

# CALIFORNIA TRAILS AND GREENWAYS CONFERENCE

---

**MARIN COUNTY**  
**PARKS**  
PRESERVATION • RECREATION



## MARIN COUNTY

### ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN & CRITERIA BASED DECISION MAKING

PALM SPRINGS RIVIERA  
APRIL 9, 2014  
3:30PM-4:45PM

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

# 2.

- Review Purpose and Approach
- Content of RTMP
- Introduce Evaluation Tool
- Describe Community Involvement After Adoption
- Comments from Marin User Groups
- Interactive Exercise
- Questions and Discussion

ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN/EIR

# Purpose and Approach

## LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF RTMP

Designate a sustainable road and trail system that

4.

- improves opportunities & experiences
- is safe
- minimizes conflicts
- achieves measurable reductions in physical & environmental impacts
- requires less maintenance
- is broadly supported

## PLANNING BASICS

5.

- WHY (are we here) = Mission
- WHAT (do what want)= Desired Conditions
- HOW = Actions to achieve Desired Conditions



“We are dedicated to educating, inspiring, and engaging the people of Marin in the shared commitment of preserving, protecting, and enriching the natural beauty of Marin’s parks and open spaces, and providing recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of all generations.”

...While cultivating the  
stewards of tomorrow.



## DESIRED CONDITIONS AND CARRYING CAPACITY

- Natural Resources
- Visitor Experience
- *Determining the types, levels & locations of road and trail use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource conditions & visitor experiences that fulfill the mission of Marin County Parks, the Marin Countywide Plan & legal/safety requirements.*

7.



## WHAT IS THE “CARRYING CAPACITY” OF THE PRESERVES?

### 8.

- ***Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) or Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP).***
- What is the **tolerance for change** to natural condition, based on the mission and laws that govern?
- What is the **range** of natural conditions “acceptable”?
- What types, levels and locations of use are appropriate, based on the mission?

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

9.

- Scoping Meetings
- Focus Groups
- 11 Public Workshops
- Presentations at Forums of Others
- Parks & Open Space Commission Meetings
- Board of Supervisor Meetings

ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN/EIR

# Guidance and Data

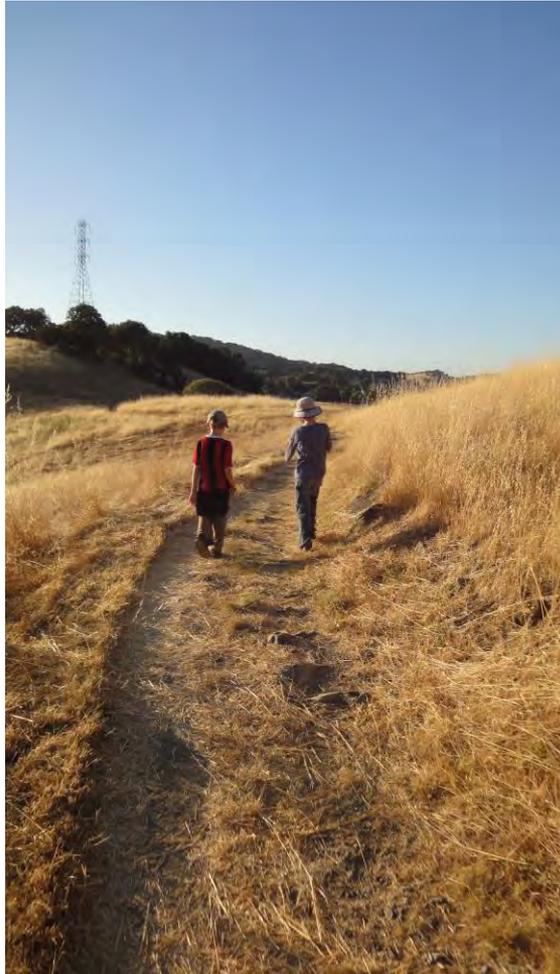
## BASELINE DATA AND INFORMATION

# 11.

- Guidance Documents, Plans, Policies
- Vegetation Data (plant communities, habitat types, special status species)
- Visitor Use Survey (opportunities and intensity)
- Community Input (workshops, comments)

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

12.



- Open Space District Policy Review Initiative (2005)
- Marin Countywide Plan (2007)
- Department of Parks and Open Space, Strategic Plan (2008)
- Open Space District Resource Management Framework (2008)

## POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

# 13.

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Federal Endangered Species Act
- California Endangered Species Act
- State and Federal Regulations and Permitting Requirements



## BASELINE DATA AND INFORMATION

# 14.

- Vegetation Management Zones
  - Legacy Zone
  - Restoration Zone
  - Enhancement Zone
  - Highly Disturbed Zone
- Existing Conditions Report
  - Locate and map roads and trails
  - Describe each road/trail segment and its physical condition
  - Identify many trails not constructed, managed, or mapped by MCOSD

## CONTENT OF RTMP

# 15.

- Describe Baseline Data
- Identify and Establish Comprehensive List of Policies
- Establish a Decision Making Process
  - Designating System
  - Implementing New Projects
- Identify Standards and Best Management Practices

ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN/EIR

# Criteria Driven Evaluation Tool for Road and Trail Projects

## HOW EVALUATION TOOL WILL BE USED

17.

- Establish Baselines for Biological and Physical Impacts
- Provide Information about Visitor Experience and Safety
- Compare and Rank Project Proposals
- Measure Reduction in Biological and Physical Impacts

## HOW EVALUATION TOOL WILL WORK

18.

- Sum Biological and Physical Scores of each Road and Trail Segment
- Add Scores to Measure Affects at Regional Level
- Use Social Scores to Compare Segments

# CASCADE FIRE ROAD SCORING

	Biological Resource Scores										
Scores	VMZ Average	SCA Area Intersect	Stream Intersection	Fish Presence Intersection	Spotted Owl Zones Intersection	Rare Plant Area Intersection	Wildlife Area Intersection	Serpentine Soils Area Intersection	Wetland Area Intersection	Weed Area Intersection	Trail Density Average
Cascade Fire Road Before Treatment	3	2	2	0	0	0*	0	0	0	1	2
Cascade Fire Road After Treatment	3	2	2	0	0	0*	0	0	0	0	2

	Physical Resource Scores														
Scores	Hydrological Slope Average	Directional Slope Average	Worst Drainage Score	Worst Erosion Score	Number of Problem Sites	Erodibility (RUSLE Model)	Expansive Soils	Gradient Average	Drainage Average	Wet/Mud Average	Trail Width	Tread Condition Average	Maintenance Average	Resource Impact	Erosion Average
Cascade Fire Road Before Treatment	3	3	5	10	5	N/A	In Development	2	4	0	3	4	3	4	4
Cascade Fire Road After Treatment	3	3	0	0	0	N/A	In Development	2	0	0	3	0	3	0	0

Biophysical Totals	
	Biological + Physical Combined
Cascade Fire Road Before Treatment	60
Cascade Fire Road After Treatment	23



ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN/EIR

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AFTER PLAN ADOPTION

## INITIAL OUTREACH

21.

- Share Biophysical Baseline Information
- Solicit Input on Designation of Road and Trail System
- Solicit Proposals for Projects

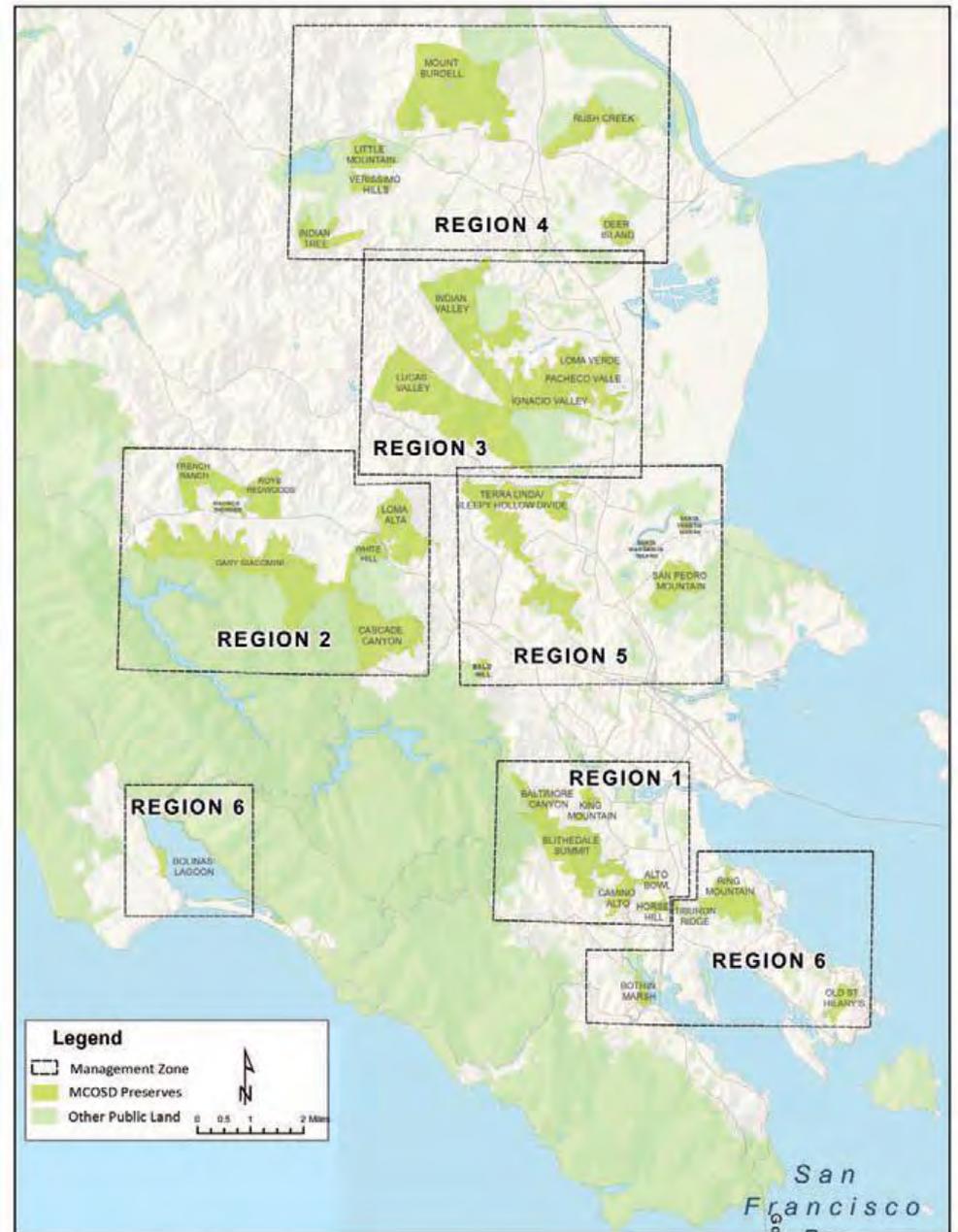
## BASELINE MONITORING

# 22.

- Six Planning Units
- Biophysical baseline Scores Monitored
  - Overall Network
  - Designated System
- Projects must Show Net Reductions in Baseline

# PRESERVES BY REGION

# 23.



## TYPES OF ROADS AND TRAILS FOLLOWING DESIGNATION OF THE SYSTEM

# 24.

- Designated roads and trails are managed for visitor use and may be maintained or improved over time.
  - Pedestrian and equestrian use only
  - Multi-use: Pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike use
  - Future multi-use: Not yet open to mountain bikes (bike use subject to citation until trail is constructed or designation is changed)
  - Future single use or priority use: Current management restrictions apply until trail is constructed or designation is changed.

## TYPES OF ROADS AND TRAILS FOLLOWING DESIGNATION OF THE SYSTEM

- Decommission Non-System Roads and Trails
  - Open to pedestrians until closed for restoration

**25.**

## PUBLIC PROPOSALS

# 26

- Projects must Decrease Biophysical Impacts
- Bundled Projects to Achieve this Result (e.g., new segment and decommissioned segment)
- Tool Provides Extra Protection for Owls, Serpentine Soils, and Streams
- Use Existing Network as much as Possible
- Change in use can be a component of a proposed project

## THE PRIORITIZED LIST OF FUTURE PROJECTS

27.

- Pre-Screened for Projects Inconsistent with policy
- Adjusted annually
- MCOSD will draw from list to assemble annual proposed budgets

# 28.

**01**  
**April through August**  
Solicitation and receipt of project proposals

**02**  
**Through October**  
Screening of project proposals for consistency with adopted policies

**03**  
**Through October**  
Screening of project proposals using evaluation tool

**04**  
**November through March**  
Priority projects compete in annual budget development process

**05**  
**March**  
Presentation of proposed budgets to Parks and Open Space Commission and Marin County Board of Supervisors

**06**  
**June**  
Consideration and adoption of proposed budgets by Marin County Board of Supervisors and MCOSD Board of Directors

## INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

# 29.

- Goals are to:
  - Reduce baseline scores
  - Increase multi-use trail riding opportunities for bikes
  - Avoid displacing other users
- 3 to 5 actions (building the new trail costs 3 actions, leaving only 2 remaining actions)
- Save the last 10 minutes to report back to larger group

---

**MARIN COUNTY**  
**PARKS**  
PRESERVATION • RECREATION



Thank you for coming!

Follow our progress at

[www.marincountyparks.org](http://www.marincountyparks.org)

[csomers@marincounty.org](mailto:csomers@marincounty.org)

Carl Somers (415) 473-2820