



Paradise Recreation and Park District

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Magalia and Paradise Lake Loop Trail Project Receives State Funding

Paradise, CA, 1/8/2021 - The Paradise Recreation and Park District (District) announced the award of \$507,392 for the Magalia and Paradise Lake Loop and Butte County Rail Trail Project.

The award is part of the California Natural Resources Agency December announcement of \$27.7 million in funding for projects that will expand access to the outdoors and boost recreational opportunities for communities across the state.

The project was one of 19 projects, ranging from constructing new trails to planting trees to acquiring land for future trails. The grants are part of the Recreational Trails and Greenways grant program funded by Proposition 68. Many of the projects selected for funding are in disadvantaged communities.

The funding will help construct a multi-use natural surface trail loop to connect the community to recreational resources. The project will provide an amenity that helps promote healing through nature in a community traumatized by the Camp Fire.

"Increased access to our natural spaces is more important than ever. These multi-benefit projects not only enhance recreational opportunities but increase access which can improve physical and mental health," California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot said. "We are excited to award these grants to support organizations and local governments that are committed to expanding and improving access to the outdoors."

District Manager Dan Efseaff expressed excitement for the project, "This funding will help provide a backbone for a new trail system in the heart of Butte County. We are fortunate that the state recognized this effort to help our citizens access public lands and provide an economic backbone for the community, as it will attract visitors, and potentially future residents."

While the concept has been around for at least 20 years, Efseaff added, "This funding really allows this dream to germinate and grow."

Efseaff also sees the 15+ mile trail loop as an opportunity to improve access for fuels management and the protection of communities. At completion the project will link over 15 miles of trails on publicly owned lands and brings together key partners from Butte County, Bureau of Land Management, Paradise Irrigation District, Town of Paradise, and the US Forest Service. Sections of the trail will continue public access on the historic Butte County Rail line. The project enjoys strong local support with over 15 organizations supporting the proposal and Efseaff sees that number growing.

“As the word gets out about this project, we hope to work with local groups to help maintain the trail and hope that business can help us build two trail bridges that are not covered by the funding, but within local expertise,” Efseaff noted.

In 2018, California voters passed the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), which directed \$27.7 million to the Natural Resources Agency for competitive grants that provide non-motorized infrastructure development and enhancements that promote new or alternate access to parks, waterways, outdoor recreational pursuits, and forested or other natural environments to encourage health-related active transportation and opportunities for Californians to reconnect with nature.

In support of this new cycle of trail expansion, the District has launched a trails page and requests public input on trail needs (please visit: <https://www.paradisepd.com/cascade-and-sierra-foothills-trails>). In the future, the page will show trail information, events, volunteer opportunities, and maps.

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia/Paradise Pines and Concow/Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages over 1,000 acres of park land and facilities.

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