Sonoma County’s California Coastal Trail:

Shaping the Solution -- Using a High-Collaborative Model to Eliminate Long-Standing Gaps and Barriers

-- the West County Partners Work Group
Presenters

- Fran Gibson -- President of Coastwalk
- Richard Nichols -- Coastwalk Sonoma County Trails Committee
- Deborah Hirst -- SCC Project Manager
  West County Partners Work Group (Sonoma County)
- Matt Gerhart -- SCC Project Manager
  West County Partners Work Group (Sonoma County)
- Judy Rosales -- Trail Steward with
  Coastwalk CCT Project
- Lee Otter -- Transportation and Coastal Access Liaison, CCC Central Coast District (Santa Cruz)
• 1983 very first Coastwalk down Sonoma County coast to highlight people’s right to access their coast
• today CCT in Sonoma County is only 32% complete
• gaps and barriers = 68%! 
MISSION: to ensure the right of all people to reach and responsibly enjoy the coast of California
VISION: a well-stewarded California coast -- highly prized as an irreplaceable commons -- open to all
1200 Miles -- 15 Counties

- “CCT: a continuous public right-of-way along the California coastline; a trail designed to foster appreciation and stewardship of the scenic and natural resources of the coast through hiking and other complementary modes of non-motorized transportation.”

- “Foster cooperation between state, local and federal public agencies in planning, design, signing and implementation of the CCT”

[SB 908 Report to the State Legislature 1/03]
CCT History

• first used by Native Americans as transportation and trading routes (wildlife corridors initially)

• 1910 and 1911 J. Smeaton Chase explored coast of California on horseback and wrote *California Coast Trails* where he describes the pleasure of traveling “within sight of the sea and within sound of its wise, admonitory voice”
Citizen & Legislative Support for our CCT

- Proposition 20 in 1972: “Coastal Protection Act” voter initiative: “a hiking, bicycle and equestrian trails system shall be established along or near the coast”

- Coastal Act of 1976 required coastal jurisdictions to identify a local alignment for the CCT in their Local Coastal Programs
2001 SB 908 California Legislature directs the Coastal Conservancy to determine what is necessary to complete the state’s CCT

2003 SB 908 Report to State Legislature: “Completing the California Coastal Trail” prepared by SCC, CCC, State and Coastwalk [“Working Group”]
Coastwalk Sonoma County Trails Committee

- Identify the completed sections of the CCT
- Identify the issues regarding the completion of the CCT and make recommendations
- Track the agencies or organizations involved in solving the issues
- Show by example what other counties can do to complete the CCT
- Online CCT maps can be found at:
Sonoma County & West County/Coastal Acquisition Working Group

- 14% increase in Sonoma protected lands 2002-2007
- 140,000+ acres County-wide
- February 2002
- Acquisitions -13,000+ acres protected in West County Study Area
Building on Existing Resources

Note:
Trail linkage alignments are conceptual and are subject to negotiations with multiple landowners.
Meeting - in the field, project updates & events
Identifying Goals & Lead Agencies

- South of the Russian River Parcel Study
- Willow Creek & Coleman Valley
- Multiple projects
- North of Russian River Parcel Study
Strategic Acquisitions

Connectors and throughways:
• Willow Creek
• Red Hill
• Carrington
• Poff
Collaborating for Acquisition & Easements

Key to Trail Segments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length (ft)</th>
<th>Length (mi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,555</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5,051</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,106</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3,046</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,158</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>19,632</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>22,234</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Willow Creek Partnership
Willow Creek Partnership

- 3,373 acres
- State Park ownership and management since May 2005
- Permitted access with Landpaths
- Initial trail system development
- ~2,000 permittees
Carrington Ranch

- 344 acre acquisition in May 2003
- SCAPOSD ownership, being transferred to State Parks.
- Landpaths access management, trail development
- IPU planning, will be incorporated into CCT
Assessing the CCT

- Met with Coastwalk’s Sonoma County Coastal Trail Group to determine consistent list of CCT segments
- Devised strategy for discussing status with the larger west county group
- Allowed for multiple “braided” segments
- Focused on accomplishments as well as challenges
Assessing the CCT

- Developed “Matrix” of CCT segments
- Presented to Workgroup, solicited information:
  - Ownership, Lead Partner, Status, Opportunities, Constraints
  - Current needs, mapping
- Serves as a guide as further work proceeds
California Coastal Trail - Bodega Bay Study Area
Conceptual Plan 2005

- 7.8 miles of trail & bikeways
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- CalTrans
- CA Department of State Parks
- State Coastal Conservancy
- CoastWalk, Community Technical Advisory Committee & LandPeople
Planning & Implementing Projects
Doran Beach & Bird Walk Access - Cheney Gulch Bridge 2007
Fostering Diverse Projects & Collaborations

- Salmon Creek Green School
- Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods - Ocean Safety Signs
- Salmonid habitat and watershed enhancement
- Ranch and agricultural Best Management Practices
- Estuary Study and enhancement projects
- Water Conservation Demonstration Program
- Coastal Prairie Stewardship
Strategic Planning/Next Steps

- Coleman Valley Trails Report
- Timber Cove Feasibility Study
- Additional Bodega Bay Trails Implementation
- Sea Ranch Feasibility/Design Work
- Assessing potential for seeking federal funding with the partnership
Creating Possibilities - Stewardship & Public Access

• Poff Ranch 1,235 acres
• Sonoma Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
• Sonoma Land Trust
• State Coastal Conservancy, CA State Parks, CalTrans, Fish & Game
• CoastWalk, LandPaths, Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods…
Signing the California Coastal Trail

A statewide effort built on partnerships and cooperation
The purpose of the CCT Signage Program is to:

- Establish a distinct identity for the CCT
- Designate its route
- Inform the public of the Coastal Trail’s existence.
Who decides where to place the signs?

- Sign placement is determined by the jurisdiction managing the particular trail segment, subject to approval by the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission.

- Coastwalk volunteers may be called upon to offer recommendations.
Building Community
Marking the trail is a community endeavor
California Coastal Trail
1,200 Miles 15 Counties

Del Norte
Humboldt
Mendocino
Sonoma
Marin
San Francisco
San Mateo
Santa Cruz
Monterey
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Ventura
Los Angeles
Orange
San Diego

87 Miles and Counting!
Total Number of Miles Signed to Date: 87.2
Total Number of Insignia Installed: 266
Forming Partnerships

- Adventure 16
- California Coastal Commission
- California State Parks
- City of Crescent City
- City of Hermosa Beach
- City of Manhattan Beach
- City of Monterey
- City of Morro Bay
- City of Pacifica
- City of Pismo Beach
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Monica
- Coastwalk
- Girl Scouts of San Francisco

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Los Angeles County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors
- Mendocino Land Trust
- National Parks
- Outdoor Outreach
- Palos Verde Peninsula Land Conservancy
- Patagonia
- Port of San Diego
- Redwood Coast Land Conservancy
- Redwood Community Action Agency
- Redwood National Park Hostel
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- Santa Monica Pier Corporation
- State Coastal Conservancy
- University of California Santa Cruz Students
Moderator and County Coastal Trail Group

- Fran Gibson -- Coastwalk President
  Coastwalk, 825 Gravenstein Highway North, Suite 8, Sebastopol, CA 95472
  [510.910.6797]

- Richard Nichols -- Coastwalk Sonoma County Trails Committee, 1389 Cooper Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472
  [707.823.4071]
West County Partners Work Group Facilitators

• Deborah Hirst -- Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Thirteenth Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 [510.286.7029]

• Matt Gerhart -- Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Thirteenth Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 [510.286.0317]
Collaborative Efforts for Signing the Coastal Trail

• Judy Rosales -- Trail Steward, CCT Project, Coastwalk, 825 Gravenstein Highway North, Suite 8, Sebastapol, CA 95472
  [707.847.3944]
Statewide Implications using High-Collaborative Models to Eliminate CCT Gaps and Barriers

• Lee Otter -- Transportation and Coastal Access Liaison, California Coastal Commission, Central Coast District Office, 725 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA  95060

[831.427.4863]