

Trail Change-in-Use Proposal Evaluation



Park (Including classification): Folsom Lake SRA
 Park Sub-classification: _____
 Trail Name: Pioneer Express Segment #26
(San Juan Water to Beals Entrance)
 Location in Unit: Folsom Lake
 Current Use Designation(s): Equestrian, pedestrian
 Proposed Use Type Change: add bikes
 Use Change Initiated By: FATRAC, Mtn Bike Focus Group
 Evaluation Date: June 15, 2015

Evaluation Jim Micheaels, Sr Park & Rec Specialist (Trails Coord.)
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Initial Field Evaluation 10/26/15, Final 3/22/22

This worksheet is designed to help park managers make an objective, defensible, and consistent determination regarding a proposed change-in-use (CIU) for a trail in the state park system. The first section is designed to make an initial determination regarding the compatibility of the proposed CIU with the park's classification and management. Refer to the rules and regulations for the park's classification as well as approved planning documents when making this preliminary decision. If the CIU is found to be incompatible, note the rule, regulation, or planning document under which the determination to deny was made.

Preliminary Considerations

		Yes	No	NA	Comments
0.1	Is the proposed CIU compatible with the park unit classification or sub-classification per the CA Public Resources Code and/or Code of Regulations?	X			
0.2	Is the proposed CIU on a trail that passes through more than one unit or sub-unit?		X		
0.3	Is there an approved general plan?	X			
0.4	Is there an approved road and trail management plan?		X		This CIU evaluation and decision will be part of the FLSRA RTMP that is currently being prepared.
0.5	Is there an approved area management plan?		X		
0.6	If there is an approved and relevant planning document, is the proposed CIU consistent with planning recommendations?	X			
0.7	Has a previous CIU request been made and evaluated for this trail?		X		
0.8	Is the proposed CIU located on a non-system (volunteer trail)? <i>This form can only be used to consider a CIU for system roads and trails.</i>		X		
0.9	Is the proposed CIU on a facility designated as a trail or road? <i>This form cannot be used to consider a CIU for non-designated facilities such as a beach or desert wash.</i>	X			
0.10	Based on the preliminary considerations, should the CIU be further evaluated? <i>If yes, continue to the next page. If no, please explain.</i>	X			

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If found to be compatible, the following pages aid park managers in considering the broader impacts of the proposed CIU, including necessary management or design options. Clearly identify the primary concerns and considerations for each item that significantly contributes to approval or denial of the CIU proposal.

Summary of Findings and Considerations

Complete this section last

Transfer the results from the following pages to this summary page.
If using the electronic version, the results will transfer automatically.

		Yes	No	NA	Comments
Part 2	Will the CIU be compatible with existing visitor uses, facilities, and services?	X			This trail segment connects with multi-use trails on either end and the trail segment will provide a logical multi-use trail connection.
Part 3	Will implementation of the CIU enhance circulation?	X			Bikes currently have alternate access along the paved bike trail and its shoulders. However implementing this CIU does provide a single track connection and experience for bikes where it currently does not exist.
Part 4	Would implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended) maintain trail safety?	X			Yes, the CIU can be implemented and trail safety maintained. The trail grades are gentle and the terrain generally open with reasonable sight lines.
Part 5	Will the trail be sustainable following implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended)?	X			Yes, the trail will be sustainable following the implementation of the CIU. The trail primarily needs maintenance.
Part 6	Would implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended) create significant negative impacts to the natural or cultural resources?		X		The existing trail is within an area of a larger cultural landscape. That landscape has been heavily modified by the Dam facilities, roads and the San Juan Water District facilities. There is some uncertainty if this segment of trail is historic, determining this would require additional study. No modifications to the trail are proposed as part of implementing the CIU.
Part 7	Will implementation of the CIU with management and design options create a significant on-going maintenance or operational workload?		X		No, the implementation of the CIU will not create significant ongoing operation or maintenance burdens. The trail is already regularly used by bikes and what the trail primarily needs is maintenance.



Recommendation Based on Evaluation Considerations

Substantiate in Comment Box

Recommend that the park's general plan or road and trail management plan be developed or amended to evaluate the CIU	X			This CIU will be part of ongoing FLSRA RTMP.
Recommend that the CIU be approved	X			
Recommend that the CIU be approved with design options such a major or minor re-route or minor re-construction.		X		
Recommend that the CIU be approved with management options such as alternating days of use, one way travel, and/or seasonal closures		X		
Recommend that the CIU be put on hold		X		

Final Comments/Determinations

This segment of trail is an isolated section of equestrian/pedestrian trail. The segment connects to multi-use trails on either end, including the multi-use trail on the north side of the Beals Point entrance road and the paved multi-use trail on the south end of this segment. The trail is regularly used by mountain bikes (illegally), pedestrians and equestrians. Approving the CIU for this trail segment will provide a logical multi-use trail connection. While there is currently alternate access along the paved bike trail and its shoulders for bikes, this CIU provides a single-track connection and experience for bikes where it currently does not exist.

The CIU can be implemented, and trail safety maintained. The trail grades are gentle and the terrain generally open with reasonable sight lines. The trail is primarily sustainable, with no abrupt grade changes or unsustainable grades. Site distances are good with maintenance level brushing. Other than changing signing regarding the allowed uses on the trail, no trail modifications are required in order to implement the CIU for this section of trail.

The trail is within a larger cultural landscape with various mining features. This landscape has been heavily modified by Dam infrastructure, roads, campgrounds and the San Juan Water District facilities. Implementing the CIU would not cause any significant negative impacts to natural or cultural resources. Implementation of the CIU will not create significant ongoing operation or maintenance burdens.

The recommendation is to approve this CIU and add bikes to the allowed uses of this segment of trail.

Multiple CIU requests may require development or amendment of a unit wide road and trail transportation management plan.

Qualified staff, including a DPR-trained Trail Coordinator will complete this survey and checklist to:

- (1) Determine the sustainability, safety, and feasibility of a proposed CIU for a single trail.*
- (2) Determine the appropriateness of the CIU in relation to cumulative impacts to the existing uses (users, routing, hiking opportunities, etc)*
- (3) Validate the existing conditions described on the attached trail log. The trail log should address typical log elements and positive and negative attributes related to the evaluation criteria.*

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
Part 1 Existing Conditions					<i>Describe positive and negative impacts of the proposed CUI and any other details related to proposal evaluation.</i>
1.1	Is the trail a controlled access road?		X		
1.2	ADA Accessible Route of Travel		X		
1.3	Connection to a trail head or other accessible facility?		X		
1.4	What is the trail's current classification?	I			<i>Enter the trail class (I, II, III, or IV)</i>
Trail or road surface type:		<i>Check All Applicable</i>			Comments
1.5	Asphalt				
1.6	Concrete				
1.7	Gravel				
1.8	Native Material	X			
Trail and road facility use type					
1.9	Public Administration	X			
1.10	Fire Break				
1.11	Motorized Recreation				
1.12	Non-Motorized Recreation				
1.13	Road used as trail route				
1.14					
Current trail uses allowed		Yes	No	NA	
1.15	Pedestrian	X			
1.16	Mountain Bike		X		
1.17	Equestrian	X			
1.18	Other - specify in comment box				
Part 2 Compatibility with Existing Visitor Uses, Facilities, and Services					
Existing Conditions					
2.1	Is the trail high-use or in a high use area?	X			
2.2	Is there evidence of unauthorized use?	X			
2.3	Does the proposed use currently exist in the park?	X			
2.4	Are there other routes in the unit or on nearby public land that adequately accommodate the type of use proposed?		X		There are other trails within the park unit that allow mtn bike use, questionable whether or not this is adequate.

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
2.5	Is there documented survey or statistical information that identifies a need/desire for the CIU?	X			In the 2014 FLSRA Trail User Survey, there were many comments requesting more multi-use trails. At FLSRA/FPSHP, the trail mileage by use type is: 5.5 mi of pedestrian only; 11 mi. of ped./bike; 46 mi. of ped./equestrian; 38 mi. of unpaved multi-use and 19 mi. of paved multi-use.
2.6	Would the CIU create conflicts with existing facilities connected or adjacent to the trail (trail heads, stables, campgrounds etc)?		X		
2.7	Would significant user conflict be anticipated with implementation of the CIU?		X		
Part 2	Based on above considerations, will the CIU be compatible with existing visitor uses and services?	X			
#3 Effects to Circulation Patterns					
Does the CIU:					
3.1	Provide a loop, semi-loop, or other connection for the CIU user group?	X			Implementing the CIU would provide a logical single track connection for mtn bikes. The existing connection for bikes, using the paved trail from the south to the Beals Entrance Road and then down past the kiosk to where the multi-use trail starts on the north side of the Entrance Road is neither intuitive nor obvious.
3.2	Legalize or legitimize unauthorized trail use currently occurring in the unit?	X			Route currently heavily used by bikes, though this is not the determinative factor in the CIU decision.
3.3	Provide a connection to adjacent land agency that allows similar use?		X		
3.4	Improve circulation or relieve congestion on other high-use trails?	X			Might help with fewer mtn bikes having to ride paved trail up to Beal entrance crossing.
3.5	Create the potential need for use changes on adjacent or connecting trails or facilities?		X		
3.6	Require a seasonal closure to mitigate resource impacts?		X		Wet weather closures could help with trail sustainability. Such closures would likely be implemented park wide and could be considered in the RTMP.
3.7	If yes, will seasonal closures disrupt circulation patterns?			X	
Part 3	Based on above criteria, will implementation of the CIU enhance circulation for the new use type?	X			

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
#4 Effects to Trail Safety					
Existing Conditions					
4.0	Are there documented safety concerns resulting from interactions between different user groups?		X		
4.1	With standard cyclical trail brushing (as determined by vegetation type), is there adequate-sight distance to address safety concerns resulting from the CIU?	X			
4.2	With standard cyclical slough and berm removal, is there adequate tread width for safe passage of trail users with the CIU?	X			
4.3	With equestrian users is there adequate space for non-equestrian users to retreat to the downhill side of trail for safe passage?	X			
4.4	If tread widths are narrow, are the fill slopes gentle, firm, and stable for users to retreat to the downhill side of trail for safe passage?	X			
4.5	Does the trail have sinuosity that slows trail users?	X			Some sinuosity, don't know if it has much effect on trail user speed.
4.6	Would the CIU increase the need for enforcement of park rules and regulations?		X		
Design Options to Improve Safety					
<i>Check those design options that could be implemented to improve trail safety with the CIU</i>					
4.7	Increase sinuosity through re-routing or re-construction		X		
4.8	Increase sight distances through re-routing or removal of visual obstructions		X		
4.9	Widening of the trail tread to provide adequate passing space		X		
4.10	Install speed control devices such as pinch points or tread texturing		X		

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
Management Options to Improve Safety					
<i>Check those management options that could be implemented to improve trail safety with the CIU</i>					
4.11	Alternating days of use		X		
4.12	One-way directional usage		X		
4.13	Installation of new signage	X			
4.14	Other (Describe)				
Part 4 Based on the above considerations, would implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended) maintain trail safety?		X			
#5 Effects on Trail Sustainability					
Existing Conditions					
5.1	Is the trail draining to natural topographic drainage features, such as creeks and swales or natural sheet flow, and not being captured and concentrated to the man-made drainage structures?	X			Mostly yes - but in places the trail segment has captured run-off.
5.2	Is the trail tread firm and stable?	X			
5.3	Are there abrupt changes in trail running grade?		X		
5.4	Is the fill slope stable?	X			
5.5	Is the back slope/cut bank stable?	X			
5.6	Does the trail tread remain firm and stable in wet conditions?	X			
Supporting data from trail log					
5.7	Number of water breaks (water bars, dips, etc.) required for proper drainage	8			1 culvert, 7 dips
5.8	Linear footage of berms				none recorded in condition assessment
5.9	Linear footage of ditches				none recorded in condition assessment
5.10	Linear footage rills and ruts	77			77 linear ft of rills in condition assessment
5.11	Linear footage log entrenched trail	386			386 linear ft of entrenched trail in condition assessment
Describe the locations of soil types and matrixes encountered on trail					
5.12	Rocky				
5.13	Rocky/Partial Soil Profile				
5.14	Full Soil Profile				
5.15	Partial Soil Profile/Sandy	X			
5.16	Sandy				
5.17	Based on these considerations is the trail currently sustainable?	X			

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
5.18	Will the trail be sustainable following implementation of the CIU without management or design options (as recommended)?	X			There is one entrenched segment of trail that would benefit from re-engineering/reconstruction or minor re-route. Not required for CIU.
Design Options to Improve Sustainability					
<i>If not sustainable, can any of the following measures be implemented to make the trail sustainable for the CIU?</i>					
5.20	Armoring of wet drainage crossings to reduce erosion and impacts to waterways?		X		
5.21	Additional drainage structures (e.g. grade reversals, water bars, rolling grade dips, etc.) to manage increased mechanical wear?		X		One location identified for dip. Not required for CIU.
5.22	Additional bridges and puncheons/boardwalks to facilitate dry crossings necessary to reduce erosion and impacts to waterways?		X		
5.23	Reconstruction or replacement of bridges and puncheons to comply with equestrian construction standards?		X		
5.24	Fill slope or cut bank retaining walls?		X		
5.25	Additional or upgraded turnpikes or causeways?		X		One potential location for causeway/drain lens. Not required for CIU.
Minor reconstruction of trail tread would:					
5.26	Correct lack of outslope		X		
5.27	Stabilize abrupt grade changes		X		
5.28	Stabilize cut bank		X		
5.29	Stabilize fill slope		X		
5.30	Correct rilling and rutting	X			Re-engineering/reconstruction of one section would help address rut/entrenched trail.
5.31	Provide for firm and stable surfaces		X		
Minor realignment/re-route of trail within the immediate proximity of the existing trail would:					
5.32	Stabilize cut bank		X		
5.33	Stabilize fill slope		X		
5.34	Eliminate abrupt grade changes		X		
5.35	Correct unsustainable grades		X		
5.36	Correct lack of sinuosity		X		
5.37	Should a major reroute be considered to establish sustainability?		X		

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
Management Options to Improve Sustainability					
<i>If not sustainable, can any of the following measures be implemented to make the trail sustainable for the CIU?</i>					
5.38	Can wet weather closures establish or maintain sustainability?		X		
5.39	Can other management options be implemented to improve trail sustainability? If so, please describe.		X		
Part 5	Based on the above considerations, will the trail be sustainable following implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended)?	X			Trail is already sustainable. No management or design options required as part of CIU.
#6 Effects or Impacts to the Natural or Cultural Resources					
Would the CIU and/or needed modifications significantly impact:					
6.1	Erosion of existing trail tread and sedimentation of adjacent streams?		X		
6.2	Significant geologic features?		X		
6.3	Sensitive wildlife habitat?		X		
6.4	Sensitive plant habitat?		X		
6.5	A wetland, riparian or stream zone?		X		
6.6	A sensitive cultural feature?		X		The trail is within a larger cultural landscape. Currently there is insufficient information to determine whether the CIU, including proposed modifications to the trail, would have negative impacts to cultural resources. Additional studies and evaluation of the resources would need to be conducted to make these determinations. However, implementing the standard project conditions and best management practices will prevent significant negative impacts to cultural resources.
6.7	A sensitive palaeontological feature?		X		
6.8	Is the trail a historic feature?		X		It is unclear if trail alignment is historic. Research and mapping of trail is needed in order to make this determination.
6.9	Would required trail modifications trigger outside agency permits?		X		No modifications required for CIU, but if and when repairs are made to trail permits may be required for the causeway/drain lens.
Part 6	Based on the above considerations, would implementation of the CIU with management and design options (as recommended) create significant negative impacts to the natural or cultural resources?		X		

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Evaluation Considerations		Yes	No	NA	Comments
#7 Effects or Impacts to Maintenance and Operations					
Would the CIU and/or needed modifications:					
7.1	Change the classification of the trail?		X		
7.2	Require additional maintenance?		X		
7.3	Require additional management practices to maintain user compliance?		X		District/Sector staff may patrol the trail segment occasionally to educate visitors on trail etiquette. Volunteers may patrol as well. Neither of these is a requirement for the CIU.
7.4	Require additional staff time to address compliance requirements of the management or design options?	X			There may be a little additional staff time spent on trail patrol and education regarding trail safety and etiquette.
7.5	Could the proposed modifications be completed by non-department work forces?			X	No modifications are required or needed.
7.6	Could the proposed modifications be maintained by non-department work forces with minimal cost to the State?			X	No modifications are required or needed.
7.7	Can necessary management strategies be enforced?			X	This segment is a short section of trail and no specific management strategies are required for this specific segment. However, along with the other trails in the area, Sector/District staff will educate visitors on safe trail use and trail etiquette.
7.8	If not, is there a volunteer group or partner agency that can assist with enforcement?		X		There is a volunteer mounted patrol and the Sector is finalizing an agreement with a bike patrol organization. Both of these groups could help patrol the trail, reporting problems and education, but volunteers do not get involved in enforcement.
Based on the above considerations, will implementation of the CIU Part 7 with management and design options (as recommended) create a significant on-going maintenance or operational workload?			X		