

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **State Hiking Trails Up For Discussion Public Comment Invited April 22**

FISH CAMP – Next Wednesday, the Statewide Recreational Trails Committee will elect officers and provide updates on the California Riding & Hiking Trail and the state's 26 trail corridors.

Four counties have expressed interest in acquiring the state's easements on hundreds of miles of trail that run through their jurisdiction. San Diego, San Mateo, Riverside and Los Angeles counties are evaluating segments of the California Riding & Hiking Trail to see if adding these to existing regional trail systems is feasible. As trails increase in popularity, these valuable trail easements are seen as a more of a local recreational resource.

There will also be a period of open public comment for trail users and others interested in speaking before the committee.

The meeting will take place in Mariposa County at 5 p.m. on April 22 at the Tenaya Lodge, 1122 Highway 41, Fish Camp, California 93623. The meeting is in conjunction with the 2009 California Trails & Greenways Conference. Admission to the meeting is free.

The California Riding & Hiking Trail was written into legislation in 1945 as a 3,000 mile loop through California from Mexico to Oregon. In the 1960s, after decades of attempting to grow and complete the trail, it became apparent that the plan was overly ambitious. In 1974, the trail was omitted from replacement legislation that launched the Pacific Crest Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, California Coastal Trail and others that became more of a priority. State Parks discontinued formal efforts to complete the trail and the easements have remained dormant since.

By contrast, California's 26 trail corridors are vital regional and statewide trail routes that connect major metropolitan centers with rural and backcountry trail experiences. Crossing just about every portion of the state, from the coast with the Sierra Nevada and the deserts to the redwoods these multi-agency trails provide regional linkages for the non-motorized trail users of the state.

To learn more about the master plan for trails in California, The Recreational Trails Plan is available online at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=23443](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=23443)

*The Statewide Recreational Trails Committee consists of seven Governor-appointed members representing all regions of California. They are charged with hearing the concerns and issues of trail users and managers and the committee advises the director of California*

State Parks and the Governor's Office on trail issues. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.parks.ca.gov/trails](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails).

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