

## Summary of the Road and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) Region 2 Workshop

On October 3, 2015, the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) held a public meeting at which it presented its Proposed Road and Trail Designations for the seven Preserves in Region 2 (Giacomini, White Hill, Loma Alta, Roy's Redwoods, Maurice Thorner, French Ranch, and Cascade). The meeting took place from 1 to 4 pm at Lagunitas School in San Geronimo.

The Chief of Planning and Acquisition, Carl Somers, laid out the RTMP process and the proposed trail designations (trails to be designated within the system and their uses), and the total environmental "point" score of the Region. Attendees were randomly assigned to specific breakout groups where they competed with 15 or more people to review a map covering all seven Preserves and comment on trails that were identified only by a 5-digit number in tiny print. An Open Space staffer patiently documented comments on a flip chart.

While there was a map showing vegetation zones (many of the Region 2 zones are Legacy and Sustainable Natural System zones, the most "intact" habitat zones of the preserves), the trails were not overlaid onto these maps to better communicate the importance of habitat in this Region. Attendees from the FootPeople, other hikers and equestrians, all agreed it was hard to have your voice heard under these conditions.

In Region 2, MCOSD proposed to designate (i.e., to include in the official trail system) nearly 8 miles of additional trails (identified in purple on the map). 4.8 miles would be designated "bike/hiker", a new designation; 1.73 miles would be Multi-Use; and 1.16 miles Hiker only. The trails proposed to be designated are existing non-system trails, not new trails to be built. All of them are in Giacomini or Cascade Canyon Preserves.

Many non-authorized, non-system trails were identified (as shown in orange on the map) as being not-designated, but these trails will remain as they are unless they are decommissioned to off-set newly designated trails, or until a project is put forward to close each specific trail. That would require a further public process (and permission from the Supervisors/Board of Directors). We have concerns that the MCOSD will not sign them as "closed" or "closed to bikes" and we suspect that these trails will continue to be ridden illegally by mountain bike riders. Without public pressure from the majority of trail users, foot people – hikers and equestrians – we do not believe the Board of Directors of Open Space would allow MCOSD to sign these trails as closed and enforce against bikers riding these trails illegally.

What does this new plan mean to you? If you live near these preserves, hike and/or ride a horse or walk your dog in these areas, you should anticipate an increase in mountain bike traffic. We anticipate that these newly designated biker/hiker trails will become a magnet to local and out-of-the-area mountain bikers, and could possibly create more environmental impacts as well as displacement of "foot people" hiking and or horseback riders.

Increased mountain bike use signals the need for greater enforcement efforts, and trail violators should be held accountable before illegal behavior is rewarded with more trail privileges. We suggest you share your concerns with your Supervisor and with Open Space staff regarding the RTMP – Region 2 and emphasize the need for the following actions...

-- Only hikers and people walking dogs on-leash are allowed to use non-system trails.

-- The trails rejected for inclusion in the official trail system (marked in orange on the MCOSD map) should be signed to make clear that they are closed to bike riders and equestrians, and should be regularly patrolled by rangers and Sheriff's deputies. Bikers or equestrians who ride these trails should be cited.

-- Implement Policy SW 15 of the RTMP by withdrawing proposed trail opportunities to those user groups who do not obey District codes and who endanger and displace others.

*SW15 Expectation of Active Cooperation of All Road and Trail Users. "Increased trail use opportunities must be coupled with cooperation among all trail users, and with the MCOSDD, to promote lawful trail use, reduce violations, reduce impacts to natural resources, prevent displacement of any trail user types, minimize disturbance to existing neighbors, and avoid endangerment of other trail users."*

-- Reject any proposed "biker/hiker" trails because they are inherently unsafe for hikers.

-- The three non-system trails (commonly known as: Conifer Ridge Trail, Knee Cap, and Powerline) specifically rejected for inclusion in the RTMP, should be closed immediately for environmental reasons.

Region 3, the next focus of the RTMP, includes the following Preserves: Lucas Valley, Indian Valley, Ignacio Valley, Pacheco Valle, and Loma Verde.

Contact email addresses for Marin County Supervisors and Marin County Open Space staff:

Katie Rice	KRice@marincounty.org
Kate Sears	KSears@marincounty.org
Damon Connolly	DConnolly@marincounty.org
Steve Kinsey	SKinsey@marincounty.org
Judy Arnold	JArnold@marincounty.org
Carl Somers	CSomers@marincounty.org
Matt Sagues	MSagues@marincounty.org

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