



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

JUNE 2008: REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS'

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Marin & San Mateo County: National Park Service/GGNRA, General Management Plan

The Marin Equestrian Plan plan is on hold until the General Management Plan moves forward. The GMP will guide the use in the areas that are currently stables or horse trails.

Andrea Lucas, Project Manager for the Marin Equestrian Plan (Landscape Architect/GGNRA), created an informal table of horse trail and stable use ([click here to view as pdf](#)) from the information in the recent General Management Plan Newsletter #4. To learn more about the GMP preliminary alternatives, and the color coding indicated in the above table, please see the maps and other information from [GMP Newsletter #4 by clicking here](#).

For Marin, download ""Newsletter #4: Part 3 Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County", and "Summary of Management Zones for Park Planning insert" . Color-coded maps for Marin are found on pages 20 through 22. For San Mateo, download Newsletter #4: "Part 6 Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County" and "Summary of Management Zones for Park Planning insert" . Color-coded maps for San Mateo County are found on pages 44 through 46.

A reminder to get your comments and suggestions in to: goga_gmp@nps.gov
- the earlier the better so the GMP team can start looking at them!

Diablo Trails

About 150 equestrians came to the Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association on April 12, for a presentation by Mount Diablo State Parks and a discussion of their plans for trails on the mountain. State Parks Ranger Lorrie Thomas Dossett, the District Maintenance Chief, gave a slideshow presentation explaining that Mt Diablo has not had a revised General Plan since 1979 and has limited documentation of Mt. Diablo's 22,000 acres and 187 miles of trails. So their current efforts towards a Unit Trail Plan will start with measuring and quantifying what condition the roads and trails are in, who is using them and what repairs or rehab work is needed, as well as to develop a budget for the ongoing maintenance needs. She explained that trails are considered facilities and must be documented in the Park's computerized maintenance program, so that resources can be requested and allocated for trails in the same way they are for roads, restrooms, benches, tables and water troughs. By documenting all facilities, the budget can be more accurate, maintenance and improvements can be planned and projected more realistically.

Lorrie discussed the "demand on trails" coming from groups including government agencies, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, native plant society members, adjoining ranches and neighborhoods, animal groups, geo trackers and others. She maintained repeatedly that the project was starting with no prejudice for any one group or "stakeholder". Her staff has been taking on this project unfunded, working on weekends to present the slide show to as many groups as possible, striving to inform the public. Once all the area has been mapped and all facilities listed, a document will be written to assist Mt. Diablo State Park in obtaining grants and funding for deferred maintenance, normal maintenance and improvements.

In addition to holding meetings with different user groups, MDSP staff are surveying park users in different locations and at different times. After surveying the trails and the trail users, park staff will draw up a draft resource inventory of existing conditions, issue a statement of park purpose and vision, develop alternative directions as part of a preliminary plan, and then open it to public review and workshops. Then comes an Environmental Review and other government mandated reports to make sure that all is safe, protected and available to everyone within the perimeters of the Road and Trail Plan, then more public review and finally adoption of Road and Trail Plan. The Road and Trail plan will show the trail system, including some of the volunteer trails. This entire planning process is expected to at least two years.

A survey form based on one used in the Sierras was handed out and reviewed by the participants in the meeting. The form asked what was liked and disliked about the park. Many in the crowds spoke up to say that safety is a monumental issue, sharing experiences where equestrians and mountain bikers met on trail, incidents occurred, people were hurt. Many suggested stricter enforcement of existing rules to ensure safety on trails and keeping the narrow, single track trails for hikers and equestrians only. Some speakers were concerned that some mountain bikers are looking for the thrill of a technically challenging ride without regard to personal or public safety or what is best for the environment and public as a whole. Support for multi use trails was expressed with the caution that each group must respect other groups concerns issues, educating the public on what is required for each user group.

Part of the impetus for initiating this process came from the request by mountain bike proponents that 19 different single track Diablo be opened to Mountain Bikers, part of a statewide push for more access for mountain bikes on State Park trail. This meeting is one of

four coming up this year. Please send me your comments and let me know what is going on in your area. Please contact me at dianeocr@sbcglobal.net or 925-525-1123. - Diane Offutt, CSHA Inc. State Trails Chair, Region 5 Trails Representative

Education, Preservation, Stewardship, and Capacity Building Grants 2000-2008 = \$127,533

A: Awarded; P: Pending \$ 10,000; R: Reserved from 2007 \$5,000; X: Awaiting agency/landowner approvals \$20,000;

Alameda & Contra Costa County: August 27 - September 1, 2008 P: \$5,000

Tilden Wildcat Horsemen & Metropolitan Horsemen Annual 5-Day Labor Day Ride
Support East Bay Regional Park District trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail

Alameda County: pending/await approvals X: \$10,000

Oakland Parks and Recreation Department/Oakland City Stables
Support Stables Restoration

Contra Costa County: June 21-22, 2008 A: \$5,000

Diablo Trail American Endurance Ride Conference
Support 'Save Mount Diablo' Fundraiser: protect mountain's natural beauty; provide recreational opportunities

Marin County: May 2008 A: \$1,500

Friends of Marin Stables (FOMS)/Marin Municipal Water District/Fairfax
Continue to support Watershed Protection: Install Wattles

Marin County: June 2008 A: \$2,700

Marin Horse Council/Point Reyes National Seashore
Support installation of hitch rails, picnic tables and mounting blocks

Napa County: pending/await approvals X: \$5,000

Skyline Wilderness Park/Skyline Riders
Support Construction of Covered Arena: Stewardship

City & Co. of San Francisco/SF Parks Trust: pending/await approvals X: \$5,000

Support Golden Gate Park Stables Renovation

San Mateo County: Fall 2008 P: \$2,500

Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association
Support arena improvements; build holding stalls.

Santa Clara County: Pending R: \$5,000

Cevalo Stables/San Jose
Support Startup of 501 c 3 organization

Solano County: No requests

Sonoma County: June 2008 A: \$4,239

Back Country Horsemen/North Bay Unit

-Lone Rock Horse Camp/Lake Sonoma: pit toilet \$ 2,039

-Hood Mountain Regional Park/Trailer Parking: Install Manure Bunker \$625

-Hood Mountain Regional Park: Install Seven Hitch Rails throughout Park \$1,575

Sonoma County Horse Council: Fall 2008

P: \$2,500

Complete restoration of Bodega Dunes Equestrian Parking Area

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Your support enables BABTT and its partners to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

Membership forms are available on our website.



To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails: babtt2@earthlink.net visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

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