special recreation resource the region can call its own.

The trail would open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Where it crosses official off-road vehicle recreation areas, motorized trail users would also share the trail. It would provide a range of opportunities – chances to explore areas close to town or to see more of the backcountry and remote surrounding areas.

Rather than a completely new trail built from scratch, this would be a regional trail connecting existing local trails already in use. For instance, it could link the Sacramento River Trail with the Westside Trail, or the trails of the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve with those of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The trail can be developed to follow existing natural corridors. The extensive mining and logging history left many former roads, railbeds, water ditches, and old stage coach routes that can easily be converted for trail use. As an interim solution in some places, the trail could also be routed along existing roads for short distances to get users to the next section of trail.

Benefits

A map of the initial concept for the trail is shown on the next page. We hope it will get you thinking about the experience such a trail could provide to residents and visitors to the Redding region.

A trail like this could provide many benefits. It could provide residents more opportunities to get out and see the region. It creates more trails, and therefore more recreation opportunities. Increasingly, tourism plays a major role in the local economy. Such a trail could attract visitors to the area. A trail could make it easier to get around without relying on a car, helping people commute to work or school. The experience of many property owners near popular trails is that their property values increase, and that it is easier to sell property to buyers interested in getting out on trails. The Shasta-Trinity Trail, once developed, could provide a range of benefits to the entire region.

Who?

The project is assisted by the Rivers and Trails Program, a national program that provides support to local community trails, greenways, river, and open space projects at the invitation of that local community. A coalition of agencies and organizations have come together to start planning such a trail. Participating organizations on the Steering Committee to date have included:

Backcountry Horseman of America
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
City of Anderson
City of Redding
French Gulch Community
Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve
Institute for Sustainable Communities
McConnell Foundation
Shasta College
Shasta County, Board of Supervisors
Shasta County, Public Health Department
Shasta Land Trust
Shasta Wildlife Rescue
Sierra Club
Sierra Pacific Industries
Trails and Bikeways Council of Greater Redding
Trinity County Resources, Conservation and Development Council
U.S. Forest Service
Viva Downtown
Weaverville Basin Trail Committee
WeSkill
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

How?

A trail of this scale can only be established through the commitment and partnership of a great many people and organizations. To develop the trail, local governments, land management agencies, landowners, and community groups will need to work closely together to identify and build the trail. A Steering Committee is in place to guide this planning effort.

In this initial stage, we are look at a broad potential corridor in which the trail could eventually be developed. One step is to identify public land and to make maximum use of these land holdings for the trail, such as across areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the National Park Service. In addition, private, not-for-profit organizations that manage land for public access, like Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve or McConnell Foundation properties, could also become partners in the trail.

Where no public land connections are easily available, we will work closely with neighboring private property owners and nearby residents to identify potential routes. No routes will be developed without the interest and willingness of the private landowners to participate in implementing the trail. As we move from the concept phase to identifying a more specific route, we will work closely with landowners to address whatever concerns they may have.

Join Us!

Events are being held in conjunction with National Trails Day around the area to highlight existing trails and how these trails could be linked together by way of the Shasta-Trinity trail. Over time, there will be chances to participate in public meetings to give us your thoughts on such a trail and where it might best be located. There will be opportunities to volunteer at future trail events. For more information about the project, or to sign up on the mailing list, contact us through the project's web page: www.nps.gov/pwro/rtca/shasta-trinity.htm. You can also send e-mail to holly_van_houten@nps.gov to have your name added to the mailing list.

Shasta-Trinity Trails Connection Project

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