

California Recreational Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2005

9:30 a.m.

Redwood National State Parks

South Operations Center

121200 Highway 101

Orick, CA 95555

I. Call to Order

Jeannie Gillen, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:30am

II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

Members Present:

Jim Hasenauer, John Mercurio, Jim Collins

Absent Members:

Jim Chapman

Ron Griffin

David Koehler

Staff Present:

Steve Musillami, Executive Secretary for the CRTC, Statewide Trails Manager

Nina Gordon, Chief, Planning Division, California State Parks

Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks

Adrienne Tillis, Secretary, Planning Division, California State Parks

III. Minutes approval from May 2005 meeting

Approved unanimously

IV. Reports

a. California State Parks Director's Report:

Presented by Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director

- CSP Fiscal Sustainability Report-planned implementation by July 2006.
- Highlights-Los Angeles State Historic Park project including a perimeter trail
- Summary of Hearst Acquisition and potential additional trails planned
- Summary of the Los Caballos horse camp planning – Alternative sites being examined
- Alternative camping opportunities for the State Park system being studied by the Department

- Quick Facts publication and The Recreation Policy (statewide) has been adopted by the California State Parks Commission. Governor Schwarzenegger supports the recreation policy and has advanced a childhood obesity initiative.

Jeannie Gillen: Wants to be advised by staff regarding alternative camping and wants to know what new alternatives are being suggested.

b. Statewide Trails Manager Report:

- 21st Trails and Greenways conference to be held in Agoura Hills on May 5-7, 2006. The conference will include workshops and a welcome dinner on the 5th, concurrent sessions and awards dinner on the 6th and the CRTC meeting and a plenary session on the 7th.
- California State Parks is working with the California Coastal Conservancy to receive a \$1 million grant so State Parks can utilize the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to complete more segments of the Coastal Trail within State Park units.
- Update of Northern California Wilderness Act-Thompson Bill. The bill has been supported by the Governor and Assembly member Pombo. In January 2005 it was referred to sub committee, in July 2005 the subcommittee conducted hearings.

Jim Hasenauer: California State University at Northridge could provide resources at the upcoming Trails Conference if needed.

Jeannie Gillen: A list of Trails Conference attendees should be distributed to the Committee members and a copy sent to the California Trails and Greenways Foundation.

Jeannie Gillen: Would like to be notified whenever controversial equestrian issues arise and when public input opportunities are available.

Paul Romero: Committee staff will notify Committee members when upcoming State Parks Commission agendas are publicly noticed.

Jim Hasenauer: Would like copies of the trails policy distributed to all of the Committee members.

c. Chair Report:

• **Jeannie Gillen:**

- Would like to evaluate CRTC meetings at each preceding meeting,
- Suggests that the meetings need to be advertised more.
- Shared her traveling experiences with horses over 25 yrs. Stated that all State Parks should have a consistency policy with regards to horse camping with dogs.
- Is confused as to why there can be such a discrepancy between equestrian facilities within State Park units throughout the system.
- Commented that there should be more horse camping distributed throughout the state to allow for short one day drives when traveling up or down the state.
- Reported on Anza Trail Coordination within the National Park System.

Paul Romero: Regarding the equestrian facilities; CSP has deferred maintenance issues and has lost numerous staff as a result of budget cuts by past administrations.

Jeannie Gillen: Will contact the Marin County equestrian groups to encourage out-reach efforts to facilitate improvements to the equestrian facilities within their county.

d. Member Reports

• **John Mercurio:**

- Agreed that the Oroville meeting was productive; the public really voiced their opinions/concerns.
- Reported on the Concord Design Review Board Trail implementation.
- Reported on the Hammond Trail, a portion of a Rail-Trail, and Coastal Trails.

• **Jim Hasenauer:**

- I thought the Oroville meeting was good as well, except that Bob Gage was slightly attacked because of what he said. We have to do a better job at letting the public know when the meetings are and with local press.
- Reported on the September Recreational Roundtable Meeting:, Topics, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, with an emphasis on youth and the Stewardship program.
- Recreational Trails Program Committee Meeting report. Funding to increase with training, trail safety and trail assessment as allowable project scopes.
- Trails and Greenways Foundation wants to honor Bill Bliss at the California Trails and Greenways Conference.
- Reported on a Catalina Conservancy consultant trip to advise on trails.

- Orange County hotel development-new plans do not cut off trails; means more open space for public.
- Los Padres National Forest Route Designation Plan has been put out and is an excellent process. Public participations has been good and the plans are final.
- Four Southern California Forests have completed Route Designation plans.
- National Parks, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy are in the public input phase of the areas trail management plan
- Regarding the Thompson Bill; Concerned with the potential of impact to trail use the bill could have. Jim sent a letter and testified on behalf of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and felt the bill was not ready and had issues about the trails that could be accessed.
- **Jim Chapman (reported by Jim Hasenauer)**
 - RWCB- Potential conflicts by developers and trails quality.
- **Jim Collins**
 - Reported on Wilton Rail to Trail planning process
 - Reported on the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates work along the American River Parkway.
 - Would like a list of projects in Northern California with trail issues to give input.
 - Addressed an issue of potential trail planning partnerships with Mexico.

Jeannie Gillen: Wants a brief meeting at the California Trails and Greenways Conference in May with minimal conference agenda items.

e. Subcommittee Reports

- Recreational Trails Committee Awards Subcommittee
 - Summary of awards
 - Nominating committee was set up: the members are Charlie Willard, retired Chief of the Office of Grants and Local Services, California State Parks; Nina Gordon, Chief of the Planning Division, California State Parks; Jeannie Gillen, Chair of the California Recreational Trails Committee; Holly Van Houten of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and Kate Bickert of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Trails Forever.
 - Preparation of the nomination form to come from Jeff Weinstein.
 - Jeannie needs Paul to give at least three weeks notice to the Governor's office for his signature on the award if desired.

- **Action item- Tentative calendar**

- Meetings for 2006

- Meeting # 1 Feb 1st & 2nd in the Los Angeles area.
 - Meeting # 2-May 5th and 7th -California Trails and Greenways Conference-Agoura Hills
 - Meeting # 3-August 2 & 3-Tahoe
 - Meeting # 4 -Nov-7th and 8th -Fresno area or Mt. Diablo

Meeting Presentation:

Jean Hawthorn, United States Forest Service -Presentation on the Route Designation Planning

- A report of the system planning process was shared.
- Steve to get copy of PowerPoint presentation at www.fs.fed.us/r5/ (Five step route information on web-48 pages.)

Jim Hasenauer: Regarding local mountain bike process, route designation is the key for trails users.

- **User Conflict Subcommittee**

- User conflicts resolution discussed for this area

- **Long Distance Trails Subcommittee: Jeannie Gillen**

- Juan De Anza-dedication Nov 19th Amigos de Anza youth group invited. Calabasas to Las Virgines ride.

- **General Public Comments**

Tim Daniels: Big Foot Bicycle Club

- Trails issues-not enough trails in Arcata
 - Humboldt Redwood State Park-trails are closed to bicycles.
 - Arcata community forest needs something for families to adventure out on. Trail that goes out to Blue Lake. He has been attending meetings with the bicycle trails council.
 - Mary Trail: Rail to Trail opportunity
 - Question to Jean Hawthorn: Will coastal crest trail be multi use? Jean replied "YES".

John Mill: Bicycle community member from Arcata

- Trails are mostly on private logging lands.
 - He and his friends use the private logging roads as trails
 - Would prefer sustainable trails not temporary
 - Would like to see more mountain bike tourism opportunities

Jeannie Gillen: Compliments Don Beers on the accommodations for the current meeting and thanks Jean Hawthorn for her presentation.

Action Item: The CRTC members inquired about getting business cards. To be researched by Adrienne.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:49 by Jeannie Gillen