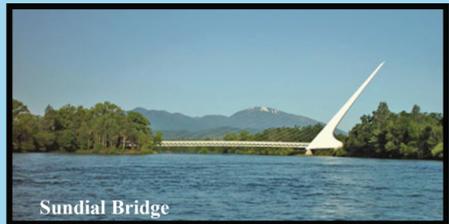


# Sacramento River Rail Trail

## Redding Area Trail Descriptions

### Sacramento River Rail Trail

The BLM-managed Sacramento River Rail Trail is a non-motorized trail with a short paved section. This wide graveled trail is 8.4 miles long and has little grade, with elevations ranging from 577 to 808 feet. The south end of the trail is under construction and will be a non-motorized, three-mile extension to the Sacramento River Rail Trail. The Sacramento River Rail Trail can be accessed through the Shasta Dam, Matheson, Keswick, and Rock Creek trailheads.



Sundial Bridge

### Sacramento River Trail

The Sacramento River Trail is a non-motorized, paved trail with developed facilities and spectacular views of the river. The entire trail is 9.5 miles, with elevations ranging from 472 to 562 feet. The trail is accessible through the Keswick Dam, Middle Creek, Buena Ventura, and two Sacramento River trailheads. The Sacramento River Trail crosses over the Ribbon Bridge and the Sundial Bridge.

Recreationists can also visit the Turtle Bay Museum and Arboretum. The Turtle Bay art and history museum offers interactive exhibits and special exhibition galleries. For more information, visit [www.turtlebay.org](http://www.turtlebay.org) or call 1-800-TURTLEBAY.



Ribbon Bridge

### Buena Ventura Trail

The Buena Ventura trailhead is a connection into the Sacramento River Trail. The 0.9-mile trail is paved and is a continuous steep grade with elevations ranging from 560 to 779 feet.

### Middle Creek Trail

This non-motorized 1.6-mile trail is composed of a flat, well-graded surface, with elevation levels ranging from 519 to 690 feet. The Middle Creek trail runs directly into the River Trail, and can also be used to connect to the Stagecoach trailhead.

### Stagecoach Trail

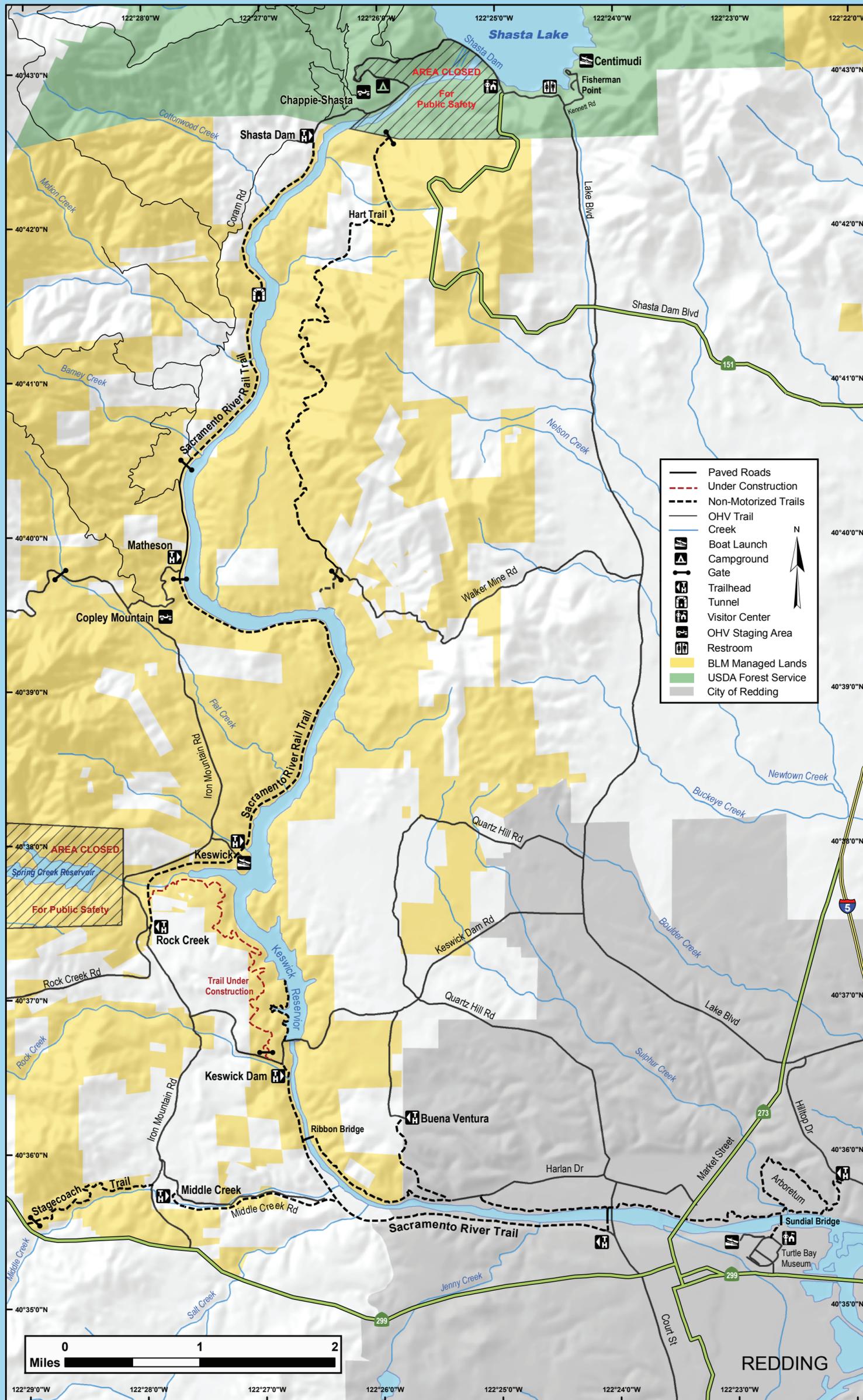
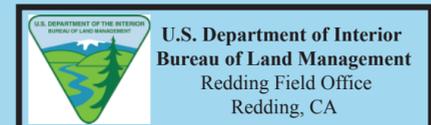
This rocky 1.4-mile trail has elevations ranging from 632 to 913 feet. The eastern side of the Stagecoach Trail ends on Iron Mountain Road near the Middle Creek trailhead.

### Hart Trail

This 4.4-mile trail is non-motorized, extremely rocky, and has portions of steep grades. The elevation ranges from 614 to 1010 feet.



Buena Ventura Trail

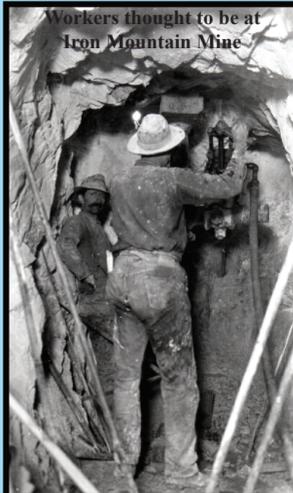


## Iron Mountain

Workers at Iron Mountain Mine pulled iron, silver, gold, copper, zinc, and pyrite from the hills above Redding and the Sacramento River Rail Trail from the 1860s until 1963. This mining permanently exposed pyrite minerals to oxygen and water in the air, forming sulfuric acid. This metal-laden acid, with the help of winter rainstorms, flows into Spring Creek and the Sacramento River.

Because of the threat to public water supplies and fishery damage, the Spring Creek Debris Dam was constructed to control the release of mining contaminants into the Sacramento River. If contaminated-water releases are synchronized with diluting flows from Shasta Dam, the effects of the pollution on the waterway, aquatic life, and humans can be lessened.

A treatment plant was built in 1994 that can remove 99.99% of metals from the mine runoff. In 1999 and 2000, the treatment plant removed five million pounds of heavy metals.



Workers thought to be at Iron Mountain Mine



Matheson Ore Transfer Site

Historic Photos provided by Shasta Historic Society

The Iron Mountain Mine Trustee Council, made up of members from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Bureau of Land Management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the California Department of Fish and Game, is responsible for identifying methods of reducing environmental impacts caused by the Iron Mountain Mine Complex. Many projects are being completed in the area surrounding the Iron Mountain Mine, including work on improving public safety, improving and extending the Rail Trail, and creating interpretive panels along its length.

As part of the public safety improvements, the Matheson Ore Transfer Site has been restored and the mining waste has been removed. This site was historically used in conjunction with the Iron Mountain Mine, as a storage and transfer site for mining ore eventually bound for Southern Pacific Railway cars which frequented what is now the Sacramento River Rail Trail. As you are enjoying the trail today, take a look at the site now in comparison to the historic photo above.

