

SHARE THE SLATE

Share the Valley



Welcome!

- ▣ Thank you for coming

- ▣ Introductions:

Brittany Konsella, President

Kendall Tankersley, Vice President

Kristi Kagy, Secretary

Adam Kagy, Treasurer

Josh Egedy, Board Member

Will Dujardin, Board Member

Frank Konsella, Board Member

Mission

To protect winter access and promote the shared interests of all user groups within the public lands of Gunnison County



Who we are

We are not just hybrid users. We represent ALL users

We don't just focus on the Slate River Drainage, we focus on ALL drainages that provide access to our public lands in winter.



Share the Slate strives to:

- ▣ protect the shared interests of *all* winter user groups, motorized and non-motorized, within our public lands
- ▣ foster a sense of community through education and open dialogue
- ▣ protect our community by developing strategies for conflict management
- ▣ preserve and celebrate the beauty of all public lands within Gunnison County
- ▣ ensure that our public lands remain public



We also strive to:

- ▣ ensure balanced winter access for *all* user groups, motorized and non-motorized
- ▣ promote a culture of compassion and compromise that honors the Gang of 9 Decision



2015 OSV ruling

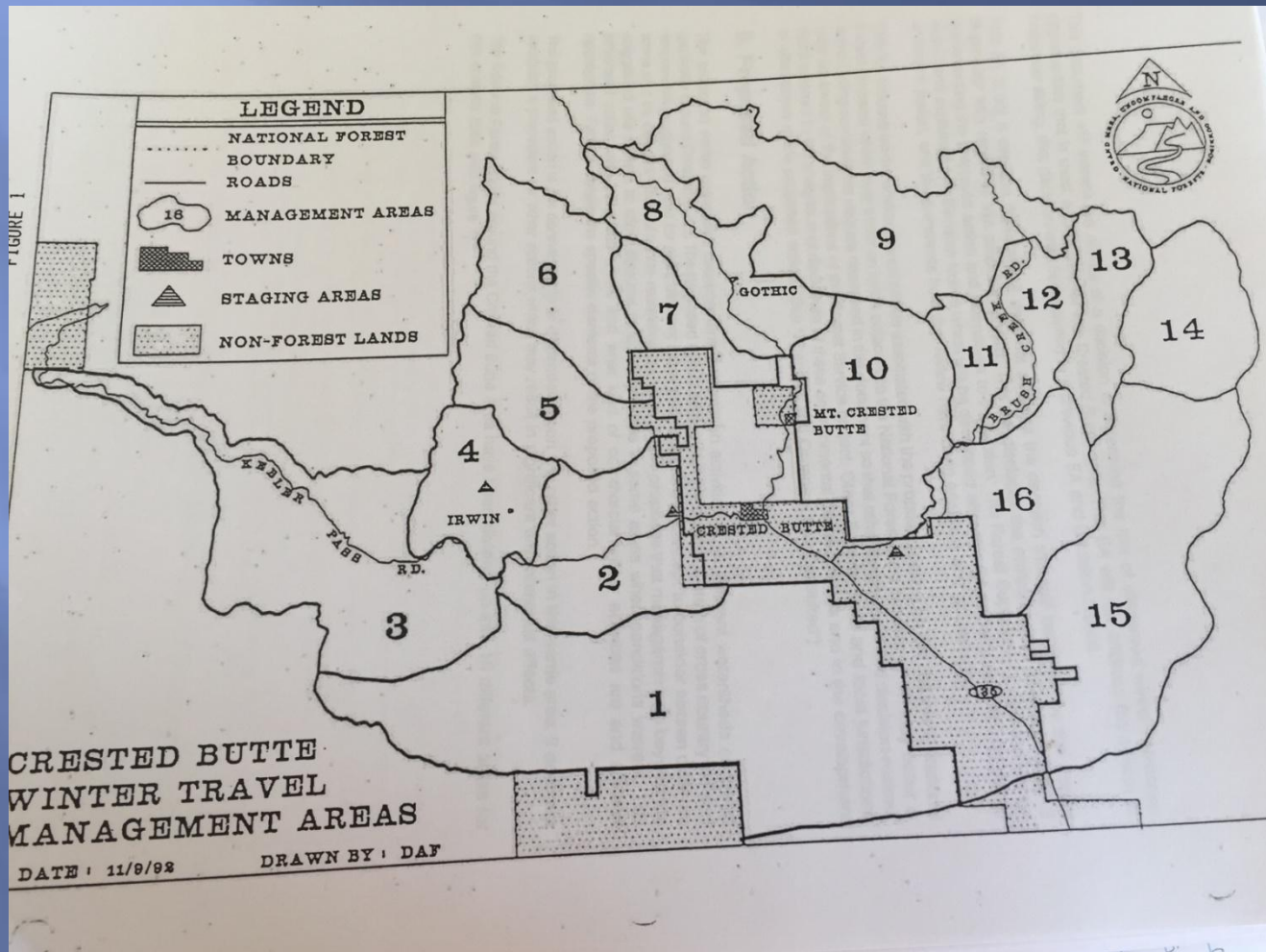
- ▣ OSV – Over snow vehicles
- ▣ Winter Wildlands Alliance sued the National Forest for not having existing winter travel management plans
- ▣ OSV Ruling - requires the local Forest Service to designate routes and areas for different uses
- ▣ Gunnison NF does have a winter travel management plan – Gang of 9 Decision from 1995
- ▣ NF contacts say that this DOES qualify as a winter travel management plan because prior decisions were made under NEPA

OSV Ruling

- ▣ 2005 the winter travel management plan was revised to refine uses on Washington Gulch Road - permits required and zones restricted for snowmobiles
- ▣ The winter travel management plan that is currently in place will be reviewed, it's just a matter of when
- ▣ We want to make sure all voices are heard during this review process, but we don't believe this review process should be rushed.



Gang of 9 Decision



Specifics of Gang of 9 Decision:

1. Ohio Creek – General use area.
2. Kebler East – Emphasis snowmobiling. Cross country skiing discouraged, commercial use approved.
3. Kebler West – Emphasis snowmobiling. Open to cross country skiing.
4. Irwin – Emphasis snowmobile and snowcat use. Open to cross country skiing.
5. Oh Be Joyful – Emphasis on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is permitted but discouraged outside of wilderness, prohibited in wilderness.
6. Slate River– Emphasis is on general, non-commercial use.
7. Washington Gulch – Emphasis is on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is permitted but discouraged and permits are required, no commercial use.
8. Upper East River (Gothic) – Emphasis on cross country skiing, closed to motorized use and commercial use.
9. Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness - Open to cross country skiing, closed to motorized use.
10. Lower East River – Emphasis on general use.
11. West Brush Creek – Emphasis on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is limited to Brush Creek Road and Deer Creek Road.
12. Middle Brush Creek – Emphasis is cross country skiing, closed to motorized use.
13. East Brush Creek – Upper = General use, Lower = Emphasis on Cross Country skiing
14. Upper Cement Creek – General use area
15. Lower Cement Creek – General use area
16. Farris Creek – General use area.

To summarize...

- ▣ Of the 16 areas affected by the decision:
 - 6 ½ areas emphasize general use (Ohio Creek, Slate, Lower East River, Upper Cement Creek, Lower Cement Creek, Upper Brush Creek (that's the half))
 - 6 ½ areas emphasize cross country skiing (Oh Be Joyful, Washington Gulch, Gothic Maroon Bells-Snowmass, Middle Brush Creek, West Brush Creek and Lower Brush Creek)
 - 3 areas emphasize snowmobiling (Kebler East, Kebler West and Irwin)

Some Important Points on Silent Use

- ▣ “The perception of noise as a problem for some non-motorized users should be reduced by their ability to choose areas that will not contain motorized use”
 - In essence, the Forest Service states in their decision that if recreational users want a “silent” experience, then they can freely choose to recreate in areas where motorized use is prohibited, and the decision provides these areas
- ▣ “There are ample opportunities for track and skate skiing...provided by the Crested Butte Nordic Center”
 - This quote was about the decision to allow dog-sledding in gothic, stating that dog-free areas were ample. But it is relevant to motorized use as well. The USFS recognizes that there is already ample acreage for cross country skiers where all other user groups are not allowed.

Factors that Influenced the Decision

- ▣ The Forest Supervisor found “no strong or compelling biological or physical resource reasons to choose one alternative over another. It is apparent that social concerns are the most important considerations in making this decision.”
- ▣ And 2 paragraphs later, “this decision provides reasonable balance and compromise between the preferences, desires and perceptions of the Crested Butte and Gunnison communities...”
- ▣ “This alternative represents their (the gang of 9’s) compromises to balance the needs of major types of winter recreation pursuits...It attempts to recognize traditional uses while recognizing the needs of new, emerging types of winter recreation.”

What we can do:

- ❑ Remember, the Gang of 9 decision is a working travel management plan for our area.
- ❑ Nothing in the 2015 decision requires the Forest Service to modify this existing plan. They will review it, but are not required to change it.
- ❑ In 1995, the USFS stated that safety, potential user conflict, and “social concerns” were the most important factors in their decision making.

This means that human behavior will have a huge impact on whether or not they see the need to revise this plan.

- ❑ This is where Share the Slate comes in - need to work together as a community to resolve any potential user conflicts.

More of what we can do...

- The Forest Service strongly considers public comment when it comes to decisions on recreation and travel management.
- Right now a small group of users with a very specific, exclusionary agenda are being very vocal to the Forest Service. If we don't speak up, the Forest Service will think that their agenda is shared by the greater community.
- Join Share the Slate, stay informed, follow a code of conduct that reflects respect for all users, and be vocal, both in the community and with the Forest Service

Our Public Lands

What you need to know about our public lands,
the sale of disposable lands, and how you can
apply that knowledge effectively in the future

Our Lands: A Broad Overview

- ▣ The vast majority of public lands are located in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming.
- ▣ These lands do **not** include wilderness areas, national parks, or national monuments.
- ▣ In 1996/97 under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, some public lands were identified as “**suitable for disposal.**” It has been common since that time (and through all presidential administrations) to sell these lands to either: pay off federal debt or to purchase new public lands that are considered more desirable.
- ▣ The most recent sale was **H.R. 621** (which was recently withdrawn by its author).

So, what makes public land disposable?



- First, it must be identified for disposal in the applicable land use plan
- It has **not** been identified for Indian tribe allotments
- It has **not** been identified for local government use.
- It has **not** been identified for State selection.
- Most importantly, it has **not** been subject to a Recreation and Public Purpose conveyance application.
- The lands selected for sale often, as per the BLM website:
 - are scattered, isolated tracts that are difficult or uneconomical to manage
 - were acquired for a specific purpose and no longer serve that purpose
 - disposal of the land will serve public objectives (community expansion, economic development, etc.).

The best way to protect public lands is...

to use them.

The more user groups that have access to and are actively utilizing public lands (in a respectful manner), the better.

Public lands that are marked as disposable often share the following characteristics:

- They do not have public access.
- They are not currently being utilized for recreational purposes nor have they been utilized for any purpose for a period of time.



So What Happened with H.R. 621?

- ❑ Several recreational groups and organizations who normally work against one another, joined forces.
- ❑ In short, dividing and conquering works against us. Dividing user groups into factions to keep “someone” out, weakens our ability to protect public lands in the future.
- ❑ We are much stronger together than we are separate; and we are much more powerful when working together as opposed to fighting amongst ourselves.
- ❑ The main argument against H.R. 621 was the precedent that it would set in the future in regards to the treatment of public lands by the federal government.



Working Across the Lines: A Few More Notes

- ▣ The user group that would have been most impacted by H.R. 621 were hunters and sportsmen. Their involvement and protest against this bill played a major role in its withdrawal by the author (who just so happens to be an avid hunter).
- ▣ This isn't going away. The sale of public lands is going to happen and more bills like H.R. 621 will emerge in the future.
- ▣ So what can we do?



What Can We Learn from This?

BE PROACTIVE

- Proactive is always better than reactive.
- To keep and protect our public lands, we need to utilize them – respectfully. And, we need to make those lands accessible for as many different user groups as possible.
- We need to be aware of and actively engaged in this process. The lands currently labeled as disposable have been for a long time. The time to act isn't when a bill for sale is proposed or after it has passed, it is when the Forest Service is reviewing its Resource Management Plan.

BE AWARE

www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/lands_potentially0.html

www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/621/text

www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/co/programs/land_use_planning/rmp/archives/gunnison/rmp_rod.Par.3777.File.dat/Grr.pdf

www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/lands/selling_public_land.print.html

Importance of Etiquette



Code of Conduct

KEEP WINTER TRAILHEADS MULTI-USE:

BE KIND

Smiles and waves go a long way in creating positive experiences for everyone.

SHOW RESPECT

Respect all closures and private property; it's closed for a reason. Realize other users are not your enemy. We all have a responsibility to respect each other.

BE AWARE

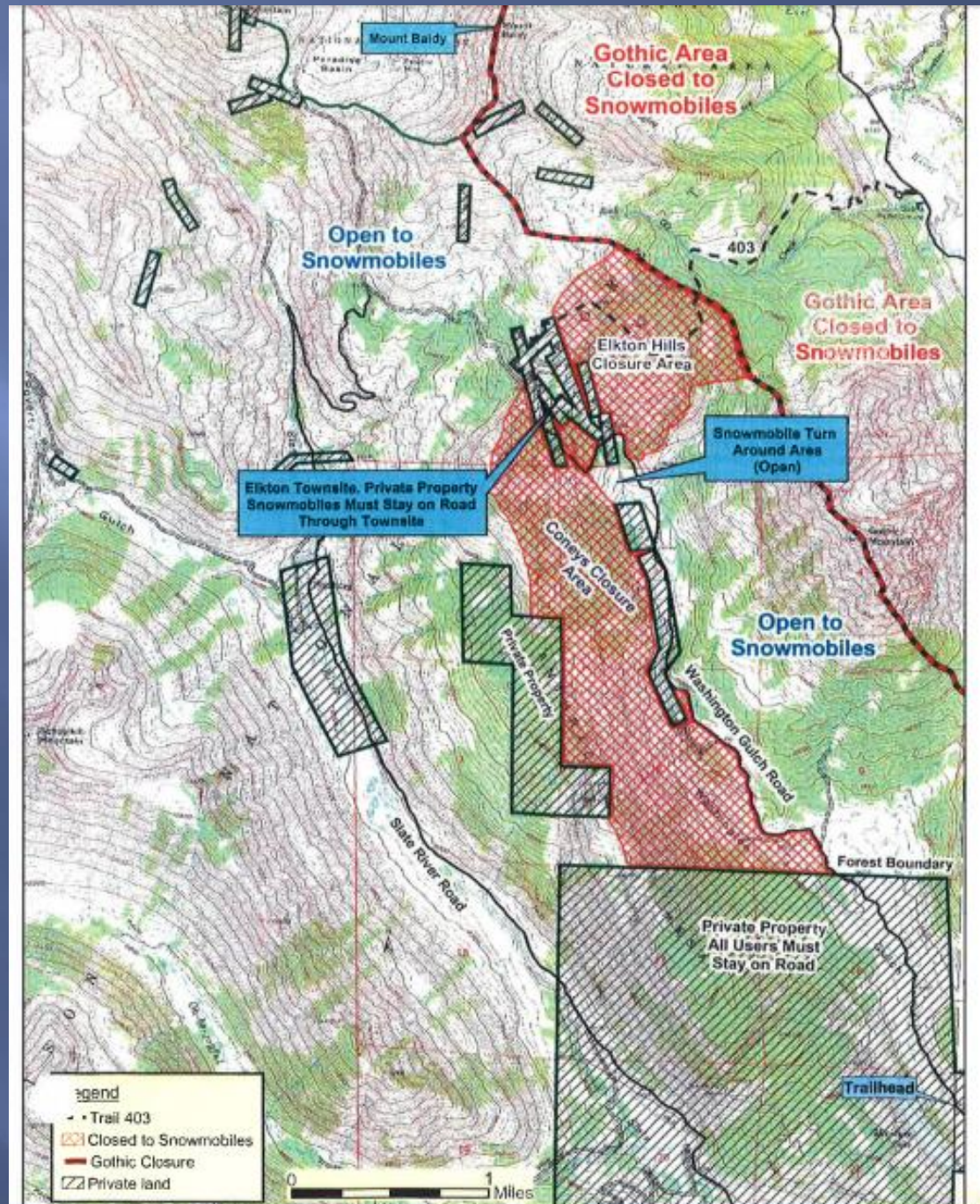
Being aware of your surroundings and yielding to other users will all but eliminate conflicts and misunderstandings.

HELP OTHERS

Offer a helping hand, advice, and conversation when needed. We are a community; let's keep an eye out for one another.

FIND OUT MORE AT SHARETHESLATE.COM

Washington Gulch

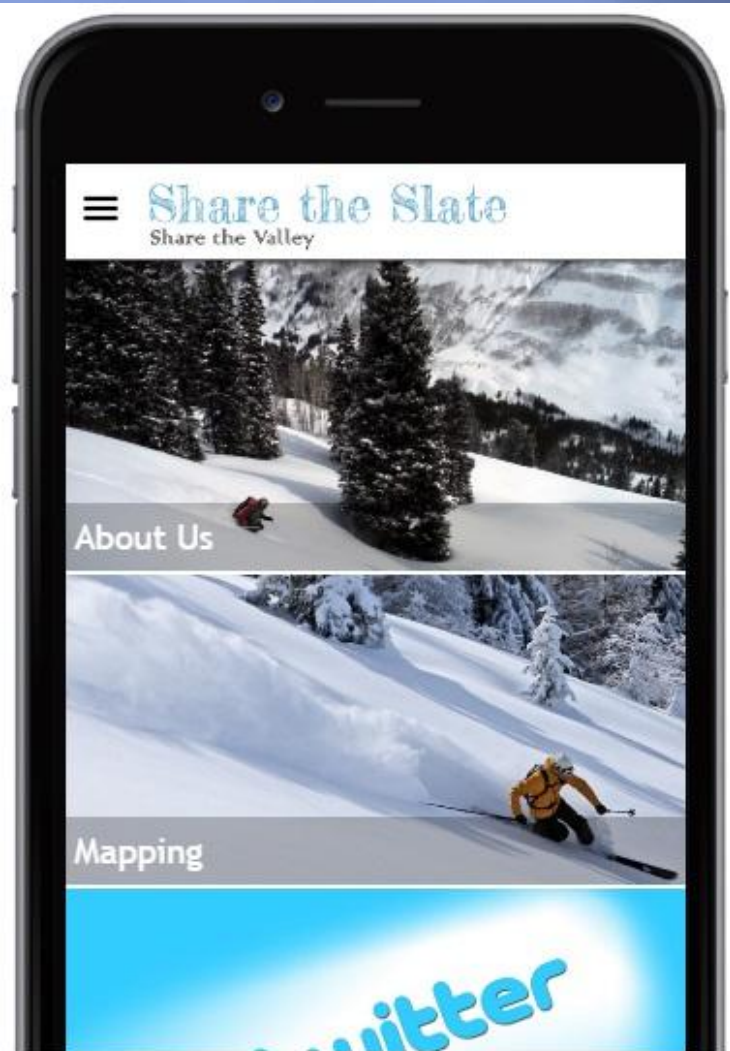


Slate River Trailhead



Coming Soon!

SHARE THE SLATE MOBILE APP



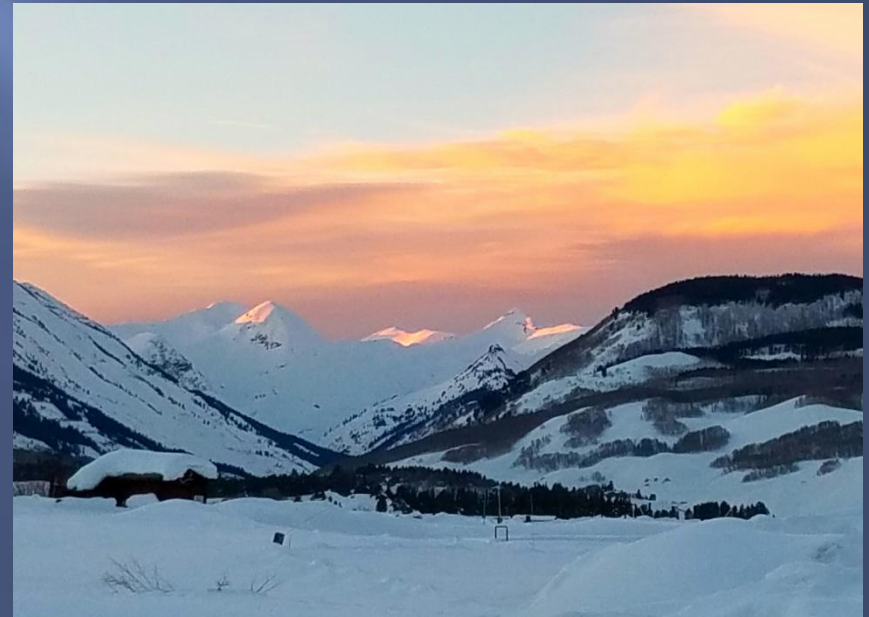
- ▣ Mapping capabilities to see trailheads, trails, common use areas, private/public land.
- ▣ Education to encourage everybody from beginners to experts and anybody unfamiliar with the area to use our backcountry respectfully.
- ▣ Keep up on the latest events from Share the Slate.
- ▣ Interaction between users to collaborate on zones, activities, snow conditions, ect.
- ▣ Android/iOS apps

What We've Been Working On

- ▣ Continued efforts on education and awareness
 - Etiquette
 - Public land use and threats
 - Designated land use areas

- ▣ Working with other user groups to promote a culture of cooperation , compassion, and open dialogue

- ▣ Used donation dollars to fund establishment of 501(c)(3) non-profit status



Trailhead Awareness

KEBLER PASS – SATURDAY FEB
25TH

In collaboration with
SnoTrackers



GOTHIC / SNODGRASS – SAT.
MARCH 4TH

In collaboration with CBMBA
and the Forest Service

CBMBA

What Happened to our Data Collection?

- ▣ We have decided to de-emphasize for now and focus on education and collaboration
- ▣ Forest Service has said that they cannot use data we collect
- ▣ We support 3rd party collection of data
- ▣ Brian Lieberman from the MEMs (Masters in Environmental Management) of WSCU is heading an effort to collect data
 - at winter trailheads: an infrared counter at Slate River TH and another at Washington Gulch
 - Working a survey to gather info about user experience

Future Goals

- ▣ Continue efforts on education, awareness, collaboration
- ▣ Development of our mobile app
- ▣ More trailhead awareness days
- ▣ Better signage at trailheads
- ▣ Work with appropriate land management parties to try to alleviate “cluster” and parking issues at trailheads



Photo by Eliot Rosenberg

We will continue to...

- ▣ Keep you informed
- ▣ Tell you when to take action
- ▣ Continue to fight for our access to our public lands



Photo by Neil Beltchenko

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

We are searching for new board members!

Donations

- ▣ Donations needed to establish our mobile app as well as to print educational materials and trailhead signs
- ▣ Membership options
 - Individual (\$25)
 - Family (\$45)
 - Business (\$100)
 - Business Platinum (\$500)



Visit sharetheslate.com and click on “Donations” to donate or purchase membership.

OR donate, purchase membership and raffle tickets TODAY!

SHARE THE SLATE

Share the Valley



We thank these businesses for their raffle donations:



Visit sharetheslate.com to sign up for updates, membership, and to donate!