



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
California State Parks and Mountain Bikers Meeting – August 13, 2013
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2013, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: California State Parks, Southern Service Center Office, San Diego, CA.

Meeting Participants:

- Gardner Grady (SDMBA)
- Evan Sollberger (SDMBA Liaison)
- Steve Boland (SDMBA Liaison to CRSP & MBAU)
- Kirk Bennett (MBAU)
- Dan Falat, CSP
- Bob Patterson, CSP

SDMBA = San Diego Mountain Bike Association

MBAU = Mountain Bike Assistance Unit (a subunit of CRSPIA)

CRSPIA = Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association

Meeting Purpose:

Advise California State Parks on issues of importance to mountain bikers, share information about the General Plan (GP) process.

Items Discussed During the Meeting:

1. General Info:

- Bob thanked Gardner, Evan, Steve and Kirk for participating in the meeting and mountain bikers in general for being helpful, proactive, and a good Park partner. Bob and Dan especially appreciate all the time and effort in maintaining, improving and patrolling trails, as well as fundraising. Bob and Dan mentioned their desire to continue to strengthen the partnership between State Parks and mountain bikers.
- Bob mentioned that stakeholder meetings have already taken place with Native Americans and equestrians. The intent of this meeting is the same: to get specific input about issues of importance to mountain bikers.
- Bob told about the already-requested Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) that will be the vehicle for addressing specific trail recommendations. The General Plan will set Goals and Guidelines (criteria and parameters) for trails and mountain bike use but will likely not address specific trails. The State Parks Planning Division will oversee the RTMP and has indicated that it will be started before the General Plan is completed, which is encouraging because they are usually deferred until *after* the General Plan is completed. Of course all trail user groups including mountain bikers will be stakeholders in the RTMP.
- Bob identified some milestone dates for incorporating comments into the General Plan: November 2013 will be when the draft General Plan is prepared and 3rd Public Meeting will occur, and April 2014 is when the Draft GP will undergo a 45-day public review period as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Bob said he will forward to Gardner the Draft Goals and Guidelines that are currently being written by the planning team for mountain biker suggestions and comments.
- Bob said he will update the GP webpage with notes from the meeting.



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2. Questions and Comments:

- Steve inquired as to why Natural and Cultural Preserves are being proposed for expansion. Bob said it was to protect rare and sensitive resources such as Native American village sites and endangered plants that were, at the time, not known and left out. Gardner and Bob discussed the on-going efforts of State Parks to set new policy to clarify and standardize how trail use is designated in Preserves.
- The group indicated a strong desire for more multi-use trails and said in many cases trail changes to accommodate mountain bikes would not be needed or desired. The group also expressed a desire for more north-south trail connections within the Park, and east-west connections to the surrounding Cleveland National Forest and Anza Borrego Desert State Park, to satisfy rider's desire for longer rides, trail loops and connections to more diverse terrain.
- Evan showed on a map some of the desired trail connections and explained why they would be beneficial for riders. Bob said that the General Plan would, in general, support these connections.
- Evan introduced the idea of adding a bike skills area to Paso Picacho for youth and adults. Features could include such things as a pump track, bridges and obstacles. The idea would be to introduce riders to the types of terrain in the Park and learn to negotiate them. This would encourage new riders in the Park.
- Gardner described how the Park could be a premier winter riding location in the US because of the mild climate. In addition, night rides are infrequent but popular and could be expanded to bring in more riders to the Park. Better marketing would help these efforts.
- The group discussed where the Park ranks as a destination for mountain bikers. It was agreed that the park is not in the top three locations within San Diego County because it contains primarily fire roads and does not have as much single track and varied terrain as the Lagunas or Noble Canyon. Also the fact that the Park trails require a lot of climbing and is therefore more challenging discourages some riders. It was also noted that the Park isn't well publicized and more events, improved trails and better marketing might improve this. The fact that camping at the Park costs \$35 per night as opposed to \$20 at the Forest Service also discourages some people. Offering lower camping rates in the spring and fall when riding is at its best in the park could be one way to increase camping during this time.
- The group discussed if and how a SWECO trail machine could be operated to improve trails, as it has in the past. Dan mentioned that it is difficult to implement considering staff schedules, union rules, etc., but may be possible with funding assistance from CRSPIA.

	ACTION ITEMS	Due	Resp
1.	Email meeting notes to Gardner and post to General Plan webpage:	8/23/13	Bob
2.	Provide Gardner with Draft Goals and Guidelines for comment:	ASAP	Bob
3.	Gardner assemble comments about Draft G&G's and forward to Bob	ASAP	Gardner