

TRAIL PARTNERSHIPS: Doing them a Different Way

- ▶ Premise:
- ▶ Sincere cooperation among managers and users can achieve more sustainable trails than if they focused exclusively on their individual group goals



TRAIL PARTNERSHIPS: Doing them a Different Way

- ▶ Presentation Goal:
- ▶ Identify specific strategies to foster cooperation and trust among land managers and trail users
- ▶ Example: State Parks
- ▶ SLO Coast Coastal Sector Trails Advisory Committee



Guided Discovery

- ▶ What do you think are some goals and perspectives by State Parks regarding trails?
- ▶ What do you think are some goals and perspectives by trail users (equestrians, bikers and hikers)?

SLO Coastal Sector Trails Committee Success

- ▶ A successful formula to comfortably address the reality of multiple participants have multiple and sometimes conflicting view points.
- ▶ Basic Principles of the Committee
- ▶ Primary Goals of the Committee
- ▶ Methods and Actions to achieve Committee goals
- ▶ Benchmarks of a Cooperative Trails Committee

Basic Principles

- ▶ Conflict is Goal Interference
- ▶ Sustainable and Available trails
- ▶ Cooperation-Communication-Respect
- ▶ Participation
 - ▶ -Trail user leaders
 - ▶ -Parks professional staff-specialists

Primary Goals

- ▶ Assist with trail evaluations to promote safe and sustainable trails for everyone
- ▶ Identify and Prioritize trail projects
- ▶ Determine Trail designation under established agency policy, procedures and environmental laws and regulations
- ▶ Implement agency and committee supported projects with user group volunteer support
- ▶ Have all effort focus on mutual benefits

Methods and Actions

- ▶ Invest resources and efforts in cooperation and not towards conflict
- ▶ Work and learn together as often as possible
- ▶ Be patient and willing to compromise
- ▶ Recognize and respect the fact that there are different needs and priorities
- ▶ Recognize and respect that different resources and strengths are brought to the group and move towards solutions
- ▶ Recognize and respect that we have limited time, money, and resources
- ▶ Spend the time, money and resources to develop mutually agreeable solutions
- ▶ Communicate frequently and honestly with each other without hidden agendas

Benchmarks of a Cooperative Trails Community

- ▶ Acknowledge, praise, and give thanks for cooperation on trail issues
- ▶ Do trail work together
- ▶ Participate cooperatively on every trail committee
- ▶ Educate yourself about trail issues together and regularly
- ▶ Support trail work (maintenance and construction) with all resources
- ▶ Do not bad mouth each other-public, media, meetings
- ▶ Support each other on trails issues
- ▶ Communicate regularly and openly

Benchmarks of a Cooperative Trails Community

- ▶ Share agendas and minutes of meetings
- ▶ Discuss ideas which may affect others before decisions are made
- ▶ Get to know each other as more than just a trail user (equestrian, hiker, biker) or land manager (Ranger, Superintendent, Scientist, Maintenance Chief, etc.)
- ▶ You soon realize you are enjoying spending time together and the positive energy is contagious and rewarding

Trail Partnerships Work

