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MOSCOW AREA MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

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Dear MAMBA members,

Thank you for supporting the organization's mission of "creating, enhancing and preserving a sustainable, publicly-accessible trail system on the Palouse." Our community is incredibly fortunate to have the MAMBA trail system; over 60 trails, traversing more than 80 miles on Moscow Mt. Whether you hike, bike or run, MAMBA trails are there for you as a place to get away from it all or connect with fellow trail users in the natural beauty of the Moscow Mountain area. The truly amazing and unique feature of the MAMBA trails on Moscow Mt is that they are all on Private Land! Every time I enjoy the trails, I think of the many private landowners gracious enough to share their land, I ask that you do the same. Thank you, Private Landowner's of Moscow Mt!

Another wonderful feature of our MAMBA trails is that they can be "YOUR TRAIL" by volunteering on trail workdays. Then every time you go by that section, at least if you are like me, you will remember that day and who you were with; family, a new riding buddy or someone you see in town at the store. As we emerge from the challenges of the last year that have precluded group activities, look for opportunities to contribute and build more great trail memories by volunteering on workdays this season. Thank you, volunteers that have given so much time and energy to build and maintain the trails we enjoy!

I'd like to thank the current MAMBA board of directors for their time and dedication to moving the organization forward and recognize the MAMBA leaders that have come before us who built the foundation on which we work; Jim LaFortune, Dan Cordon and Jonathan Lomber, Scott and Sherrie Metlen.

Much has changed since the early 1990's when the first trails were being scratched in on the Mountain. Fourteen years ago when I moved to the area you had to become a MAMBA member to get a trail map or have someone show you the way, or probably both to get around. Now all MAMBA trails are on Trailforks (a crowdsource trail map app) and the most popular western trails are marked with signs. For 2 years now MAMBA has provided a porta potty at the Headwaters parking and this year for the second season one at the Trail Landing parking area on Moscow Mt Rd. Some perceive this "progress" as good, some not so good, but I think it is necessary change given the increased use of a recreational resource that has become vital to our community. Lucky for us, even when the Headwaters parking is filled, after a couple miles you run into just a few fellow trail users, often someone you know. I love where we live!

Recognizing the increased trail use "pressure" the MAMBA board has been working to diffuse it by expanding the trail system. Colin Priebe has headed up a year's long effort to establish the Balsam Route trail at the end of West Twin Rd. We are also involved with other community groups working with the University of Idaho Experimental Forest to develop some trails on their land outside of Troy. And, responding to a frequent ask for more beginner friendly mountain bike trails we have worked with the Friends of Phillips Farm, Latah county and the City of Moscow to build a sweet single track trail at the park.

We have also seen an increase in winter trail use. For the 3rd season in a row, we have maintained 6-7 miles of "groomed" multiuse trail enjoyed by hikers, runners, skiers and fat bikers. Dues paying members have made this possible, providing us with the funds to purchase the SnowDog, other equipment and gas. Volunteers made it possible by helping groom and of course the Private Landowners by letting us enjoy their land all season long.

Thank you to everyone that makes the MAMBA trails possible.

Happy Trails!

John Wenz- President

# MEET THE BOARD



**John Wenz- President and Landowner Liason**

Originally from Kinderhook, New York, John is a cow vet who wrestles with cow data at the WSU Vet School. He moved to Moscow from Ft. Collins, CO 14 years ago and wouldn't still be here if his family didn't have Moscow Mountain to play on. Sincere thanks to the landowners and all the folks who have made MAMBA and the trails what they are today.



**Matt Pollard- Secretary**

Matt brings a lifetime of recreation and competitive cycling for 20 years on the Palouse to MAMBA. Matt's most visible contribution to MAMBA has been clearing trails of down trees. Matt spends his time riding with his family locally and throughout the Pacific Northwest. He can be found teaching high school science and math. He lives in Moscow with his wife and three children.

**Kyle French- Treasurer**

Kyle moved to Moscow in 2018 from Illinois and rode on the mountain his first night here for a strong Monday and loved it! He got hooked on riding about 15 years ago. He likes riding all types of bikes but is happiest when he can ride with friends. His favorite trails on the mountain are QMR and Gemini.



**Colin Priebe- Trails Chairperson**

Colin is co-owner of Rolling Hills Bikes in downtown Moscow. He is involved with Palouse Bicycle Racing, Palouse Land Trust, and Safe Routes to School. He has been involved with MAMBA since 2013 helping dig and plan trails. When not at the shop- he can be found riding and digging trails with his son Orin, taking pictures of flowers and hunting for mushrooms



**Donald Schmit-**

Donald has served on the MAMBA board since 2018. Originally hailing from Nebraska, Donald has been enjoying and exploring the Palouse since 2017. By day he can be found working for Washington State University – University Recreation. Donald can often be found using the trail on Moscow Mountain to bike, hike, run, and ski.



**Sandra Townsend- Fundraising Chair**

Sandra moved to the Palouse in 2016 and works at the University of Idaho's Outdoor Program. She joined the Board of Directors in 2018. When she is not mountain biking, she can be found rafting, hiking, and backcountry skiing all around the Pacific Northwest. Her favorite trail currently is Switchblade.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

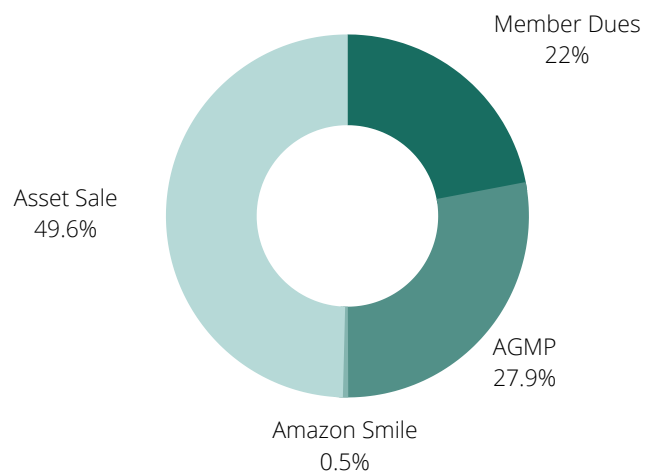
*2020 was a year of change: research of a new membership renewal platform, a move to free access of the trail map, and the first year of Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (AGMP) income. While less membership donations were collected in 2020 due to the transition to a new platform, this will likely be made up in 2021.*

## \$11,250

TOTAL INCOME

Major Contributions:

- Membership dues
- AGMP (2019 & 2020)
- one-time asset sale

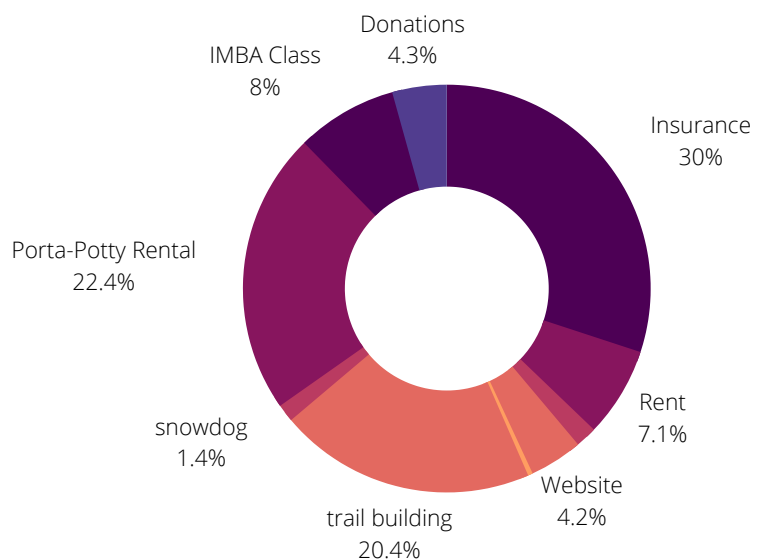


## \$6,300

TOTAL EXPENSES

Major Expenses:

- Insurance
- Porta Potties
- Trail building expenses





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# TRAILS UPDATE

This has been an interesting last 12 months to say the least. While trail usage has increased dramatically due to the want to be outside, Covid also caused the club to change plans for how we focus our efforts on trail building and maintenance. We cancelled our two social events and we had to change up our plans for the building season. This included cohort-style builds with select groups and many individual projects implemented by single persons. While we certainly can look forward to the 2021 build season it is worth reflecting on what did happen this year and focus on how we can build momentum for the future.

## Trail Work Highlights:

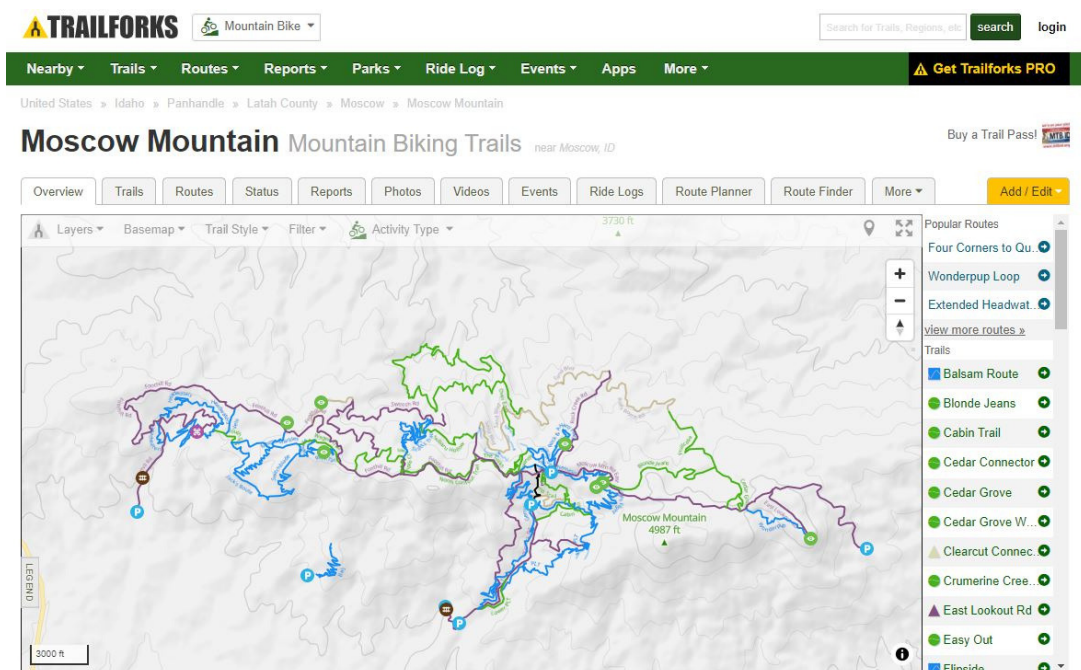
- Rerouted PLT
- Rebuild Cabin Trail bridges
- Established Somalia as a legitimate MAMBA sanctioned trail and built some features
- Built Balsam Route from West Twin Rd to the bottom of historic Wild Dog
- Worked on the Headwaters reroute to help with erosion and safety
- Volunteers brushed around a third of the trails on the mountain
- Established a repeatable winter trail route to be packed by the groomer and trail users

## Trail Goals for 2021:

- Build Phillip's Farm Trail
  - Build Connection from Balsam Route/Wild Dog to Switchblade/Moose Marbles intersection
  - Start planning and approval process for rebuilding/reopening Contour, Cave, Whoop Dee
  - Continue finishing work on many trail sections including QMR, PLT, Headwaters, Triple Crown.
  - Continue to move forward finding Public Landownership open to trail building projects/access
  - Replace some older tools with new tools reflecting current usage
  - Continue with Signage in appropriate locations
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# TRAILS UPDATE

In 2020, MAMBA transitioned to an open online map supported by the TrailForks application and website. This application allows for trail condition updates, trail closures, instant GPS positioning on smartphones, and is readily available to anyone. There is no longer a paywall for users to gain access to the map.



## Advocacy Highlights:

- Navigated potential pandemic overuse and landowner relations associated
- Reached out to public landowners to identify who is interested in developing trails.
- Worked with landowners to further establish parking on West Twin Rd for new trail access
- Learned to work in smaller groups to avoid issues with COVID
- Increased signage presence on the mountain where allowed

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## Looking Forward to 2021

- New membership platform online
- Increased fundraising opportunities through grants and individual giving
- Increased community outreach and networking
- Trails being built and maintained on Moscow Mountain and on Phillips Farm
- Group trailbuilds
- Bylaw amendments
- Board member recruitment

Finally,

Thank you to the landowners, riders, runners, walkers, skiiers, snowshoers, dog lovers, advocates, and more who help make Moscow Mountain the unique recreational area we have available today.

### *MAMBA Mission Statement*

*The Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association, Inc., is an Idaho nonprofit corporation with the purpose of creating, enhancing, and preserving a sustainable, publicly-accessible trail system on the Palouse. A fundamental component of MAMBA's mission is respect for private land and the desires of the private landowners that allow us to recreate on their lands. MAMBA is committed to being good stewards of the land, to respect the wishes of our landowners, and to strive in all activities to leave the land in better condition than we found it.*