

2006/07

Project: Long Canyon Hill Restoration**Unit: Hollister Hills SVRA****Estimate: 183,000****PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project will remove and rehabilitate the Long Canyon Hill trail and return it to a more natural configuration, and it will restore the site to match the surrounding chaparral plant community. There is enough soil remaining along the sides of the trail to restore the contours of the trail without importing material. Additional soil will be imported by truck to re-contour the washed out area at the bottom of the trail.

The area will be replanted with a native seed mix collected from the project site area or from other sites within the Park. The project will be done during the last part of the wet season, in order to control dust and supply sufficient soil moisture for good soil compaction. If rainfall proves to be insufficient for soil compaction and dust control, water will be applied to the soil from hoses attached to a temporary water tank or a water truck.

Best management practices for sediment retention, including silt fences will be used where necessary to ensure that sedimentation or erosion will not occur. Re-contouring will also accomplish resource management goals by eliminating the deep ruts in the landscape, restoring the surface hydrology of the site and allowing re-vegetation to naturally occur over time.

Mycorrhiza, a soil additive will be mixed with the top foot of soil to help restore the soil to a healthy ecosystem to help establish plants. The project site will then be re-vegetated using local native seeds. Rice straw wattles and blankets will be installed on the slope to provide control erosion.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Long Canyon Hill Climb Trail is located within the Lower Ranch of Hollister Hills SVRA (Park), and is currently rated as a red rated trail. The decision to permanently close the trail is because of the soil type (decomposed granite), steepness of the trail, persistent soil loss, maintenance is no longer practical and the trail is un-useable by riders. After the removal of the Hill Climb portion of the Long Canyon Trail, riders will be able to travel around the hill on Long Canyon Road. The trail averages 24 feet in width, with a range between 12 and 53 feet. Ruts run the length of the trail and vary in depth between 1.3 and 10 feet with an average width of about 2 feet. There is a wash out at the bottom of the trail that is 19 feet wide and 5 feet deep.

The total length of the Long Canyon Hill Climb Trail is approximately 1,587 feet. The Trail climbs up the ridge and is severely rutted and water channels down the trail during rain events, which causes erosion and carries sediment to lower portions of the park. This channeling of water down the trail also reduces water to the surrounding vegetation that would normally receive water from sheet drainage down the slope.