

California Trails and Greenways Conference 2010

Pre-Conference Field Workshop

Trail Use Change Process

As our management lands become encroached upon by urban development the need for more trails that appropriately provide access to the multitude of user types increases. As these demands for our trail systems continue to increase, many land management agencies are faced with a difficult



challenge; do we have an objective process to evaluate trails for use change? Another challenge is if this use change will meet the mission of the managing agency and be sustainable and compatible with the existing uses. California State Parks has created a process for evaluating trail use change requests that may come from public user groups or as a trail system planning effort from within the Department. The goal of this workshop is to introduce trail managers to this process through hands-on field and classroom experience.

This all day workshop begins with a classroom introductory session at the Cambria Pines Lodge at 7:30 am, a field exercise to prepare a trail log during the middle of the day and ends with a classroom trail assessment back at the lodge concluding at 4:30 pm. The field exercise will include traveling by carpool to the Washburn Campground area of San Simeon State Park (15 minute drive) for the field exercise. The trails to be logged are situated around the campground including gentle and steep segments slightly exceeding 20% grade.

Workshop materials will include a CD containing all flow charts, logs, assessment sheets and other related tools used in the workshop at no additional cost to the participant.

The morning classroom session will include an introduction to the “Trail Use Change Process”, why it was developed, how it works, the steps in the process and a review of the condition log and assessment questionnaire. The mid-day field exercise will focus on training the participants how to prepare a trail condition log which is a critical step in completion of the Trail Use Change assessment questionnaire. This exercise will include workshop participant teams lead by experienced California State Park Trail Program instructors concentrating on the preparation of a current condition trail log. The afternoon classroom session will allow the participant teams to, utilizing the condition assessment logs, complete a Trail Use Change assessment questionnaire and determine if the desired trail use change should or can be recommended.



The planned itinerary for April 21, 2010 follows:

7:30 am-Introductory Classroom Session at Cambria Pines Lodge

9:30 am-Carpools depart for Washburn Campground @ San Simeon State Park

10:00 am-Field exercise

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm-Box lunch (provided) at Washburn Campground

12:30 pm – Field exercise

2:00 pm – Carpools depart for Cambria Pines Lodge

2:30 pm – Trail Use Change questionnaire session

4:30 pm – Workshop ends



Workshop participants will be requested to carpool the short 15 minute drive to the Washburn Campground site. Restrooms will be available at the campground. Most walking will be on soft trails with uneven surfaces and some boardwalks. Trails utilized in the field exercise vary from flat to some that include 20% linear grade and waterbar steps. Be sure to wear hiking or comfortable walking shoes. Generally weather is nice in April but be prepared for cold, wet, foggy, windy or warm weather. Layer your clothing and bring a day pack to carry extra clothes and water. Sunscreen is advisable as portions of the trails will be in direct sun light. The workshop and field exercise will be held regardless of weather.

Special Note: The Washburn Campground trail system is being used for this training exercise only because of its locale, variety of trail conditions and their orientation to the campground. The San Luis Obispo Coast District of California State Parks is in no way planning or encouraging use changes on any of the trails within San Simeon State Park.