

The Great Redwood Trail:

A Vision of the Future

Michael Jones
Principal

President
Alta

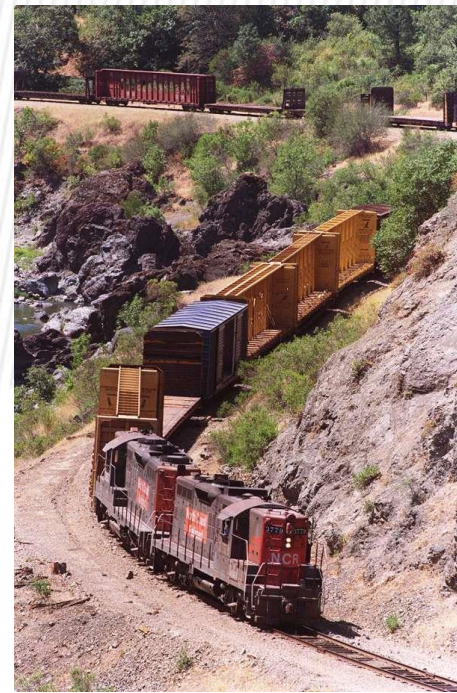
Caryl Hart: Board Member, North Coast
Railroad Authority

Michael Jones: Founder, Principal, Alta
Planning + Design

Background/History
Status of Current Legislation
Comparable Trails
Completed Segments
Next Steps
Potential Goals
Photo Tour

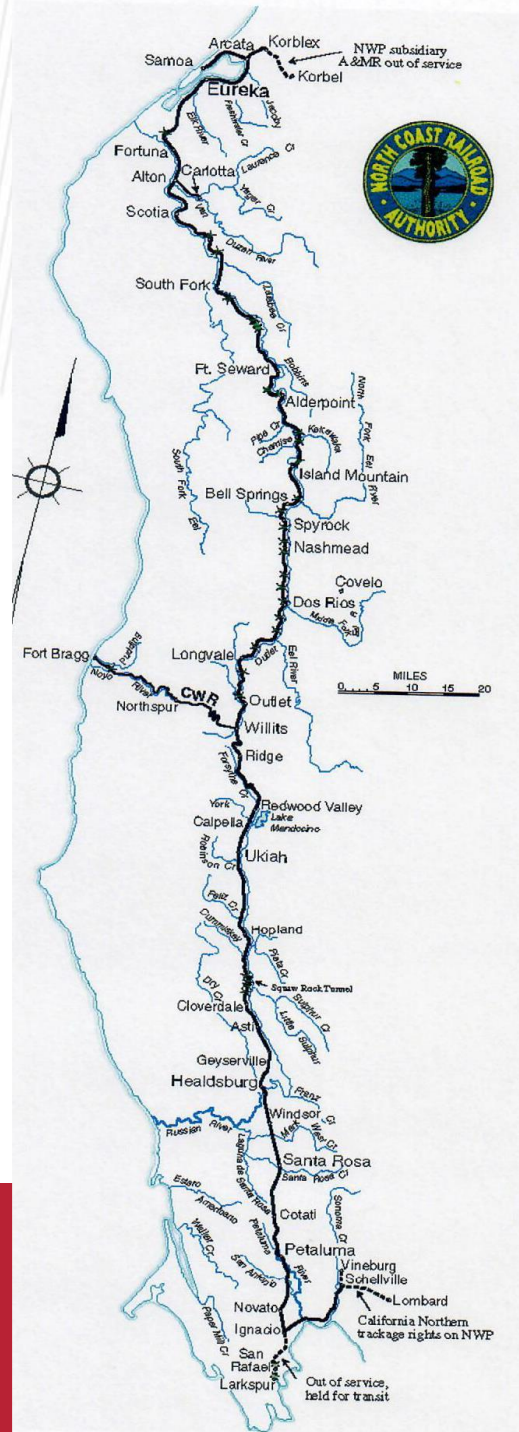
A complicated railroad history...

- Northwestern Pacific Railroad (completed 1914)
- Southern Pacific Railroad
- Floods of 1964
- Island Mountain Tunnel Fire 1978
- Eureka Southern 1984
- North Coast Railroad Authority 1989
- Willits – South Lease to California Northern 1993
- Willits - North Closure 1996
- Closure of entire line 1998
- NWP Co new freight operator 2010
- SMART 2012



Facts....

- Length:
- Larkspur–Cloverdale 72.7 miles
- Cloverdale – Willits 54.3 miles
- Willits-Arcata 153.0 miles
- Total 280.0 miles
- Major Trestles 19
- Bridges 38
- Tunnels 42
- Longest Tunnel 4,313 feet



- SB 1029 approved May 30, 2018 by Senate 36-1
- Governor signs SB 1029 September 30, 2018
- Willits-Cloverdale to SMART
- Senator Michael McGuire: “...create a Great Redwood Trail for hiking, biking, and riding, that may be in the public and economic best interests of the north coast.”
- Transportation Agency (Caltrans) in consultation with Natural Resource Agency to conduct an Assessment by July 2020
- Prioritization of southern section assessment

SB 1029:

- A preliminary assessment of the viability of constructing a trail on the entirety of, or a portion of, the property, rights-of-way, or easements owned by the North Coast Railroad Authority, and recommendations relating to the possible construction of a trail, including both of the following:
 - (A) Options for railbanking and the governance structure or ownership structure for a new or successor entity that is necessary to railbank property, rights-of-way, and easements along the rail corridor.
 - (B) A preliminary assessment of which portions of the terrain along the rail corridor may be suitable for a trail.

Updates:

- SB 356 transfers assets south of Willits to the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) district.
- April 10, 2019: NCRA Board approves settlement of lawsuits with environmental groups over old EIR
- April 11, 2019: Assembly Budget Subcommittee approved the Administration's budget proposal for \$3 million to complete process identified in SB 1029
 - \$1.5 million for a property assessment
 - \$500,000 to assess debt, lawsuits
 - \$1 million for preliminary trail assessment

Comparable Trails

- Pacific Crest Trail
- San Francisco Ridge Trail
- San Francisco Bay Trail
- Tahoe Rim Trail
- Tahoe-Pyramid Trail
- American River Parkway
- SMART Multi-Use Path
- East Coast Greenway
- Appalachia Trail



Pacific Crest Trail

- Proposed by Clinton Clarke as part of Pacific Crest Trail System Conference 1935-1938
- Joint effort with Clarke, Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Ansel Adams
- 2,000 mile route planned by YMCA groups
- 1968 LB Johnson defined the PCT and Appalachia Trail in the National Trails Systems Act.
- Constructed by volunteers and the Federal government
- Finished in 1993; TPL has added public lands along route

Tahoe Rim Trail

- 1981: Glen Hampton, USFS Recreation Officer, envisions 150-mile loop trail
- 1982: Granted non-profit status
- 2001: Trail completed with 200,000 volunteer hours
- 2003: 96 miles of TRT dedicated as a National Recreation Trail



Katy Trail, Missouri: 240 miles



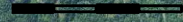
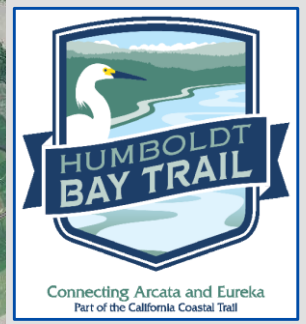
Hut-to-Hut Hiking



Selected Existing/Planned Trails on NWP Corridor

- Annie & Mary Trail
- Arcata Rail Trail
- Humboldt Bay Trail
- MCOG Rail Trail Plan
- Ukiah Rail Trail
- Willits Rail Trail
- SMART Multi-Use Path
- Joe Rodota Trail (Sonoma)
- North-South Greenway (Marin)



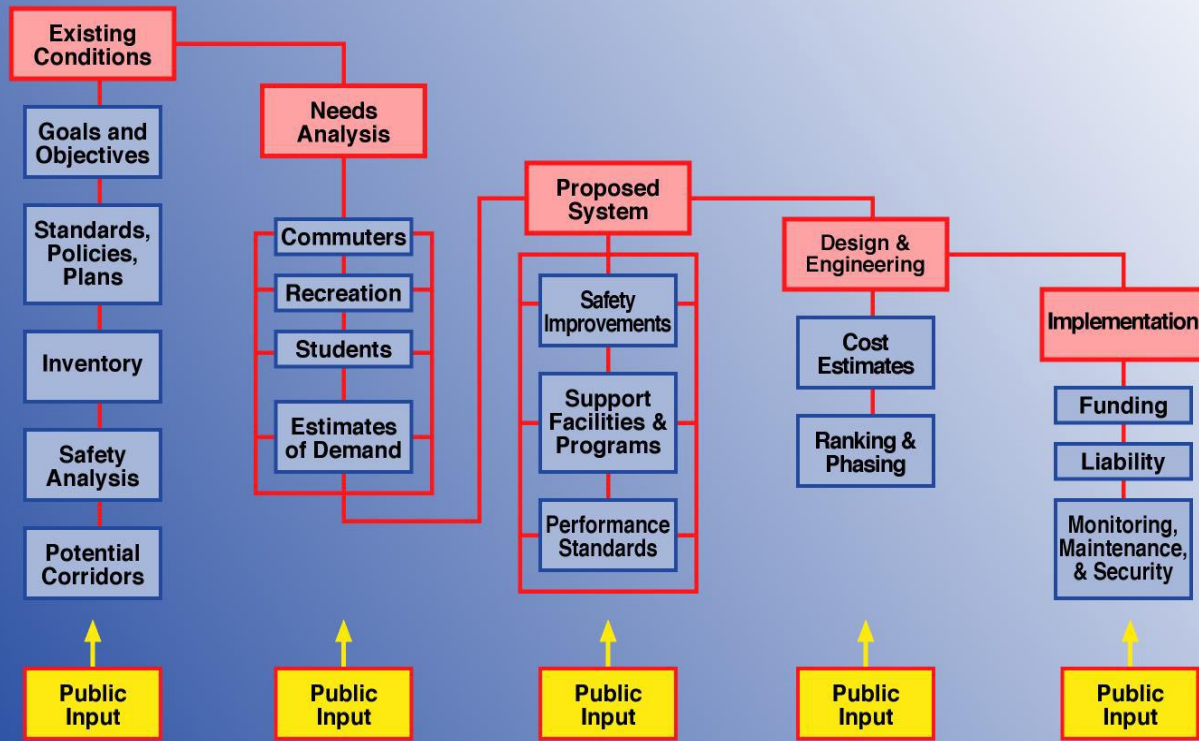


Next Steps

- NCRA organization
- Funding
- Advisory committee/Staff/Public outreach
- Rail corridor title
- Assessment Study
- Environmental Review
- Preliminary Feasibility/Engineering
- Full EIR
- Full Engineering
- Implementation by phase
- Management plan/operations

Trail Feasibility Elements

Bikeway Master Plan Process



Potential Goals

- A continuous trail within the NWP corridor
- Protect safety/privacy of adjacent landowners
- Make trail accessible to wide variety of users
- Restore/enhance environment, esp. stream habitat
- Improve emergency vehicle access
- Enhance local economies
- Restore/maintain railroad infrastructure to extent feasible
- Trail design to reflect feasibility, environment, safety needs
- Provide adequate support facilities esp. in isolated areas
- Prohibit fires during fire season



Photos Charlie Gandy



Existing Conditions/Key Issues



All photos Charlie Gandy



All photos Charlie Gandy



Landslides/Overgrowth



All photos Charlie Gandy

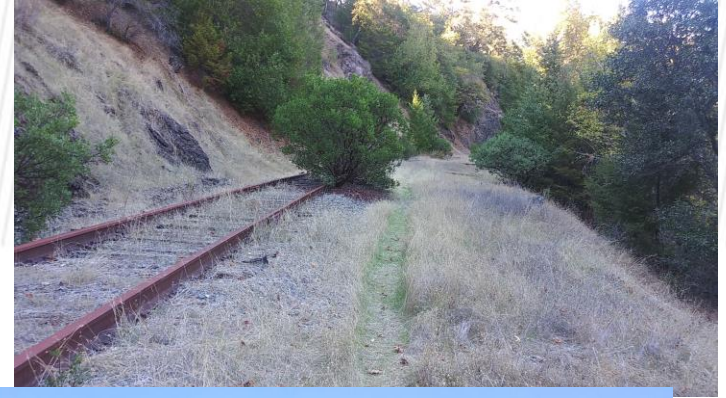




APS All photos Charlie Gandy



Alderpoint Station

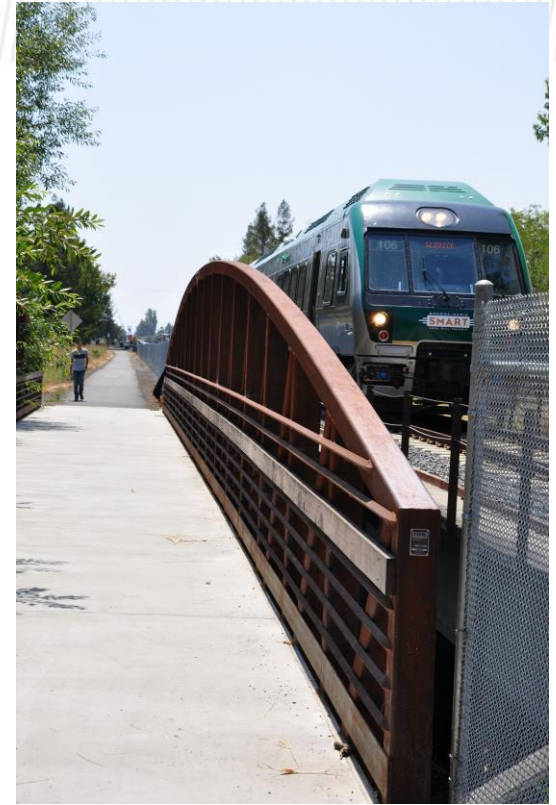


All photos Charlie Gandy



Ready-made Trail Corridor





Preliminary Usage/Benefits Analysis

When completed, the Great Redwood Trail will:

- Attract 1,200,000 annual users (paved surface)
- Generate \$10 million/year in new visitor revenue

Trail Types

Wider Track Unpaved Trail



Single Track Unpaved Trail

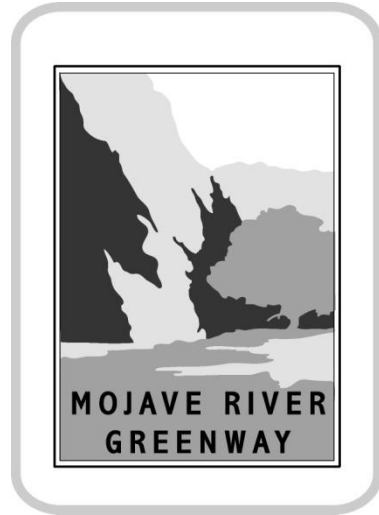
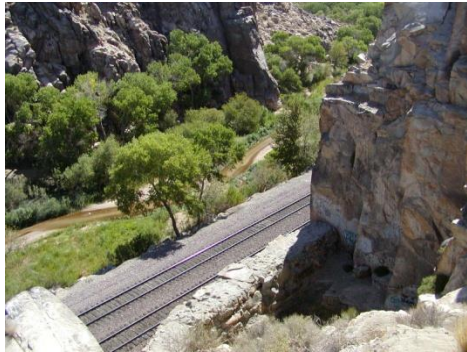
Trail Types

Multi-Use Trail

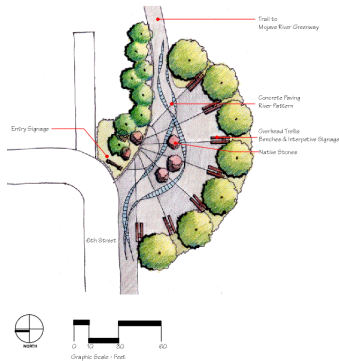


Class I Bike Path

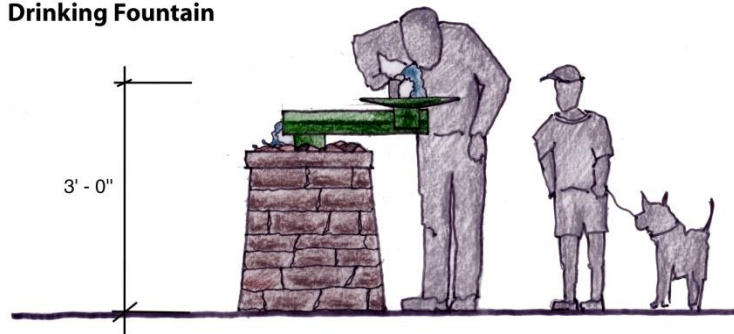
Trail Design Themes



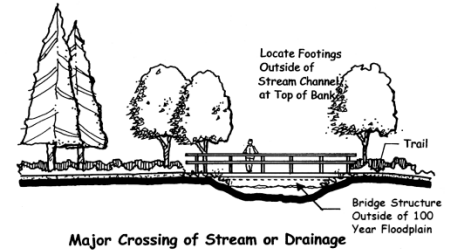
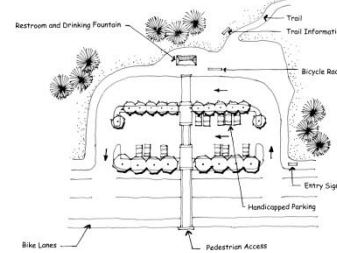
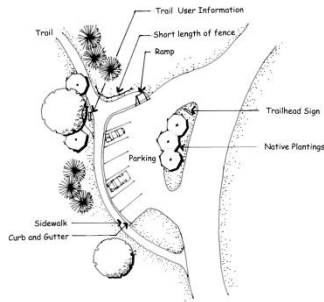
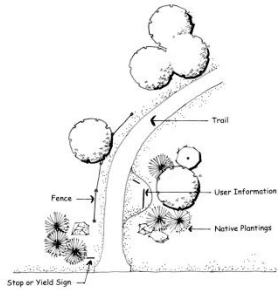
Entry Plaza Concept



Drinking Fountain

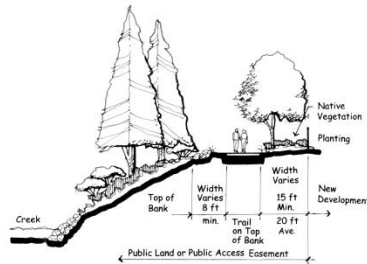
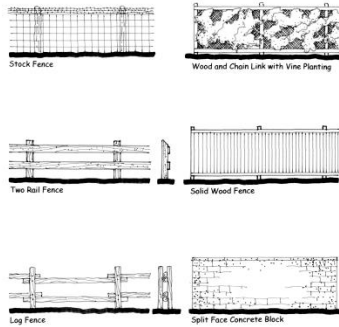


Alta Trail Design Standards

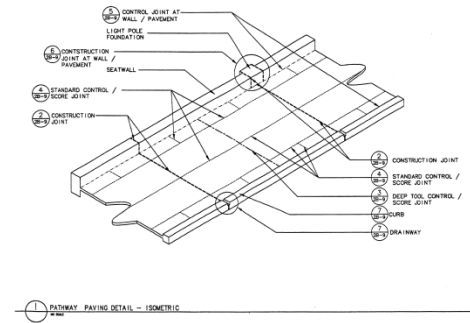


Trail Heads and Staging Areas

Foot Bridges



Trail Guidelines at Proposed New Development



PATHWAY PAVING DETAIL - ISOMETRIC

Fencing and Barriers

Paving Detail

EEL RIVER CANYON PHOTO TOUR















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