

CPRS District 2 - Hall of Honor Nomination

Please clarify category with nomination selection sub-committee chair prior to working on award submittal.
(Please check only one)

☒ Regional Treasure Category

☐ Exceptional Leadership Category

☐ Regional Legacy Category

Name of Nominee or Regional Treasure Tahoe Rim Trail

Nominee Phone 775-298-4485

Nominee Email info@tahoerimtrail.org

Person Submitting the Nomination

Name Morgan Steel Title/Position Executive Director

Mailing Address PO Box 3267

City/State Stateline, NV Zip Code 89449

Phone 775-298-4489 Email morgans@tahoerimtrail.org

Person Submitting the Nomination should follow the steps below:

1. Review CPRS District 2 boundary map and successful example at www.cprsd2.com/application-examples.html.
2. Review the complete submitted category criteria (exceptional, etc.).
3. A Letter of Intent is encouraged and is due June 1, 2017. So that we may be able to assist you in providing a complete nomination please provide on a separate sheet of paper: Your name and contact information, the name of the Nominee, category you are applying for, recognizing the criteria within the category identify what information you can provide and what you may need assistance with. Please submit to Barbara Wackford at the address below.
4. Nomination Filing Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2017, 5:00 p.m. Select the "Category" and provide detailed information on as many of the criteria categories as applicable which will enhance the eligibility and merit of the nomination. Incomplete nominations will not be accepted. Additional documentation and letters of support for the nomination are highly recommended. A hard copy and if possible a digital copy of the application and attachments would be appreciated. Successful award recipients will be required to submit electronically a copy of the nomination and six to eight high resolution photographs (DPI-300) with captions along with support materials. If available, please provide a video showcasing the Nominee.
5. If assistance or answers to questions are needed, Barbara Wackford, Chair of the Nominations Sub-Committee, can be reached at (916) 422-1429.
6. The stated deadlines will be strictly adhered to by the Committee.
 - Submit Letter of Intent, nomination and supporting information to:
Name: Barbara Wackford
Address: 5618 Delcliff Circle, Sacramento, CA 95822
Email: bwackford@aol.com
Applications reviewed and evaluated: October-November 2017.
 - Notification of results to applicant by December 2017.
 - Presentation of awards: Spring 2018. Details of presentation and award ceremony will be discussed with award winners at time of notification.
7. Person submitting nomination additionally agrees to the following:
I hereby give CPRS District 2 the irrevocable right and permission to archive photographs or other materials submitted for use in its printed publications, audiovisual presentations, and/or online presentations.

Signature

Morgan Steel

Date

10/4/17

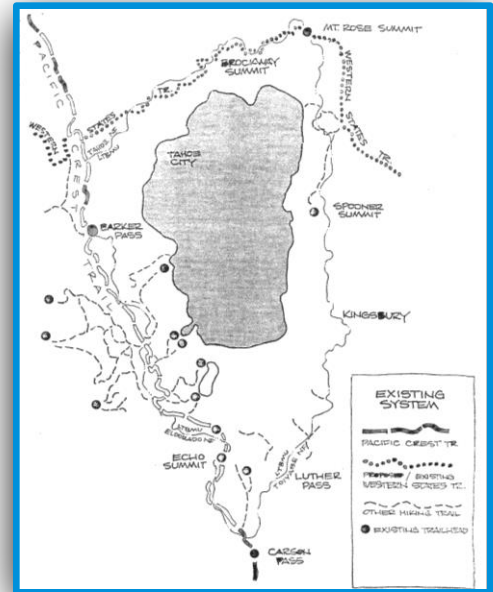
Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

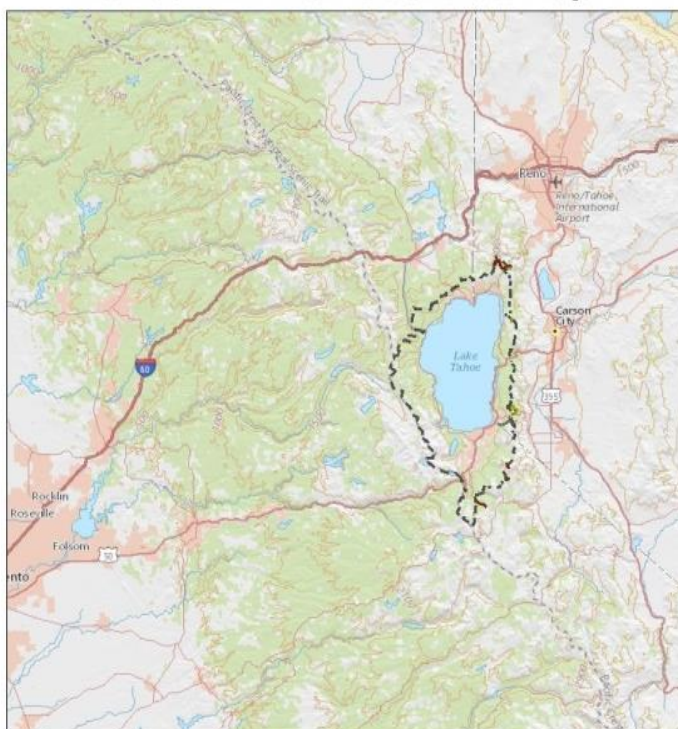
History and Background

In the late 1970s, in response to a growing need for additional recreational access in the Tahoe Basin, the idea of a trail circling the ridgeline around the lake was conceived. In 1981 the Tahoe Rim Trail Association was formed to make this vision a reality. Over the next two decades a world-class 165 mile loop trail was constructed by engaging the community and thousands of volunteers who provided hundreds of thousands of hours of labor to assist in the Trail's construction.

Today the Tahoe Rim Trail System includes over 180 miles. It shares 50 miles on the west side with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), and is also collocated in areas with the Pony Express Trail, American Discovery Trail, California National Historic Trail and Western States Trail.



Tahoe Rim Trail Overview Map



Tahoe Rim Trail
— Access Trail
— Loop Trail
- - - Main Trail
— Spur Trail

The Trail is open to non-motorized users with some restrictions on mountain biking and equestrians on certain sections (wilderness areas and PCT). Its highest peak reaches 10,336 at Relay Peak on the north end and it drops to lake level in Tahoe City at 6,304. The trail travels through two states, four National Forests (Humboldt-Toiyabe, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Tahoe, and El Dorado), six counties (Washoe, Carson City, Douglas, Placer, Alpine, and El Dorado) and three wilderness areas (Desolation, Mt. Rose, and Granite Chief).

A trip along the Tahoe Rim Trail showcases many gems of the Sierra

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

including high alpine lakes such as Fontanillis Lake in Desolation Wilderness or Star Lake at the base of Freel Peak, the highest peak in the Tahoe Basin. Trail users can hunt out some of the largest pine cones in the world from the massive Sugar Pine Trees that dot the landscape or marvel at the arborglyphs on the aspen trees left behind from shepherds ages ago. They can glimpse rare and endangered plants like the Tahoe Draba which is only found in the highest elevations of the Tahoe Basin. Users can hike, bike, ride, ski, or snowshoe their way to peaks that peer north all the way to Mt. Shasta, across the Carson Valley, south through the Crystal



Range, or across 22 miles of beautiful Lake Tahoe.

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association serves as the primary steward of the trail, in partnership with the US Forest Service and Nevada State Parks. The organization works to maintain and enhance the trail, practice and inspire stewardship, and preserve access to the natural beauty of

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

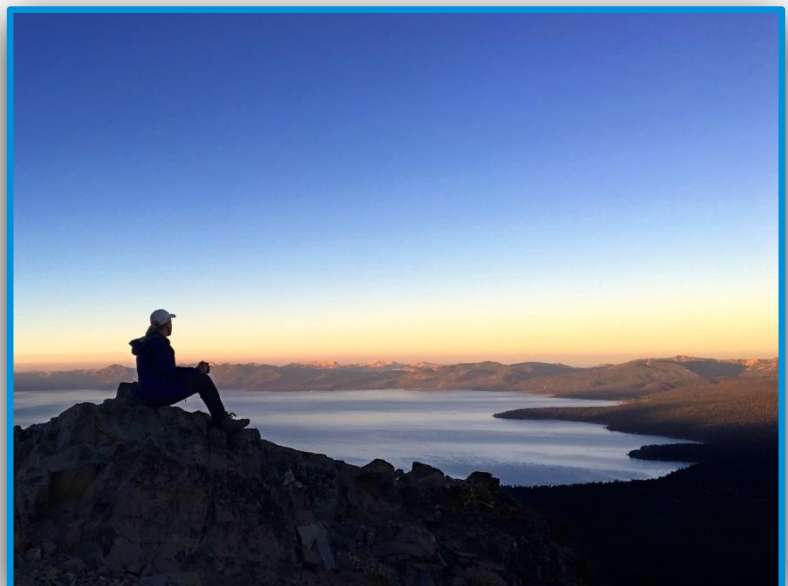
the Lake Tahoe Region so that everyone can experience Tahoe's iconic landscapes, charismatic fauna, and captivating flora today and in the future! This translates to a plethora of on the ground projects ranging from the trail building and maintenance projects the Association is famous for to efforts to build the next generation of trail stewards and inspire healthy active lifestyles.



The Association has two main programs: Trail Operations and Trail Education and Outreach. Trail Operations oversees trail building and maintenance programs which tackle annual trail maintenance to ensure the trail is free of major obstacles and remove down trees. As well as major projects such as building new trail connections to provide more access to the trail from population centers and transportation hubs, construction of bridges, and reroutes off dirt roads. Trail

Operations also keeps a pulse on all of the different planning, transportation, and development projects in the region to make sure any impacts these projects may have to the Tahoe Rim Trail and trail user experience are considered and abated.

The Association's Trail Education and Outreach Program focuses on providing trail users with the resources, training and inspiration to get out and experience the Trail. These programs come in a variety of formats including environmental education in local schools, guided treks on the Trail, skills building workshops on and off the Trail,



Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

the Tahoe Rim Trail Challenge aimed at inspiring the community to get outside and active, overnight backpacking trips for youth, Trail Talks at public libraries and schools on topics such as regional geology, and trail programming for community partners that work with local disadvantaged youth. Additionally, the Trail Education and Outreach program spends thousands of hours answering phone calls and emails from the public and maintaining the Tahoe Rim Trail Association's extremely popular website to provide vital information to the public on how to safely and sustainably recreate on the Trail and throughout the Tahoe Basin.

The Association takes on massive workload to steward the trail with a small staff, dedicated board, and hundreds of volunteers who see the value of the Tahoe Rim Trail and want to give back. The TRTA also receives support from individuals and the business community that recognize the value that the Tahoe Rim Trail brings to the regional economy and community.

1) Profound or original influence on the recreation and leisure opportunities and/or quality of life within the region.

In the late 1970s recreation in the Tahoe Basin looked very different than it does today. Trail access was limited to a few trailheads in Desolation Wilderness on the west side of the Tahoe Basin, in Mt. Rose Wilderness on the north end, and in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park to the east. The limited access resulted in a lack of opportunity and very busy trailheads. It was with this issue in mind that Glen Hampton, a USFS recreation officer, came up with the idea of a trail circling the ridgeline above Lake Tahoe. The Trail incorporated parts of the highly used established trails in the area such as the Pacific Crest Trail and the rest was constructed over the next 20 years. It was the first trail in the region to focus on creating a connected trail system.

Today the Lake Tahoe Basin Management unit has over 350 miles of trail under their purview. The Tahoe Rim Trail System, stewarded by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, makes up more than 170 of those miles. The Tahoe Rim Trail is one of the most iconic and beautiful long-distance recreation trails in the world. It was the first major trail construction project in the area that spurred a movement in recreation in the Tahoe Basin. Today this legacy of trail connectivity and access continues. The Tahoe Rim Trail can be thought of as a wheel with new trails constructed as the spokes which provide more recreational access and connections. While the Trail itself provides world class recreational opportunities to users, it also provides essential access and connections to other world famous trails such as the Flume Trail in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. This iconic trail follows a historic logging flume high above Lake Tahoe's east shore providing panoramic views of the lake. On the south side, the Tahoe Rim Trail provides access to the renown Mt. Toad's Wild Ride trail which is a major destination trail for mountain bikers interested in technical riding. Additionally the Trail is one of a few iconic

Tahoe Rim Trail - Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

trails that are now available for viewing on Google Street View thanks to the Association's effort to haul a Google Trekker Camera around the trail. This provides another tool for trail users to be inspired to get outdoors and learn what to expect when on the trail.

2) Will Continue for Generations

Since completing the construction of the initial loop in 2001, the Trail has had sustained and effective leadership and management from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association and Land Managers. This support and management oversight will continue in perpetuity. Over the past 16 years since the initial loop was completed the Tahoe Rim Trail Association has initiated a wide range of projects to improve and sustain the trail user experience. A major focus has been to move the trail off



roads that were initially incorporated into the loop for efficiency to open the trail as quickly as possible or due to public property issues. Once the trail was open and time was available to return to these sections of road in the TRT, the Association has been chipping away at replacing them with single track.

A fantastic example of this work is the Daggett Reroute Project. This project spanned over a decade from permitting to completion. It took four miles of road walking from the Kingsbury North Trailhead to the Kingsbury South Trailhead and replaced it with 7.3 miles of forested single track trail. In addition, trail was constructed to build a short loop trail into the larger TRT system and build the Van Sickle Connector Trail which is a hugely popular trail that

connects the population centers of Stateline, NV and South Lake Tahoe, CA and public transit to the Tahoe Rim Trail.

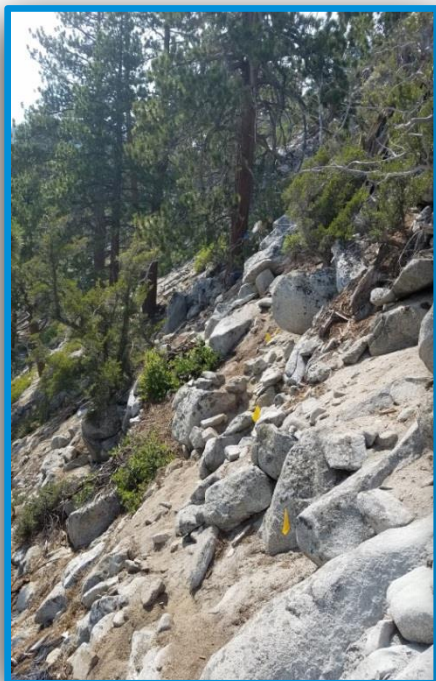
Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017



More recently the Tahoe Rim Trail Association completed a project to route the TRT away from Mott Canyon Road. The Mott Canyon Road is an access road that Heavenly Ski Resort uses to access the Mott Canyon ski lift. The road is incredibly steep and dusty, and generally an unpleasant trail experience for the quarter of a mile it was included

in the Tahoe Rim Trail. For the past two years, the TRTA has built new trail that routes the trail off the road and around scenic viewpoints as it follows the contours of the hillside. Construction was incredibly technical and involved a high level of skill from staff and volunteers to complete. As soon as it was opened to the public,



Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

the Association received comments through our office and social media about how excited users were to not have to use the road.

Additionally, thousands of hours annually have been put into basic maintenance operations that are essential to keeping the trail open and ensuring that trail users are able to have a sustainable experience on the trail with the least amount of impact as possible on the surrounding landscape. This work encompasses a broad range of projects from clearing drainages and removing encroaching brush and down trees to larger projects such as bridge construction. Over the course of the 2017 Trail Season, TRT Trail Crews removed over 650 down trees from the trail. In 2016, the TRTA constructed the Van Sickle Bridge to address resource damage issues at the Van Sickle Waterfall where trail users were trampling vegetation on stream banks in an effort to find the best crossing of the stream. A fiberglass bridge was constructed on site that is the first of its kind on the Tahoe Rim Trail. It will act as a prototype for future bridge projects.

The bridge was delivered to the trailhead in pieces; with no one piece weighing more than 60 pounds. With the assistance of horse packers and trail crew members all of the materials were carried up to the bridge site and the bridge was assembled over the course of June 2016. The bridge has been a fantastic asset to the trail and allowed for regeneration of vegetation. Best of all it was unscathed by the record snowfall totals of the 2016/2017 winter.



The Association has long term strategic vision that aims to ensure the trail is open and accessible for generations to come. Some key issues and ideas that the organization has identified as challenges and opportunities in the future include: managing the impacts of explosive increases in trail use, dealing with hazard trees resulting from the Sierra's massive tree mortality issues in which over 102 million trees have died since 2010, preventing catastrophic wildfire near or on the trail, improving access to trailheads through public transit to alleviate parking issues at trailheads and reduce vehicle miles driven, improving facilities at

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

trailheads to include bathrooms where appropriate to address human waste issues, and building new connections to improve access to the trail and spread out users. These are lofty goals that will require sustained effort in the future. The Association and its members and donors recognized that need and created an endowment with a primary goal of sustaining the Tahoe Rim Trail into the future.

3) Has Contributed to the Quality of the Development and Growth of Individuals, Quality of Life, Causes or Movements.

Recreational access is an essential piece to healthy outdoor lifestyles. The benefits of time spent outside in open, wild space are innumerable and include both physical and mental benefits. These benefits include improved short term memory, restored mental energy, stress reduction, better vision, reduced inflammation, improved concentration, higher self-confidence, sharper thinking and creativity, and a strengthened immune system to name just a few.



As a major driver in outdoor recreation in the Tahoe Basin, the Tahoe Rim Trail is affording opportunities to both local community members and tourists from around the world to reap these health benefits. Additionally the trail provides a community space for friends, families, and groups to meet and enjoy time together away from the regular stressors of the day.

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association uses the trail for a variety of programs aimed at getting people outside and on trails in a sustainable manner. Its major effort is focused on getting youth engaged in the outdoors. The Association implements four day youth backpacking camps for kids ages 12 to 17 throughout the summer to immerse them in the Tahoe Rim Trail and reap the benefits time on trails provides. Not only do these youth participants learn the essentials to backpacking such as how to use a stove, they are also pushed outside of their normal comfort zone of their home and must adapt to living in the backcountry. The personal growth and self confidence that comes from persevering in that situation is an important aspect to the program and the main reason the Association continues to provide it for local and regional youth.

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

4) Has contributed to the quality of the development and growth of individual or group training or education, life fulfillment or leisure pursuit.

Tahoe Rim Trail is an incredible example of the power of volunteers. While not an official movement, the success of the construction of the Trail by volunteer showed that volunteer trailbuilding efforts are a successful strategy to build and sustain trails. The Tahoe Rim Trail build has become a model that regional and national organizations have replicated with support from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association. The initial loop construction benefitted from over 300,000 volunteer hours from thousands of individuals interested in seeing the vision of a trail around the Tahoe Basin completed. Volunteers were involved in all aspects of the trail's construction from fundraising efforts to purchase tools and signage to on the ground construction of trail infrastructure.



Today the Tahoe Rim Trail Association is a leader in providing training for regional volunteers who work with a wide group of trail building organizations. The Association hosts Wilderness First Aid courses, CPR trainings, chainsaw and crosscut trainings with agency partners, and Crew Leader and Guide Trainings for volunteers interested in getting more involved with trail crews or leading others on interpretive outings.

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

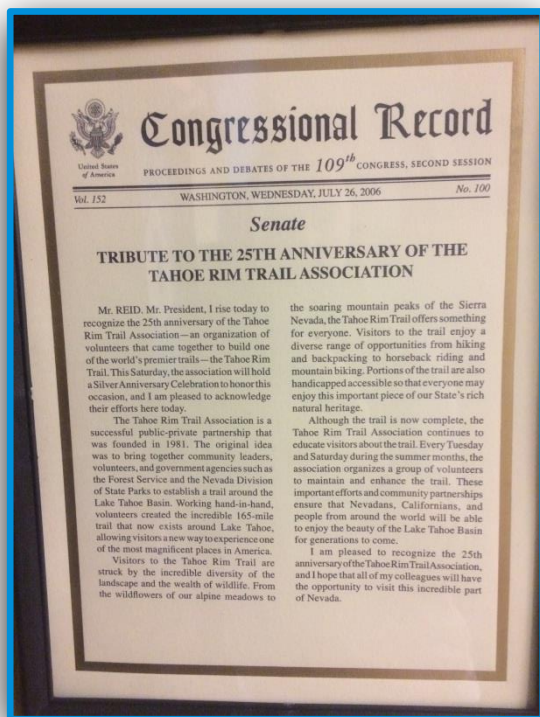
Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

5) Has received recognition, awards, honors from the greater public.

As a world class, destination trail, known around the world, the Tahoe Rim Trail has earned many awards and honors over the past 36 years. The section of the trail that is not collated with the Pacific Crest Trail has been designated as National Recreation Trail by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. National Recreation Trail designation is given to trails that contribute to health, conservation, and recreation goals in the US. American Hiking Society gave the Tahoe Rim Trail Association their Trail Development Award in recognition of the completion



the initial loop trail. The Trail was also designated a Millennium Trail by the White House Millennium Council. In 2006, in recognition of 25 years of stewardship of the Trail, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association was recognized in Congress.



The TRTA was also awarded the 2008 Lake Tahoe Bicycle Achievement Award in recognition of the significant contribution the trail has made to the advancement of bicycling in the Lake Tahoe Region. This award was quickly followed up in 2011 when the Tahoe Rim Trail Association was given the Tahoe Chamber's Blue Ribbon Award for Geotourism. This award recognized the TRTA's work in providing a system of sustainable trails that benefit the local environment in the Tahoe Basin. Finally in 2016 the Tahoe Rim Trail Association was certified by the Points of Light

Institute as a Service Enterprise. As one of the first few organizations in the State of Nevada to be certified, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association's long history of building capacity through volunteers made it an excellent fit for this certification process. Service Enterprise designation certifies that as an organization, the TRTA effectively leverages volunteers and their skills across all levels of the organization.

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

6) Contributes to the Economic Vitality of the Region

In the early 1980s as construction began on the Tahoe Rim Trail, the economy of the Tahoe Basin was driven mainly by gaming at local casinos. The classic Tahoe vacation involved significant time spent in a casino. By the 1990s that was all changing. As casinos began opening in more areas, gaming revenues in the Tahoe Basin saw a precipitous decline. In South Lake Tahoe gaming spending fell from 556 million of real gross gaming revenue in 1990 to 214 million in 2010. This drastic reduction impacted all aspects of life at the basin from jobs to housing. As gaming has declined as a major driver for tourism in the Basin, recreation and eco-tourism are filling in.



The Tahoe Rim Trail is one of the major recreational opportunities in the Basin and has been a chief contributor to the rise in recreational tourism to the Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association has been recording trail use numbers sporadically since 2008 and estimated that over 100,000 users are on the trail annually based on that data. In 2016, the Association invested heavily in assessing trail use to better inform its management decisions and infrastructure needs. Through this program in

2016 the TRTA captured data on trail usage from all of the major trail segments. By synthesizing the data collected, the Association found that the estimated 100,000 number of users was significantly lower than the reality. Currently the Tahoe Rim Trail Association reports that over 400,000 users are on the trail annually. In July of 2014 the TRTA also completed a trail survey at each trailhead to take a snapshot of the use of the trail. From information gathered from user interviews, the Association found that 60% of Tahoe Rim Trail users were visitors to the region. 31% reported that they would be staying in the Basin for five or more nights and 53% reported that they will spend more than \$250 dollars during their stay.

Tahoe Rim Trail – Hall of Honor, Regional Treasure Nomination

Tahoe Rim Trail Association - 2017

On a national level, the Outdoor Industry Association found that outdoor recreation is third overall in annual consumer spending, at \$646 billion, behind only financial services and insurance and outpatient health care. 48.4% of the US population participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2015 with running including trail running being the most popular activity among Americans. This shows a clear demand for trail opportunities like the Tahoe Rim Trail.



The Trail has also provided the location for a variety of different trail events put on by the community that generate funds for local groups and businesses and bring more people to the area. Each year the Tahoe Endurance Runs hold a 50 and 100 mile race on the east side of the trail that is so popular a lottery is used for registration. Similarly, the Tahoe 200, a 200 mile race around the Tahoe Basin, uses the TRT for a majority of its route. There are horse races, bike rides, and ski races hosted on the trail. With the trail's close proximity to the growing population centers of the Bay Area, Sacramento and Reno, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association anticipates the Tahoe Rim Trails impact on geotourism to continue to grow as more individuals become trail users on the trail's 165+ miles.

