



Concurrent Session Schedule & Descriptions

(Subject to change without notice)

As of 3.4.13

Thursday, May 9th

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Lessons Learned in Fire Recovery & Restoration

In October of 2007, the Witch Creek Fire burned 62% of the San Dieguito River Park's 96,000 acres. Three years later the Park celebrated a full recovery with the opening of the new Park headquarters and office. Those three years were rife with lessons learned and new practices for the future. In this session, attendees will learn how to better prepare parks and trail resources for catastrophic fire disasters and best management practices for a rapid recovery. Topics include: legal and office issues such as FEMA and insurance claims, and IT disaster recovery; best management practices for protecting and installing assets to survive fires; erosion control techniques for post-fire trail protection; and habitat and wildlife recovery programs. It is geared towards resource management professionals, administrators and planners, however, anyone is encouraged to attend.

Susan Carter, Deputy Director, San Dieguito River Park

Natalie Borchardt, Senior Ranger, San Dieguito River Park

Jason Lopez, Trails & Resources Manager, San Dieguito River Park

LiDAR Data for Trail Planning & Layout

Many land managers are realizing the benefits of abandoning legacy roads and trails and building new sustainable alignments. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) provides accurate and high-resolution topography data that can be used to greatly improve and expedite trail planning and layout. In many areas of the state, LiDAR is available for free or low cost. This session will discuss obtaining, processing, and using LiDAR derived topography data for trail planning. Attendees will learn about LiDAR technology and where LiDAR data can be freely accessed; how to use high resolution topography data to office check potential alignments and identify potential control points using advanced GIS analysis; and how LiDAR and GIS data can be used with smartphones or GPS units to speed up the trail layout process in the field, especially in areas with thick brush. LiDAR data from the Lake Tahoe region will be used to demonstrate workflow from data acquisition to corridor layout in the field.

Drew Perkins, Trails Officer, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz.

Russ White, Spatial Data Specialist, Robert E. Kennedy Library, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

Revitalizing Urban Watersheds -- Tennessee Hollow, Presidio, San Francisco

In 2011, The Presidio Trust partnered with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to revitalize El Polín Spring in the Presidio of San Francisco. El Polín Spring sits at the headwaters of one of three creek

tributaries in the Tennessee Hollow Watershed. This project included trail construction, habitat restoration, archaeological and cultural preservation and the installation of new visitor amenities. This session will focus on planning and construction methods that were utilized to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources, and to convert an asphalt road into an AGODA accessible, pedestrian only trail and boardwalk. The session will describe the road to trail conversion, creation of wetland ponds, daylighting a creek that had been channeled into a pipe, two wet water crossings, and public participation -- all in the context of a National Historic Landmark.

Amy Deck, Project Manager, Presidio Trust Planning Division
Barth Campbell, Campbell Grading, Inc.

A Toolkit for Successful Community Outreach

San Jose has made considerable progress over the past ten years in developing one of the nation's largest urban trail networks. Securing community and stakeholder buy-in has been necessary for every mile of new trail. This session will provide a comprehensive toolkit for successful community outreach with discussion on common challenges, guiding the community, engaging stakeholders, and successful management of typical and atypical problems that can derail even the best trail projects. Attendees will learn to: Define projects in six stages of development to permit better scheduling, accurate budgeting and well-defined customer expectations; create presentations to seek input from the community that lead to better scope definition and support consistency with agency practices and policies; conduct community outreach with the background necessary to know when community input or opposition will or will not shape a project outcome; and develop strategies for navigating common outreach challenges.

Yves Zsutty, Trail Manager, City of San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Creating & Managing a Volunteer Trail Patrol

Staffing and funding are always hard to come by, but new trail users are pretty easy to find. They come with needs: directions, help understanding trail etiquette, sometimes they even need rescued. And trail professionals (still understaffed and underfunded) can't always be there to see, hear and handle these needs. Training volunteers and putting them out on trails can increase your ability to serve trail users and manage trails more efficiently. People who love trails and want to give something back, are often ready to mount their bikes, horses, or put on their hiking shoes in order to help others and to help you. This session will help you understand how to start a successful patrol program to assist, educate and inform trail users. We will also discuss ways to manage such a program to assure the agency, the users and the volunteers get the most out of it.

Kevin Joell, Patrol Director, Tahoe Mountain Bike Patrol

Zen & the Art of the Visitor Census

Getting useful information from your users can be difficult for the uninitiated. Alta Planning + Design are not the uninitiated. With 20 years of experience in quantifying and describing user groups, activity patterns and opinions in parks and open space they are well qualified to talk about visitors' uses and needs. In this session they will highlight recent census projects' methods and findings. Users in Marin County Parks and Marin Municipal Water District provide examples that will help you understand how to conduct your own census and forecast future activities. You also learn what visitors think about other visitors, as well as perceived needs for maintenance and operations.

Jennifer Donlon-Wyant, Counts & Project Manager, Transportation Planner & Policy Analyst, Alta Planning + Design

Greg Maher, PLA, Alta Planning + Design

Designing Trails Along Waterways

More trails are emerging along waterways, furthering recreation and circulation activity and improving the vitality of cities, small towns, neighborhoods, and regions. Watercourses are being redefined to function as both flood protection systems and integrated, multi-purpose corridors. Learn how trails are being developed

from forgotten slivers of land along polluted rivers to become functional recreation and transportation facilities. This panel describes several waterway trails and explains how citizen participation, public/private cooperation and site specific design are essential factors in creating successful and sustainable projects. Attendees will learn to: identify the challenges and examine the success of creating trails along waterways; examine how innovative partnerships contribute to trail planning at different scales of development; and to develop strategies for community engagement, policymaking, funding, and project implementation.

Mia Lehrer, founding principal of Mia Lehrer + Associates
Carol Armstrong, the project for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan
Meredith McCarthy, Director of Programs, Heal the Bay
Alexander P. Meyerhoff, City Manager of the City of Holtville, California

Showcasing Trails Through Photography

What are the best photographic tools and techniques to capture the true beauty of your trails and their natural settings? This session will instruct attendees on how to compose, photograph and display the most beautiful images of their trails. These images can be used to entice trail users to experience the beauty of their natural surroundings, improve donations, inspire volunteers and encourage protection and preservation.

Paul Salemme, EastBayTrails.com

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sustainable Lands & Trails in a Changing Climate

A changing climate poses challenges not only for our urban communities, but also for our public lands and trails. Climate risks related to wildfires, diminished snowpack, changing hydrology and flood frequency, and sea level rise all affect the use and management of public lands and recreational trails. Also, ecological changes are underway, complicating good stewardship of the natural values and processes of our public lands. This session will provide updates on relevant climate consequences and potential issues. We'll discuss approaches to dealing with sustainable use, and management of public lands and recreational trails in a changing climate.

Curtis E. Alling, AICP, Principal, Ascent Environmental, Inc.
Other presenters to be added at a later date

Tools & Technology for Evaluating ADA Trail Compliance

With the Accessibility guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas becoming law; learn about tools and technology available to assess trail systems to verify compliance with the ADA, and to compile inventories of trail features. Performing assessments with GIS technology enables land managers to objectively and efficiently keep track of information about their trails, generate maps and signage, define budget needs, and manage goals & maintenance strategies for their trail system. Attendees will learn: how to identify which features or conditions should be assessed to verify compliance with ADA Guidelines; how to adapt the Universal Trail Assessment Process for ADA Assessment to their specific trails and features; how trail assessment data can be analyzed to prioritize reconstruction and maintenance efforts; how to present objective information to trail users; and how to quickly create maps using automated data.

Peter Axelson, Director of Research & Development, Beneficial Designs, Inc.
Nathan Tolbert, Assessment Coordinator, Beneficial Designs, Inc.

Enhancing Trails' Compatibility with Nature

Santa Clara County Parks is committed to both park access and park preservation. This session focuses on the layout and design concepts applied in the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear and Sanborn County trail projects in the reserve system in Santa Clara County. Attendees will learn trail construction options, and techniques that are used as a recreation plan element and are also compatible with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan.

Don Rocha, Parks Natural Resource Program Supervisor, County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks & Recreation

Greg Bringelson, Santa Clara County Parks Trail Crew Lead, County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks & Recreation

A Trails Community for All

This interactive panel discussion will focus on fostering cooperation among trail users and land managers. The four panelists from hiking, equestrian, mountain biking and land management interests will share their experience and successes to illustrate specific principles, goals and behaviors that have led to shared trail use without conflict. Participants will be invited to answer a range of questions woven through the discussion that will help apply the panelists' experiences to other situations.

Michael Kelley, Chairman of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council for Northwest California

Additional presenters to be added at a later date.

2:00 - 3:15 PM

Water Trail Benefits & Challenges

There are more than 500 water trails in the United States and the number is growing steadily. Perhaps there are opportunities in your area? Water trail users include canoeists, kayakers, stand up paddlers, windsurfers, rowing teams and other non-motorized small boat users. Those users create economic opportunities for launch and landing site owners, equipment sellers and renters, businesses along the trail and even those on the way to and from the water. Learn what water trails are and how they can benefit your community. You will also hear about the challenges to creating and managing these wet trails. A panel representing the Lake Tahoe Water Trail, San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, and the California Department of Boating & Waterways will share knowledge, experiences and answer your questions.

Ann Buell, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy

Galli Basson, Water Trail Planner, Association of Bay Area Governments

Sue Rae Irelan, Environmental Planner, California Tahoe Conservancy

Steve Watanabe, Boating Facilities Division Chief, Department of Boating & Waterways

Communicating Trails Digitally -- The Devil's in the Details

New technologies enhance how we work, learn and play. Because of location-based smartphone applications, an increasingly large and diverse demographic expects to be able to access content on demand. "Going mobile" with a trail map is a complicated process that involves content development, accuracy questions, data permission and maintenance, user interfaces and much more. Join the Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Area Open Space Council for a lively discussion on developing online and mobile tools for trail users. Attendees will learn how to create maps that are interactive and accessible on computers or hand held devices. The session will address: choosing the best solution; data issues, such as accuracy, permissions and maintenance; and content. It will be geared towards those that have basic knowledge of mapping software programs, social media apps, and online mapping tools, however, there will be information that will appeal to all experience levels.

Sam Jenniches, Program Manager, South Coast, State Coastal Conservancy

Ryan Branciforte, Director of Programs, Bay Area Open Space Council

Trish Chapman, Program Manager, Central Coast, State Coastal Conservancy

Peter Jaraus, Program Manager, North Coast, State Coastal Conservancy

Creating Sustainable Futures -- The Trail Plan

Any project that lasts starts with a good plan. Getting the trail in the right place, having it used on a regular basis, keeping it safe and well maintained, and having it and its values endure for use by future generations begins with a good trail plan. That plan begins with the unique cultural, scenic, natural and historical values to define strategic outcomes. The trail plan is a tool to help you make resource decisions, engage new trail users, advocates and partners, foster deeper collaborations, and attract needed resources. This session will

use the Florida National Scenic Trail plan and the planning process facilitated by Conservation Impact as a model to teach what is needed to create a useful, practical trail plan that enhances your trail's sustainability.

Karen Buck, Consultant, Conservation Impact

Practical CEQA - Lessons from the Trenches

CEQA compliance for recreational trails certainly brings challenges to agencies and nonprofits seeking to plan and implement projects. Controversy can complicate the environmental review process, adding to the time and cost. This panel will share practical approaches for conducting a legally defensible CEQA process, strategies for streamlining CEQA compliance, and examples of how to handle sensitive trail issues.

Curtis E. Alling, AICP, Principal, Ascent Environmental, Inc.
Steve Musillami, Planning Division Chief (Acting), California State Parks

3:30 - 4:45 PM

California's New Trail Funding Landscape

Dramatic changes in funding programs for trails are underway in California. This session explores both the opportunities and the threats. Governor Brown has proposed a new Active Transportation Program that consolidates many programs that we have traditionally relied upon to fund trails (e.g., Recreational Trails, Transportation Alternatives and EEMP). There are opportunities to steer investment to trails, such as California's cap-and-trade auction system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy planning process. Attendees will learn: What are the details of the proposed Active Transportation program, what are the benefits and what are the concerns? How can we encourage the state to invest some of the cap-and-trade auction revenue in trails and other bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs? How does SB 375 and the Sustainable Communities Strategy create new opportunities to expand and improve trail facilities? How can the trail community get involved in shaping these proposals to maximize the benefits for trails?

Laura Cohen, J.D., Western Region Director, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Jim Townsend, Manager, Trails Development Program, East Bay Regional Park District

Perspective on Geotourism -- Insights from Tomorrow's Travelers Today

Learn more about the Sierra Nevada Geotourism project and map-guide, which provides a way to promote trails, volunteerism and trail-related events and activities in a cost-effective, sustainable manner that reflects local values and traditions. Additionally, gain insight on what "millennials" (college-aged students) value, use, listen to and would like to see in the future of trails and greenways.

Nicole DeJonghe, Senior Program Director, Sierra Business Council
Emilyn Sheffield, Professor, Department of Recreation, Hospitality & Parks Management, CSU, Chico
Students from Sierra College and CSU, Chico

Trail Design Basics & User Specific Needs (Single Track)

Ever wondered what the basic elements of a thoughtful trail layout are? Or how to take advantage of unusual features in order to set your community's trails apart and attract visitors? And exactly how does a hiking trail differ from an equestrian or a mountain biking trail? Join this panel of experienced trail planners and builders to learn the basics of effective trail design, and have your questions answered.

Jan Hancock, Author and Consultant with Hancock Resources LLC
Patrick Kell, Southwest Regional Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Randy Martin, Project Lead, Trailscape Inc.

Regional/Multi-jurisdictional Trail Planning, Partnerships & Implementation

Regional trail systems can provide many benefits to the communities through which they run. These include economic development, outside linkages and increased public awareness. Making that trail system work, however, isn't as easy as it might seem. From one location to another, from one jurisdiction to another

things change. The natural environment, the terrain, the managing agencies ability to provide infrastructure, social attitudes, local interest and a lot of other things change as you move through a regional system. In this session we'll take a look at different regional trail systems in varying stages of development. You'll get a chance to hear what challenges have been faced and some of the ways those challenges have been met.

Edmund Sullivan, Placer County Planning Services Division
Jim Townsend, Manager – Trails Development Programs, East Bay Regional Parks
Petra Unger, AECOM
Alex Westhoff, Environmental Planner, Delta Protection Commission

Friday, May 10th

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Design & Management Strategies for Multi-use Trails

The term “multiple use trails” means different things to different agencies, regions, situations and users. Those differing definitions can cause or exacerbate conflict. This session will explore the range of design and management strategies employed by various agencies to minimize conflict and provide excellent trail experiences for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. Representatives from different agencies will discuss how and when different solutions are used, highlighting lessons learned from real experience. You learn about design solutions, shared trails, separate trails and management strategies that reduce conflict. You'll learn what might work for you and, (just as important) what might not.

Isabelle Minn, Associate Principal, The Planning Center
Lorrie Bradley, Project Manager, Special Trails Program, Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation
Karl Knapp, Road & Trails Manager, California State Parks
Don Rocha, Natural Resource Program Supervisor, Santa Clara County Parks

Utilizing GPS/GIS in Trail Management

It isn't always easy to get the funds you need to maintain your trails. If you can't clearly articulate both the overall and the specific condition of your trail network, you'll have a harder time getting support for maintenance and operations. The Ukiah Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management has had some experience that could make your efforts to communicate needs and secure funding, easier. In this session, you'll learn how to collect, manage and analyze trail condition data by using readily available Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and software.

Trent F. Milam, Park Ranger & Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management

Reducing Impacts of Wetlands Through Trail (Re-) Design

Ward Creek is a California State Park unit that came to the State with a network of old logging roads and user created trails. Needless to say, these features were not of the best design. The results were the predictable water quality and habitat issues that accompany faulty roads and trails. In this session you'll not only learn how trails should be designed, but how they can be redesigned to match the surrounding environment, integrated with the natural landscape, and rehabilitated to protect sensitive landscapes. With the right redesign project old roads and trail alignments can be redesigned to restore natural hydrology and natural habitat.

Cyndie Walck, Engineering Geologist, California State Parks
Nathan Shasha, Environmental Scientist, California State Parks

Linking Urban Communities to the Mountains

A panel of partner representatives will discuss their efforts to plan and develop multiple-benefit parks and regional bikeway along the Pacoima Wash, a Los Angeles River tributary. The future Pacoima Wash Greenway will initially create neighborhood park destinations, which will then be connected by a new six-mile long Bikeway. The newest park, Eighth Street, will beautify the community, provide public recreation, and treat residential stormwater. Collectively, these parks and the Bikeway will revitalize the Pacoima Wash

as a vital community asset that will provide wildlife habitat, create access to new recreational amenities and build a healthier, more sustainable community. Attendees will learn: how to develop a multipurpose approach to create sustainable neighborhoods through trails and greenways; how to utilize trails to connect our neighborhoods, services, and natural areas; and strategies to “share the load” with multi-agency and nonprofit partnership agreements.

Barbara Romero, Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Planning, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Raul Bocanegra, California State Assemblymember, District 39

Nury Martinez, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful

Ron Ruiz, Public Works Director, City of San Fernando

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Exploring the Use of "Big Data" for Trails

Big Data is a collection of large and complex data sets. Everything from your computer to your camera are feeding information into huge sets of data that are being used in fascinating ways. Did you know that nonprofits and other organizations are finding valuable uses for big data? In this session you will get an overview of this growing information phenomenon. You'll learn the types of questions that are being investigated, see a few examples, and learn why and how “big data” might be of interest to trail champions. The session includes an interactive exploration of trail-focused questions that just might tap into a huge mine of BIG DATA and give you really useful answers.

Dr. Linda George, B.S. in computer science, a Ph.D. in research psychology, U.C. Berkeley

Designing for Sustainable Wildlife Viewing

California Watchable Wildlife addresses a growing interest in wildlife viewing and nature tourism by educating the public about where and how to view native wildlife and habitats in a respectful and sustainable way. Viewing sites are evaluated by the Steering Committee for their wildlife viewing values, quality and diversity of habitats and visitor amenities to ensure that the state's wildlife values are protected from overuse and that each site offers the highest quality viewing experience to visitors. Session participants will learn how public lands managers create interpretive trails, driving loops, viewing platforms and educational programs in environmentally sensitive areas. The session is intended to show principles of sustainable wildlife viewing. It is designed for all who are interested in this topic.

Karen Killebrew, Outreach Coordinator for the California Watchable Wildlife Project

Bob Garrison, former Chairman of the California Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee and owner of Nature Tourism Planning

Promoting Hiking, Biking & Mountain Biking

To promote biking and walking, community advocates and local trail implementers need information at the ready. Since 2003, Lake Tahoe jurisdictions, agencies and advocacy groups have been compiling the tools they need to accelerate construction and maintenance of a connected bike and pedestrian network around the Lake, and create a well-maintained mountain biking trail network. Learn which tools have been most useful, how they were developed, and how they have helped rally support for biking and walking facilities. Attendees will learn: how to develop a Bike Plan that is widely used; how to develop concrete, location-specific estimates of the benefits of trails to the local community; policies and legislation that support bike trail construction and maintenance; and how to put together and run a successful volunteer trail maintenance program.

Karen Fink, Senior Transportation Planner, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency/Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization

Ben Fish, Landscape Architect, Design Workshop; Trails Director, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association

Developing a Sustainable Road & Trail Plan in Sensitive Habitats

In 2010, Marin County Parks initiated a robust, data driven, transparent and inclusive planning process and has now written a draft Road & Trail Management Plan. Significant public engagement occurred throughout

the process, and the draft RTMP enjoys broad stakeholder support. The use of spatial information was key to developing the data-driven decision-making tool that is at the center of the draft RTMP. This GIS-based tool will be used to make decisions about operation and maintenance, reconstruction, re-routing and decommissioning roads and trails. Attendees will learn how to use social, biological and physical resource data; how to integrate resource data with stakeholder preferences; how to build a GIS-based decision model to develop priorities and how to document and make decision making transparent and accountable.

Linda Dahl, Director and General Manager, Marin County Parks

John Baas, Senior Environmental Planner, Moore, Iacofano and Goltsman (MIG)

Elise Holland, Chief of Planning & Resources, Marin County Parks

Bob Klousner, environmental and land use planner