

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan/
Draft Environmental Impact Report

Public Comments & Responses

2014



SCH# 2013041026

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Governor

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

This appendix will provide additional content for inclusion with the CRSP Final General Plan and EIR. It contains comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR received during the public review period and changes to the General Plan/EIR since the public review period. The EIR considers the potential environmental effects of the long-term management of CRSP consistent with CEQA §15166. CDPR, the CEQA Lead Agency, will consider the analysis and conclusions of the General Plan/EIR prior to implementing future management and development of CRSP.

1.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT EIR

The comments and responses found within this appendix are strictly those received during the 45-day public review period that took place between August 21, 2014 and October 6, 2014 in accordance with CEQA §15105. All comments received outside this time period were responded to on an as needed basis.

1.3 FORMAT OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Responses to written public comments on the CRSP General Plan/EIR are divided into Agency Comments, Organization Comments, and Individual Comments. Comment letters and responses to comments in this appendix are arranged and coded as follows:

- **Agencies (A)**
- **Organizations (O)**
- **Individuals (I)**

Each letter and each comment within a letter have been given an identification number. Responses are numbered so that they correspond to the appropriate comment. Where appropriate, responses are referenced to a Master Response. Master Responses are provided for topics that are raised by multiple commenters and/or would benefit from a more comprehensive response than would be provided to address a single comment.

Where a commenter has provided multiple comments, each comment is indicated by brackets and an identifying letter/number notation in the margin of the comment letter (for instance, Comment A-1-1 is the first comment in comment letter A-1). Responses are numbered to correspond to specific comments. All comment letters are reproduced in their entirety in Section 2.3 of this appendix.

In addition to responses to individual comment letters, there are additionally Master Responses. Master Responses address comment topics raised by multiple commenters. Two Master Responses are included in this document:

- **Master Response 1: Issues related to Equestrian use of CRSP**

- **Master Response 2: Response to mountain bike use within CRSP**

In some instances, responses to comments may warrant modification of the text of the General Plan/EIR. These changes shall be indicated within responses and shall be included before final publication of the General Plan/EIR. Substantial changes to the text of the General Plan/EIR are contained in Chapter 3 of this appendix to be completed following approval of the General Plan by the California State Park & Recreation Commission.

All of the text changes made in response to public comments result in minor modifications to the General Plan/EIR. None of the changes made to the Final EIR result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of any previously identified significant effects, therefore the changes do not warrant recirculation of all or part of the EIR. Notice shall be provided to those who commented that responses have been completed and may be reviewed prior to approval of the General Plan by the California State Park & Recreation Commission.

2 COMMENTERS, RESPONSES TO COMMENTS AND COMMENT LETTERS

CDPR received comments that addressed multiple issues. **Section 2.1** provides a list of all agencies, organizations and persons that submitted comments during the public review period.

2.1 LIST OF COMMENTERS

COMMENTERS		
Government Agencies (Listed Alphabetically)	Letter ID	Date
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, South Coast Region (Courtney, Betty)	A-1	10/6/2014
Caltrans District 11, Division of Planning	A-2	9/23/2014
State Water Resources Control Board (Ketcham, Scott)	A-3	8/27/2014
United State Forest Service (Metz, William)	A-4	10/6/2014
Organizations (Listed Alphabetically)	Letter ID	Date
Back Country Horsemen of America-National Director (Kriger, Peter)	O-1	10/2/2014
Back Country Horsemen of California-San Diego-President (Heyden, Patty)	O-2	9/24/2014

California Native Plant Society-San Diego-Conservation Chair (Landis, Frank)	O-3	10/6/2014
Cuyamaca Equestrian Association-President (Smith, Ernest)	O-4	9/28/2014
Elegant Ears Mule Assoc.-President (Kirkbride, Randy)	O-5	9/29/2014
Inland Valley Mountain Bike Assoc.-President (Roberson, Rex)	O-6	10/3/2014
Jamul Trails Council, Inc.-President (Braithwaite, Dana)	O-7	10/6/2014
Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy-Assistant Executive Director (Haws, Lisa)	O-8	10/6/2014
Lakeside Frontier Riders-President (Ensall, Karen)	O-9	9/24/2014
San Diego County Bike Coalition-Executive Director (Hanshaw, Andy)	O-10	9/27/2014
San Diego Mountain Biking-President (Loomis, Kevin)	O-11	10/2/2014
San Diego Ultra Running Friends-Trail Crew Coordinator (Bonus, Ken)	O-12	8/21/2014
Sierra Club-Forest Committee (Buxton, Cindy)	O-13	10/6/2014
Southern California Equine Foundation, Inc.-CEO (Klawitter, Karen)	O-14	10/1/2014
Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Assoc.-Vice President (Gabaldon, John)	O-15	10/2/2014
Individuals (Listed Alphabetically by Last Name)	Letter ID	Date
Agren, Matthew	I-1	10/2/2014
Amalfitano, Barbara	I-2	10/6/2014
Amalfitano, Nicholas	I-3	10/6/2014
Barnes Jr., Franklin "Woody"	I-4	9/30/2014
Bartelt, Matthew	I-5	10/2/2014
Benfante, Margaret (1)	I-6	9/8/2014
Benfante, Margaret (2)	I-7	9/17/2014
Boase, Laura	I-8	10/3/2014
Braithwaite, Dana	I-9	10/6/2014
Buchanan, Jeani (1)	I-10	9/23/2014
Buchanan, Jeani (2)	I-11	9/24/2014

Budge, Nancy	I-12	9/24/2014
Bullis, Beverley (1)	I-13	9/24/2014
Bullis, Beverley (2)	I-14	10/6/2014
Butters, Bill	I-15	9/6/2014
Carlson, Karen (1)	I-16	9/3/2014
Carlson, Karen (2)	I-17	9/23/2014
Carlson, Karen (3)	I-18	10/6/2014
Clark, Judy	I-19	10/2/2014
Clemins, Travis	I-20	10/4/2014
Conkell, John	I-21	10/2/2014
Craddick, Robert	I-22	10/3/2014
Crawford, Rose	I-23	9/24/2014
Cricket, Karen	I-24	9/2/2014
Decker, Ben and Cindy	I-25	9/30/2014
Denny, Cyndi	I-26	9/23/2014
Denny, Steve (1)	I-27	9/24/2014
Denny, Steve (2)	I-28	10/2/2014
deVries, Michelle	I-29	10/6/2014
Dias, Domingo	I-30	10/2/2014
Dittrich, Doug	I-31	10/2/2014
Drees, Ronald	I-32	10/2/2014
Dwight, Kimberly	I-33	10/6/2014
Ebster, Wendy	I-34	9/9/2014
Edleson, Stuart & Charlene	I-35	9/24/2014
Eller, Mark	I-36	10/2/2014
Farrin, Alison	I-37	9/30/2014
Fox, Eric	I-38	10/2/2014
Frye, Darla	I-39	10/6/2014
Gage, Bob (1)	I-40	9/25/2014

Gage, Bob (2)	I-41	10/5/2014
Gage, Bob (3)	I-42	10/5/2014
Gage, Bob (4)	I-43	10/6/2014
Gallo, Glen	I-44	10/2/2014
Garcia, Juan	I-45	10/3/2014
Garrett, Rebekah	I-46	10/6/2014
Gerstenberg, John	I-47	10/2/2014
Glancy, Francis & Carey Nitsch	I-48	9/1/2014
Goehring, Beth	I-49	9/25/2014
Gonzalez, Tristan	I-50	10/2/2014
Harlow, Doreen	I-51	10/6/2014
hdavis1022	I-52	9/1/2014
Hein, Donna & Robert	I-53	9/26/2014
Helms, Cindy	I-54	9/23/2014
Hern, Daryl	I-55	10/6/2014
Hoban, Veronica (1)	I-56	10/5/2014
Hoban, Veronica (2)	I-57	10/5/2014
Hoeft, Dede	I-58	10/2/2014
Hollander, Eric	I-59	10/3/2014
Holloway, John	I-60	10/2/2014
Hoover, Brentt	I-61	10/2/2014
Horn, Allen	I-62	8/27/2014
Howse, Billy	I-63	10/2/2014
Huffman, Estee	I-64	9/7/2014
Hughes, Barbara	I-65	9/29/2014
Hultgren, Scott	I-66	10/2/2014
Hunt, Linda	I-67	9/24/2014
Iburg, Jessica	I-68	10/3/2014
Inada, Craig	I-69	10/1/2014

Jennings, Mike	I-70	10/2/2014
Jewell, Joyce (1)	I-71	9/11/2014
Jewell, Joyce (2)	I-72	9/26/2014
Johnson, Kai	I-73	10/2/2014
Joiner, Scott	I-74	10/2/2014
Jones, Basil	I-75	10/2/2014
Jones, Sandy	I-76	9/30/2014
Jones, Tom	I-77	10/3/2014
Jorgensen, Martin	I-78	10/6/2014
Jorgensen, Terry (1)	I-79	10/6/2014
Jorgensen, Terry (2)	I-80	10/6/2014
Karcher, Patti	I-81	9/25/2014
Kukuchek, Mark	I-82	10/4/2014
Ladley, Peggy Sue	I-83	9/26/2014
Lauber, Donna	I-84	10/6/2014
Longton, Maria Biondo	I-85	10/6/2014
Loudis, Brian	I-86	10/2/2014
Lowrie, David	I-87	9/25/2014
Malinowski, Lynne	I-88	9/10/2014
Malone, Mary Jo	I-89	10/5/2014
Mann, Phylisia	I-90	8/31/2014
Martin, Monica	I-91	9/5/2014
Martin, Peggy	I-92	9/16/2014
Martinca, Janet	I-93	10/2/2014
Massie, John	I-94	9/25/2014
McAdams, Pamela	I-95	10/6/2014
McDonald, Jason	I-96	10/2/2014
McWay, Carmen	I-97	10/5/2014
Merritt, Matt	I-98	10/2/2014

Miller, Kimberley Clark	I-99	9/28/2014
Moore, Martha	I-100	10/3/2014
Moser, Bill and Marcia	I-101	10/5/2014
Murphy, Julie (1)	I-102	8/31/2014
Murphy, Julie (2)	I-103	9/17/2014
Murphy, Julie (3)	I-104	9/24/2014
Murphy, Julie (4)	I-105	10/3/2014
Murphy, Julie (5)	I-106	10/3/2014
Murphy, Julie (6)	I-107	10/5/2014
Nelsen, Andy	I-108	10/2/2014
Nelson, Cliff	I-109	10/2/2014
Nickerson, John	I-110	9/24/2014
Nixon, Brian	I-111	10/2/2014
Nolte, Bill	I-112	10/2/2014
O'Steen, Jeff	I-113	10/3/2014
Olberz, Molly	I-114	10/3/2014
Ousley, Mike	I-115	10/2/2014
Owen, Michael	I-116	10/4/2014
Ozaki, Minette	I-117	10/2/2014
Paterson, John	I-118	10/2/2014
Patstone, Derrick	I-119	10/2/2014
Patton, Susan and Troy	I-120	9/21/2014
Paulette, Janine	I-121	10/5/2014
Polley, Terri	I-122	9/30/2014
Ponting, Robert	I-123	10/3/2014
Powell, Mary Johnson	I-124	10/2/2014
Powers, Zina	I-125	10/3/2014
Raab, Robert	I-126	10/6/2014
Rucker, Jeff	I-127	10/2/2014

Rush, Stephen	I-128	10/4/2014
Sabbadini, Gail	I-129	9/7/2014
Sathrum, Jenny	I-130	10/4/2014
Schott, Deborah	I-131	9/4/2014
Sefton, William	I-132	10/2/2014
Setterman, Melinda	I-133	10/6/2014
Shea, Duke	I-134	10/6/2014
Shummate, John	I-135	10/3/2014
Sollberger, Evan	I-136	10/1/2014
St. Clair, Peter	I-137	8/25/2014
Stacy, Jeanine	I-138	10/5/2014
Stewart, Kay	I-139	10/6/2014
Street, James	I-140	10/2/2014
Swanson, Billi-Jo	I-141	9/30/2014
Tarnawski, Julia	I-142	10/5/2014
Tellew, John	I-143	10/2/2014
Thomas, Eric	I-144	10/2/2014
Tirpak, Frank	I-145	10/2/2014
Trowbridge, Heidi	I-146	9/29/2014
Tyler, John & Daphne	I-147	10/3/2014
Uekert, Ken	I-148	10/3/2014
Van Every, Richard	I-149	10/2/2014
Van Trump, Dianna	I-150	10/2/2014
Van Velzer, Gail	I-151	10/5/2014
Virgilio, Charles "Skip"	I-152	10/3/2014
Warren, Bruce	I-153	10/2/2014
Watson, Becky and John	I-154	10/6/2014
Watton, Marcy	I-155	10/5/2014
Webb, Mark	I-156	10/2/2014

Wegner, Cheryl	I-157	10/5/2014
Wessels, Rich	I-158	10/3/2014
Whitebread, Lisa	I-159	9/2/2014
Wilson, Tom and Christine	I-160	10/5/2014
Winslow, Rob	I-161	10/2/2014
Woessner, Katharine	I-162	10/2/2014
Wood, William	I-163	10/2/2014
Woods, Christine	I-164	10/6/2014
Yenawine, Dana	I-165	10/2/2014
Young, Gail	I-166	8/31/2014
Zampino, Dalynn	I-167	10/6/2014

2.2 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

As described above, this Volume of the General Plan/EIR contains responses to comments submitted during the 45-day public review period. Master Responses are followed by responses to letters submitted by agencies, organizations, and individuals.

2.2.1 Master Responses

Master Response 1

Responses to equestrians from similar form letter

Numerous letters were submitted that contained similar questions and concerns regarding a number of issues related to how equestrians use the park including the facilities that they use. The following comment letters shall be addressed through this master response.

- O-1 (Back Country Horsemen of America-Kruger)
- O-2 (Back Country Horsemanship of California-San Diego-Heyden)
- O-4 (Cuyamaca Equestrian Assoc.-Smith)
- O-5 (Elegant Ears Mule Assoc.-Kirkbride)
- O-7 (Jamul Trails Council-Braithwaite)
- O-9 (Lakeside Frontier Riders-Ensall)
- O-14 (Southern California Equine Foundation-Klawitter, Karen)
- O-15 (Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Assoc.-Gabaldon, John)

- I-2 (Amalfitano, Barbara)
- I-3 (Amalfitano, Nicholas)
- I-6 (Benfante, Margaret (1))
- I-7 (Benfante, Margaret (2))
- I-8 (Boase, Laura)
- I-9 (Braithwaite, Dana)
- I-10 (Buchanan, Jeani (1))
- I-11 (Buchanan, Jeani (2))
- I-13 (Bullis, Beverley (1))
- I-14 (Bullis, Beverley (2))
- I-15 (Butters, Bill)
- I-16 (Carlson, Karen (1))
- I-17 (Carlson, Karen (2))
- I-18 (Carlson, Karen (1))
- I-19 (Clark, Judy)
- I-23 (Crawford, Rose)
- I-24 (Cricket, Karen)
- I-25 (Decker, Ben and Cindy)
- I-26 (Denny, Cyndi)
- I-27 (Denny, Steve (1))
- I-28 (Denny, Steve (2))

I-29 (deVries, Michelle)
I-33 (Dwight, Kimberly)
I-34 (Ebster, Wendy)
I-35 (Edleson, Stuart & Charlene)
I-37 (Farrin, Alison)
I-39 (Frye, Darla)
I-40 (Gage, Bob (1))
I-41 (Gage, Bob (2))
I-42 (Gage, Bob (3))
I-43 (Gage, Bob (4))
I-46 (Garrett, Rebekah)
I-48 (Glancy, Francis & Carey Nitsch)
I-49 (Goehring, Beth)
I-50 (Gonzalez, Tristan)
I-51 (Harlow, Doreen)
I-52 (hdavis1022)
I-53 (Hein, Donna & Robert)
I-54 (Helms, Cindy)
I-55 (Hern, Daryl)
I-56 (Hoban, Veronica (1))
I-57 (Hoban, Vernoica (2))
I-62 (Horn, Allen)
I-64 (Huffman, Estee)
I-65 (Hughes, Barbara)
I-67 (Hunt, Linda)
I-71 (Jewell, Joyce (1))
I-72 (Jewell, Joyce (2))
I-76 (Jones, Sandy)
I-79 (Jorgensen, Terry (1))
I-80 (Jorgensen, Terry (2))
I-81 (Karcher, Patti)
I-82 (Kukuchek, Mark)
I-83 (Ladley, Peggy Sue)
I-84 (Lauber, Donna)
I-85 (Longton, Maria Biondo)
I-87 (Lowrie, David)
I-88 (Malinowski, Lynne)
I-89 (Malone, Mary Jo)
I-90 (Mann, Phylicia)
I-91 (Martin, Monica)
I-92 (Martin, Peggy)
I-93 (Martinca, Janet)
I-94 (Massie, John)
I-95 (McAdams, Pamela)

I-97 (McWay, Carmen)
I-99 (Miller, Kimberley Clark)
I-101 (Moser, Bill and Marcia)
I-103 (Murphy, Julie (2))
I-104 (Murphy, Julie (3))
I-105 (Murphy, Julie (4))
I-106 (Murphy, Julie (5))
I-107 (Murphy, Julie (6))
I-120 (Patton, Susan and Troy)
I-121 (Paulette, Janine)
I-122 (Polley, Terri)
I-124 (Powell, Mary Johnson)
I-129 (Sabbadini, Gail)
I-130 (Sathrum, Jenny)
I-131 (Schott, Deborah)
I-133 (Setterman, Melinda)
I-138 (Jeanine, Stacy)
I-141 (Swanson, Billi-Jo)
I-142 (Tarnawski, Julia)
I-146 (Trowbridge, Heidi)
I-151 (Van Velzer, Gail)
I-154 (Watson, Becky and John)
I-155 (Watton, Marcy)
I-157 (Wegner, Cheryl)
I-159 (Whitebread, Lisa)
I-160 (Wilson, Tom and Christine)
I-164 (Woods, Christine)
I-165 (Yenawine, Dana)
I-166 (Young, Gail)
I-167 (Zampino, Dalynn)

Concern that State Parks did not provide for adequate involvement from the equestrian community during the General Plan process:

State Parks has actively engaged equestrians in the General Plan process. The following actions were carried out to keep the equestrian community informed and provide for maximum input:

- Three public workshops were held and all were well represented by the equestrian community. Meeting notes, maps, and materials were posted to the General Plan webpage for all who could not attend.
- An on-line survey was conducted to get input on issues and desires for the Park. Many equestrians responded.

- State Parks met twice with a well-represented local equestrian stakeholder group. Notes from the stakeholder meetings were posted to the General Plan webpage and invited further comment through the stakeholder liaison. A Facebook page was maintained by the stakeholder group to further disseminate information and solicit feedback.
- The General Plan mailing list included approximately 45 local equestrian organizations.
- All written comments received during the 45-day public review period were responded to in writing by the General Plan team.
- An email was sent to all equestrians on the mailing list any time new information was posted to the General Plan webpage (at least 10 times).

Request for Time Extension to 45-Day Public Review Period:

- State Parks has complied with all noticing requirements and the CEQA 45-day public review period that is required for all State Park General Plans and Environmental Impact Reports.
- It is unlikely that an extension of the review period would bring additional concerns or comments that have not already been addressed in previous workshops, stakeholder meetings, in written responses, or in the Preliminary General Plan.

Concern that the General Plan does not include a location for an equestrian family camp to replace the former Los Caballos equestrian camp:

- The General Plan contains the guideline on Page 4-22 regarding “Working with equestrian groups, other stakeholders, and the general public, determine a suitable location for an equestrian campground and day-use staging area in the north end of the Park, within the Front-Country or Back-Country Zones.”
- The General Plan does not single out a location so as to allow for the largest range of potential sites for locating a new equestrian campground or improving an existing campground due to numerous factors that will need to be considered for a location to be viable.
- Locating an equestrian campground will require extensive public and stakeholder involvement, environmental review, potential alternatives analysis, and public review that would need to be carried out as an effort separate from the General Plan and would require major capital outlay.

Concern that State Parks is allowing non-equestrians to reserve and use Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp:

The General Plan recognizes Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Group Camp and the General Plan’s language supports that continued use.

Concern that proposed changes to wilderness boundaries will result in trails that are non-compatible for multi-use:

- Any trails that are considered for multi-use as a result of wilderness boundary changes will first be evaluated through the Department's Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process and Road and Trails Management Plan process to make sure they are suitable for use by all users. These processes will include input from equestrian (and other) stakeholders. If the trails are deemed not suitable for use by all users, or cannot be made suitable through trail repairs or design, they won't be converted to multi-use.

Concern that Green Valley Equestrian Camp is not suitable to equestrians.

- Green Valley was converted from a traditional group camp to an equestrian family campground in 2010 to provide some relief from the loss of Los Caballos Equestrian Campground. Green Valley Group Campground was not originally designed to accommodate equestrians.
- State Parks acknowledges that Green Valley is not large enough to accommodate the large rigs that many equestrians now use, and could use improvement.
- The General Plan will add a Guideline on Page 4-22 to recommend improvement of Green Valley where possible, such as leveling sites, increasing turning radiuses, enlarging parking spurs, adding pull-throughs, and more shade and water.
- State Parks will continue to work with equestrians to improve Green Valley Equestrian Camp.

Concern over potential trail closures implied in the General Plan and request that any trail needing to be re-routed have the re-route in place before closing the original trail:

- The General Plan addresses this issue on Page 4-30 Trails Guideline #8: "If resource impacts are occurring due to trail use, it is typically preferred to improve the trail design and/or re-route the trail as opposed to closing it. *If possible*, any re-routes should be in place before the original trail is closed." "If possible" will be deleted.

Concern that the proposed expansion of cultural and natural preserves in the Park might affect Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp:

- The General Plan supports continued use of Los Vaqueros as an equestrian group camp: 1) the area is a part of the Front-Country Zone (see Page 4-8 and 4-9) which provides for group camps; 2) a camp is called for in Recreation Guideline 2 on Page 4-20 "Continue to provide horse camping at the Green Valley Equestrian Campground and Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground."
- Paved roads are excluded (not a part) of cultural and natural preserves so access to Los Vaqueros will not be affected.

Master Response 2 Responses to mountain bikers from similar form letter

Numerous letters were submitted that contained similar comments regarding mountain biking within CRSP. The following comment letters shall reference this master response.

O-6 (Inland Valley Mountain Bike Assoc.-Roberson, Rex)

O-10 (San Diego County Bike Coalition-Hanshaw, Andy)

O-11 (San Diego Mountain Biking-Loomis, Kevin)

I-1 (Agren, Matthew)

I-5 (Bartelt, Matthew)

I-8 (Boase, Laura)

I-20 (Clemins, Travis)

I-21 (Conkell, John)

I-22 (Craddick, Robert)

I-30 (Dias, Domino)

I-31 (Dittrich, Doug)

I-32 (Drees, Ronald)

I-36 (Eller, Mark)

I-38 (Fox, Eric)

I-44 (Gallo, Glen)

I-45 (Garcia, Juan)

I-58 (Hoeft, Dede)

I-59 (Hollander, Eric)

I-60 (Holloway, John)

I-61 (Hoover, Brentt)

I-63 (Howse, Billy)

I-66 (Hultgren, Scott)

I-68 (Iburg, Jessica)

I-69 (Inada, Craig)

I-70 (Jennings, Mike)

I-73 (Johnson, Kai)

I-74 (Joiner, Scott)

I-75 (Jones, Basil)

I-77 (Jones, Tom)

I-86 (Loudis, Brian)

I-96 (McDonald, Jason)

I-98 (Merritt, Matt)

I-100 (Moore, Martha)

I-108 (Nelsen, Andy)

I-109 (Nelson, Cliff)

I-111 (Nixon, Brian)

I-112 (Nolte, Bill)

I-113 (O'Steen, Jeff)

I-114 (Olberz, Molly)
I-115 (Ousley, Mike)
I-116 (Owen, Michael)
I-117 (Ozaki, Minette)
I-118 (Paterson, John)
I-119 (Patstone, Derrick)
I-123 (Ponting, Robert)
I-125 (Powers, Zina)
I-126 (Raab, Robert)
I-127 (Rucker, Jeff)
I-128 (Rush, Stephen)
I-132 (Sefton, William)
I-134 (Shea, Duke)
I-135 (Shummate, John)
I-136 (Sollberger, Evan)
I-140 (Street, James)
I-143 (Tellew, John)
I-144 (Thomas, Eric)
I-145 (Tirpak, Frank)
I-147 (Tyler, John & Daphne)
I-148 (Uekert, Ken)
I-149 (Van Every, Richard)
I-150 (Van Trump, Diana)
I-152 (Virgilio, Charles "Skip")
I-153 (Warren, Bruce)
I-156 (Webb, Mark)
I-158 (Wessels, Rich)
I-161 (Winslow, Rob)
I-162 (Woessner, Katharine)
I-163 (Wood, William)

Your support for the General Plan proposals with regards to mountain biking opportunities, including the Management Zones Matrix, Goals and Guidelines, and adjustments to the State Wilderness Boundary are appreciated. We continue to support your efforts to work with CDPR to promote and enjoy mountain biking while sharing facilities with other park users.

2.2.2 Government Agencies (A)

Response A-1

**California Department of Fish & Wildlife
South Coast Region
Betty Courtney
10/6/2014**

- A-1-1 Biological monitoring is addressed in Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management. Please see the subsections Biodiversity, Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities, Wildlife Management, and Sensitive Wildlife in particular for Goals and Guidelines that address the need for biological monitoring and collaboration and coordination with outside efforts, including the East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan.
- A-1-2 Please see Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management for Goals and Guidelines that address the Park's role in regional conservation and protection of habitat connectivity. In particular, refer to Biodiversity Goals 1 and 2 which call for the protection and promotion of landscape linkages and native species diversity within both the Park and the region.
- A-1-3 Butterflies are not directly mentioned in the General Plan, but they are covered by the Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management – Sensitive Wildlife, including the need for monitoring. The presence of rare butterflies in the vicinity of the Park will be added to Section 2.3.2 Natural Resources – Animal Life.
- A-1-4 CDPR recognizes that it does not have the authority to take listed species or conduct activities within streams or lakes without further approval [i.e. CESA permit, NESA Section 10(a) permit, and/or Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement] from the regulatory agencies. The General Plan only sets forth management direction, implementation of project-specific actions will result in tiered environmental review and the appropriate notification and associated permit applications from the relevant regulatory agencies (Please see Appendix A: Existing Laws, Codes, and Policies).
- A-1-5 State Parks establishes management zones and adopts goals and guidelines during the General Plan process in order that subsequent activities will only occur where impacts may be avoided or determined to be less-than significant under CEQA. The long-term protection of habitat was established when the property was classified as a State Park (PRC 5019.53). In addition, the General Plan increases the protections for sensitive species through the expansion of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. The creation of management zones ensures long-term protection within the Wilderness, Back Country, and Natural Preserve Zones while concentrating the potential for impacts within the Front Country Zone. Specific protection measures can be found in Section 4.4.1 Physical Resources Management and Natural Resources Management.
- A-1-6 State Parks adopts goals and guidelines during the General Plan process in order that subsequent activities will only occur where impacts are minimal and appropriate.

noted. Thank you for the update regarding Recommended Wilderness designation on the adjacent Cleveland National Forest, as you stated the alignment of management strategies will result in greater public benefit.

2.2.3 Organizations (O)

Response O-3

California Native Plant Society-San Diego Chapter
Frank Landis, Conservation Chair
10/6/2014

- O-3-1 The greater detail afforded by MCV2 was presented to reflect the complexity of the vegetation in the Park. The color scheme between Figure 10: Pre-Cedar Fire Vegetation and Figure 11: Vegetation (DPR Surveys 2011-23) was kept constant where direct relationships exist between vegetation types. For example, Jeffrey Pine occurs on both Figures and is defined similarly between the vegetation types so is purple on both Figures. We will add a new map to the “Physical and Biological Resources Inventory” document (available on the General Plan webpage) that shows the current vegetation (2011-2013) map using the CALVEG classification scheme. It is more appropriate for the Inventory document than the General Plan. Your continued insight into how we can continue to improve our vegetation management is appreciated.
- O-3-2 The management of sensitive plants is covered in Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management – Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities. Sensitive plants within the Natural Preserve Zone are further covered in Sections 4.4.2 Natural Preserve Zone and 4.4.3 Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. The Azalea Glen dogwoods and azaleas are therefore protected by the former. No maps containing the location of sensitive species are released during the General Plan process as this is sensitive information.
- O-3-3 The Reforestation Project is not included in the General Plan as a means to sequester CO₂ to off-set greenhouse gas emissions from Park management activities and visitor use since the Park did not retain any of the carbon credits. Since these credits were sold they belong to the organizations that purchased them to offset their carbon emissions and the Park cannot claim them for its own purposes. The EIR has included an inventory of CRSP’s GHG emissions that is independent of the Reforestation Project in order to monitor the emissions from its operation.
- O-3-4 The use of the term “Sky Island Forest” is defined in Section 2.3.2 Natural Resources and Chapter 8 Definitions as a descriptive term from the field of Island Biogeography, not Ecology. Please see MacArthur and Wilson (1967) which introduced the use of the terms “island” and “semi-island” when referring to isolated habitats. They equate the isolation of habitats, such as lowland vegetation surrounded by mountain forests, to geographic islands surrounded by water. The isolation does not need to be due to a lack of vegetation, just a difference in habitat that results in a barrier to species movement. As a result, isolated habitats function like islands when applying principles such as rates of extinction, genetic bottlenecks, speciation rates, etc. The principle that isolated or fragmented populations function like islands has been applied to many ecosystems, including isolated chaparral and coral reefs. Sky Island Forest specifically refers to isolated forests, the size and isolation of

which are biologically and scale dependent. Therefore, we agree with the conclusions that Dr. Goforth presented in that this is an appropriate use of the terminology and included Figure 8 in the General Plan and Inventory to illustrate the isolation of the forest as it is surrounded by primarily chaparral and therefore lacking connectivity at the local and regional scale, hence the use of the term “Sky Island Forest”.

- O-3-5 The referenced Goals and Guidelines are in Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management, Section 4.4.2 Natural Preserve Zone, and Section 4.4.3 Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. They shall be implemented to further keep park managers aware of the impacts that may be taking place to biological resources within CRSP. The direct reference to the Sections was erroneously omitted from the Habitat Impacts analysis and will be added (to Section 5.6.3 Biological Resources). As an example of the actions presented in these Sections, the Non-native Plants Goal - Guidelines 2 and 3 call for a reduction of stressors that promote non-native species establishment and implementation of Cal-IPC Best Management Practices, respectively. Further, the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve Guideline 4 states that trails in the Natural Preserve should be evaluated for impacts and trails should be re-routed or removed in order to reduce impacts due to compaction, trampling, and changes in hydrology. No significant impacts have been identified that would require mitigation to take place. In the event that a future project results in a potential significant impact, appropriate measures shall be implemented to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts.
- O-3-6 The sentence you quote will be changed to reflect that the sensitive vegetation communities are the Cuyamaca cypress stand, Sky Island Forest, and montane meadow/grassland. A list of all plant species documented to occur within CRSP, as of August 2014, can be found in “Appendix A - Physical and Biological Resources Inventory Cuyamaca Rancho State Park” and includes a column which denotes species status. Please see Response O-3-4 regarding the definition of “Sky Island Forest”. The vegetation alliances that are included in the Sky Island Forest are presented in Appendix H: Vegetation Crosswalk. They are the Coulter Pine Woodland, Jeffrey Pine Forest, and Sugar White Pine Forest. Sensitive plant species protections are outlined in Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management - Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities, Section 4.4.2 Natural Preserve Zone, and Section 4.4.3 Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. Protections from development are achieved through the sub-unit Wilderness and Natural Preserve Designations as well as establishing management zones and defining the allowable uses. Any future development will be subjected to further environmental review.
- O-3-7 We recognize your concerns regarding the methods being used to implement the Reforestation Project and potential impacts. However, the Reforestation Project was reviewed under its own, separate CEQA process in 2009. It is an on-going resource management project similar to exotic species management. On-going projects are addressed in the General Plan only at the planning level, not the project level (specific project actions and potential impacts are not addressed). That is why

the General Plan and EIR do not specifically address the project. In addition, as stated in Section 1.6.1 Purpose of the Plan, the General Plan sets forth management direction in the form of Goals and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1) to provide a framework for management of CRSP and guidance for project planning. As such, Section 4.4.1 Physical Resources Management and Natural Resources Management only address these activities at the planning level, not the project level. For example Biodiversity Goal 1, Guideline 3 calls for facilitation of the connectivity of vegetation types, which is a principle of the Reforestation Project. Since the General Plan is a long term document it would be limiting to specify the methodology and tools that may be used to accomplish the identified actions. Instead, the planning level approach allows for the implementation of adaptive management and the incorporation of new science throughout the life of the plan. Details, including the rationale and science behind specific management actions, are therefore addressed in Management Plans and at the project level. Thank you for bringing to our attention the impacts you have observed that are associated with reforestation efforts. Please continue to stay connected with park staff so that they may be addressed.

O-3-8 CDPR has prepared Goals and Guidelines (Section 4.4) to help guide the future management of CRSP's resources. The potential impacts of these actions are analyzed in the General Plan's EIR at a level commensurate with the proposed actions. In the case of the General Plan, the level of detail describing the proposed actions is generally broad and provides management goals and guidelines for CRSP. As projects outlined within the General Plan are proposed for implementation, further CEQA analysis shall take place. Therefore, projects such as the Reforestation Project were analyzed broadly, including analysis of habitat connectivity and genetic integrity, without analyzing specific implementation, which was completed through previous environmental review as mentioned in Response O-3-7.

Response O-8

**Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Lisa Haws, Assistant Executive Director
10/6/2014**

- O-8-1 KDLC request for a full time CDPR staff archaeologist at CRSP is acknowledged. This remains a goal of the CDPR and is supported by the General Plan. CDPR will continue to pursue new staffing of critical positions such as this, as funding allows.
- O-8-2 CDPR recognizes the breadth and volume of the Kumeyaay cultural and historical resources located within CRSP. Our cultural resources staff is open to potential additional eligibility evaluations and register listings of these resources (including district designations) in order to properly identify, recognize and steward these properties.
- O-8-3 CDPR will continue to consult with the KDLC on all project actions including studies and investigations as provided for in the General Plan and as specified in the Department's policies and practices for Native American consultation.
- O-8-4 CDPR appreciates the offer to assist with the District's Site Stewards program and will continue to work with the KDLC to expand this program as well as Kumeyaay involvement in it. This request is consistent with goals and guidelines of the General Plan.
- O-8-5 These KDLC requests are supported by the General Plan and the CDPR will continue to work with the KDLC and park user and advocacy groups to better protect known cultural sites, improve monitoring of site vandalism, and explore opportunities for joint management of cultural areas.
- O-8-6 The KDLC support of partnering with the CDPR to improve and expand educational and interpretive materials and programs for youth and the general public is acknowledged and supported by the General Plan. We appreciate the suggestions and will consider them as time goes on.
- O-8-7 CDPR will continue to work with equestrians, other user and interest groups, including the KDLC, to identify potential equestrian facilities. Utilizing off-site facilities will continue to be a consideration during these efforts.
- O-8-8 CDPR will continue to work with the KDLC on gathering and parking permits, as well as notification of chemical treatment of lands within the Park, consistent with the General Plan and Department policies and procedures for Native American consultation.

Response O-10

**San Diego County Bike Coalition
Andy Hanshaw, Executive Director
9/27/2014**

- O-10-1 Since the General Plan serves as a long-term (20+ year) planning document, it is not advisable to use names of specific organizations as these groups may change through time. For that reason, Trails Guideline 5 on Page 4-29 will be revised as follows: “Work with Caltrans, **stakeholders, and user groups** to develop bicycle **infrastructure** on SR-79 where feasible.
- O-10-2 Also, please refer to Master Response 2 – “Responses to mountain bikers from similar form letter.”

Response O-12

**San Diego Ultra Running Friends
Ken Bonus, Trail Crew Coordinator
8/21/2014**

- O-12-1 The efforts of SURF will be recognized in (added to) the Final General Plan in Section 2.6.1 – Volunteers. Our apologies. We appreciate the work that you all do.

Response O-13

**Sierra Club San Diego, Forest Committee
Cindy Buxton
10/6/2014**

- O-13-1 The CDPR recognizes your concerns regarding the management of the Reforestation Project, including greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration. However, the General Plan addresses activities at the planning level, not the project level. Management direction is provided (Section 1.6.1 Purpose of the Plan) to establish a framework for management of CRSP and guidance for project planning. Questions regarding the Reforestation Project should be directed to Park staff at the Colorado Desert District. Concerns regarding erosion as a result of the Reforestation Project should also be addressed to Park staff at the District. In the General Plan, the need to manage and minimize management and recreation caused erosion is addressed in Section 4.4.1 Physical Resources Management under Geology.
- O-13-2 Your concerns regarding changes to the Wilderness are noted, however, the land use changes made by the General Plan, such as increases in natural preserve and cultural preserve acreage, result in an increase in protection to resources and provide similar management goals as those of Wilderness.

2.2.4 Individuals (I)

Response I-4

**Franklin “Woody” Barnes Jr.
9/30/2014**

- I-4-1 The General Plan is a long-term, visionary document, therefore specific management techniques are addressed with minimal specificity. The Goals and Guidelines presented in Section 4.4.1 Natural Resources Management, Section 4.4.2 Natural Preserve Zone, and 4.4.3 Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve will allow for active management of the Sky Island Forest, including the use of current techniques and the flexibility to incorporate new techniques that may be developed during the life of the Plan.
- I-4-2 The Natural Preserve sub-unit classification provides the greatest protection for the Sky Island Forest. According to PRC 5019.71, active management is permitted, when supported by scientific analysis, to ensure the perpetuation of the species and habitat associations for which the preserve was established (Appendix M: Unit Classifications). One purpose for the establishment of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve was to protect the conifer forest, a primary component of the Sky Island Forest.

Response I-12

**Nancy Budge
9/24/2014**

- I-12-1 Your support for General Plan proposals is noted. Thank you for your comments.

Response I-78

**Martin Jorgensen
10/6/14**

- I-78-1 The sentence “If rerouted, trails would be put into place prior to the closing of others” will be put into the General Plan. The sentence was inadvertently placed on Page 1-19 and is not appropriately located there considering that the section is only intended as a brief synopsis of the meeting.
- I-78-2 The two sites referred to as “accessible” in this case means accessible to those with disabilities. The total number of sites listed (15) is actually 14 since one site is currently used as a camp host site. The General Plan will be changed to reflect this.
- I-78-3 CDPR agrees that designating the number of trailers in the General Plan is not needed and this reference will be removed from the Plan.
- I-78-4 Water sources and corrals are not proposed to be removed. Existing trail camps at Arroyo Seco and Granite Springs are not located in Wilderness and facilities there

are also not proposed to be removed in the General Plan. However, water sources, corrals and hitching rails will not be provided in the future in Wilderness areas.

I-78-5 An additional guideline will be added to continue use of the parking area at Hual-Cu-Cuish for equestrian staging until such time as a replacement can be opened.

Response I-102

**Julie Murphy
8/31/2014**

- I-102-1 The General Plan Team is aware that equestrians would like exclusive use of Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp and Green Valley Equestrian Camp. The General Plan recognizes these as equestrian camps and supports their continued use by equestrians; however, this is not an issue that will be addressed in the General Plan. It should be noted that when the group camp at Paso Picacho is rebuilt and open to the public (It's now in the design phase), staff believes that the need for non-equestrians to reserve Los Vaqueros and Green Valley should be reduced.
- I-102-2 General Plan Section 4.4.1 – Visitor Experience and Opportunities – Horseback Riding, includes the guideline: “Working with equestrian groups, other stakeholders, and the general public, determine a suitable location for an equestrian campground and day-use staging area in the north end of the Park, within the Front-Country or Back-Country Zones.” The General Plan does not identify a specific location because separate planning efforts will need to be undertaken to identify and implement a feasible location. The Department will continue to engage user groups and interested individuals in future planning efforts.
- I-102-3 Any potential changes in trail use will be evaluated during the Roads and Trails Management Plan process and will adhere to the California State Parks - Road and Trail Change-In-Use Evaluation. CDPR shall include equestrians as stakeholders as the RTMP commences.
- I-102-4 Stonewall Mine is not suitable for an equestrian campground because it lies within both a Natural and Cultural Preserve, and has numerous historic sites related to the Stonewall Mine which make it potentially eligible for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, while still a possibility, does possess numerous challenges in being developed as an equestrian campground because of its historic buildings, landscape features and adjacent archaeological sites. Additionally, the property is not sufficiently large enough to accommodate a reasonable number of equestrian sites without impacting sensitive natural resources. Reconstruction and adaptive re-use of historic buildings is the most appropriate use of these areas.
- I-102-5 Equestrian's desire for an equestrian camp and staging area in the north end of the Park is stated in Section 3.2.1 – Recreation, and Section 4.4.1 – Visitor Experience and Opportunities – Horseback Riding.
- I-102-6 The availability of equestrian staging at the Merigan Day Use Area is stated on Page 2-11 (along with the Former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish and Sweetwater parking area).
- I-102-7 Although every attempt was made to confirm the accuracy of the Existing Trail Use and Park Features Map (Figure 4) on Page 2-9, there may be instances where trails

and/or features shown on the map are different than what actually occurs on the ground. Specific trail uses will be evaluated and determined during the Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) effort. The RTMP will correct inconsistencies that exist between maps and the ground to allow for the most appropriate shared use by CRSP visitors.

- I-102-8 The General Plan will be revised to reflect 14 sites instead of 15 available at Green Valley Equestrian Campground.
- I-102-9 Horseback riding will be added to Section 2.2.3 – Recreation Trends.
- I-102-10 Closure and removal of the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground will be stated on Page 2-15. It is also already stated in several locations including Section 3.2.1 – Recreation, Horseback Riding, as well as Section 4.4.1 – Visitor Experience and Opportunities – Horseback Riding. Further reasoning for the closure of Los Caballos may additionally be found within Section 4.4.3, Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve and Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve.
- I-102-11 CDPR acknowledges equestrian’s desire for exclusive use of the equestrian camps and corresponding opposition to how they are currently managed. See response to I-102-1 above. However, the statement on Page 4-49 remains accurate for overall Park users.
- I-102-12 CDPR will remove “well received” from the text on Page 3-5. The General Plan will add a Guideline on Page 4-22 to recommend improvement of Green Valley where possible, such as leveling sites, increasing turning radiuses, enlarging parking spurs, adding pull-throughs, and more shade and water.
- I-102-13 CDPR acknowledges equestrian’s desire for an equestrian camp at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish. However, because of the small size of the area and very limited potential to expand the area due to the predominance of adjacent sensitive natural and cultural resources, the area is deemed better suited for a small-scale retreat or conference center type development consistent with its Historic Zone goals and guidelines. As noted in the Plan, equestrian staging is proposed to be continued until such time as a replacement can be found and built in the northern area of CRSP.
- I-102-14 CDPR will add “in the north part of the park” to Page 2-49. In addition, this is already stated in the preceding paragraph on Page 2-49 and Section 3.2.1 – Recreation – Horseback Riding on Page 3-4.
- I-102-15 The potential for equestrian facilities at Stonewall Mine such as corrals, livery, and blacksmith shop would be compatible with the historic area and consistent with the General Plan, yet specific facilities would need additional verification to determine their historic location, appearance and construction based on historical records and site investigations. These same facilities at Hual-Cu-Cuish would be less likely since

they did not occur at that location during the historic (Boy Scout) use of the area and therefore are inconsistent with the Historic Zone in this area.

- I-102-16 This is stated in Trails Guideline #8 on Page 4-30.
- I-102-17 See Response I-102-1.
- I-102-18 The statement on Page 4-20 will be changed from “could not be found” to “has not yet been found.”
- I-102-19 See Response I-102-12.
- I-102-20 CDPR will add Guideline 8 on Page 4-30 to Guideline 4 on page 4-82.
- I-102-21 The original 1986 General Plan listed Los Caballos because it existed at that time. Under this updated General Plan, an equestrian campground in the northern portion of the Park is shown as a proposed facility for future implementation.
- I-102-22 “Human remains” in this context refers to any physical human skeletal remains or cremated bone generally from archaic and historic cultural sites. Artifacts are generally objects associated with archaic and historic cultures.
- I-102-23 The statement on Page 5-34 will be changed from “could potentially” to “shall”.
- I-102-24 The statement on Page 5-36 will be changed to “A new equestrian staging area in the northern region of CRSP would meet a need for increased numbers of vehicles towing trailers...”
- I-102-25 See Response I-102-21 above.
- I-102-26 A new equestrian camp in the north part of the park is included in Alternative 2 (Visitor-Use) and Alternative 3 (Preferred Plan).
- I-102-27 A list was emailed to you on September 9, 2014. These groups are included in the General Plan mailing list and were contacted by email and general mail.
- I-102-28 The “PEIR program” that you cite for trail reclassifications (Roads and Trails Change-In-Use Evaluation Process) is included in the Department Operations Manual (DOM). The DOM includes approved policies and procedures which are pertinent to the operation of the State Park System.
- I-102-29 Equestrian camping is addressed in the General Plan on Page 4-20 - Recreation Guideline 2, and Page 4-22 – Horseback Riding Guideline 3. The General Plan will not address day-to-day operation issues affecting the campgrounds, such as exclusive use by equestrians. Also, See Response I-102-1. The State Park and Recreation Commission Statement of Policies that you refer to (Policy III.7 and Policy

IV.3) apply to the day-to-day operation of the campgrounds, which will not be addressed in the General Plan.

I-102-30 See Response I-102-3.

Response I-110

**John Nickerson
9/24/2014**

I-110-1 One purpose for the General Plan is to serve as a means for the public to learn about the history of CRSP, its past land uses and the abundance of plant and wildlife that make up CRSP, so your expression of interest is appreciated. State Parks intends to implement the latest science and adapt our management strategy to the changes that occur to climate as well as other changes and attempt to minimize the extreme fluctuations that could occur to CRSP in the future. Regarding reforestation efforts at the Park, we would be interested in any observations that you make while spending time in CRSP.

Response I-137

**Peter St. Clair
8/25/2014**

- I-137-1 Information about who uses CRSP is contained in Appendix C – Summary of Online Visitor Survey and Appendix F – Visitor Profile. The 2012 Online Visitor Survey contains information about how and why visitors use the park (full Visitor Survey is available under separate cover). An analysis of costs associated with operating the Park is traditionally not the purview of California State Park general plans and is generally completed through separate efforts.
- I-137-2 The General Plan provides guidelines toward expanding camping, hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses while allowing most of the rest of the park Wilderness to remain as-is. This is consistent with your comment. CRSP does have substantial cultural and natural resources, which are reflected in the GP.
- I-137-3 Climate change, fire, drought and impacts to natural resources is addressed in Section 4.4.1 – Natural Resource Management, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Climate Change, and Wildfire Management. Roads and Trails issues will be addressed in a Roads and Trails Management Plan (called for in the General Plan). Equestrian camps and related facilities are addressed in Section 4.4.1 – Visitor Experience and Opportunities – Horseback Riding. The General Plan calls for State Parks to work with equestrians and stakeholders to “determine a suitable location for an equestrian campground and day-use staging area in the north end of the Park, within the Front-Country or Back-Country Zones.” Proposed use of Hual-Cu-Cuish is described in Section 4.4.3 – Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines – Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish Area beginning on page 4-86.

- I-137-4 There are differing scientific opinions about this issue. The increased biomass referred to in the General Plan is not specific to “accumulation of brush” but includes all vegetation such as increased density of forest trees and downed material. The implications of vegetation structure and type in wildfire intensity are one of many variables and their relevance in wildfire control must also include analysis of fire intensity, humidity, wind speed and direction, etc.
- I-137-5 Data to compare Alternatives is found on Table 3 – Environmental Comparison of Alternatives in the Environmental Analysis Section of the General Plan. Numbers of visitors and their uses within each Alternative is estimated on Table 4 – Visitor Facilities Alternatives.
- I-137-6 See Response above. Potential impacts can and have been concluded from an analysis of the Alternatives as outlined in the Environmental Analysis Section, in particular Tables 3 and 4.
- I-137-7 See Response to I-137-1. The Vision is presented in Section 4.1.2 Vision.
- I-137-8 The definition of Adaptive Management in the Appendix (Page 8-1) is in error and should be for “Adaptive Reuse”. This will be corrected and a definition for “Adaptive Management” will be added. The subject of Adaptive Management regarding natural resources is addressed in Section 4.4.1 – Physical Resources Management - Climate Change (See Climate Change Goal), - Natural Resource Management – Biodiversity Goal 2 – Guideline 4, - Vegetation Management Goal 1 – Guideline 3, Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities Goal 3 – Guideline 3, Non-native Wildlife Guideline 5, Wildfire Management Guideline 2, and others.
- I-137-9 Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities Goal 3 Guideline 3 states that quantitative and qualitative monitoring of the Sky Island Forest should occur and that this data should be used to inform management, including recommendation of alternative actions should signs of a sustainable forest not be present. The General Plan provides direction for management. The General Plan provides goals and guidelines for the protection, restoration, and maintenance of the natural environment within CRSP. A wilderness designation does not prohibit these actions.
- I-137-10 Occupancy rates of existing campgrounds are not shown in the General Plan. However, the General Plan Team has utilized occupancy rates supplied by ReserveAmerica as well as input from public and stakeholder meetings and the visitor survey to understand current demand for campsites. In general, there are enough family campsites to meet current demand except for weekends and holidays during the summer. Although additional equestrian campsites are desired by equestrians, current occupancy rates do not reflect a larger need, except for peak periods. State Parks does not build for peak levels. This information will be added to the General Plan. An existing inventory of camping facilities as well as what is proposed for potential development throughout the life of the General Plan is found within Table 4: Visitor Facilities Alternatives. A range of facilities are still under consideration for the Hual-Cu-Cuish Area.

I-137-11 While the General Plan does not include the level of detail that is required for a project specific environmental analysis, we do believe that it provides necessary guidance for park managers to make more informed decisions as to the future management of CRSP. Future environmental analysis pursuant to CEQA will take place for any actions that could result in potential environmental impact. Your continued review and comment on future projects is appreciated.

Response I-139

**Kay Stewart
10/6/2014**

- I-139-1 The Physical and Biological Resources Inventory, a companion document to the General Plan and available under separate cover on the CRSP General Plan website, contains a summary of the methods used to develop the Vegetation Map presented in Figure 11: Vegetation (DPR Surveys 2011-13). The assignment of the Sugar White Pine Alliance to vegetation within CRSP was determined to be accurate based upon the species composition recorded during field surveys and use of the “Key to Forests and Woodlands in California” within A Manual of California Vegetation Second Edition (MCV2). The field data collected far exceeds the Membership Rules for the Sugar White Pine Forest Alliance as greater than 50% relative cover of Sugar Pine was recorded while the Membership Rules state “*Pinus lambertiana* >30% relative cover”. While the southern California region is not represented as containing this vegetation alliance in the map presented in MCV2, this is a result of the map’s scale and not distribution of the alliance within the state. Note that Southern California Mountains and Valleys are specifically mentioned under the Regional Status heading for the alliance description.
- I-139-2 We recognize your concerns regarding the environmental review process and implementation of the Reforestation Project. As stated in Section 1.6.1 Purpose of the Plan, the General Plan sets forth management direction in the form of Goals and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1) to provide a framework for management of CRSP and guidance for project planning. As such, Section 4.4.1 Physical Resources Management and Natural Resources Management only address these activities at the planning level, not the project level; and therefore, this is the level at which the potential impacts are reviewed within the EIR. For example, Biodiversity Goal 1 calls for the protection of landscape linkages, a major tenet of the Reforestation Project and the EIR (Section 5.6.3 Biological Resources) finds movement of native biota to remain effective. Specific project actions to meet this Goal will undergo further Environmental Review when they are proposed for implementation to analyze the potential impacts of the project specifics that are identified. Therefore, we encourage you to continue to communicate with Park staff regarding your concerns about the implementation methods and extent of the Reforestation Project. Since the General Plan is a long term planning document that sets the stage for adaptive management it would be counterproductive to identify specific tools and methods that are to be used to attain the identified goals. Instead, the framework presented allows for the incorporation of new methods as they become available and adaptation to new scientific understanding.
- I-139-3 As stated in I-139-2 above, the General Plan does not address Project Level details including those related to reforestation within CRSP. The environmental analysis provided within the EIR is commensurate with the amount of detail that was provided within the General Plan. Any further analysis would need to take place as part of a separate project or reevaluation of a previously approved project when significant changes occur. As science continually evolves, we appreciate the analysis

that you have provided. Your concerns will be considered and forwarded to those who are directly involved with management of the Reforestation Project.

2.3 COMMENT LETTERS AND E-MAILS

Agency

Comment Letters



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



October 6, 2014

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks, Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
enviro@parks.ca.gov

Subject: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Preliminary General Plan, San Diego County, California (SCH # 2013041026)

Dear Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated August 21, 2014. The comments provided herein are based upon information provided in the draft EIR, our knowledge of sensitive and declining vegetation communities in the County of San Diego (County), and the draft East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (EC-MSCP) which the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located within.

The Department is a Trustee Agency and a Responsible Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Sections 15386 and 15381, respectively) and is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of the State's biological resources, including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et seq.) and other sections of the Fish and Game Code. The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program. The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan is located within the draft EC-MSCP, which is the County's NCCP for the eastern portion of the unincorporated County. The Department is also responsible for the administration of the Streambed Alteration Agreement Program, which oversees potential threats to the State's wetlands resources.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was acquired for the California State Park System in 1933 and consists of more than 24,719 acres of forested mountains, grassy meadows, and chaparral-covered hills in east central San Diego County. The Park straddles the crest of the Cuyamaca Mountains in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park lying to the east and sharing a portion of its westernmost edge. Its southernmost boundary lies 25 miles from the U.S./Mexico border. The Park is 40 miles east of the City of San Diego. Julian, which is a mountain town, is six miles to the north and Descanso, which is a rural community, lies at the southern boundary of the Park. Lake Cuyamaca, which is owned and operated by the Helix Water District, adjoins the northern Cuyamaca Rancho State Park boundary. The Cleveland National Forest surrounds the Park on nearly all sides. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is known for its beautiful, high-elevation, meadows, and excellent camping opportunities, expansive trail network, and roadside snow play areas. The isolated mountain forests, grasslands, streams, and meadows contain many sensitive and rare plants and animals including some that are endemic to the Park and/or immediate region. Throughout the Park, approximately 137 miles of trail are enjoyed by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Some

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

of these trails lead to the tops of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's mountain peaks. From the tops of these peaks, most of which are over 5,000 feet in elevation, one can see the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Salton Sea to the east. Over half of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is designated wilderness. There are also four cultural Preserves and one Natural Preserve located within the Park's boundaries. In October 2003, the Cedar Fire burned over 98% of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park consuming most of the conifer forest and woodlands as well as causing extensive damage to several historic buildings and park facilities. In response to the fire, a reforestation project was initiated in 2007 with the goal of reestablishing some of the lost forest. This General Plan is a complete revision of the original General Plan that was approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in 1986, replacing and superseding it. A revised General Plan was prepared to address the following issues:

- The Cedar Fire resulted in extensive damage to many historic structures, visitor-serving facilities, and changes to the landscape which also impacted visitor-use patterns and significantly altered the Park's spatial and visual character.
- Greater protections are needed for sensitive natural and cultural resources within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, based on increased understanding of the innate qualities and extent of these resources.
- Proposals in the original General Plan are outdated and/or do not reflect current conditions, visitor demand, or the vision for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.
- Provide a framework for managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect the Park's resources, how to provide quality visitor experiences, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of facilities to develop in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, as well as identifying general zones where those facilities may be placed.

The Department offers the following comments and recommendations to assist California State Parks in avoiding, minimizing, and adequately mitigating project-related impacts to biological resources, and to ensure that the project is consistent with ongoing regional habitat conservation planning efforts.

1. **Biological Monitoring:** Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains over 24,719 acres which consist of isolated mountain forests, grasslands, streams, and meadows, which contain many sensitive and rare plants and animals, including some that are endemic to the Park and/or immediate region. The Department recommends that a comprehensive biological monitoring program that addresses sensitive species and habitats within the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park be developed and incorporated into the final EIR and General Plan. Due to the size of the Park, a phased approach (e.g., certain number of acres per year) could be developed and implemented to monitor all rare/sensitive species (i.e., threatened, endangered and species of concern) over a period of time (e.g., 1-5 years). To the extent feasible, the monitoring program and data collected should be coordinated with the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP; <http://www.sdmp.com/Home.aspx>). The SDMMP is a science-based program that was created to provide regional coordination of management and biological monitoring of lands in San Diego that have been conserved through various programs including the MSCP, the Multiple Habitats Conservation Program, the TransNet

A-1-1

A-1-1 Environmental Mitigation Program and various other existing and future conservation and mitigation efforts.

A-1-2 2. Habitat and Wildlife Connectivity: With over 24,719 acres contiguous land containing native habitats, the Park is considered by the Department to comprise a core block of habitat within the County's planned EC-MSCP. The EC-MSCP planning area contains approximately 70% of land in some type of public ownership (e.g., federal or state). The County's planned preserve is expected to be developed (predominately) by building off of large blocks of intact conserved lands such as the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The final EIR and General Plan should contain goals/measures that identify and promote the Park as an important block of habitat and regional wildlife connection that supports a number of sensitive species for east County.

A-1-3 3. Butterflies: Several species of rare butterflies are known to exist within or in the vicinity of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. These species include Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), Dun skipper (*Euphyes vestris harbisoni*), Hermes copper (*Lycaena hermes*), Alkali skipper (*Pseudocopaeodes eunus eunus*), Thorne's Hairstreak Butterfly (*Callophrys gryneus thornei*), and Laguna mountain skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*). The Department recommends that the final EIR and General Plan discuss the potential for impacts to rare butterfly species from any projects or activities that would be implemented or approved under the General Plan. If any impacts to sensitive butterfly species occur within the Park, then measures to avoid/minimize impacts and a monitoring program should be identified and developed as part of the final EIR and General Plan.

A-1-4 4. Endangered/Threatened Species: California State Parks does not have incidental take authorization for impacts to listed species (e.g., it currently does not have an NCCP, nor is it a signatory to the County's EC-MSCP). The final EIR and General Plan should identify that if impacts to state-listed species occur from any projects or activities that are implemented/approved under the General Plan, a CESA permit would be required from the Department. For any take of federally-listed species, authorization under the Federal Endangered Species Act [e.g., a 10 (a) permit] from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service may also be required.

1.
5. Lake/Streambed Alteration: The Department also has regulatory authority with regard to activities occurring in streams and/or lakes that could adversely affect any fish or wildlife resource. For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream, or use material from a streambed, California State Parks must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, the Department then determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement is required.

A-1-5 6. Long-term Protection: The final EIR and General Plan should include directives/measures to perpetually protect habitat from direct and indirect negative impacts. The objective should be to offset the project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of wildlife habitat values. Issues that should be evaluated include: restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, monitoring and management

A-1-5 programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, trails, and increased human intrusion.

A-1-6 7. Public Access: We recommend that the final EIR and General Plan identify and evaluate potential impacts to sensitive habitat and species from any proposed public access within the Park and connections to off-site areas. For all new or modified access, the General Plan and final EIR should have a requirement that limits access to the least sensitive areas within the Park and includes monitoring of trail systems to protect biological resources (e.g., necessary seasonal closures or re-routing to address plants and nesting birds, and/or public safety issues).

A-1-7 8. Nesting Birds: The Department recommends that the final EIR and General plan contain directives/measures concerning Park-related projects and activities and bird nesting. We recommend that directives be included in the General Plan and measures provided in the final EIR to avoid impacts to nesting birds from any projects or activities that would be implemented/approved under the General Plan. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (Title 50, § 10.13, Code of Federal Regulations). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA). Proposed project activities (including, but not limited to, staging and disturbances to native and nonnative vegetation, structures, and substrates) should occur outside of the avian breeding season which generally runs from February 1-September 1 (as early as January 1 for some raptors) to avoid take of birds or their eggs. If avoidance of the avian breeding season is not feasible, the Department recommends surveys by a qualified biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys to detect protected native birds occurring in suitable nesting habitat that is to be disturbed and (as access to adjacent areas allows) any other such habitat within 300 feet of the disturbance area (within 500 feet for raptors). Project personnel, including all contractors working on site, should be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. Reductions in the nest buffer distance may be appropriate depending on the avian species involved, ambient levels of human activity, screening vegetation, or possibly other factors.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft EIR. We are hopeful that further coordination with us will ensure the protection we find necessary for the biological resources that would be affected by this project. If you have questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Bryand Duke at (858) 637-5511 or Bryand.Duke@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Betty J. Courtney
Environmental Program Manager I

ec: State Clearinghouse, Sacramento
Marilyn Fluharty, CDFW, San Diego
Randy Rodriguez, CDFW, San Diego
Michelle Moreno, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 11, DIVISION OF PLANNING

4050 TAYLOR ST, M.S. 240

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September 23, 2014

11-SD-79

PM 1.3

Cuyamaca General Plan/DEIR

Mr. Luke Serna
2797 Truxtun Road
201 N. Broadway
San Diego, CA 92106

Dear Mr. Serna:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park project near State Route 79 (SR-79). Caltrans has the following comments:

Any access or new encroachment at State Highway facilities will require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit.

A-2-1 As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies. If these materials are not included with the encroachment permit application, the applicant will be required to acquire and provide these to Caltrans before the permit application will be accepted. Identification of avoidance and/or mitigation measures will be a condition of the encroachment permit approval as well as procurement of any necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Encroachment permit submittals that are incomplete can result in significant delays in permit approval. Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Sanchez of the Development Review branch at (619) 688-6494.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JACOB ARMSTRONG'.

JACOB ARMSTRONG, Branch Chief
Development Review Branch

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Patterson, Bob@Parks
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:58 PM
To: Lennox, Ray@Parks
Cc: Falat, Dan@Parks; Best, Kevin@Parks; Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: RE: RE: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ray,

Answer is NO to both questions.

I will also forward this to our General Plan/EIR email account and provide a written response during the response to comments period (in October) that ends up in the Final General Plan.

Thanks for forwarding this to us.

Luke: Please file this so that we can provide a written response.

Bob Patterson
California State Parks
Southern Service Center
(619) 221-7064

From: Lennox, Ray@Parks
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:48 PM
To: Patterson, Bob@Parks
Cc: Falat, Dan@Parks; Best, Kevin@Parks
Subject: FW: RE: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Bob,

I received this from our local water regulator. I think it's no to both questions. What do you guys think?

Ray Lennox
Park Maintenance Chief
California State Parks
Colorado Desert District
760-767-4203
Fax 760-767-4037

From: Ketcham, Scott@Waterboards
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:39 PM
To: Lennox, Ray@Parks; Ruiz, Chris@Parks
Cc: Sterchi, Sean@Waterboards
Subject: RE: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Greetings

A-3
-1

This afternoon we received a notice of intent to adopt an EIR for the proposed Cuyamaca Rancho State Park general plan and I wanted to check in with you to see if the new general plan would:

- 1) Result in the creation of any new public water systems,
- 2) Or would require any permit amendments. The attached letter includes the list of criteria that would trigger the need for a permit amendment.

Please let me know.

Best Regards,

Scott

Scott A Ketcham, PE
Associate Sanitary Engineer
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water
San Diego Field Operations Branch
1350 Front St, Suite 2050
San Diego, Ca 92101
Phn (619) 525 – 4395
Fax (619) 525 – 4383
Please note new email: Scott.Ketcham@Waterboards.ca.gov



California Department of Public Health
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 31, 2008

TO: All Public Water Systems

FROM: Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management
1616 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

SUBJECT: **STATE ADOPTION OF REVISED WATERWORKS STANDARDS**

The California Department of Public Health (Department) has been in the process of adopting revised Waterworks Standards. The process is now complete. As a result, after serving us well for many years, the old Waterworks Standards have finally been put to rest. **On March 9, 2008, a set of revised Waterworks Standards became effective.** The new regulations have been incorporated into our on-line regulation book at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Lawbook.aspx>, under Chapter 16 of Title 22.

This memorandum serves to announce the adoption of the new regulations and provide a general overview of the requirements. It is not intended to be a substitute for the actual regulations. If you have any questions regarding the content of this memo, please contact your local Department District Office.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NEW WATERWORKS STANDARDS!

- *Although some similarities may remain for particular requirements, **the old Waterworks Standards have been repealed and are no longer applicable.***



Old Waterworks Standards

- **The new standards include requirements on the following topics:**
 - Permits, including initial permits and permit amendments.
 - Source capacity, including new methods for determining source capacities
 - New well siting and construction
 - Installation and construction material requirements for water mains and other distribution system appurtenances
 - Disinfection requirements for reservoirs, wells, and new or repaired mains
 - Design and construction criteria for distribution reservoirs
 - Distribution system operation requirements
 - ANSI/NSF certification for chemicals, products, equipment, and materials added to drinking water, as well as those that come in contact with drinking water or come in contact with a product to be added to drinking water



California Department of Public Health MEMORANDUM

- **You will need to apply for a permit amendment if you plan on...**

- adding a treated water tank or reservoir \geq 100,000 gallons
- adding a new source
- changing the status of a source (e.g. active, standby)
- changing a source in a manner that affects the quantity or quality of the supply
- changing or adding a treatment process
- expanding your service area by 20% or more
- consolidating with another water system
- obtaining a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level waiver
- modifying recreational activities at a reservoir

Refer to Section 64556 for the complete list. Please note that a permit amendment may be required for other situations, pursuant to Section 64556(b) and Section 116550 of the Health and Safety Code.

- **If you have no existing domestic public water supply permit and need to obtain an initial permit, you will need to apply pursuant to Section 64552.**

- In addition to the requirements in Section 64552, a community water system using only groundwater must be capable of meeting maximum day demand with its highest source off line. [see Section 64554(c)]

- **Do you have enough source and storage capacity?**

- Empirical calculations replace the charts in the old Waterworks Standards [see (a), (b), and (d) of Section 64554]
- Requirements must be met in each individual pressure zone, as well as for the system as a whole [see Section 64554(a)(3)]
- Prescriptive well capacity test (i.e. pump test) language replaces the old language [see Section 64554(e)-(l)]
- If your existing system or a planned expansion has or may lead to source capacity problems, you may be required to complete a Source Capacity Planning Study [see Section 64558]
- Sources must be metered such that the quantity of water can be determined and recorded at least monthly [see Section 64561]

- **Are you planning on putting in a new well?** [see Section 64560]

- First, contact the Department's local District Office
- Include the following in your permit application:
 - A source water assessment for the well site
 - Demonstrate a 50-foot radius control zone around the well
 - Design plans and specifications for the well
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation
- After the application has been approved, submit the following:
 - A copy of the well construction permit (if required by local agencies)
 - The Department of Water Resources well completion report
 - Pump test results and information per Section 64554



California Department of Public Health MEMORANDUM

- Water quality data
- As-built plans
- Make sure well is constructed such that:
 - The well meets California Department of Water Resources Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90
 - The well meets AWWA Standard A100-06
 - The well has the ability to pump to waste, with the waste discharge line protected against backflow
 - The equipment is accessible
 - The well is protected against flooding
 - The wellhead terminates at least 18 inches above the finished grade
 - The wellhead and electrical controls are **not** in a vault
 - The well is equipped to enable chlorination facilities to be readily installed
 - A non-threaded sampling tap is located between the wellhead and check-valve (no screens or aerators if used for bacteriological sampling)
 - A meter exists to determine the quantity of water [see Section 64561]
- **Are you planning on destroying a well?** [see Sections 64560.5]
 - The destruction of the well must be performed in accordance with the California Department of Water Resources Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90.
- **Are you planning on installing a water main?** [see Sections 64570 and 64572]
 - The installation and materials must meet applicable AWWA standards
 - The main must be protected against freezing and loads that may crush the main
 - The main or supply line must be 10 feet from and 1 foot above pipes containing:
 - Untreated sewage
 - Primary or secondary treated sewage
 - Disinfected secondary 2.2 or 23 recycled water
 - Hazardous fluids such as fuels, industrial waste, wastewater sludge, etc.
 - The main or supply line must be 4 feet from and 1 foot above:
 - Storm drains
 - Disinfected tertiary recycled pipes
 - The main must be more than 100 feet from a sanitary landfill, wastewater disposal pond, or hazardous waste site
 - The main must be more than 25 feet from cesspools, septic tanks, sewage leach fields, seepage pits, underground hazardous material storage tanks, or groundwater recharge project sites
 - If you're a Community Water System, the main must have a diameter of at least 4 inches [see Section 64573]
 - If it's a dead-end, it'll need a flushing valve [see Section 64575]
 - Install a valve between main and each fire hydrant [see Section 64577]
 - If it's a 12-inch diameter main (or less), install an isolation valve no farther than every 1320 feet and at tees or crossings [see Section 64577]



California Department of Public Health MEMORANDUM

- Make sure buried valve stems have a valve box and, if 5 feet below grade, it should either have a valve stem riser (to allow use of a normal key) or a notation in records indicating a long key is needed [see Section 64578]

Note: The Department understands that meeting the separation criteria may not always be feasible. If you demonstrate that you are unable to meet the separation criteria and will take other measures to ensure an equivalent level public health protection, you may be approved to use an alternative pursuant to Section 64572 or Section 64551.100.

- **Are you planning on flushing a water main?** [see Sections 64575]

- Don't discharge to a sewer without a proper air gap
- The flushing velocity should be at least 2.5 ft/sec

- **Are you replacing or putting in a new air-release, air-vacuum, or combination valve?** [see Sections 64575]

- Install it to meet AWWA C512-04 and AWWA Manual M51-2001
- Make sure it's readily accessible for inspection, maintenance, and replacement
- Make sure the vent opening is downward facing and screened (or domed) and is above:
 - finished grade,
 - the 100-year flood level, and
 - the highest recorded water level
- Make sure it's constructed to prevent vandalism and exposure to rain, insects, and varmints

- **Do you need to disinfect a reservoir, new main, repaired main, or well?**

- Make sure you meet the applicable requirements in Sections 64580, 64582, 64583, and the applicable AWWA standards.

- **Are you designing a new treated water reservoir?**

- If you're planning to install a new reservoir:
 - You need to apply for a permit amendment if it's $\geq 100,000$ gallons [see Section 64556]
 - It needs to be designed to meet the requirements listed in 64585(a) and (b)
 - You need to submit plans and specifications to the Department for review prior to constructing the reservoir

Note: If it's an existing reservoir, it needs to meet the requirements in Section 64585(a)

- **Are you adding a chemical or a product to the drinking water?** [see Section 64590, Direct Additives]

- As required in the old Waterworks Standards, the product or chemical will need to be NSF/ANSI 60 certified...this includes chemicals used to clean your water treatment facilities [see Subsection 64591(c)]. However, the *new* Waterworks Standards require the certifying organization to include product testing, facility inspections, QA/QC review, manufacturing practice reviews, and chemical stock inspections; all on an annual basis.



California Department of Public Health MEMORANDUM

Most certifying organizations perform these tasks annually. Check with your supplier to make sure.

• ***Do the materials and products that come in contact with your drinking water meet the new indirect additive requirements?*** [see Section 64591, Indirect Additives]

- Beginning March 9, 2008, essentially all products and materials that come in contact with your drinking water (or in contact with an additive you'll be applying to your drinking water) must be NSF/ANSI 61 certified. However, if you're under a contract signed before March 9, 2008, you're exempt until March 9, 2009.

Note: Some uncertified direct or indirect additives may be used if specific criteria are met. See Section 64593 for details.

• ***Is your water system being properly operated and maintained?***

- Your water system must be operated in a manner that ensures 20 psi at every service connection, at all times. If you expand your distribution system service connections by more than 20% (or the expansion adversely affects the distribution system), the new distribution system will need to be designed to provide 40 psi (excluding fire flow). [see Section 64602]
- If the Department has identified deficiencies in the operation or maintenance of your water system, you may be required to prepare and implement an operations and maintenance plan to address the deficiencies. [see Section 64600]

• ***Do your recordkeeping practices meet the new requirements?*** [see Section 64604]

- All public water systems must prepare, maintain, and update the following:
 - As built plans, maps, and drawings of all new water system facilities, as well as nearby existing facilities. The location, size, construction material, and year of installation must be included for each new water main or facility.
 - A schematic map that includes the location of each water source, treatment facility, pumping plant, reservoir, water main, and isolation valve.
 - Results of laboratory analyses must be maintained for at least 3 years.
 - Flushing records must be maintained for at least 3 years.
 - Reservoir cleaning and inspection records must be maintained for at least 3 years.

• ***Do you have a unique situation making the Waterworks Standards unworkable or an innovative technique for meeting the intent of a requirement?***

- If you demonstrate to the Department that your alternative ensures an equivalent level public health protection as that of the Waterworks Standards requirement, you may be approved to use an alternative pursuant to Section 64551.100.



California Department of Public Health
MEMORANDUM

- **Many third-party standards have been incorporated by reference, making them enforceable standards. They include...**

California Department of Water Resources:

- Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90...California Well Standards

American National Standard Institute/NSF International (ANSI/NSF):

- ANSI/NSF Standard 60-2005...Direct Additives
- ANSI/NSF 61-2005/Addendum 1.0-2005...Indirect Additives

The incorporated AWWA standards include:

- A100-06...Water Wells
- C150/A21.50-02...Ductile iron pipe thickness
- C151/A21.51-02...Ductile iron pipe, centrifugally cast
- C200-97...Steel pipe, six inches and larger
- C300-04...Reinforced concrete cylinder pipe
- C301-99...Prestressed Concrete Pressure Pipe, Steel-Cylinder
- C302-04...Reinforced Concrete Pressure Pipe, Noncylinder
- C303-02...Concrete Pressure Pipe, Bar-Wrapped, Steel-Cylinder Type
- C304-99...Design of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe
- C512-04...Air Release, Air/Vacuum, and Combination Air Valves for Waterworks Service
- C600-05...Ductile-iron water mains and their appurtenances
- C605-05...Installation and hydrostatic testing procedures for polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- C651-05...Disinfecting Water Mains
- C652-02...Disinfection of water storage facilities
- C654-03...Disinfection of wells
- C800-05...Underground Service Line Valves and Fittings
- C900-97...Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pressure Pipe and Fabricated Fittings
- C905-97...Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pressure Pipe and Fabricated Fittings
- C906-99...Polyethylene (PE) Pressure Pipe and Fittings
- C909-02...Molecularly Oriented Polyvinyl Chloride (PVCO) Pressure Pipe
- C950-01...Fiberglass Pressure Pipe
- D100-05...Welded carbon steel tanks
- D102-03...Coating Steel Water-Storage Tanks
- D103-97...Factory-coated bolted steel tanks
- D110-04...Wire- and Strand-Wound, Circular, Prestressed Concrete Water Tanks
- D120-02...Thermosetting Fiberglass-Reinforced Plastic Tanks
- D130-02...Flexible-Membrane Materials for Potable Water Applications
- Manual M9 (1995)...Concrete Pressure Pipe
- Manual M11 (2004)...Steel Water Pipe: A Guide for Design and Installation
- M25 (2000)...Flexible-Membrane Storage
- M51 (2001)...Air-Release, Air/Vacuum, and Combination Air Valves
- Cal/Nevada Section (April 1999)...Reservoir Floating Cover Guidelines



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National Forest
SO

10845 Rancho Bernardo Rd.
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92127-2107
(858) 673-6180
(858) 673-6192 FAX
(800) 735-2922 CRS

File Code: 1560

Date: October 6, 2014

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks, Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106

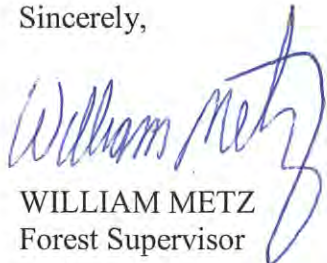
Dear General Plan Team,

A-4-1 Cleveland National Forest staff have reviewed the proposed Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report, and we would like to commend your efforts. We are pleased to see that you are striking an appropriate balance between enabling public use of the Park and protecting its natural and cultural resources, as our Land Management Plan similarly directs for the National Forest. Given that we manage surrounding lands to the west, south, and east, we identify with your management challenges and look forward to continuing to work together to address shared issues.

It is worth noting that through a Land Management Plan Amendment that will be finalized this fall, the Cleveland National Forest is designating the majority of lands along the western boundary of the State Park as Recommended Wilderness. Since the State Park's West Mesa Wilderness lies across the boundary, this zoning change will bring our management strategies into better alignment and provide greater public benefits as a result.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor



Organizations

Comment Letters

From: [Peter Kriger](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca General Plan Comment
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:01:46 AM

I would to make the follow comments to the Rancho Cuyamaca General Plan. I am an equestrian who has visited, camped and help maintain public lands at local, state, and national parks throughout California. Rancho Cuyamaca (along with Cuneo Creek in Humboldt County) are some of the best and most beautiful of our equine facilities on Public Lands in California.

As a member of Back Country Horsemen, I'm aware of the tremendous volunteer resources that are available to help the parks fulfill their mission. These resources can be used to help maintain trails and educate the public on safety around equines, as well as promoting good camping ethics through our partnerships with Leave No Trace (LNT).

I believe that with the help of BCH, a horse campground could (and should) be constructed in the northern part of the park to replace Los Caballos. BCH could help provide input in the layout and design of interesting loop trails that would be better utilized by equestrians.

Our teachings in LNT include a priority to be respectful of other users, and the larger size of equines requires a little more space than "normal" campers and trail users; so I support efforts to maintain a safe distance and privacy while camping, and traveling on the trails.

If trails are to be shared between users that traverse at differing rates of speed, then clear enforceable guidelines need to be posted and enforced. When re-routing of trails becomes necessary, please make every effort to have a detour in place before closing the original trail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan, and help shape the future of equestrian camping and trail riding in California's State Parks.

Peter Kriger
National Director Back Country Horsemen of America
Leave No Trace Master Educator
28797 Live Oak Canyon Road
Redlands, CA 92373

From: [Patty Heyden](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:35:35 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Years ago Mardy Minshall took troubled young people (first girls then co-ed) on pack trips from her home at Oakoasis on Wildcat Canyon Road, to her property in Cuyamaca. She was in love with this park, and this outdoor experience changed the lives of many. I imagine that when she left her property to the State she had no idea that equestrian use in Cuyamaca would be under attack.

***I feel that it is very high priority to construct a horse camp in the northern part of Cuyamaca as soon as possible to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.**

It has been proven that that all important outdoor experience is what influences stewardship of our public lands. It's a fact that contact with horses can help autistic and disabled children to be more aware of their surroundings.

***As a BCHC member and President of the San Diego Unit I want us to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with the General Plan.**

Every May and November the BCHC-SD has been collaborating with the State on trail work and campground improvements, not only in Cuyamaca but Vern Whitaker as well.

***I suggest that the equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.**

***I feel that the horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e. *safety for all*, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.**

I had gone to Green Valley Horse camp one Thursday evening and was staying until Sunday morning. The camp had only equestrians. I rode out Friday morning and returned to camp at about 1:30-2pm. I was surprised to see a non-horse camper in the ADA spot. As I rode by a vicious dog charged me and my horse. This dog was on a long chain and kept throwing himself at the end of it, teeth bared and snarling. I was really scared. The owner just sat there and did nothing. The camp host informed me that this was the first 'trial' of letting non-horse people into the horse camp. The entire time this dog was snarling and barking at all of the horses. One equestrian had already complained. I called the office and talked to Ranger Shirly. I told her about the vicious dog in camp and that I was afraid the dog would break that chain. I told her to log it into the book because there had already been one complaint with no response. We talked to the person at the entry booth and she said this was the first weekend of mixing the two groups. We complained again about the dog and still nobody showed up. I watched again as the dog lunged at three more riders going by. The camp host also notified the rangers with no response. Suddenly that chain broke and I screamed as the dog headed towards my horse with his teeth bared! At the same time three people rounded the curve walking a couple of dogs. The vicious dog turned towards them and someone grabbed his chain and stopped his attack. Finally our calls that the dog broke loose were answered by two rangers driving in. By that time they determined that the owner was too intoxicated to leave

the park, so he and his dog stayed the night. I slept outside with a bat and a hatchet. This is what happens when you allow dogs who are not used to horses into an equestrian horse camp. A less experienced horse would have bolted when that dog attacked, perhaps injuring the rider. This dog had no business in the park and the irresponsibility of the rangers is unacceptable.

***I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.**

***If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place *before* the closure of the original trail.**

***Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the park.**

Please do your part in assuring that families with horses will continue to have an opportunity to enjoy the peace and serenity of this beautiful park.

Thank you,

Patty Heyden, President

Backcountry Horsemen of California—San Diego

www.bchesd.com

California Native Plant Society

San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
P O Box 121390
San Diego CA 92112-1390
info@cnpssd.org | www.cnpssd.org

October 6, 2014

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks, Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106
enviro@parks.ca.gov
re: **Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan**

Dear General Plan Team:

The California Native Plant Society ("CNPS") is a volunteer organization dedicated to increasing the appreciation, understanding, and conservation of California's rich native plant heritage. CNPS advocates for the use of science-based information to guide land management in order to achieve its mission. Members of the San Diego Chapter of CNPS ("CNPSSD") have read and studied the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("CRSP") Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR"). While we are pleased with some aspects of the Plan and the DEIR, we have numerous issues with the documents presented, and we are seriously troubled by the omission of the biggest project in the Park. In sum, we find the documents to be radically incomplete, and strongly urge the General Plan Team to address their inadequacies before even attempting to finalize them.

In this document, we describe seven major issues we have with the General Plan and DEIR. They are listed in order of increasing magnitude, from least impact to biggest and worst impact.

CNPSSD was pleased to note that the General Plan focuses on the importance of preserving several special vegetation types in CRSP by expanding the natural preserves for Cuyamaca Cypress and the Grasslands. We also appreciate that the vegetation section acknowledges the diversity of vegetation in CRSP, and properly uses the Manual of California Vegetation Second Edition ("MCV2") at least in one figure.

However, we found that the colors were hard to distinguish. Figure 11 in the vegetation section would best be split into three maps: forest and woodland alliances, shrubland alliances, and grass and meadow alliances. As a fundamental courtesy to readers, it is worth limiting vegetation maps to no more than 10 or 12 separately colored vegetation types per map, since humans do not possess the eyes of mantis shrimps and cannot reliably distinguish more than a dozen separate colors on a single map, whatever the GIS behind the map actually shows. Throwing dozens of similar colors on a single map causes confusion, not clarity. Conversely, multiple maps

O-3-1



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

showcase the work put into the mapping effort and allow everyone to appreciate the complex vegetation of CRSP.

O-3-1

Still, the juxtaposition of the two maps is problematic, in that the Calveg system is used for the pre-fire, but MCV2 is used for post-fire. While we understand that it is impossible to forward-translate from Calveg to MCV2, it is quite possible to back-translate the MCV2 categories to Calveg. This should have been done, to show how the park had changed pre-fire (fig. 10) and post-fire (fig. 11). Why was it not done? The MCV2 provides the codes needed to back-translate.

O-3-2

The second issue is sensitive plants, which are given little coverage in any part of the DEIR. The Azalea Glen dogwoods and azaleas must be given protection. These species are a very unusual occurrence in San Diego County and worthy of protection from the trampling and overuse that is clearly occurring in their very restricted distribution. However, they are not mapped, nor are they mentioned, despite their popularity with the many people who know about them. This is a simple management issue that is easily remedied, and we strongly recommend that CRSP takes action on it.

O-3-3

Third, the greenhouse gas section of the EIR is incomplete. The Park is engaged in a reforestation plan specifically funded to sequester atmospheric CO₂ in planted trees for the rest of the century. Even ignoring the fact that CRSP has squandered up to a decades' worth of CO₂ sequestration through its continuous mastication of chaparral to plant trees, it is puzzling that the park considers itself "an emitter of greenhouse gases." While this is obviously the result of not considering the carbon sequestering effects of the Reforestation Project, it seems to imply that the Reforestation Project, which is being performed explicitly to sequester greenhouse gases, is inadequate even to mitigate CRSP's own impact. Why is the Reforestation Project not considered in the section on climate change?

O-3-4

The fourth issue is the inappropriate use of the "sky island forest," especially in the Physical and Biological Resources Inventory. The statement that "Sky Island Forest is a descriptive term from the field of Island Biogeography is incorrect on multiple levels. "Sky island" is indeed a term from ecology, but it refers to entire mountains, not to forests. "Sky island forest" was apparently coined by Dr. Brett Goforth in his PhD thesis "Effects of Extreme Drought and Megafires on the Sky Island Coniferous Forests of the Peninsular Ranges, California," which should be referenced in the EIR. Goforth, Minnich (his doctoral advisor), and the staff of CRSP appear to be alone in their use of the term "sky island forest" (according to the best Google search another PhD plant ecologist, Dr. Landis, can devise). The use of "sky island forest" is at best a misunderstanding of the "sky island" concept and at worst a deliberate distortion. True sky islands are desert mountains whose cooler and moister upper slopes bear dramatically different plants and animals than those of the desert below. In some ways, these peaks, isolated by desert, are analogous in ecological processes to islands isolated by ocean. However, CRSP is not a sky island, because it has substantial vegetative continuity with the lowlands to the west, south, and north. CNPSSD strongly suggests that the use of the term "sky island forest" is not supported by the vast majority of ecologists, and it should not be used in planning on CRSP. It especially should not be used as a sensitive vegetation community in the EIR, since there is no legal requirement in the County or State to protect this dubious theoretical entity.

O-3-5

Fifth, in the biological impact analysis, we find the statement "[g]oals and guidelines have been prepared to protect all habitats" (p. 5-19) to be radically incomplete. Do these goals and guidelines mitigate the biological impacts below the level of significance, as required by CEQA? There is no mention of what the goals and guidelines actually are—the only goal is in the next paragraph below—so the presumption is that they do not. What are those goals and guidelines, and why were they not included in the General Plan and DEIR?

O-3-6

Sixth, the only mention of sensitive species protection is the statement "[s]ensitive vegetation communities including conifer forest, oak woodland, riparian woodland, chaparral, and montane meadow/grassland should be protected from impact of park development due to their supporting sensitive species (p. 5-19). This statement is not supported by the biological inventory, which lists "Cuyamaca cypress stand, montane meadow/grassland, and sky island forest" as the only sensitive vegetation communities, and does not list the sensitive plant species at all, in direct contravention of good CEQA practice. Worse, the "sky island forest" is not recognized by any local, state, or national entity as a sensitive vegetation type. Nor is it mapped in the vegetation maps either before or after the fire. How can anyone protect anything if there is no description of what needs to be protected, how these species and vegetation types should be protected, and the only revealed list is inaccurate? This is sloppy in the extreme. What are the sensitive species in CRSP, what are the sensitive vegetation communities in CRSP following San Diego County standards, and how are they going to be protected from development and *especially* from other impacts?

O-3-7

Seventh, the biggest impact by far is the Reforestation Program. It is described in some detail in the Physical and Biological Resources Inventory, but it is mentioned in passing only twice in the DEIR. This project, which has already impacted over 1,240 acres of CRSP (Inventory p. 35), and is slated to impact 2,530 acres of CRSP (DEIR, page 2-26) involves heavy equipment, construction of large trails, mastication, controlled burning, and planting of non-local seed stock of conifer tree seedlings in rectilinear grids following the tree-farm model. All of these activities have the potential to impact visual aesthetics, noise, air quality, increase fire threat, and damage vegetation communities (including especially chaparral, but also including the last standing sugar pines which make up the "sky island forest" which CRSP is so devoted to protecting), and impact sensitive species. Personal observations in 2013 also indicated that erosion from the reforestation effort was filling in local ephemeral streams, and that non-native invasives were showing up both in these clogged channels and on some of the mastication sites.

None of these impacts are discussed in the EIR. This is mind-boggling. What specific CEQA, State laws and regulations, and/or State Park regulations allow any state park to selectively ignore impacts, especially when the reforestation project has to date affected a full five percent of the entire park (1240 acres out of 24,693 for CRSP), and is slated to impact ten percent of it by completion, as noted above? Please cite what legal ground allows CRSP to ignore the worst and most long-lasting impacts in the Park.

Worse, CNPSSD has commented on the problems associated with the Reforestation plan at all three public comment sessions and in two private meetings

with CRSP staff. Failure to consider the impacts of the Reforestation Project is therefore a willful omission, not an accident. Who made the decision to ignore this impact, and why was it ignored?

California State Park policy dictates that in a natural fire (such as the 2003 Cedar Fire that denuded CRSP's forests), no tree planting is to be used to alter the sequence of events that would unfold. This is a foundation of the State's purpose in protecting special natural plant communities. No humans have ever created a forest with the plant species diversity that CRSP contained before and even after the fire. Why ignore this policy? Who made this decision?

O-3-7

Yes, one might postulate that fire suppression enabled the crown fire, and therefore that the system must be re-engineered to prevent crown fires, but the CRSP research supporting this idea is scanty at best. What scientific evidence supports the notions that:

- a) There was fire suppression in CRSP prior to the Cedar Fire?
- b) That fire suppression substantially amplified the damage caused by the Cedar Fire?
- c) That the massive natural recovery seen after the fire was inappropriate to today's climate?
- d) That planting the forest to a species composition that sprouted centuries ago (the pre Cedar Fire forest, which is the template for the Reforestation Program), especially where chaparral now grows, is an appropriate way to create a forest that could survive in the coming warmer, drier climate?

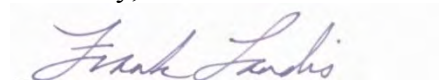
In summary, we find some things to admire in the General Plan and its DEIR. However, both are radically incomplete. On page 1-9, it is stated that "[t]his General Plan document was prepared by the CDPR to satisfy the requirements of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5002.2. The PRC specifies that a general plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed management of resources, land uses, facilities, concessions, operations, and any environmental impacts." The general plan is not presented in enough detail to even analyze the impacts to plants and vegetation communities, CNPSSD's bailiwick. Worse, the biggest and longest-lasting project in CRSP, the Reforestation Project, is not analyzed at all, despite the fact that the program is described in both the EIR and in the associated Biological Inventory.

O-3-8

Neither the general plan nor the DEIR should be certified, due to their lack of completeness. Please complete these documents before recirculating them, and please keep us informed on this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Frank Landis, PhD
Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society,
San Diego Chapter

From: [Ernie S Smith](mailto:Ernie.S.Smith@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 7:16:49 AM

Ernest R. Smith
President
Cuyamaca Equestrian Association
PO Box 79
Descanso, CA 91916

Regarding the document titled General Plan, the Cuyamaca Equestrian Association(CEA) totally and completely opposes the more restrictive designations of areas currently used for recreation within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park(CRSP). The park and it's sensitive areas are already protected by the California Environmental Qualities Act(CEQA). These expanded/new historical, cultural and biological preserve designations will prevent/restrict improvements to Los Vaqueros Group Equestrian camp and may be used against equestrians in the future by new administrators who may interpret the regulations more strictly, as they were in the beginning of this process where the guidelines initially excluded equestrians from the natural preserves. Los Vaqueros is an island within these newly designated preserves, it is feared by many equestrians that California State Parks is slowly and methodically pushing us out of the park, either by neglect, policy or pricing. Sufficient protections are already in place and a balance use plan would be best for all interests and users as State Parks is charged with accomplishing.

None of the equestrian staging areas within CRSP have water, hitching posts, corrals, picnic tables, trash receptacles or permanent toilet facilities. We lost all that when Los Caballos was taken from us after the 2003 Cedar Fire. These have not been replaced. We had those things at Los Caballos. At the tiny Merigan trail head parking area, lacking all of these features, the park collects their \$8 fee.

In the General Plan all we see is vague wording about improvements and working with equestrian user groups. In the past 10 years that CEA has worked with CRSP we have seen many plans and little action that required funding or the one word that is missing in California State Park's vocabulary, mitigation. Mitigation being balancing cultural sensitivities, ecological needs with recreational requirements. Mitigation at Los Caballos could have included capping sensitive sites, fencing and education. None of that was considered. Mitigation is missing in the General Plan. Not one single place in the entire document is mitigation mentioned and yet it is one of the most important aspects of managing this jewel of a park. Mitigation could have saved Los Caballos, in fact CEA and CRSP were working on a mitigation strategy when the legal process overtook our effort. Mitigation can give us a Los Caballos replacement in the north end of the park. Mitigation needs to be in the General Plan.

Ernest R. Smith
President
Cuyamaca Equestrian Association

From: [Randy Kirkbride](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 9:22:06 AM

We/Although I have not yet had the chance to visit Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, it is on my list to visit with my mules to enjoy camping and riding in the park.

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a BCHC member and President of Elegant Ears Mule Association, I support the partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

For safety of all, I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. Horses or mules can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We need to keep and improve upon the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

I feel that when considering current and additional trails, that consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Randy Kirkbride

President, Elegant Ears Mule Association

Member BCHC-MLU

--

Randy Kirkbride
Mule Haven Ranch

11951 Clay Station Road
Herald, CA 95638
(916)-479-2371
kirkbriderd@softcom.net

From: [Rex Roberson](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 6:54:09 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing on behalf of the Inland Valley Mountain Bike Association and it's 300+ supporters. We would like to express the overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) We support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) We support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) We support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Rex Roberson - President
Inland Valley Mountain Bike Association
39520 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd, Suite 219-15, Murrieta, CA 92563
www.ivmtb.org

From: [Jamul Trails Council Inc](#)
To: [Review.Environmental@Parks](#)
Cc: [Wade.Sue@Parks](#); [Falat.Dan@Parks](#); [gail.ramer@asm.ca.gov](#); [Patterson.Bob@Parks](#); [Nastro.Louis@Parks](#)
Subject: Request extension of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan comment period
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 8:06:10 AM

Dear General Planning Team,

I formally request that you extend the comment period regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park 90 days.

As president of the Jamul Trails Council, I would like to have time to work with my members to make additional comments, especially in light of the mixed use horse camping facilities and trail use changes.

I recently found out about the General Plan along with many trail group leaders at a recent joint meeting. The fact that so many were unaware is unsettling.

I do not feel that the outreach to notify the equestrian community and other diverse stakeholders has been sufficient to properly reflect the needs of the various user groups.

More time is needed to make meaningful comments on the General Plan.

Sincerely,

Dana Braithwaite
Jamul Trails Council, Inc.
President



October 6, 2014

California State Parks
ATTN: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106

RE: Draft Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Dear Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team:

The Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (KDLC) is a tribally-chartered unincorporated association located in the aboriginal territory of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Nation and granted 501 (c) (3) status by the Federal government and tax exempt status by the State of California. KDLC appreciates the time and efforts of Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks to meet with us over the past several years. We offer our congratulations in producing this new general plan that will continue to protect our heritage resources through the near future.

O-8-1

Cuyamaca Park contains a high concentration of significant and sensitive Kumeyaay sites, some of which have incurred recent looting and damages. In some cases, the cultural preserves were established to provide additional protection for these resources and should be further expanded to encompass the most significant and sensitive sites. Although the General Plan increases the size of two of the four existing cultural preserves to provide additional protection, and establishes new guidelines for preservation and protection archaeological resources – much more protection is needed. KDLC strongly requests the Cuyamaca Park maintain a fulltime archeologist on staff to further the protection of our heritage.

O-8-2

Cuyamaca Park holds hundreds of important Native American sites that reflect not only 240 years of recorded history but also over 12,000 years of Kumeyaay presence on the landscape. The Park contains one of the densest assemblages of Kumeyaay archeological side and features within the California State Park System. The Cuyamaca area was the hub of our mountain community and sits at the cross roads for Indian trades reflected in the number of original Indian trails. Also important is the fact that the village of Ah-ha Kew-ah-mac' remained free of the mission system during Spanish occupation. Therefore, KDLC recommends the State Parks consider establishing Rancho Cuyamaca State Park as a "district" for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places rather than individual sites.

O-8-3

We understand the Native American archaeological and cultural resources of CRSP are preserved within their ecological and geographical context and provide opportunities for further

Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy

"To honor, preserve and protect our sacred lands."

1530 Hilton Head Rd. Ste 210 • El Cajon, CA 92019 • 619.444.4383 office • 619.444.4136 fax

O-8-3 study and continue traditional practices and resource management. However, we are concerned about the nature of certain studies and request consultation prior to the approval of studies. We also request the results of any studies or investigations be provided to us for our review.

O-8-4 KDLC would also like to see an expanded Colorado Desert District Archaeological Site Stewards program to target Kumeyaay representatives to monitor conditions and damages at sensitive archaeological sites throughout CRSP. We would like to incorporate Kumeyaay involvement in Volunteer Site Stewardship Program and in Archeology Weekends.

O-8-5 KDLC further requests the following:

- Developing a program to better protect known cultural sites
- Improve monitoring of site vandalism and take immediate corrective actions.
- Further restrict Mountain Bike usages in Cultural Preserves
- Explore opportunities for joint management areas

O-8-6 We agree that many of the education and interpretation programs are insufficient to adequately address the significant archaeological, historical resources, Kumeyaay history of the Cuyamaca Park for our youth and the general population. KDLC looks forward to partnering with Cuyamaca State Parks to develop materials that explain to the public the Kumeyaay story and jointly explore furthering access to information about the Kumeyaay through:

- Interpretive signs
- Training for docents and docent lead tours
- Programs for the public (campgrounds) – ranger programs during summer hours.
- Explanation for public on how to respect cultural resources encountered in the field.
- Interpretive paths
- Develop specific themes and identify mechanisms (signs, brochures, etc) to deliver information throughout the park. State Parks to provide examples from other park plans.
- Designate signage at the entrances to the park identifying “Kumeyaay Gateway”
- Identify education opportunities that interest all five senses.

O-8-7 KDLC would like Cuyamaca Park and State Parks indentify additional equestrian camp ground facilities that are under utilized in other nearby parks before increasing equestrian facilities in Cuyamaca. State Parks has gone above and beyond the need to meet equestrian access in Cuyamaca.

O-8-8 We would also like for Cuyamaca Park to work with Kumeyaay Nation on gathering permits and parking permits; explore changing permit process to a blanket permit by tribe over a three (3) year period; and, improve notification of areas treated with chemicals. Should you need any additional information, the KDLC Board of Directors is available for continued discussions.

Sincerely,



Lisa Haws, Assistant Executive Director

cc: KDLC Board

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. "Horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, "horseback riding" should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under "Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities," please include "the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site." This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Karen Ensall

President, Lakeside Frontier Riders
Supervisor Dianne Jacob's Trails Advisory Board
Lakeside River Park Conservancy Mounted Monitor
Lakeside Community Planning Group Trails Subcommittee
Bonita Valley Horseman
East County Equestrian Foundation Board Member
Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

11624 Moreno Ave
Lakeside, Ca. 92040
619.971.0675



858.487.6063 | P.O. Box 34544, San Diego, CA 92163 | www.sdbikecoalition.org

September 27, 2014

ATTN: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
enviro@parks.ca.gov

Dear Planning Team,

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (SDCBC) only recently became aware of the planning team and public meetings that you held this past summer. We would like to commend the planning committee on having the foresight to include bicycle safety on SR-79. However, as many of our members ride through the park on SR-79, we felt it important to provide input and support for your future plans as it pertains to bicycle infrastructure. Bicycle infrastructure affects the safety of all who travel through this very important section of the road. RV traffic, trucks, cars, motor cyclists including both tourists and local residents all use this road which must also be shared by bicyclists and people on foot. With that said, we suggest revisions to the language in the plan.

Referencing Page 129 Line item 5

"Work with Caltrans to develop bicycle lanes on SR-79 where feasible.

- The term 'bicycle lanes' is too restrictive a term within the plan.
- Narrow roads with inconsistent shoulder width combined with high traffic from RVs and trucks hauling trailers stresses the need for improved bicycle infrastructure and safety measures throughout the park's road system in support of California State 'Complete Streets' initiative.
- Due to the importance of this to our membership, SDCBC would like the opportunity to play a role in bicycle infrastructure design and review.

O-10-1

We suggest Item 5 should be revised as follows: **5. Work with Caltrans and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (SDCBC) to develop bicycle infrastructure on SR-79.**

Sincerely,

Andy Hanshaw
Executive Director

Kevin C. Wood
Executive Board Chairman

We advocate for and protect the rights of all people who ride bicycles. We promote bicycling as a mainstream, safe, and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation.

From: [Kevin Loomis](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:11:35 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate; recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Loomis <><

San Diego Mountain Biking - President
[619.501.4567](tel:619.501.4567)
president@sdmba.com

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Ken Bonus <ken.bonus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 3:12 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Cc: John Martinez; dave capron; Ken McIntyre; Howard Wiggins; Scott Mills; Scott Crellin
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Draft General Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi!

I am the trail crew coordinator for the San Diego Ultra Running Friends ("SURF"). SURF is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization which is qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our members are ultra runners (runners who run races with distances longer than a marathon; typically between 50 kilometers and 100 miles) and their friends and supporters. For the past 4 years, SURF has supported an extensive program, known as TrailFit, to maintain and improve the trails in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("CRSP"). During that time period, our volunteers have cleared and/or improved over 45 miles of trails within CRSP. Much of our work has been done in the more remote wilderness areas in CRSP and thanks to our volunteers, we have restored many trails that had become impassible following the 2002 fire. In particular, we have removed massive amounts of overgrown brush and innumerable downed trees on remote trails such as Burnt Pine, Arroyo Seco, Sugar Pine, Harvey Moore, Kelly Ditch, and West Mesa. We have informally adopted approximately 60 miles of trail within CRSP and have an on-going program to maintain these trails. For more details on our program, please visit our website: www.sdtrailfit.org. Jim Dascoulias of CRSP can verify our past and on-going contributions to trail maintenance.

O-12
-1
Early on in the planning process, we had requested that we be treated as a stakeholder group. Apparently, this request was disregarded as we never received any further contact from the staff involved with the general plan. However, as the foregoing summary clearly indicates, we have done far more than all of the other volunteer groups combined to re-open, maintain and improve the park trails. For this reason, we respectfully request that the efforts of our organization be recognized in the final report (see draft report, page 2-24, which lists other volunteer groups but does not mention SURF or the TrailFit program).

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me any time.

Ken Bonus
619.301.0780
ken.bonus@gmail.com

From: [Cindy Buxton](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan, Sierra Club
Date: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 12:01:01 AM

October 6, 2014

Attention: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
enviro@parks.ca.gov
subject line: "Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan"

re: Proposed Preliminary Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("CRSP") General Plan ("GP")

Dear CRSP General Plan Team:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and ask questions about the CRSP GP.

I'm writing on behalf of the Sierra Club San Diego Forest Committee. I have visited Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to see the reforestation project. Additionally I attended the scoping open house in Mission Valley. Immediately I was impressed with the number of local "A team" environmentalists that attended that meeting. The overwhelming concern expressed there was over the management of the Reforestation project. I'm now surprised and disappointed that considering the level of concern that was expressed at that meeting by the foremost environmentalists in our community, an assemblage that eclipsed any since some in the aftermath of the Cedar Fire, that you did not respond more to their requests.

O-13-1

My committee in the Sierra Club does not work in a vacuum. I recognize the credentialed expertise in our excellent partners in the CNPS that have weighed in on this project. I would like to recognize the comments by Frank Landis on behalf of that organization and those by Kay Stewart a member of that organization that were made on behalf of herself. In nearly all respects we agree with the concerns expressed in those letters and believe as they have requested that the tree planting requires an EIR and CEQA requires considerably more disclosure as to the intentions and methodology and substantiation of that methodology for this project. The burning has been done, we do not believe the reasons for doing so were according to California environmental law nor was the process according to California law and the intentions weighed too heavily on the profits of the green credits to companies that were labeled sponsors but that functionality is mislabeled.

Sierra club San Diego is particularly concerned with curtailing green house gases and all projects much take into account the state mandates to do so. Please add to your management plan biannual measurements of the CO₂ to O₂ conversion for the native ceanothus plant communities and compare them to the co₂ to o₂ conversion rates of the newly planted tree areas. We are concerned that the stated goals for sequestering carbon do not hold up to the emergency need to reduce co₂ via this project. This sequestering MUST happen sooner than later to curtail an emergency level of green house gases. No more projects of this sort should be conducted on state supported resources with state tax dollars until these plant metabolic rates can be determined and quantified and published

O-13-1

according to CEQA disclosure laws. CEQA is not a guideline, it is a law and we are concerned that this project did not follow the law nor is the State Park management project that encompasses that project likewise appropriately administered for this project. I might differ slightly from the CNPS statements that may conclude that this land would convert to chaparral as I have heard evidence that the ceanothus communities are a part of natural succession that ultimately leads back to the conifer ecosystem that once thrived in these mountains. Additionally could have been ways as Kay has discussed that collecting native population seeds would have been in line with reforestation goals. The current model falls out of the best practice standard.

Additionally in a visit I made myself the erosion control efforts and the obliteration of upland stream headwaters in the park was most shocking and needs attention. These were reduced to dusty ditches which will erode as soon as winter storms arrive.

O-13-2

There was much in this plan that is positive. I'm very concerned about the reduction of 700 acres of wilderness. This is excessive for the needs presented and should be attenuated down ward.

photos to follow .

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Cindy Buxton

Sierra Club San Diego , Forest Committee

From: karen@scef-inc.com
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: "Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan"
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 6:49:53 PM

adding my voice to this issue : yearly we have camped at the group camp for more than 20 years now and until it's closure Los Caballos Horse camp at least 2-3 times/year. Collectively the equine groups are heavily active in trail maintenance more than hikers/bikers...etc.

- We/I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
- As a BCHC member(s) we/I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.
- We/I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.
- We/I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We/I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.
- We/I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.
- If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.
- Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Karen Klawitter
CEO, So Ca Equine Foundation, Inc.

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

On behalf of the many riders of the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. We believe this plan must restore many of the historical equestrian amenities that our avid horse riders have enjoyed in our wildlife dependent sport of trail riding and horse camping. The avalanche-growth of new outdoor sports such as mountain biking, multi mile races, and geo-caching are dominating your parks' resource usage and future planning, but we are appealing to you to not allow them to crowd out the historically significant use of horses in society for recreation.

My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

John Gabaldon
Vice President, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association
www.trvea.org
5074 Cliff Place
San Diego, CA 92116

Individuals

Comment Letters

From: [Matthew Agren](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:09:53 AM

I am an avid mountain bike rider that lives in Orange County and travel to Cuyamaca State Park occasionally to camp and ride my mountain bike.

While I generally ride in the Laguna Mountains, I am inclined to ride in the Cuyamaca State Park and increase the number of visits to the state park if the wilderness boundaries are moved allowing for mountain bike access on the West Side Trail, East Side Trail, and Kelly's Ditch Trail.

I support the efforts of the State Park to open these trails and maintain access on the existing trails allowing access to Cleveland National Forest.

I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

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Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

From: [nicktano111](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Barb](#); [Nick Amalfitano](#)
Subject: RE: Comments for general plan regarding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 11:51:36 AM
Attachments: [Comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014.docx](#)

sorry comments are now attached.

----- Original message -----

From: nicktano111
Date: 10/06/2014 11:48 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: enviro@parks.ca.gov
Cc: Barb ,Nick Amalfitano
Subject: Comments for general plan regarding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

please see my attached comments I am an avid equestrian.

Barbara Amalfitano
526 Trailridge Dr.
Bonita, California 91902

From: [nicktano](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments for general plan regarding Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 11:45:55 AM
Attachments: [Comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014.docx](#)

please see my attached comments I am an avid equestrian.

Nicholas Amalfitano
526 Trailridge Dr.
Bonita, California 91902

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my Samsung Galaxy S@4.

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say “requests” for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

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Amalfitano, Nicholas

difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have “requested” an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a “strong desire.” Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states “requests” for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Stated on Page 2-10: It is written “that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening.” So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

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Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5’ 2” and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

To: California Department of Parks and Rec.
Southern Service Center
Rancho Cuyamaca State Park General Plan Team.
2797 Truxtun Rd,
San Diego, CA 92106.

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2014

From: Franklin L. "Woody" Barnes Jr
Former Member of the State Board of Forestry
P.O. Box 1570
Julian, CA 92036

SOUTHERN SERVICE CENTER

My concerns about the proposed plan center around the Natural Preserve Zone and in particular the so called Sky Island Forest. Prior to the 2003 Cedar fire, this largely conifer forest was arguably the best example of this vegetation type in southern California.

The largely hands off management practiced in the Park after it was purchased in 1933 led to an enormous fuel load buildup. Most of us old timers felt that a disastrous fire was inevitable unless the fuel load was reduced. Unfortunately 2003 proved we were right and the forest was largely destroyed.

I strongly believe that one of the most important long term goals for the Park must be to restore the forest. Neither continuing the past management nor anything in the proposed General Plan has any chance to accomplish this. To regrow anything resembling the pre-2003 fire forest will require active management.

I-4-1

Modern forest management is a concept that needs to be included as a portion of the General Plan. This will require rethinking of the management limitations in the Sky Island Forest portion of the Natural Preserve Zone.

To have any long term chance of restoring the forest, the Plan must include several expensive and controversial techniques, and these need to be in the General Plan. To have any chance of success, these must include the use of prescribed fire, some herbicide use, limited mechanical means, planting locally adapted seedlings and some biological techniques, including limited grazing. This will have to include management and removal of some of what have become (post 2003) brush fields.

Wildfires will continue to be a threat in all of California. The renewed forest must be managed to prevent the high fuel loads that lead to the extreme fire hazard and disastrous results of 2003.


To successfully restore the "Sky Island" forest, it will be necessary to either remove the area from the Natural Preserve, or preferably, modify what can be done in the Preserve. I believe that habitat management in a Natural Preserve can be done to preserve both species (sugar pine, Jeffrey pine etc.) and a rare and endangered vegetation type in the Park (conifer forest).

I-4-2

With the current interest in climate change, it should also be noted that successful forest growth will fix a small but significant amount of carbon dioxide for a long time.

I strongly urge you to acknowledge that the hands off approach to the Sky Island Forest is doomed to fail and to include active forest management in your Plan.

Sincerely,


Franklin L. "Woody" Barnes Jr.
P.O. Box 1570, Julian, CA 92036
760 765 0516

I would be happy to discuss this and other vegetation issues including the Gold Spotted Borer at any time.

From: [Matthew Bartelt](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:34:49 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.


Sincerely,

Matthew Bartelt

Assistant Vice President, Senior Instructor II
Community Bank Learning and Development

Direct 858 496 5862 | Fax 858 496 5860
Union Bank | 8148A Mercury Court
MC M-730 | San Diego, CA 92111
matthew.bartelt@unionbank.com | unionbank.com



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Thank you.

From: benfante@cox.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Benfante- comments on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan regarding expansion of Cultural Areas
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 10:21:18 AM

Regarding the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

I have some concern with the plan to expand the cultural preserve boundary of two areas, Stonewall and East Mesa. My concern is for the expansion of the Stonewall area and how that might affect the Los Vaqueros Group Camp. Since the 2003 fire and the closing of Los Ceballos Individual Horse Camp, rumors have gone around about the possibility of that happening to Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camp. With the latest situation of non-equestrian campers being able to reserve the equestrian sites in Green Valley Equestrian Individual Camp and claims that the Los Vaqueros Group camp isn't being fully utilized, the wording of the following gives me alarm that there is a possibility that if the Stonewall Area is expanded it could possibly affect the Los Vaquero Group Camp.

On page 2-30 of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan - it discusses Archaeological Resources as well as some Historical Archaeological Resources and Historical Land Uses and Resource. Proceeding to page 3-8, is the discussion of Area Protected Issues. My concern starts with section 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 as well as page 3-9 section 3.3.3 because it leads to what is planned on page 4-8 thru 4-15.

Referencing the map on page 4-8. It identifies 4 cultural preserve areas with the proposed expansion of two of the four areas. The wording regarding the expansion of the Cultural Zones concerns me because I'm afraid it could have a negative impact on Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camp. One of the most popular equine camps was closed due to "cultural" reasons although the claim is it was closed due to damage by the 2003 Cedar Fire. From what I have read in the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park,, I'm not so sure that the new General Plan won't make it possible to close the Los Vaqueros Group Camp. Nor do I see any guarantees from what I have read in the plan that the Los Vaqueros Group Camp won't be closed. If the expansion of the Stonewall Cultural Area is to include Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camp and the wording on, page 4-14, the second paragraph under the Cultural Preserve Zones heading, is to be believed, (it states that, "within the Cultural Preserve Zone, no facilities or development are permitted other than unpaved fire roads and trails, footbridges,") and so forth, and then proceeds on to page 4-15. Those words indicate to me that the paved roads into Stonewall and Los Vaqueros as well as the facilities in those two areas will be in violation of the General Plan for the Stonewall Cultural Zone.

I believe some wording needs to be included in the Plan that would guarantee that none of the Cultural Zone expansions would result in the removal or closing of Los Vaqueros Group Camp. I think the current wording opens the door to decide the Group Camp could be done away with.

Margaret Benfante – resident of San Diego County since 1956

From: benfante@cox.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Re: Campground Reservations
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:51:41 AM

I do not agree that there couldn't be language added to ensure the camp grounds are used for the purpose they are intended. I doubt an equestrian camper could reserve a non-equestrian campsite intended for family/individual use and bring their horse there and camp. There needs to be some common sense regarding the use of the camp grounds. Pertaining to Green Valley Equestrian campsites, if non-equestrian campers can reserve the equestrian campsites and prohibit the equestrian people from a reservation it could give the appearance that the campsites are not being utilized by the equestrian campers, Since reservations are on a first come first served basis, all equestrian sites could conceivably be reserved by non-equestrian campers.

As far as using Los Vaqueros as a group camp temporarily for non-equestrian campers until the Paso Picacho group camp is reopened, I understand the logic behind that. But if equestrian groups can't reserve Los Vaqueros because non-equestrian groups have reserved on a first come, first served basis, it is conceivable that the non-equestrians could tie up Los Vaqueros up for the entire season, prohibiting equestrian groups from making any reservations. If that were to happen, it could also give the appearance that the equestrian groups are not utilizing the Los Vaqueros group camp.

---- "Review wrote:

=====

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan recognizes Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Group Camp and the General Plan's language supports that continued use. However, since there are no laws or State Park policies which limit use of the campground to only those with horses, it would be unenforceable for a general plan to try to regulate any campground to one particular type of user or direct who specifically can and cannot reserve the camp. Therefore, the reservation and use of Los Vaqueros by non-equestrian groups will not be addressed in the General Plan.

It should be noted that when the group camp at Paso Picacho is rebuilt and open to the public (It's now in the design phase), it should reduce the potential for non-equestrians to reserve Los Vaqueros.

A response to e-mails commenting on this issue shall be provided in the Final General Plan/EIR.

Thank you,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

From: [Laura Boase](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 8:34:44 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Sincerely,
Laura Boase

From: [Dana Braithwaite](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Extention request for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan comment period
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 7:28:50 AM

Dear General Planning Team,

I formally request that you extend the comment period regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park 90 days.

Many equestrians and trail enthusiasts recently found out about the General Plan and, given the detailed lengthy report and its permanent impact on the equestrian community, do not feel that the outreach to notify the equestrian community and other diverse stakeholders has been sufficient.

More time is needed to make meaningful comment on the General Plan.

Sincerely,

Dana Braithwaite

From: [Jeani Buchanan](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments on the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:55:20 PM

September 23, 2014

To: The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov

From: Jeani Buchanan

These are my comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. I also made note of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

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Buchanan, Jeani (1)

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Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar fire, the restroom/shower at Los Vaqueros was rebuilt and several issues are worth mentioning: The shower head location causes the entire shower room to flood, including the dressing area. You dress while standing in water. It is a slip hazard. Also, the shower heads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill to contain the water in the shower area, it would help, but not sure if this would have meet code requirements. The shower floors are almost flat (level), not allowing for good drainage, the shower and dressing area floods with the present shower heads in place. Water literally flows under the door thresholds to the outside. If the shower heads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the shower head downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

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We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.

Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeani Buchanan

**Member of Backcountry Horsemen of California, Lakeside
Frontier Riders and Ramona Trails Assoc.**

Avid trail user of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

--

Jeani Buchanan Email: 

From: [Jeani Buchanan](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 11:40:13 AM

Hello and thank you for reading and hearing my concerns. I ride the trails in our county a lot, and camp approx 8 times a year at Los Vaqueros and Sweetwater in Bonita. A few days ago, I sent comments on the specific line items of the Plan. Herein are general comments:

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a BCHC member I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers (i.e safety for all, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items), horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Jeani Buchanan
Member of Backcountry Horsemen, Ramona Trails Assoc and Lakeside Frontier Riders

--

Jeani Buchanan Email: [REDACTED]

From: [Nancy Budge](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 2:07:32 PM

ATTN: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team

My first visit to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was in the fall of 2007 and I was taken with the beauty even so soon after the 2003 Cedar Fire. In subsequent visits over the past seven years, I have also been impressed with the growth of the conifers planted in 2008 and 2009 particularly up around Middle Peak. Also with the increasing numbers of visitors camping and enjoying the park even with the effects of the fire so evident on the facilities and trails.

My comment on the draft plan is to convey an appreciation for the extensive work of the planning team. I am impressed with how the plan addresses the issues related to the Cedar Fire, the uncertainties of climate change on the region, and the importance of the Sky Island Forests in the regional landscape. I am glad to see the continuing mixed approach of active and passive vegetation management on a variety of sites and at different scales throughout the park. This appears to make a lot of sense given the lack of absolute certainty in the science of climate change.

I-12-1

I am also concerned about future fires in the park and am glad to see that prescribed burning is under consideration as a future management tool. Forest science as well as recent experience throughout the western U.S. would strongly indicate that strategically located fuels treatment areas to remove high densities of trees, slash and ground litter reduce the risks of the kind of high severity fires that burn through forest canopies and kill trees.

As far as I can see, the best chance for enhancing biodiversity and outdoor recreation at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is to actively pursue a variety of options such as those included in this planning document.

Nancy Budge

From: [Bev Bullis](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Park Issues, Cuyamacca Horse Park
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:28:02 PM

Gentlemen, While you are doing an amazing job maintaining our parks, I do have one very big concern regarding horses and campers.

Only equestrians should be camping in horse parks for this reason. When people wash their food utensils, they should not be placed along horse trails because when the sun shines on them, this spook horses. I say this from experience when camping for many years and riding horses on the Eastern slopes of the High Sierras.

Non-savvy horse people, without knowing it, can pose a threat to riders.

Submitted by Beverley Bullis, Ramona, CA

From: [Bev Bullis](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Todays comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014.docx
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 1:03:06 PM
Attachments: [Todays comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014.docx](#)

Gentlemen, please see that these comments are seen immediately.
Beverley Bullis, Equestrian

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. "Horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, "horseback riding" should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under "Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities," please include "the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site." This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

Page 2-49: "Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities" should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: "a location could not be agreed upon" is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5: Issues Analysis. Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 are able to be reserved, as two sites are ADA and Site 8 is the camp host's site. The rest of the Green Valley's sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the Green Valley corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the large type of living quarters trailers and rigs that equestrians now use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is

difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have “requested” an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a “strong desire.” Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states “requests” for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: “Loop A” was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written “that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening.” So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

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Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

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Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

From: [Bill Butters](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Saturday, September 06, 2014 10:15:24 AM

General Plan

I feel that the State Park System is trying to close the north end of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park by changing the way the park is set up now. I feel we don't need all these changes. Also seems Cuyamaca State Park is trying to run out equestrians by allowing none equestrians in Green Valley Horse camp and epically Los Vaqueros Horse Camp. I guess it comes down to the all mighty dollar in regards to the Equestrians Camp facilities.

Bill Butters

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Karen Carlson <slowlanejane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 12:01 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CONCERNS:

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~**decommission**, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.

Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.

The map on

page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..

Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.

Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and **management**..this has changed!We equestrians protest shared uses of equestrian camp grounds.

Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity

Page 3-10 3.3.5 Equestrians push for the equestrian camp here, The General plan indicates a camp. (before they build a hotel!)

Page 2-49 additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" in the language here.

Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish ,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is a historcial re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan.

Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ...

Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds.

Page 4-21 should read a new location **HAS not yet been found.**

Page 4-21 No, Green Valley Falls Equestrian is substandard as far as trailers/rigs..

Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...???

Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake.

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We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.

Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

From: [Karen Carlson](#)
To: senator.anderson@senate.ca.gov; Assemblymember.Jones@assembly.ca.gov; Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Julie Murphy](#); [Bob Gage](#)
Subject: Fwd: State Park Survey Results (equine)
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:08:11 AM
Attachments: [State Parks Survey results \(equine\).pdf](#)

Dear Representative,

Attached is a short survey I created and sent out to equestrians groups and individuals related to the State Park GP Update and the changes they are implementing in Cuyamaca in southern California..

I understand there may be a meeting on October 1st with a few folks and want you to know that they have been sent this information as well, however their opinions are not likely to resemble these from the survey. The last I heard this small group joust wanted to allow California State Parks to do whatever they wanted to with no correct input from the equestrian community. I hope they have changed their opinions and will represent the equestrian community correctly.

Please consider this THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE and assist us in representing what we actually want, need and expect from the State and GP update.

Thank you,
Karen Carlson
Ramona, CA. 92065

How often do you attend events in State Parks?

Answer Choices – Responses –

Extremely often	12.00%
Quite often	46.00%
Moderately often	33.00%
Slightly often	9.00%
Not at all often	0.00%

Overall, are you satisfied with the employees at State Parks?

Answer Choices – Responses –

Extremely satisfied	30.00%
Moderately satisfied	32.00%
Slightly satisfied	10.00%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	16.00%
Slightly dissatisfied	7.00%
Moderately dissatisfied	3.00%
Extremely dissatisfied	2.00%

Overall how would you rate your knowledge of State Park recent update proposal?

Answer Choices – Responses –

Excellent	10.00%
Very good	19.00%
Fairly good	21.00%
Mildly good	11.00%
Not good at all	39.00%

What changes would most improve State Parks update?

- 76% of respondents commented:

State Parks should provide horse camping that is for horses only. The Parks should NOT be subjected to the same 'profit' module as a regular business. These Parks are to be supported and protected for the use of the PUBLIC not for profit. It is UNSAFE and irresponsible to allow uneducated people to camp in the horse camps. Horses are an important part of American History. The Government is doing a poor job of managing our country and once again, the people are paying the price.

9/23/2014 8:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would like to INCLUDE and not EXCLUDE more access to trails for equestrians, or at least keep existing trails and limiting access to motorized vehicles. I would also like to show my interest in limiting the camping availability in the horse camps to equestrians ONLY for the safety of both the non-equestrians and those with horses.

9/23/2014 7:54 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Leave Cuyamaca State Park alone

9/23/2014 7:33 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

DO NOT mingle horse campers and non horse campers. IT IS NOT SAFE!!!!!!

9/22/2014 9:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Horse camps and trails needed!

9/19/2014 5:47 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

This is a poorly worded question and I'm not sure what the question is really asking!

9/18/2014 8:01 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The Equestrian camps need to be protected and preserved. Mixing non equestrian campers with Equestrian campers is NOT safe. The stakeholders aren't doing their job to represent the best interests of the Equestrian community as a whole. The Stakeholders group as a whole, have not even read the plan!!

9/18/2014 7:54 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Not allow non-equestrians to camp in horse camp (Green Valley Falls) and hose group camp (Los Vaqueros) Also lower cost of Los Vaqueros during the week to allow for more usage. I love the park and would like to see it continue to be used as it was intended!

9/14/2014 9:53 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

better trails and staging areas for equestrians and bikes

9/14/2014 12:42 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

State park representatives do not enforce the rules equally, if at all.

9/14/2014 12:35 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep equestrian portion exclusively equestrian camping. We need more equestrian camping as San Diego has many, many equestrians.

9/13/2014 6:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

more local newspaper information.

9/13/2014 10:35 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

There is a strong need to establish a permanent equestrian campground in the north part of the park to replace the number of campsites lost with the closure of the Los Caballos Equestrian Campground. A permanent equestrian staging area within this region is also needed.

9/13/2014 9:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

hmmm, dont know. I usually get information through local papers and word of mouth. I havent heard anything about this.

9/13/2014 12:49 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

more none group sites for horse camp .

9/12/2014 6:07 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Nice, helpful, cherry and "want to help" equestrians and others. Another real horse camping area. And fair prices for event use.

9/12/2014 5:04 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More horse trail access.

9/12/2014 4:34 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I went on line and could not even find information about this by looking up california state parks----you need to do a much better job of letting the public know

9/12/2014 3:58 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More equestrian parks.minimal charges.

9/12/2014 2:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I love going to our State Parks and have always enjoyed myself. I think they are very well run. I hope the state does not cut or limit funding.

9/12/2014 1:36 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I didn't even know of any updates!! Would like to see more use for horses parking area. Facebook!!

9/12/2014 1:33 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Bike trails and horse trails don't mix.

9/12/2014 12:49 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the horse trails!

9/12/2014 12:47 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Include a family equine camp inn the north part of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Enlarge parking lot at Eqine Group Camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

9/12/2014 12:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Get the update out to all yearly permit holders, via e mail, or reg. mail. Do not close or limit equestrian uses/camps!

9/12/2014 12:29 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Online booking

9/12/2014 12:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Have more parks available to all walks of life. Would like to see parks dedicated to honor our Military served.

9/12/2014 11:48 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think the fee increases each year are too high. I also think that weekend rates and weekday rates are unfair.

9/12/2014 11:23 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

notify using media and stake holder input

9/12/2014 11:12 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Only allow equestrains I the horse areas for safety.

9/12/2014 9:01 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

More access for camping with horses.

9/12/2014 8:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Should be limited to horse group camps only as is was intended for.

9/12/2014 8:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Horse trails. Motor home hookups.

9/12/2014 7:55 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

DO not take the horse camping away.

9/12/2014 7:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

please keep our parks open

9/12/2014 7:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Making them more pet friendly dogs, horses ...As they are part of our families. Open later hours for campers/events. Better security for safety but freedom to have responsible bbqs and parties and overnight camping

9/12/2014 7:40 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Larger sites to accommodate larger RV's. Learn to mitigate cultural and biological concerns in FAVOR of recreation. More dispersed camping

9/12/2014 6:48 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the state parks geared for equestrians!!!!

9/12/2014 6:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Parking and staging areas for horse trailers. More horse trails.

9/12/2014 6:36 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

safe trails for traditional users (hikers and equestrians). mountain bikers put others in danger and need their own areas and trails

9/12/2014 3:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Employees more friendly towards horse owners. Employees always seem that we are just a pain to them.

9/11/2014 10:49 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Better day parking in the northern park for equestrians. Replacement campground for Los Caballos in the northern part of the of park. Equestrian's need to have priority for equestrian campgrounds. Increase in controlled burns.

9/11/2014 9:48 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

To not let non horse people camp in the horse camp. This is very dangerous and should not be happening.

9/11/2014 8:54 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Exclusive equestrian Camping due to special needs sites. North equestrian Family camping....Boy scout camp!

9/11/2014 7:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

North end family park

9/11/2014 7:08 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Make the park more equestrian friendly. Ever since we lost Los Caballos the State park system has been ignoring the needs & desires of equestrians. GreenValley horse camp seems like the state park was "throwing a bone". The campsites are not set up properly for camping rigs & horse trailers, there is no privacy & asphalt is not safe for horses. Now the park system is placing equestrians in jeopardy by allowing non-equestrians to camp in equestrian facilities. Horses can be dangerous & humans who are not knowledgeable about horses can be hazardous to horse & rider. State park system seems to be ultra accommodating to other groups such as cyclist while treating equestrians like ugly stepchildren.

9/11/2014 6:46 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More open discussion to involve all groups: hikers, bikers, AND equestrians

9/11/2014 5:53 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More equestrian access and facilities.

9/11/2014 4:43 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep access for horses available. Equestrian activities have been a part of the park system since it's inception. DO NOT deprive us of safe trails to ride.

9/11/2014 4:05 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the horse campgrounds for campers and their horses only. Reopen the Los Caballos Horse camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

9/11/2014 4:04 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Additional equestrian facilities and trails would be GREAT!

9/11/2014 3:55 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Horse group campground (Los Vaqueros) was meant for horse camping only. Keep this campground for its intended use. Thousands of other campgrounds for non-equestrians, only a handful for equestrians. Tough competition among all equestrian campers when booking sites. Not fair. Non-horse people mixed with horses is unsafe.

9/11/2014 3:49 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Not to have non-horse campers and regular campers camping together. That will just cause issues, injuries and law suites.

9/11/2014 3:35 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

State parka are extre!Ely valuable.My family spends almost every vacation camping at state park. However, real campers do not approve of SUV campers coming I'm and dumping their refuse from toilets into the pit toilets where tent campers are located. There should be separate dumping areas for SUV people

9/11/2014 3:27 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep them open.

9/11/2014 3:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the equestrian Camps for Equestrains not for other publics

9/11/2014 3:04 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Not allowing non equestrians into equestrian only camps

9/11/2014 2:50 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Better communication. More staff. Updated Web sites and maps

9/11/2014 2:30 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More equestrian trails and separating equestrian camps from non equestrians.

9/11/2014 2:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the trails open, keep equestrian areas open or expand.

9/11/2014 2:06 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Non-equestrians should NOT be mixed with equestrians at campsites. There is danger in mixing them.

9/11/2014 1:59 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Please include North End family horse camp again.

9/11/2014 1:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I firmly believe that all designated horse camps should remain strictly horse camps. There are so few of them and to allow non horse campers on these sites is a terrible mistake. This is simply an accident waiting to happen!! Please Please reconsider the current plan allowing non horse campers on horse campsites. Thanks for your consideration concerning this issue.

9/11/2014 1:24 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

keep the equestrian campgrounds primarily for equestrians..... Vern Whittaker Horse camp, Los Caballos, Los Vaqueros are all called horse camp for a reason, at least give the horses first priority.

9/11/2014 1:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

keep parks open to equestrians not many places to ride in the outdoors .

9/11/2014 1:03 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Employees need to be trained to interact with the public in a professional manner, they need to use active listening and not be judgmental. I have watch paid employees interact with the public in a destructive manner, which has caused people to not want to visit the state park. Education can be done in a polite manner, and this way you will have a happier visitor, who will abide by the rules.

9/11/2014 12:59 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think that keeping the "horse camps" strictly for horse campers is a good start. We equestrians feel that it is a liability to let non-equestrians, who have no knowledge or are not knowledgeable about safety around the horses. Safety goes for all....the horse, horse owner, and the non-equestrian.

9/11/2014 12:54 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

To properly oversee the safety of the majority of trail USERS on so-called multi-use trails. The near misses and injuries caused by reckless mt. bikers on the trails has become so pervasive that soon there will only be mt. bikes on the trails. All the other hikers, seniors, runners, equestrians, dog walkers, bird watchers and nature lovers will be chased off. Our trails were never meant to be race tracks and that is what they are becoming. Adding wheeled vehicles to trails has completely changed the culture. It is time to re-think the automatic adding of bikes to the walking trails. Because of safety, we don't add bikes to sidewalks, and trails are by far more dangerous than sidewalks. Solution is to have the bikers build and maintain their own trails and let them go as fast as they want, leave the other trails to foot traffic - what they were designed and built for. And don't let the bikers tell you they don't have access...ALL the bikers can walk ALL the trails, just like the rest of us.

9/11/2014 12:38 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keeping equestrians in future plans PLEASE!!!!!! The 'north end family camp' would be a shame to lose!! Thanks, Lisa

9/11/2014 12:37 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The equestrian sites need to be open for equestrians, unless you are going to start letting us equestrians camp in regular camping with our horses.... equestrian camp is limited and we need to be able to camp with our horses!

9/11/2014 12:36 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

More equestrian camping areas. Don't combine equestrian camps with others. We spend a lot of time cleaning before we leave and maintaining the trails when we aren't using the park.

9/11/2014 12:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Adding a northern family equestrian camp. Keep equestrian camps exclusive to its intended use..equestrians only due to liabilities to parks and equestrians

9/11/2014 11:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

If you can send an email survey you can send an email with links to the updates, that would be helpful.

9/11/2014 11:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years. Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~decommission, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes? Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins. Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested. Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description. The map on page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use.. Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8) On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add... Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed. Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and management..this has changed!We equestrians protest shared uses of

equestrian camp grounds. Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity Page 3-10 3.3.5 Equestrians push for the equestrian camp here, The General plan indicates a camp. (before they build a hotel!) Page 2-49 additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" in the language here. Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish ,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is a historcial re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan. Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ... Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds. Page 4-21 should read a new location HAS not yet been found. Page 4-21 No, Green Valley Falls Equestrian is substandard as far as trailers/rigs.. Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary.... Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake. Pages 5-22- 5-23 "human remains", this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of human artifacts...it should be clarified. Page 5-34- Impact Anaylis- instead of "could" it should read "should" Page 5-36 "potential" equestrian staging area should read "a new equestrian staging in the area will require....." Page 5-41 again no project alternative (for los Caballos)as stated above on page 5-8 ? Page 5-42 and 5-43 -new alternative not necessary? We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park. Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

9/11/2014 11:40 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

From: [Karen Carlson](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Fwd: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan "Wilderness Changes"
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:11:06 AM

Wilderness changes in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park .

I disagree with several areas to be changed. It appears to be catering to mountain bikers, while ignoring the requests of equestrians. Most adjustments would not qualify as multiuse under the PEIR program.

Map~Page 4-71

#1 East Mesa and Deer Springs trail area~. Maintain as wilderness while establishing a multi-use trail corridor ("**cherry-stem**") on the Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail (65 acres) Creates an impact of increased/heavy traffic by mountain bikers connecting to Laguna Recreation/ Cleveland National Forest area by the "**Cherry Stem**"

#2 Westside Trail between Japacha Fire Road and Arroyo Seco Fire Road (34 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program.

#3 Eastside Trail between Sweetwater Parking Lot and East Mesa Fire Road (45 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program or justified.

#4 Blue Ribbon Trail between South Boundary Fire Road and Merigan Fire Road (110 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use, per the PEIR Program and the adjustment is not justified.

Karen Carlson

From: [Nastro, Louis@Parks](mailto:Nastro.Louis@Parks)
To: [Matsumoto, Barney@Parks](mailto:Matsumoto.Barney@Parks); [Patterson, Bob@Parks](mailto:Patterson.Bob@Parks); [Tobias, Kathryn@Parks](mailto:Tobias.Kathryn@Parks); [Falat, Dan@Parks](mailto:Falat.Dan@Parks); [Musillami, Steve@Parks](mailto:Musillami.Steve@Parks); [Review, Environmental@Parks](mailto:Review.Environmental@Parks)
Subject: FW: Comments for the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:47:29 PM
Attachments: [Comments for General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.pdf](#)

Here's another comment I think I forgot to include earlier...

From: Judy Clark [mailto:jclark36@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Nastro, Louis@Parks
Subject: Comments for the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

The [Cuyamaca Rancho State Park](#) "The New camping policies" that Mr. Dan Falat, Colorado District Supervisor has made in the park> Equestrian campsites are being reserved by non equestrians and limiting our camping opportunities. It is dangerous to mix the uneducated public near equines. On the trail we have command of our animal, in the corrals not so much.. Some corrals are more than 50 feet from the campsite. California State Parks Commission Policies that apply are Safety IV.3 and Conflicts III.7

Also , please see the attached comments on the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Thank you for

Judy Clark
10015 Allenwood Way
Santee, CA 92071

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 10/02/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. "Horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, "horseback riding" should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under "Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities," please include "the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site." This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

Page 2-49: "Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities" should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Clark, Judy

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: "a location could not be agreed upon" is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5: Issues Analysis. Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 are able to be reserved, as two sites are ADA and Site 8 is the camp host's site. The rest of the Green Valley's sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the Green Valley corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the large type of living quarters trailers and rigs that equestrians now use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Judy Clark
10015 Allenwood Way
Santee, CA 92071

Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders
Member of Pine Valley Mountain Riders
"Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper"

Clark, Judy

From: [Travis C](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Saturday, October 04, 2014 10:34:10 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Travis Clemins

Lieutenant Commander, US Navy

From: [John Conkell](mailto:John.Conkell@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:01:41 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

John C. Conkell

From: [Craddick, Robert](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 2:22:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely, Robert Craddick

Robert Craddick
Librarian
rcraddick@aii.edu
P 858.598.1252

Craddick, Robert

7650 Mission Valley RD / San Diego, CA 92108
artinstitutes.edu



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From: [Rose Crawford](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca state park
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:43:22 PM

Being a horse owner that enjoys riding at Cuyamaca.

During the reconstruction please keep the horse community in mind. Some of our concerns are:

Better horse trailer parking.

A new horse park, camping area

Separation between bike and horse trails

Thank you,

Rosalie Crawford

Sent from my iPad

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Karen N Cricket <karenandcricket@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:26 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks; Karen Carlson
Subject: Cuyamaca update concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP.

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Pages 5-22- 5-23 "human remains", this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains"

--

Karen N Cricket

www.karenandcricket.com

From: [Cindy Decker](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 5:26:24 PM

My family is writing to you regarding the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan:

1. We feel that it is critical to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of the park to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
2. As a Backcountry Horseman of California member, and a Lakeside Frontier Riders member we want to participate in partnerships to improve trails and cooperate with other trail user groups to protect the park resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with the general plan.
3. We suggest that equestrian groups be consulted regarding trail loop design in and out of horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.
4. We feel that horse campers need their own camp with clear buffer zones between us and non-horse campers. Mixing the horse and non-horse campers has the potential to be very dangerous as most non-horse people do not understand how easily a horse can spook at unfamiliar noises and large moving items. Horse campers also require larger areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We are very happy with the horse facilities at Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros and want to keep them.
5. We feel that when trails must be rerouted, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

We have loved horse camping with our family and friends in the Cuyamaca State Park and hope that the General Plan will continue to include the equestrian trails, and camping facilities that have brought our family so much joy over the years.

Sincerely,

Ben and Cindy Decker
11622 Legendale Dr
Lakeside CA 92040

cell 619-204-3842

To the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/23/14

This is my comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. I also made note of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

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Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp. Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrians clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$ 550.00 a night.

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Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar fire, the restroom/shower at Los Vaqueros was rebuilt and several issues are worth mentioning: The shower head location causes the entire shower room to flood, including the dressing area. You dress while standing in water. It is a slip hazard. Also, the shower heads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill to contain the water in the shower area, it would help, but not sure if

this would have meet code requirements. The shower floors are almost flat (level), not allowing for good drainage, the shower and dressing area floods with the present shower heads in place. Water literally flows under the door thresholds to the outside. If the shower heads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

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Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.

Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Denny

La Mesa, CA 91941 cell 619.335.7018

Lakeside Frontier Riders Board

Member of Bonita Valley Horsemen

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

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Denny, Steve (1)

difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Steven Denny

10421 Gretler Place, La Mesa, CA 91941

Home; 619.441.9277

Lakeside Frontier Riders Board

Member of Bonita Valley Horsemen

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: cd57sd46@cox.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments to the General Plan for CRSP
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:33:15 PM

October 2, 2014

To the CRSP Planning Committee,

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov

We/I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a Lakeside Frontier Rider member(s) we/I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

We/I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

We/I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e safety for all, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We/I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

We/I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Utilization at Green Valley Horse Camp will improved if the sites are leveled and improved to accommodate larger Rigs, thus revenue will increase. Green Valley Horse Camp presents many difficulties for large equestrian rigs, while equestrians are grateful for GVHC, it is not equal replacement of Los Caballos.

Allowing other user groups to reserve and camp GV Horse camp while denying equestrians equal access to all public facilities other than the two horse camps GVHC and Los Vaqueros is discrimination against equestrians.

Placing water, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and portable toilets at Merigan's Trailhead will not only serve equestrians, but serve all the user groups, equestrians, hikers, and mountain bike riders. In fact there are no facilities, and yet users have to pay a \$8.00 fee to park at Merigan's.

On Page 6-16 of the General plan: What equestrians groups were contacted by CRSP Planning Group? How were they contacted? Because Lakeside Frontier Riders has no record of being contacted by the CRSP Planning Group.

We/I completely oppose the more restrictive designations of areas currently used for recreation within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP). The park and it's sensitive areas are already protected by the California Environmental Qualities Act(CEQA). Sufficient protections are already in place and a balance use plan would be best for all interests and users as State Parks is charged with accomplishing.

Why is it that since the 2003 Cedar Fire, the group camp in Paso Picacho Campground is only in the design phase? What has CRSP been doing for 11 years with this group camp out of commission?

Denny, Steve (2)

Steve Denny
La Mesa, CA cd57sd46@cox.net

Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders
Member of Bonita Valley Horsemen
Avid equestrian camper and trail user in CRSP

From: [Michelle deVries](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Equestrian campgrounds for Equestrians only
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 3:08:13 PM

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

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From: [Domingos Dias](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:14:38 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

Dias, Domingo

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Dom Dias

Dom72.dias@gmail.com

From: [Doug Dittrich](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:32:35 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Sincerely,

Dittrich, Doug

Doug Dittrich

From: [Ron Drees](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:56:08 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
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 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Ronald Drees
11985B Rancho Bernardo Rd
San Diego, CA 92128

Drees, Ronald

From: jdwright@aol.com
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 8:17:11 PM

The General Plan update for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park states at page 4-90 under the heading 4.5.1 ROADS and TRAILS MANAGEMENT Plan, that “[a] comprehensive Roads and Trails Management Plan should be completed to address a wide-range of trails issues at the Park,”.

The closure of Los Caballos Horse Camp combined with the opening of equestrian facilities to non-equestrians, ultimately results in the discrimination against a primarily elderly and/or disabled population that relies on horseback travel to access trails. The park needs to be accessible to everyone, including the elderly and disabled who may only be able to enjoy the trails from horseback.

Kimberly Dwight - ETI Corral 138 Barrel Springs Riders - Antelope Valley charter member

From: [Wendy Ebster](#)
To: [Stehl, Alexandra@Parks](#); [Review_Environmental@Parks](#)
Subject: Camp grounds - poor policy revisions
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:18:35 PM

Dear Ms. Stehl -

There are some poor decisions being made regarding the camp grounds in our state.

Currently policy is being revised for camp grounds specified for equestrians. Rangers are already acting on their own volition.

The new policies are allowing non-equestrians to reserve the equestrian facilities, causing equestrians to be without anywhere to camp within a day's drive.

Or worse, allowing non-equestrians to camp alongside equestrians...causing dog attack potential and children getting hurt around horses. This is just dumb.

1. I certainly understand the need to get all camp grounds making better income. Totally understood. We don't want to lose them.
2. There is a dangerous mix of the population being created here with the revised policy and actions of select rangers.

Children who don't know horse etiquette could get hurt. This is a liability for the state, as you have been informed of this issue. There has already been a problem with a dog lunging at people and horses (the owner was too drunk to be asked to leave).

Equestrians only have 7% of all camp sites in the state to choose from! Do you know how difficult it is to book a reservation at this time?

The group camp local to me is \$500 A NIGHT, more and less in other areas. Why the discrepancy in pricing per area?

An alternative idea is, have the group camps open to anyone at a late date (maybe 3 months in advance, so equestrians have priority before that time frame).

Also, create a daily rate so they will get used mid-week, and not sit empty. Many equestrians wish this was available, as the week is always more quiet and therefore more relaxing.

Please consider such options.

I highly suggest consulting the equestrian community to come up with a solution for you. They are great at creating win-win solutions.

I am willing to volunteer my time and help facilitate as a citizen who can see both the fiscal and liability sides of this issue. The parks need to make more money, and there are a lot of good ways to do that! (that don't mean more labor hours, or expanding, or expense!)

Blessings to you, and thank you for your service in a government position.

Wendy Ebster
(619) 244-2250
10245 Circa Valle Verde
El Cajon, Ca 92021

Ebster, Wendy

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/24/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say “requests” for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: “A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include “equestrian parking” in its description, as is specified for “Sweetwater” day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. “Horseback riding” needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let’s not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, “horseback riding” should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under “Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities,” please include “the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural

resources at the site.” This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

Page 2-49: “Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities” should read “North end equestrian camping facilities and staging” for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: “a location could not be agreed upon” is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5: Issues Analysis. Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 are able to be reserved, as two sites are ADA and Site 8 is the camp host's site. The rest of the Green Valley's sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the Green Valley corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the large type of living quarters trailers and rigs that equestrians now use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening.

“ So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed. “ So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds.

Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

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Thank you for considering my commentThank you for considering my comments.

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

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Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Charlene Edleson

960 Pacific Beach Drive San Diego, CA 92109

cell: 619.997.0398

A Lakeside Frontier Riders Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Mark Eller](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Robert Winston](#); [Lisa Jung](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:55:19 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Regarding the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan, please know that I support expanded opportunities for mountain biking, including adjusting the state wilderness boundaries to accommodate more trails with bike access.

I visit San Diego frequently -- my wife's mother, father and sister live there. It would be great to have more opportunities to ride our mountain bikes on trails in the San Diego area.

Best Regards,

Mark Eller
Boulder, Colorado

--

Mark Eller
IMBA Communications Director
303-545-9011 ext. 115
Visit IMBA on Facebook: [Facebook.com/IMBAonFB](https://www.facebook.com/IMBAonFB)

2014-09-30

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2014

SOUTHERN SERVICE CENTER

RE: GENERAL PLAN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK, SAN DIEGO

Our primary use of the park is to participate in the 25 and 50 mile endurance rides held there several times per year. Please note that the 100 mile distance is missing from that list. Large loop, long length equestrian trails bring in the possibility of 100 mile rides, an event that has been missing from our Southern California Endurance landscape for many years. Such trails would benefit not only equestrians but long distance runners and mountain bikers as well.

In addition, I think that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a Ramona Trails Association member I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. There is a significant trend toward larger rigs and "comfort camping" that requires an adjustment in the size, location and design of horse camping sites. These changes in lifestyle should be taken into account when planning equestrian campsites.

I firmly believe that Southern California riders/hikers and bikers do a tremendously effective job of cooperating in the shared use of trails. In some significant areas (steep downhill made for mountain bike trails) dual use should be considered, but alternative trails for other users should be created and designated prior to restricting the original trail.

Finally, although not part of the general plan, but merits consideration is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. There is already a perception that horse camping is not available in Cuyamaca, as the popular weekends book the second they are available. Letting non-equestrians book open times at other times, contributes the the perception and diminishes continuing equestrian use.

Sincerely,



Alison A. Farrin

19074 Via Cuesta
Ramona, CA 92065
858-248-1849

Farrin, Alison

From: [Eric Fox](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:06:48 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
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 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Eric Fox
1330 Cynthia Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92008

From: ranchgirlrn rn
To: Best, Kevin@Parks; Musillami, Steve@Parks; Stehl, Alexandra@Parks; Review, Environmental@Parks; Nastro, Louis@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 10:19:25 PM

Dear Planning Team,

I want to start with how I have watched equestrians loose a treasured camp ground and now it seems we continue to loose more. I am very open as an equestrian to work with other users but I do not want to loose any trails or camp sites we currently have.

I want to first start with how incredibly disappointing it has been to see Los Caballos not being rebuilt. This has had such an impact on those of us who used to camp at Los Caballos. Green Valley Equestrian Campground is not a replacement. I know for myself I am not able to get my rig into Green Valley so I am pushed out of the park completely for individual camp sites. Green Valley Camp Ground is not at all comparable to what we lost at our amazing Los Caballos. We must have an individual equestrian camp ground at the north end of the park that can accommodate larger rigs with level private camp sites.

When we lost Los Caballos we also lost our day parking. Hual-Cu-Cuish is a perfect equestrian day staging area. With minor repairs trailers could easily get turned around with dirt ground to park on.

I hope the planning team remembers the large historical significance equestrian's have had in the park.

Thank you,
Darla Frye and the Frye Family

Frye, Darla

From: [Patterson, Bob@Parks](mailto:Patterson_Bob@Parks)
To: [Review, Environmental@Parks](mailto:Review_Environmental@Parks)
Subject: FW: Cuyamucca Rancho State Park Update 9/25/2014
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:11:23 PM
Attachments: [List of concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamucca Rancho State Park.docx](#)

Bob Patterson
California State Parks
Southern Service Center
(619) 221-7064

From: Musillami, Steve@Parks
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:44 AM
To: Patterson, Bob@Parks; Matsumoto, Barney@Parks; Falat, Dan@Parks
Subject: FW: Cuyamucca Rancho State Park Update 9/25/2014

More from Bob Gage....I am sure none of this is new information but wanted to keep it moving.

Steve Musillami, RLA
Planning Section
Acquisitions & Development Division
California State Parks
steve.musillami@parks.ca.gov
916-445-7994

From: Bob Gage [<mailto:bobgage@wildblue.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:54 AM
To: Musillami, Steve@Parks; Stehl, Alexandra@Parks; Stehl, Alexandra@Parks
Subject: Cuyamucca Rancho State Park Update 9/25/2014

I know that the General Plan is under review for this State Park.
I know that a process is to be followed, however because of some issues and circumstances in the area there are some serious allegations coming out of the process at this late hour.

1. A large group of Equestrians are voicing allegations that State Parks did not recognize them as part of the Equestrian Stakeholders, in particular Bob Patterson would not recognize them.
2. The Equestrian Stakeholder group that was recognized did not adequately represent the Equestrians in the area or for that matter the state as a whole.

A list of concerns specific to the General Plan was sent to me by this group of Equestrians in the San Diego area, it is attached to this message. FYI

I know you do not like to hear dissent from stakeholders at this stage of the process, however I am aware that a legal process is being considered to block the General Plan if these concerns are not addressed.

I also know that there is a general distrust by many Equestrian Stakeholders in the area of Cuyamucca Rancho State Parks due to the current management's behavior and techniques displayed recently.

I am trying to let you know about these concerns because I would like to see the Equestrian's concerns addressed and the process proceed to a equitable resolution for all including State Parks.

I personally feel that the concerns by the Equestrians regarding Cuyamucca Rancho State Park, and the General Plan could also be applied to other areas in California, and are not just specific to that State Park.

Please review the list attached, and comment

It is also my understanding that an article from the Equestrians who have concerns regarding the CRSP General Plan will be published soon in local media, I will forward that on to your FYI as soon as I know it has been published.

Just trying to keep you all in the loop on this important issue.

Thank you

Bob Gage

List of concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamucca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~decommission, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.

Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.

The map on

page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..

Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.

Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and management..this has changed! We equestrians protest shared uses of equestrian camp grounds.

Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity.

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We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.

Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

From: [Bob Gage](#)
To: [Review_Environmental@Parks](#)
Cc: [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#); [nastro@parks.ca.gov](#); [trute@parks.ca.gov](#); [Falat, Dan@Parks](#); [Wade, Sue@Parks](#); [Ketterer, Brian@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan: 90-Day Extension of Comment Period
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 11:58:45 AM

This message is to request an extension of the Comment Period for the Cuyamaca Rancho State park General Plan.

I have been watching the process of the General Plan Review at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park with great interest. I have tried to see the entire picture from all perspectives, from the stakeholders and the land managers, and the general public perspectives. I must say, I am very disappointed in the entire process. This has not been a transparent process that involves all equestrian stakeholders. There seems to be a bias by the State Parks Management towards certain stakeholders.

I am concerned that the current management of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and the Southern Division is systematically and with discrimination trying to eliminate or drastically change equestrian access to the parks resources. They also seem to be making attempts to change the Wilderness areas to accommodate the Mt Bike community at the expense of other stakeholders and the environment.

I contend that the Equestrian Stakeholders recognized by State Parks in the process did not represent all the equestrians in the area, only a chosen few, some with ties to the park through contract employment, were allowed to participate. Several individual local equestrians were told they could not participate in the process. The Equestrian Stakeholders who did participate, did not communicate all the issues and data with the local members of the Equestrian community in a non-biased and open manner, therefore did not represent the equestrian community adequately and accurately.

Evidence is available to prove the accusations of alleged violations to the process of an open and complete review of the General Plan.

I would request that the period for review of the General Plan be extended to allow for adequate and accurate representation of the Equestrian Stakeholders be accomplished. I believe a further review of the impact of environmental changes, especially to the Wilderness areas is required. I believe that any change in trail use designation or facility use designation should be reviewed under a thorough PEIR process. Any trail to be designated as a "shared use" or "multi-use" trail, must comply with accepted trail design, construction and maintenance standards in order to be safely used by all trail user groups.

Please extend the General Plan review process for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to allow for a complete and accurate input from all Stakeholders. Especially those equestrians who have not been represented adequately by those individuals chosen to be the "equestrian stakeholders" by State Parks locally. These individuals have not represented the entire

Equestrian Community adequately and accurately.

Sincerely,

Bob Gage

Equestrian Trail Access Advocate

Member of numerous Equestrian Organizations Statewide.

530-521-7369 Cell

From: [Bob Gage](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments on the General Plan for Cuyamuca Ranch State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 1:20:36 PM
Attachments: [Comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014 01.docx](#)

This message is to communicate concerns regarding the General Plan for Cuyamuca Rancho State Park.

I have been watching the process with great interest, I have some great concerns on the issues in this particular park.

It appears that one trail users group is getting special treatment and other user groups are being discriminated against.

Also changes in the trail use and facility designations are being done with out the required PEIR process.

It also appears that the Equestrian Community locally and Statewide was not adequately represented by the "chosen" equestrian stakeholders, some equestrians in the local area were told they could not be a part of the process, to me that is discrimination.

Specific items of concern for the General Plan area attached in a file: [Comments for General Cuyamuca State Park](#)

Thank you for reading my concerns and comments on the General Plan for Cuyamuca Rancho State Park.

Sincerely,

Bob Gage
Concerned Equestrian Trail & Access Advocate
bobgage@wildblue.net E-Mail
530-521-7369 Cell

From: [Bob Gage](#)
To: [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#); [Matsumoto, Barney@Parks](#); [Musillami, Steve@Parks](#); [Stehl, Alexandra@Parks](#); [General, Plan@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamuca Ranch State Park General Plan Comments
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 3:29:00 PM

Today October 6th is the final day for input comments on the Cuyamuca General Plan, However, I am aware that a sizeable number of equestrians in the area are feeling that they were inadequately and inaccurately represented in the negotiations on this plan. Mr. Patterson informed me early in the process that the equestrian stakeholders had been selected and that no additional equestrian stakeholders could be heard or participate in the meeting process, that seemed odd to me, however this is what I was told along with some other equestrians in the area. It is the feeling of many equestrians that they were not adequately represented and that there may be some conflict of interest of some individuals in the group selected to represent equestrians by Mr. Patterson.

It would seem logical to me that a 90 day extension would hopefully appease those equestrians who feel they were inadequately and inaccurately represented and provide time for them to evaluate the General Plan for themselves and then provide input to the plan based on what they find in the plan, not what had or had not been presented by the small selected group of equestrians chosen or limited by Mr. Patterson.

There are many issues and concerns from local equestrians, they are:

They did not address the following specific issues in /& / to the General Plan:

"

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. "Horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, "horseback riding" should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under "Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities," please include "the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site." This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

Page 2-49: "Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities" should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: "a location could not be agreed upon" is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain

(no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5: Issues Analysis. Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 are able to be reserved, as two sites are ADA and Site 8 is the camp host's site. The rest of the Green Valley's sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the Green Valley corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the large type of living quarters trailers and rigs that equestrians now use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??
Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Page 6-11 References management and recreation and I request that Equestrian camps have separate campsites from the public.

California State Parks Commission Policies support that on Page 35 Policy III.7 Conflicting Recreational Use and Page 40

Policy IV Public Safety.

"

Additional concerns:

Wilderness changes in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

They disagree with several areas to be changed. It appears to be catering to mountain bikers, while ignoring the requests of equestrians. Most adjustments would not qualify as multiuse under the PEIR program.

Map~Page 4-71

#1 East Mesa and Deer Springs trail area~. Maintain as wilderness while establishing a multi-use trail corridor ("**cherry-stem**") on the Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail (65 acres) Creates an impact of increased/heavy traffic by mountain bikers connecting to Laguna Recreation/ Cleveland National Forest area by the "**Cherry Stem**"

#2 Westside Trail between Japacha Fire Road and Arroyo Seco Fire Road (34 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program.

#3 Eastside Trail between Sweetwater Parking Lot and East Mesa Fire Road (45 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program or justified.

#4 Blue Ribbon Trail between South Boundary Fire Road and Merigan Fire Road (110 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use, per the PEIR Program and the adjustment is not justified.

It seems to me that these Equestrians should be heard and their issues addressed, right now it seems like the local Cuyamuca Rancho State Park management is playing favorites with the stakeholders and the Equestrians are being pushed out of the park, is that what you want them to feel?, it that what you want to happen?

This may not go away soon and there maybe repercussions if their voices are not heard and their concerns addressed.

Just suggesting that if California State Parks wants to serve the public, then it would be wise to hear these equestrians and address their concerns.

They were not represented adequately or accurately by the members of the Equestrian Stakeholders chosen or limited by Mr. Paterson.

Happy Trails

Sincerely,

Bob Gage

Very Concerned Equestrian trail & access advocate statewide

530-521-7369 Cell

bobgage@wildblue.net E-Mail

From: [Glen Gallo](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:57:29 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Glen Gallo
12940 Via del Valedor
San Diego CA 92129

From: [Juan B Garcia](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 9:02:28 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails

Garcia, Juan

Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Juan B Garcia

From: [Rebekah Garrett](mailto:Rebekah.Garrett@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 3:15:14 PM

To Whom it may concern,

As a horse owner, as well as a practice manager for a busy equine veterinary practice, I know how important it is to have and maintain horse trails and equestrian camping in our parks. I hear stories everyday from clients about the wonderful memories made while horse camping and riding the trails in our national, state, and county parks. I and many of my friends have enjoyed many days and hours in Cuyamaca State Park throughout the years.

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a BCHC member(s) we/I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e. **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We/I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

--[if !supportLists]-->Ø If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

--[if !supportLists]-->Ø Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Rebekah Garrett
Hospital Admin
[EVSVC](http://EVSVC.org)
[Equine Veterinary Specialists](http://EquineVeterinarySpecialists.com)
Medical Center
951-737-1615
rebekah-evs@sbcglobal.net

Garrett, Rebekah

From: [John Gerstenberg](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:24:21 PM

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that State Park staff has put into this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. As an avid hiker, mountain biker and trail runner, I believe the proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Respectfully,
John Gerstenberg

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: careysuen@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2014 11:57 AM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: please hear our voices

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~decommission, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.

Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.

The map on

page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..

Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.

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We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.

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Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications

Francis Glancy

Carey Nitsch-Glancy

From: bgoehring@hughes.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:10:51 PM

Hello, My family has had the pleasure of using the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park horse camp. We enjoyed the camp, trails, and the fishing at the lake.

I would like to voice my concerns

1). I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

2). As a BCHC member(s) I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

3). I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

4). I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

5). I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

6). If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

7). Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Thank you for your consideration.
Beth Goehring (BCHC)
707-227-2270

From: [Tristan Gonzalez](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:21:32 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Tristan Gonzalez

From: [Doreen Harlow](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:51:31 PM

Dear Planning Team members:

I support the request to extend the time for public comment on the plan.

Doreen Harlow
CRSPIA Member
Cuyamaca State Park Mounted Assistance Unit

10368 Boulder Creek Rd.
Descanso, CA 91916

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: hdavis1022 <hdavis1022@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2014 8:43 AM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Equestrian Use of Cuyamaca

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My family has been riding our horses over the beautiful trails of Cuyamaca for 4 generations. I am very concerned about the future of Cuyamaca for the equestrian. Los Caballos and Los Vaqueros were both created for horseman and by horseman. The State of California's original "Enabling Legislature" approved the camps for the specific use by equestrians only. Thereby allowing non horseman the use of the parks is violating the law of the State of California which can only be changed by the State Legislature.

By allowing non horseman to camp along side horseman not only deprives other horseman of the opportunity to camp, it puts the non horseman and their children in danger. As a riding instructor I have spent many hours teaching adults and their children how to safely behave around horses. Only another horseman understands how to read a horse's body language when it is about to bite, kick, buck or bolt. The state of California will be putting itself up for many future lawsuits when some non horseman child runs up behind a horse and gets kicked in the face or gets bitten when they try to pet a horse in its corral. The State will also be responsible when an entire group of horsemen get bucked off because a non horseman rides a bike or motorcycle closely behind them and fails to recognize that the horses are nervous about the sounds and presence of something strange coming up behind them.

I feel that your lack of consideration for the equestrian will destroy the opportunity for our future generations to enjoy these beautiful mountains by horseback.

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at LosVaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~**decommission**, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.

Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.

The map on

page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday [08/21/14](#) and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..

Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.

Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and **management**..this has changed!We equestrians protest shared uses of equestrian camp grounds.

Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity

Page 3-10 3.3.5 Equestrians push for the equestrian camp here, The General plan indicates a camp. (before they build a hotel!)

Page 2-49 additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" in the language here.

Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish ,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is ahistorcial re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan.

Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ...

Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds.

Page 4-21 should read a new location **HAS not yet been found.**

Page 4-21 No, Green Valley Falls Equestrian is substandard as far as trailers/rigs..

Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake.

Pages 5-22- 5-23 "human remains", this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of humane artifacts...it should be clarified.

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Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S™III, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Robert & Donna Hein
30305 Crescent Moon Dr
Valley Center, CA 92082
760-310-4185
760-533-4184

RE: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

We are members of The Vista Palomar Rider, Tierra Del Norte Arabian Horse Association, Valley Center Trails Association, Friends of Hell Hole Canyon Open Preserve, and Pacific Crest Trails Association.

We enjoy and support Horseback riding, as a sport and form of exercise for both horse and rider.

The State of California, and San Diego County, preserved many wonderful trails, and parks that support horseback riding. We are very thankful to the generations that have come before us, and their thoughtfulness to preserve these treasure, for us, and future generations to enjoy.

Rancho Cuyamaca State Park is one of our favor places to camp with our horse. We have had the pleasure of camp at both the group camp grounds Los Vaqueros, and the individual Camp ground Green Valley Horse Camp.

After reviewing the Proposed changes to the General Plan. We find that again our Equestrian needs are being considered and met.

The General Plan includes new plans to improve trails, by looping them, and adding additional trails. A proposed additional Horse Camp on the northern part of the park is very exciting.

We do have a few suggestions to add, the size of the rigs for both campers and horse have increase. Many of the rigs are 45 to 50 feet long, and do not fit well into the parking currently provided at Green Valley, only one site would be suitable for a rig of this size. As you move forward with you planning please consider larger parking stops, pull thru preferred when possible.

Also for safety one entrance and one exit route would be wonderful, as are having to deal with the risk of wild fires in southern California. (We have been trapped in Los Vaqueros as the one entrance/exit (one lane road) was blocked by fire equipment).

Not part of the General Plan by as a side note, it has been brought to the attentions of the equestrian Community that Los Vaqueros, and Green Valley Horse Camps are now being opened to people without horses. We understand if the Group Camp Los Vaqueros is not being rented by Equestrian Groups it should be open to non-equestrian groups to enjoy. We would only ask that the Equestrian Groups be given priority, as we cannot camp in other sites with our horses. A few months of registration for Equestrian Groups only, if still open within a month of the opening date then open the registration to non-equestrian groups. This would give all the local clubs time to use the Group site. Another suggestion would be to reduce the rate when booking for an entire week, rather than a weekend. As for sharing Green Valley with Non-Equestrian Campers within the site, we would question this from a liability stand point. We have camped at this site, and lots of non-campers walk or ride bike through the sites. No problem, but we would be concerned for the safety of our horses and the fellow campers in a mixed group without prior horse knowledge. The risk of campers spooking or feeding a horse without owner permission could very harmful, when we are out on a trail we are with our horse at all time, in camp not the case.

We found the trail out of Green Valley to be wonderful, and we were in camp the weekend of the Endurance Ride in June. It would wonderful to see the trails being used by so many horse groups that weekend.

Again thank you for all your hard work and keeping horse out and about in Southern California, we would not want them to fade into our history. We want them to carry us into the Future.

Sincerely,
Donna & Robert Hein

Hein, Donna & Robert

To the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/23/14

This is my comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. I also made note of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Page EXE-3 Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, sect 2.7.4 please.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites to reserve because one site is the camp host site, and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: "Driving Forces behind Trends," "horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been the history of the park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes and will continue to be park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30+ years, therefore, horseback riding should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under "Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities," please include "the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site." This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15 please.

Page 2-49: "Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities" should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: "a location could not be agreed upon" is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5 Issues Analysis: While Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 to reserve as two sites are ADA and site 8 is the Camp host site. The rest of the GVHC sites

are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the GVHC corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs that equestrians use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increase use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers.

Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp. Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrians clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$ 550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening. " So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists?

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, the same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar fire, the restroom/shower at Los Vaqueros was rebuilt and several issues are worth mentioning: The shower head location causes the entire shower room to flood, including the dressing area. You dress while standing in water. It is a slip hazard. Also, the shower heads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill to contain the water in the shower area, it would help, but not sure if

this would have meet code requirements. The shower floors are almost flat (level), not allowing for good drainage, the shower and dressing area floods with the present shower heads in place. Water literally flows under the door thresholds to the outside. If the shower heads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...???
Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological artifacts. This should be clarified.

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Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

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Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.

Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Cindy Helms
11558 Bridle Path Lane
Lakeside, Ca. 92040

Member of Bonita Valley Horsemen
Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders
Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Daryl Hern](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments to General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 8:37:08 AM

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 10/6/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

I am fairly new to the equestrian community here in San Diego County and to horseback riding itself (just over 2 years.) My home equestrian group is Bonita Valley Horsemen of which I am the Treasurer and Membership Chair, and I do volunteer patrol out of Sweetwater Summit Park for the San Diego County Parks Dept. As well, I am a new member of TRVEA (Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Assn.), BCHC/San Diego and Anza units, and Ramona Trail Riders. I have had the pleasure of driving up for the day to horse ride at Cuyamaca and recently camped at Los Vaqueros for my first time.

What I am learning from fellow equestrians who have used Cuyamaca for many years is a major loss of equestrian sites and discrimination against horse riders. In particular, I know first-hand that Los Vaqueros is expensive (too expensive for a smaller group) and difficult to reserve with the booking company even though it is designated as a horse camp, and Green Valley needs better equestrian sites (shady, level, pull-through) and with a buffer zone from regular campers.

Therefore, looking to the future, I urge your team to work with the horse groups and consider their various comments and corrections to the General Plan to keep affordable, available, and safe horse camping sites and multi-use trails for future generations of horse riders.

Sincerely,

Daryl Hern

5110 Nannette St., Bonita, Ca 91902

From: [Veronica Hoban](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:04:27 AM

Dear General Planning Team,

A horse-specific camping and staging area in the north end of the Rancho Cuyamaca State Park must be included in the General Plan. The equestrian community has requested this since the loss of Los Caballos, and has reiterated this request at every public meeting of the plan. While we appreciate having Green Valley Horse Camp available for our use, it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. The limited number of horse sites actually available, about 12, are not well-suited for the needs of equestrian campers. Most sites are not level, present access challenges for larger rigs and lack sufficient shade over corrals. Under current policy, equestrians share Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. This presents safety risks to horses and riders from those who are unfamiliar with appropriate behavior around horses. A dedicated equestrian camping area would be a safer alternative. In the interim, Rangers should consider screening non-equestrian campers to avoid placing campers with dogs and young children near equestrian camp sites.

Equestrian activity has been an integral part of the history of Rancho Cuyamaca State Park, and the unreasonable closure of Los Caballos has impacted the equestrian use of the park adversely. Providing an alternative in the General Plan for a dedicated equestrian camping facility and staging area in the northern portion of Rancho Cuyamaca State Park would mitigate some of the adverse impacts. Please be aware that other agencies such as the federal and California Fish and Wildlife Departments also are attempting to restrict equestrian access to and use of public lands in other areas of San Diego County. Accordingly, Rancho Cuyamaca State Park likely will experience higher equestrian use in the future as equestrian users become displaced from other public lands.

As an added observation, I only recently became aware of the General Plan. It does not appear that your agency has provided reasonable notification to interested stakeholders regarding the opportunity to comment. I formally request that you grant a 90 day extension of the public comment period to give others like myself time to read and comment on the General Plan.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Veronica Hoban

From: [Veronica Hoban](#)
To: [Review.Environmental@Parks](#)
Cc: [Patterson.Bob@Parks](#); [Nastro.Louis@Parks](#); [Trute.Barry@Parks](#); [Falat.Dan@Parks](#); [Wade.Sue@Parks](#); [Ketterer.Brian@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan: 90-Day Extension of Comment Period
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:27:06 AM

Dear General Planning Team,

This is a formal request for a 90 day extension of the public comment period regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

I and many other stakeholders became aware of the opportunity to comment on the General Plan only in the last few days, leading me to question whether California State Parks has made a sincere effort to seek comment from the diverse range of equestrian stakeholders who use the park. The General Plan is lengthy, and requires careful reading. More time is needed to make meaningful comment on the General Plan.

Thank you,
Veronica Hoban

From: dede.hoeft
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cayumaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:18:09 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow human-powered mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
- 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a

key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

— Dede Hoeft

13929 Cayucos Court, San Diego, CA 92129

From: [Eric Hollander](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:31:57 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Eric Hollander
9412 Hito Court
San Diego, CA 92129

--

Eric Hollander, L.Ac. Owner
Fertility Points Acupuncture
7204 Clairmeont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92111
619-817-6447
www.acupuncturesandiego.org

From: [John Holloway](mailto:John.Holloway@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:28:26 PM

Dear California State Parks,

I am a long-time hiker and mountain biker at CRSP, including over a decade of volunteer assistance patrol. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

These are truly innovative, yet simple solutions to providing better access for longer distance trail travel, allowing better experience of the CRSP backcountry by avoiding roads. The trail experience will be much improved.

Holloway, John

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. Frankly, I am pleasantly surprised by this update, especially concerning mountain bike access. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

John Holloway

From: [Brentt Hoover](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:05:56 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Brentt A. Hoover, CFP®
619.840.0909
brentthoover@gmail.com

Hoover, Brentt

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Allan Horn <Allan@precisionwallcovering.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 1:55 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern

You must keep the horse campground as this is a big asset to the park.

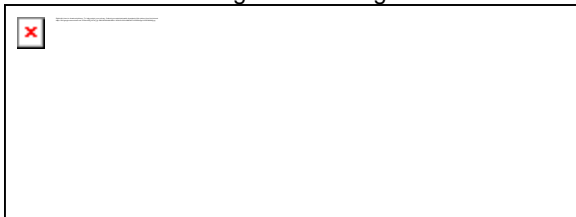
All So Cal groups use this campground as one of the few dedicated horse campgrounds in Southern Cal.

Thank you as a tax paying educated American,

Allan Horn

View our redesigned website at www.precisionwallcovering.net

Precision Wallcovering and Painting



Office: 949-493-1300

Cell: 714-469-5166

Fax: 949-493-9892

Email: Allan@PrecisionWallcovering.net

<http://www.PrecisionWallcovering.net>

27126 Paseo Espada B #703

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

From: b.howse@att.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:34:16 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Billy Howse ~
William Howse Contractors
& Construction Defect Services
CA Lic.#926673 - B, C27, C53
Office: 619.583.2357
Heb. 12.1-2

Howse, Billy

From: [Estee](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, September 07, 2014 5:54:05 PM

I am hoping this is being sent to the right email as I just pressed on the link.

I was wanting to voice my concerns about the Cuyamaca trails and horse camps we equestrians have access to. I grew up riding in these parks especially Cuyamaca! And I would like my grandchildren to be able to as well. I work at a local tack shop and speak to quite a few equestrians daily and I've heard stories about accidents related to dirt bikes coming in contact with equestrians resulting in accidents. Equestrians are allowed but dirt bikes are not. And it's not only dirt bikes but mountain bikes as well. There are a lot of blind corners going up and down hills which could result in more, as the bikers race down them and around corners.

Equestrians are slowly being pushed out of where we once were able to ride freely. 93% of the parks are for "non-equestrians". We only have 7%. And it is not fair that non-equestrians are able to rent out horse camps, as we equestrians can't rent the others. We would have no need to rent out the "non-equestrian camps" if our camps weren't booked with non-equestrians. Honestly it's unfair and is discriminating against equestrian riders. I hope we can resolve these issues as a community and not individually. I want my children, as well as grand children to be able to grow up riding in these parks and to learn about all the wildlife we see and how to protect them. And to have the same family experiences as the generations before.

Estée Huffman

Sent from my iPhone

To the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/29/14

These are comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. Notes are made of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

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are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the GVHC corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs that equestrians use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increase use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp. Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrians clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$ 550.00 a night.

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this would have meet code requirements. The shower floors are almost flat (level), not allowing for good drainage, the shower and dressing area floods with the present shower heads in place. Water literally flows under the door thresholds to the outside. If the shower heads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

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Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.

Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hughes

Vice President /Lakeside Frontier Riders

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Scott Hultgren](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:00:02 PM

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Sincerely,

Hultgren, Scott

Scott Hultgren



Scott Hultgren

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Phone: [949 35HALLA \(354-2552\)](tel:94935HALLA)



To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

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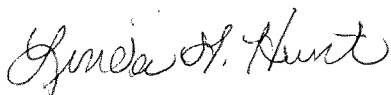
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Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Linda G. Hunt

7650 Madison Avenue, Lemon Grove, Ca. 91945

Phone: 619-469-0606

Lakeside Frontier Riders Member

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Jessica Iburg](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca General Plan update
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:06:13 AM

Dear California State Parks,

I am an avid hiker, trail runner, mountain biker, and volunteer with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association and Crestridge Ecological Reserve. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

Iburg, Jessica

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Jessica Iburg

From: [Craig I](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 11:35:42 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Sincerely,

Craig Inada
3104 Cherrypoint ct
Fallbrook, CA 92028

From: [Mike Jennings](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: State Park Regulations
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:32:14 PM

--

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,
Mike Jennings

Mike Jennings
mikejennings@san.rr.com
mjennings@sdmba.com
619-318-1218

JuicePLUS+ Orchard, Garden and Berry Blends are the easy and inexpensive way to add more nutrition from fresh, raw fruits and vegetables to your daily diet.

The equestrian community is concerned regarding the reserving of Los Vaqueros & Green Valley equestrian camp grounds to non-equestrians.

We know that the camp grounds need to be reserved for the revenue.

Equestrians do not have many camp grounds available to them.

Also, mixing non familiar public with equestrians and their horses may prove to be accidents waiting to happen.

I would like to suggest; the equestrians be given the right/privilege to make their reservations first, the first week of the previous 7th month before, and then open it up to the public.

The summer months are most in demand. The spring and fall are easier to reserve, because families are not on vacation with children back in school.

Would you be able to assist in this matter?

Sincerely

Joyce Jewell

Treasurer

Lakeside Frontier Riders

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

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The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

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Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: "a location could not be agreed upon" is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

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difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

✱ Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified. STEAK BONES

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

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Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



JOYCE JEWELL
EQUESTRIAN CAMPER
TREASURER
LAKE SIDE FRONTIER RIDERS

From: [Kai Johnson](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:26:09 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Earlier this spring, several friends and I scouted and rode a mountain bike route from Red Tailed Roost on Mount Laguna down to Chula Vista, using as many legal off-road trails as possible, and of course as much singletrack as possible. We did use the West Side and East Side trails as currently

Johnson, Kai

signed, and I certainly urge you to adjust the wilderness boundaries to allow use of these trails. The changes to the wilderness boundaries at Green Valley would open other options for cycling routes, so I urge you to approve these changes as well.

Further south, we were forced to ride SR-79 into Descanso. If the Blue Ribbon trail were open to mountain bikes, it would make an excellent connection, and make it possible to avoid riding with vehicles on the road. Given the rising frequency of texting while driving, and the rash of hit-and-run accidents that have injured cyclists in San Diego County, I can't emphasize enough how important the off-road cycling options are.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Kai Johnson
4402 Braeburn Rd
San Diego, CA 92116

From: [Scott Joiner](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:12:41 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Scott T Joiner
619.368.5744

From: [Basil Jones](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: sierragoldens@san.rr.com
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and EIR
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 12:49:03 PM

enviro@parks.ca.gov

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR.

I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to incorporate multi-use on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain multi-use access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

For over a decade I have been a frequent user of the popular East and West Side trails, as well as **East Mesa and Deer Park trails that allow one connection to the Indian Creek and Noble/Laguna trail systems**, therefore I support the goals and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29, and adjusting these perimeters to better define the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

1. Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
2. Decommission wilderness at Green Valley which will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School which would open new trail connection possibilities.
3. **Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.**
4. Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
5. Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has already had multi-use designation for decades.
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7. Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multi-use trails and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to incorporate trail connectivity to areas in and outside State Parks in this and future Roads and Trails Management Plans.

Jones, Basil

Sincerely,

Basil E. Jones
135050 Essence Rd
San Diego, CA 92128

Basil Jones
Senior Development Specialist



Organogenesis Inc.

10933 North Torrey Pines Road | La Jolla, CA 92037 | United States

Phone: (858) 754-3788

www.organogenesis.com

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To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/22/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

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Jones, Sandy

difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

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Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

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The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

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Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?


We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Sandy Jones

PO Box 2283 Spring Valley, CA 91979

cell: 619.408.4100

Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders & Bonita Valley Horsemen

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Tom Jones](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 10:41:12 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Tom Jones
Founding Member, IVMTB
ivmtb.org

Tom Jones 周圣安
951.595.7737 Mobile
motbones Skype
about.me

From: [Martin Jorgensen](mailto:Martin.Jorgensen@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Response to State Parks from the Cuyamaca Equestrian Stakeholders Committee concerning the Preliminary General Plan for Rancho Cuyamaca State Park
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:46:46 PM

The Cuyamaca Equestrian Stakeholders Committee would like to respond as a committee to the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. We would like to thank Bob Patterson and State Parks staff for taking the time to meet with our committee and discuss issues relating to equestrians and trails in Cuyamaca. After review of the preliminary plan we have the following questions we would like answered:

I-78-1 On page 1-19 mention is made of the fact that during the Equestrian Stakeholders meetings committee members expressed their concerns about the allowance of trail use within the proposed natural and cultural preserves. The next sentence reads "If rerouted, trails would be put into place prior to the closing of others". Is that intended to mean what we were asking for, or what will happen as part of the plan? This is a very important point, as it is one of the things the Equestrian Stakeholder felt strongest about during the negotiations and we felt we had been given a verbal assurance by Mr. Patterson that this would be put in the plan. There is no further mention of this in the rest of the document, though on page 4-82 the General Plan supports a "reroute or remove trails as necessary" goal in the Cuyamaca Meadows Natural Preserve.

I-78-2 On page 2-10 the General Plan states that, at Green Valley Equestrian Camp "fifteen sites are available spring through fall, two of which are accessible". We assume this means those two sites are Americans with Disabilities Act sites. Is this indeed the case?

I-78-3 On page 2-11 the criteria for Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camp states a 30' maximum trailer length, with up to 15 trailers or 50 autos. There currently is no criteria for the number of trailers on the ReserveAmerica site for Los Vaqueros, and 15 trailers for the 45 corrals present there is insufficient- that would require each trailer to carry three horses, and many horse trailers only carry two. We object to a limit of 15 trailers being established as it is unneeded and unreasonable.

I-78-4 On page 4-9 the matrix for horseback riding in a Wilderness management zone shows that hitching posts are not allowed and water is not provided. There are several locations in the proposed Wilderness Management Zone- Dyar Spring being one of them- where there are currently hitching rails and/or water sources. Does this mean that the water source and corrals there will be removed? Will this affect the current trail camps at Arroyo Seco and Granite Springs?

I-78-5 On page 4-86 the General Plan states that goal for Camp Hual Cu Cuish is to "restore and adaptively reuse the Camp Hual Cu Cuish area for structured public use..."- there is no mention of the parking area continuing to be used as an equestrian staging area, nor any mention of where that staging area would be moved to if the Hual Cu cuish site is developed.

We look forward to your response.

The Cuyamaca Equestrian Stakeholders Committee

Martin Jorgensen mjg82754@yahoo.com

Bill Butters billbutters@yahoo.com

Ernie Smith descansocowboy@gmail.com

Mark Kukuchek Mcchek@cox.net

Theresia Jorgensen tlh9749@yahoo.com

From: [Terry Jorgensen](#)
To: [Review_Environmental@Parks](#)
Cc: [Jeani Buchanan](#); [Jessica Parkhurst](#); [Margaret Hill](#); [Martin Jorgensen](#); [Patty Heyden](#); [Terry Jorgensen](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 1:33:45 PM

The following comments are from Backcountry Horsemen of California-San Diego Unit regarding the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.1.

1. We feel that it is a very high priority to locate an acceptable site and construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
2. We want to participate in partnership with State Parks to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.
3. We suggest that equestrian groups, such as the Stakeholders Committee or other trail advisory organization, be consulted to design connector trails to form long loops for riding to specific destinations as well as short loop trails out of the horse camps.
4. We feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.
5. We feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed. We encourage the posting of safety information in all shared use camps and/or trails.
6. If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail and no decrease to the total number of equestrian trail miles.
7. Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Terry Jorgensen, Public Lands Chair
Backcountry Horsemen of CA—San Diego Unit
www.bchcsd.com

From: [Theresia Jorgensen](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 2:59:13 PM

I would like to make the following comments on the general plan. I have read the entire document 3 times. I am an equestrian and frequent user of the park for day rides and overnight camping both at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

1. I support multi use trails when the safety of all user groups is considered and the trail conditions allow for safe passing and adequate line of site, I would continue to request the appropriate signage be placed at the trail head and along multiuse trails with safety guidelines that are enforced.
2. I strongly oppose any reduction in trail mileage. Although some trails may appear to be redundant on a map there likely is a reason for the parallel or interconnected trails. Some allow for a shorter or longer ride or a less difficult trail for a child or beginner rider. I support the state parks collaborating with the Equestrian Stakeholders Committee before labeling any trail as redundant. **This includes any rerouting of trails, develop the new trail before closing the old one.**
3. I support the active search for a location for an equestrian camp in the North end of the park. Many sites have been looked at and may need to be revisited. Active collaboration with the equestrian stakeholders committee and the equestrian community will provide input as to the needs of the users of the camp.
4. I support greater collaboration for educational programs in all of the camp. As a member of Backcountry Horsemen of California-San Diego unit and a certified Wilderness Rider we could provide many informational and educational programs, especial if multi use trails and mixed use camps will the future.

Thank you for allowing for this open comment period again and for the previous public information sessions. I would look forward to continuing to work with State Parks to protect the future of equestrian use and enjoyment of Cuyamaca State Park.

Terry

From: [Patti Karcher](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: COMMENTS ON THE GENERAL PLAN FOR CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:03:46 AM

Please see my attached comments on the General Plan for CRSP.

To the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/25/14

These are my comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. I also made note of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Page EXE-3 Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, sect 2.7.4 please.

Page 2-6: "A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include "equestrian parking" in its description, as is specified for "Sweetwater" day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites to reserve because one site is the camp host site, and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: "Driving Forces behind Trends," "horseback riding" needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been the history of the park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let's not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes and will continue to be park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30+ years, therefore, horseback riding should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under “Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities,” please include “the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site.” This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15 please.

Page 2-49: “Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities” should read “North end equestrian camping facilities and staging” for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: “a location could not be agreed upon” is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5 Issues Analysis: While Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 to reserve as two sites are ADA and site 8 is the Camp host site. The rest of the GVHC sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the GVHC corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs that equestrians use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians’ trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increase use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have “requested” an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a “strong desire.” Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states “requests” for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

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equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp. Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrians clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$ 550.00 a night.

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shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

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Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Karcher, Patti

Patti Karcher

Patti Karcher
P.O. Box 782
La Mesa, CA 91944

Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders
Pine Valley Mountain Riders Board
American Paint Horse Association

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper

NOTICE: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and is only for whom it was intended. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver the message to the intended recipient, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If this communication has been received in error, please immediately notify Sharp HealthCare at the telephone number listed above.

This report is strictly confidential and is for the information of the individual or entity named above. Sharp cannot accept responsibility for further disclosures made by you or the intended recipients. For certain patient records, confidentiality is protected by state and federal laws. These laws prohibit you from making any further disclosure without the specific written authorization of the person to whom the information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by law. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

From: [Mark Kukuchek](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General plan
Date: Saturday, October 04, 2014 8:47:17 AM

Please find my specific comments on the general plan below:

1. I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp. The old boy scout camp Haul Cu Cuish should be one of the considerations as a location for this camp.
2. If Camp Hual Cu Cuish is developed into another entity the existing Equestrian Staging area must be relocated to another suitable North end location before development starts.
3. I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros. While Green Valley Horse camp is an adequate camp some improvements need to be made to allow for the larger horse trailer /living quarter rigs now commonly used by the horse community.
4. Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.
5. If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.
6. As a member of the Equestrian Stakeholders committee I want to participate in the development of the Trail Plans to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Thank you for your consideration, I am:

Mark Kukuchek

Member of Equestrian Stakeholders Committee, Back Country Horsemen, Bonita Valley Horsemen,
Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association

From: peggysuebchclp@charter.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 5:55:45 AM

These are my comments to the general plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

As a BCHC member I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.

I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.

I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e safety for all, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.

Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Thank you,

Peggy Sue Ladley

Public Lands Director
BCHC, Los Padres Unit
PeggySuebchclp@charter.net
(805) 674-2205

<http://www.bchc-lpunit.org>

From: [Donna Lauber](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Horse camps
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:40:55 PM

Please keep our horse camps open.

Support them.

Ms. Donna Lauber
Community Interest Representative

From: [maria biondo](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca State Park Equestrians
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 4:52:13 PM

Dear People, Much fuss about this and just getting back into town I do want to comment. Please do not mix horse people with non-horse people. Many dangers exist. Also there are few camps for equestrians, yet we are helpful patrolling the trails, picking up trash and reporting problems, even haul in equipment to make repairs and clear trails. Please, please keep Los Vaqueros in Cuyamaca for horse people only. Please make another camp for horse people only. Mixing at Green Valley Falls will only keep equestrians away, and/or create more injuries. Save the 911 calls for the rock climbers. Please keep equestrians safe and represented with adequate camping space safe for horses and people'
I ride with Julie Murphy and agree with her comments about these issues. Please take this seriously as the following story will show:

A horse frequented by my Farrier, Joe Murritti, bit his finger off even before he felt anything. Unbeknown to him, some children had been hard feeding the familiar horse treats. When he reached for the halter, the horse flashed out, expecting a treat, and bit off Joe's finger with his greed. Please this example is mild. Dangerous situations happen with these powerful animals, and non-horse people are at risk, as much as horses learning dangerous behavior from non-horse people.

My Name and info:

Maria Biondo Longton
16656 Shady Oaks Dr
Ramona, CA 92065
760 789-4772
mbiondolongton@yahoo.com

From: [Brian Loudis, DVM ABVP](mailto:Brian.Loudis_DVM_ABVP@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:51:47 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and for all the work that your staff has put in to this process. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate; recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
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 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple-use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage California State Parks to continue this momentum and many of us look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Brian Loudis
3434 Corte Clarita
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Loudis, Brian

From: [David Lowrie](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:41:35 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I hope there has been adequate study and consideration as to letting mountain biking take place on public trails at all, but certainly not in a horse camp. I am not against mountain biking by any means, but for the safety of all other trail users bikes need to be relegated to "their" area, like motorcycles, parks and areas for them. The speed is simply too dangerous as recognized by the many, many instances of hikers being hit, horses being spooked by the stealth and speed of bikes and even other bikers.

Thank you.
Dave

From: [Lynne and Joe @ att](#)
To: [Review, Environmental@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:36:06 PM

Please do not make changes to the Cuyamaca Park that will diminish or eliminate the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Campsite.

Please act to preserve this valuable resource for today and for the future horse campers. We have so very few places to do this kind of trail riding that it is vitally important to save it.

Regards,
Lynne Malinowski
619-717-6391

From: [Mary Jo Malone](#)
To: [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#); [Nastro, Louis@Parks](#); [Trute, Barry@Parks](#); [Falat, Dan@Parks](#); [Wade, Sue@Parks](#); [Review, Environmental@Parks](#); [Ketterer, Brian@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 5:22:55 PM

Dear Cal.State Parks:

This is a formal appeal for a 90 day extension of the public comment period of your process of adopting the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP).

- 1) The State Park has not sufficiently sought comment from the public in that the State Parks have denied access to comment meetings and have narrowed down input to hand-picked stakeholders, some of which have a conflict of interest. This is in direct violation of the Brown Act.
- 2) The State Parks took down (over a year ago) the information sign at the Sweetwater trailhead, and, consequently, many people were unaware that the CRSP General Plan was available for public comment.
- 3) The General Plan is voluminous, and requires hours of tedious reading to provide comment.
- 4) I and many other stakeholders, having been advised of the General Plan word of mouth just recently two weeks ago, need time to circulate petitions regarding certain items neglected in the plan.

I would appreciate an immediate response to this request, as I have not had time to properly read the Plan, and I would like an opportunity to provide my stakeholder input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Jo Malone

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Phylicia Mann <phylicia330@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2014 12:23 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~**decommission**, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

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Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

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Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity

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Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish ,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is a historical re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan.

Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ...

Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds.

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Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??
Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake.

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We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.

Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Monica Martin \(Consultant\)](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park concerns
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 12:52:14 PM

My name is Monica Martin and I have been camping at Los Vaqueros as long as I can remember. We already lost Los Caballos horse camp, I do not want to lose another. Please see my list of concerns below regarding the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

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Thank you,

Monica Martin



EDF Renewable Energy
15445 Innovation Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
T: 858.521.3553
C: 619.922.2358

www.edf-re.com

From: [Peggy Martin](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Re: Campground Reservations
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 4:35:04 PM

Thank you very much for clarifying this in regards to the General Plan.

I also have a procedural question: How is it that changes in trail use being addressed in the General Plan, such as changing the Wilderness designation, thereby allowing shared use on Blue Ribbon Trail, but other trail "requests" by equestrians are being pushed to the upcoming Roads and Trail Management Plan (not sure that's the correct title...)? Also, will there be a trail assessment done before such changes are made? If I should direct this elsewhere, kindly let me know.

Regards,
Peggy Martin

On Tue, Sep 16, 2014 at 3:42 PM, Review, Environmental@Parks
<Environmental.Review@parks.ca.gov> wrote:

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan recognizes Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Group Camp and the General Plan's language supports that continued use. However, since there are no laws or State Park policies which limit use of the campground to only those with horses, it would be unenforceable for a general plan to try to regulate any campground to one particular type of user or direct who specifically can and cannot reserve the camp. Therefore, the reservation and use of Los Vaqueros by non-equestrian groups will not be addressed in the General Plan.

It should be noted that when the group camp at Paso Picacho is rebuilt and open to the public (It's now in the design phase), it should reduce the potential for non-equestrians to reserve Los Vaqueros.

A response to e-mails commenting on this issue shall be provided in the Final General Plan/EIR.

Thank you,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

From: [Janet Martinca](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:52:48 PM

Janet Martinca
Lake Cuyamaca, Julian, CA
Cuyamaca State Park
1014

October 2,

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106

Attention: Cuyamaca State Park General Plan Team

My husband and I have been riding our horses and camping in the park since 1994 and bought property in Julian in 1998 and built our first house so we could be minutes away from Cuyamaca State Park (Park). We then sold that house and just built a new house at Lake Cuyamaca to actually be in the park for easy access to ride our horses on our favorite lake loop ride. The new General Plan Maps A & B seem like too many changes to an already great park. We lost so much in the 2003 Cedar Fire including Los Caballos Individual horse camp and staging area. We have been waiting for over eleven years for a replacement. Here are my thoughts and suggestions on the new General Plan:

- Trail around and behind lake, and around Los Vaqueros need absolute guarantee of continued existence. Save all existing trails, a must, and keep all existing trails for hiking/equestrian going through sensitive areas such as Natural, Cultural, and Historic Preserves open.
- Do not move MAU camp. Hikers/equestrians need them there by the Lake.
- Need individual horse camp in North end of Park near the old Los Caballos or Los Vaqueros Camp. Hual-Cu-Cuish area would be a great spot also. We do not want to be put in the desert or anywhere without trees or easy access to the lake trails.
- Do not close staging area at Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish.
- Sweetwater going South has heavy mountain bike use and is unsafe for hikers/equestrians.

We had several dangerous encounters there while riding our horses. Very scary as mountain bikes were on trails listed as equestrian/hiking trails. Keep trails that are equestrian/hiking only for safety reasons.

- Keep equestrian campgrounds equestrian. Equestrians will not be safe on any trail in the North side of the park if a large group of mountain bikers is at Los Vaqueros campground. The first time we took our horses to ride at Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve, we were met by three men telling us there was a mountain bike event that day and we would not be safe riding in the preserve.

- Do not change trails to multi-use and keep equestrian/hiking trails safe. Changing trails to multi-use is very dangerous for hikers/equestrians and I have seen the dangers first hand in Cuyamaca State Park (Milk Ranch Road area, Azalea, Sweetwater, Soapstone Grade), Griffith Park, Montana de Oro, Peter's Canyon Reservoir, Irvine Park, Santiago Oak's Park, Casper's Park, and Chino Hills State Park (my husband and I were on the mounted assistance unit). Very concerned with safety on multi-use trails that have always been safe in the past. Keep mountain bikes on fire roads and off of the narrow steep blind curved hiking/equestrian trails. I know first-hand what it is like to have two speeding bikes come around a blind corner and crash into my horse and I.

- Need safe trail along SR79 from Hual-Cu-Cuish to Kelly Ditch Trail (Engineer Road) to ride/hike to William Heise County Park. Completely washed out going toward Engineer Road just past the store/restaurant.

- Use trail machine as much as possible.

Thank you, Janet Martinca

From: [John Massie](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:15:51 AM

Sir:

As a long time user of horse facilities in Cuyamaca I find the new general Plan as proposed has some useful considerations.

I fully support the BCHC comments regarding this plan.

John Massie
San Vicente Saddle Club
WRamona CA 92065

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Let me preface this letter to express my disappointment with you, the Planning Team, in disregarding the large quantity of public requests for an extension of the public comment period. I feel that you are violating the public trust in this refusal of providing adequate time for the public to read the voluminous Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (PGP) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. You took down the information sign at the Sweetwater trailhead, and thus maintained a low profile during the public input period. Are you adhering to the minimum CEQA required 45-day public review period simply to minimize your work load? It certainly looks that way.

Since your Team has denied the public an extension to the public review period, this is to provide official comment regarding the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (PGP) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Further comments and petitions will be submitted at the Commission hearing scheduled for November 14, 2014.

I and many others like me OPPOSE any expansion of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. The land is historical ranch land (the name reflects that), and should not be abused by human environmentalists trying to micromanage mother nature. Many current environmentalists are chasing theories concocted with phoney science.

In that vein lies the practice of allowing thick brush to remain under trees and thus providing fuel for forest fires. You should have a goal of thinning brush and trees in order to establish healthy, thriving trees. After a fire, the large trunks of fallen trees should be removed. When trees die from insects or disease, they need to be cut down and removed. There are many dead trees still standing from past fires. The State Park should let local loggers come in, remove them, and keep the wood.

Horses are a HUGE part of the historical value of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. All historical sites need a goal of preserving and presenting the horse and rancher relationship. PUT THIS GOAL IN THE PLAN and FOLLOW THROUGH with it IN YOUR GUIDELINES.

Los Caballos horse camp SHOULD BE REINSTATED. It was taken away from the people under false reports and corrupt dealings. Take all reference to plant rehab in that area out of the PGP.

In a separate e-mail I will forward you an itemized list of comments regarding equine use at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. These comments are valid and make good sense. Please closely consider them.

Sincerely,
Pamela McAdams

From: [Jason McDonald](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:11:29 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Jason McDonald

From: [Carmen McWay](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park general Plan Comments
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 8:27:41 PM

I am requesting an extension to the public comment period of the General Plan of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Many folks believe that the gathering of the public comment information has been mishandled by the State Parks people. Also, why was the information sign at the Sweetwater staging area taken down over a year ago? We need more time for many other people to read the voluminous proposed General Plan. We also need time to circulate petitions. I am a trail rider and feel that need more trails and would like to keep what we already have in place.

Carmen
PO BOX 309
Mount Laguna, Ca. 91948

“Let a horse whisper in
your ear and breathe on your heart.
You will never be the same.” – Unknown

Carmen McWay
chicasblueone@yahoo.com

From: [Matt Merritt](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca General Plan update
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:50:39 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Matt Merritt
Carlsbad, CA

September 28, 2014

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say “requests” for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference the north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, Sect 2.7.4.

Page 2-6: “A day-use parking lot (Merigan day-use parking), should include “equestrian parking” in its description, as is specified for “Sweetwater” day use.

Page 2-10: Under Equestrian Use, correction needed. There are 15 horse sites, but really only 12 horse sites are available to reserve because one site is the camp host site and two other sites are ADA.

Page 2-14: Driving Forces behind Trends. “Horseback riding” needs to be added to this section. Horseback riding has been an active part of the history of the Park and the reason for camps Los Vaqueros and Los Caballos (unfortunately closed) and now Green Valley Horse Camp. Horseback riding is a sport and lifestyle that includes all generations, not just youth specific, and let’s not forget the volunteer Mounted Assistance Unit. Horseback riders have been using this park since its establishment, before the arrival of mountain bikes, and equestrians will continue to be Park users and campers. Equestrian clubs have been riding and camping here for 20 to 30 years; therefore, “horseback riding” should be included in this section.

Page 2-15: Under “Impact of 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities,” please include “the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site.” This verbiage is found on Page 3-4.

The Park replaced the restroom/shower building at the Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp as it was destroyed in the Cedar Fire, and this should be added to this paragraph on 2-15.

Page 2-49: “Additional equestrian staging and camping facilities” should read “North end equestrian camping facilities and staging” for clarity, as equestrians have always requested this since the loss of Los Caballos.

Page 3-4 Section 3.2.1: Horseback riding: “a location could not be agreed upon” is incorrect. Some locations were off limits due to environmental/cultural reports, and other sites were not feasible due to road access, terrain (no water, no shade, wind exposure, not level), site size, and no/limited access to the trails network. Please reference page 4-91, section 4.5.2 which describes some requirements of a horse camp.

Page 3-5: Issues Analysis. Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 are able to be reserved, as two sites are ADA and Site 8 is the camp host’s site. The rest of the Green Valley’s sites are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the Green Valley corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for

Miller, Kimberley Clark

the large type of living quarters trailers and rigs that equestrians now use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increased use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.5: Equestrians did ask for Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a replacement for Los Caballos. If reconstructed as a campground, then it is a possible location for a north end horse camp.

Page 3-10, Sect. 3.3.6: "Loop A" was a replacement for the loss of Los Caballos, AND no location was given for equestrians in the north end of the Park. As of the new current policy, equestrians are sharing Green Valley Horse Camp with non-equestrian campers. Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp.

Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrian clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists.

Page 4-55 #6: As long as the re-route is completed BEFORE closing the trail.

Page 4-20, #2: If group camps are reopened for regular campers and other campsites developed and expanded, then the Horse Camps (Green Valley and Los Vaqueros) could go back to exclusive use of horse campgrounds. Otherwise, equestrians are discriminated against because everyone else can come into our sites but we do not have the same opportunity. We don't have the flexibility to move around to other campsites. We are limited to facilities and sites because we are equestrians. Isn't that discrimination?

Page 4-21: Horseback Riding: a new location for north end of the Park has not yet been found. Please see 2-49 2.7.4, where it accurately states requests for a horse camp and horse staging areas in the north end of the Park. Please see 3-5 Issues Analysis, same applies.

Page 4-60.1: After the Cedar Fire, the restroom/shower facilities at Los Vaqueros were rebuilt, and several issues are worth mentioning: The showerhead location causes the entire shower room floor to be wet, including the dressing area, requiring one to dress while standing in water. It is also a slip hazard. Also, the showerheads do not adjust, so the water sprays into the dressing area. If the showers had a sill/curb to contain the water in the shower area, it would help. In addition, if the showerheads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the Park, and it is a shame that for the expense the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

Page 4-82: No. 4 is a concern, "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Clark Miller

11311 Manzanita Road

Lakeside, CA 92040

619-719-3463

Lakeside Frontier Riders

Saddle Sore-Ority

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Martita](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 12:48:14 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Martha Moore
14970 Amso st.
Poway,ca 92064

Sent from my iPad

From: [Bill Moser](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: GENERAL PLAN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK, SAN DIEGO
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 4:10:03 PM

We are members of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and are writing to comment on the renovation plan at the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:

*We would like to see a horse camp built at the Northern end of the Park to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp

*We would suggest that equestrian groups be consulted in the design of the long loop trails out of the camps. many of the existing trails end at nowhere

*We are concerned with the safety of our horses and also the safety of the other campers, hikers and bikers. We feel that there should be separate campgrounds for equestrians and for campers with a sufficient buffer zone for safety. We would like to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vasqueros.

*Please, when considering additional trails, safety must be a primary concern if horses and bikers must share the same trails. Mandated rules and safety guidelines must be in place and enforced.

*We would also request that only equestrian campers be permitted in equestrian campgrounds of Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp in Cuyamaca, and this issue would be resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the park.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Bill and Marcia Moser

Backcountry Horsemen of California

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Julie Murphy <ca_barrelracer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks General Plan concerns~ revised...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

- I-102
-1 Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.
- I-102
-2 Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.
- I-102
-3 Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~**decommission**, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?
- I-102
-4 Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.
- I-102
-5 Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.
- I-102
-6 Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.
- I-102
-7 The map on page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..
- I-102
-8 Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)
- I-102
-9 On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...
- I-102
-10 Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.
- I-102
-11 Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and **management**..this has changed!We equestrians protest shared uses of equestrian camp grounds.

- I-102
-12 Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity
- I-102
-13 Page 3-10 3.3.5 Equestrians push for the equestrian camp here, The General plan indicates a camp. (before they build a hotel!)
- I-102
-14 Page 2-49 additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" in the language here.
- I-102
-15 Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish ,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is a historical re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan.
- I-102
-16 Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ...
- I-102
-17 **Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds.**
- I-102
-18 Page 4-21 should read a new location **HAS not yet been found.**
- I-102
-19 Page 4-21 No, Green Valley Falls Equestrian is substandard as far as trailers/rigs..
- I-102
-20 Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary....
- I-102
-21 Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake.
- I-102
-22 Pages 5-22- 5-23 "human remains", this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of humane artifacts...it should be clarified.
- I-102
-23 Page 5-34- Impact Anaylis- instead of "could" it should read "should"
- I-102
-24 Page 5-36 "potential" equestrian staging area should read "**a new equestrian staging in the area will require.....**"
- I-102
-25 Page 5-41 again no project alternative (for los Caballos)as stated above on page 5-8 ?
- I-102
-26 Page 5-42 and 5-43 -new alternative not necessary?
We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.
- I-102
-27 Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?
- I-102
-28 Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278

From: [Julie Murphy](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Re: Campground Reservations
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:58:09 PM

Your own plan states >

"The current version of the General Plan was adopted in 1986. The purpose of the General Plan update is to revise the plan to reflect changing conditions and issues, include additional state park lands that are now adjacent to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and to **update the vision, goals, and policies set forth in the Plan.** Public input will be used to help guide the development of the General Plan update"

I request you address this as a policy issue in the plan as uses are part of then plan.
Thank You,
Julie Murphy

From: "Review, Environmental@Parks" <Environmental.Review@parks.ca.gov>
To:
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 3:42 PM
Subject: Campground Reservations

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan recognizes Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Group Camp and the General Plan's language supports that continued use. However, since there are no laws or State Park policies which limit use of the campground to only those with horses, it would be unenforceable for a general plan to try to regulate any campground to one particular type of user or direct who specifically can and cannot reserve the camp. Therefore, the reservation and use of Los Vaqueros by non-equestrian groups will not be addressed in the General Plan.

It should be noted that when the group camp at Paso Picacho is rebuilt and open to the public (It's now in the design phase), it should reduce the potential for non-equestrians to reserve Los Vaqueros.

A response to e-mails commenting on this issue shall be provided in the Final General Plan/EIR.

Thank you,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

From: [Julie Murphy](#)
To: [Review.Environmental@Parks](#)
Cc: [Ernie S Smith](#); [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#)
Subject: Re: Campground Reservations
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 8:55:20 AM

In response to this e-mail I went back and read several areas of the plan, read page 6-11 of your general plan..and let me know why this isn't part of the plan under management?
Julie

From: "Review, Environmental@Parks" <Environmental.Review@parks.ca.gov>
To:
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 3:42 PM
Subject: Campground Reservations

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan recognizes Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Group Camp and the General Plan's language supports that continued use. However, since there are no laws or State Park policies which limit use of the campground to only those with horses, it would be unenforceable for a general plan to try to regulate any campground to one particular type of user or direct who specifically can and cannot reserve the camp. Therefore, the reservation and use of Los Vaqueros by non-equestrian groups will not be addressed in the General Plan.

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A response to e-mails commenting on this issue shall be provided in the Final General Plan/EIR.

Thank you,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

From: [Julie Murphy](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Fw: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan extension request
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 10:03:52 AM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Julie Murphy <ca_barrelracer@yahoo.com>
To: "Louis.Nastro@parks.ca.gov" <Louis.Nastro@parks.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2014 11:16 AM
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan extension request

Commissioners,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is undergoing a General Plan update, we are in the last few days of the final comment period which ends October 6, 2014.

The equestrian community as a whole had no input as to who was chosen for the eight stakeholder seats, several were denied a seat. This is a violation of the Brown Act and the State Park Commission Rules.

The General Plan communications states that it directly contacted 50 equestrian clubs, I belong to several organizations and none of them were contacted, and the 50 reported organizations cannot be named now by State Parks. We have attempted numerous times to resolve concerns with State Parks representatives with no resolution thus far. (They sent a list of meeting attendees but not the direct contact info)

Equestrians have been distracted by the "New camping policies" that Mr. Dan Falat Colorado District Supervisor has made at the park, equestrian campsites are being filled by non equestrians and limiting our camping opportunities. It is dangerous to mix the uneducated public near equines, on the trail we have command of our animal, in the corrals not so much.. some corrals are more than 50 feet from the campsite. It goes to safety IV.3 and conflicts III.7 Mr. Falat lacks cooperation in this matter and refuses to budge.

Besides the fact the Document is very lengthy we are having trouble getting through the whole plan with these distractions. We have many concerns...so far but need more time, therefore I request an extension on the general plan.

Your immediate response is requested.

Julie Murphy

From: [Julie Murphy](#)
To: [Review.Environmental@Parks](#); [Patterson.Bob@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 10:39:21 AM
Attachments: [Comments for General Plan Cuyamaca State Park October 2014 01.docx](#)

Please review my concerns on the general plan add Page 6-11 Management

I have also requested the Equestrian camping issues in the park be included in the GP and according Page 6-11 and California State Parks Commission Policies.

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STATEMENTS OF POLICY

Page 35 Policy number III.7 Conflicting Recreational Use

"Where there is conflicting, through legitimate, demands for recreation use of the state park system unit, the department will make every effort, consistent with public safety, to provide opportunities for such uses through separation according to time or location, or through similar operational measures."

I-102
29

Page 40 Policy number IV.3 Public Safety

"As a corollary of its charge to administer, protect, and develop the State Park System the Department of Parks and Recreation has a responsibility for safety of visitors and personal. Every reasonable caution shall be taken to reduce or eliminate existing and potential hazardous, dangerous, and defective conditions, if any, which are sources of injury to persons or property."

I also request an extension to the General Plan due to this distraction from the plan on the equestrian camping issue.

The General Plan is very lengthily and we equestrians need more time to focus on the plan.

Julie Murphy

From: [Julie Murphy](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Ernie; Peggy Martin](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan "Wilderness Changes"
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 12:02:42 PM

Wilderness changes in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park .

I disagree with several areas to be changed. It appears to be catering to mountain bikers, while ignoring the requests of equestrians. Most adjustments would not qualify as multiuse under the PEIR program.

Map~Page 4-71

#1 East Mesa and Deer Springs trail area~. Maintain as wilderness while establishing a multi-use trail corridor ("**cherry-stem**") on the Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail (65 acres) Creates an impact of increased/heavy traffic by mountain bikers connecting to Laguna Recreation/ Cleveland National Forest area by the "**Cherry Stem**"

#2 Westside Trail between Japacha Fire Road and Arroyo Seco Fire Road (34 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program.

#3 Eastside Trail between Sweetwater Parking Lot and East Mesa Fire Road (45 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use per the PEIR Program or justified.

#4 Blue Ribbon Trail between South Boundary Fire Road and Merigan Fire Road (110 acres) This is **not** compatible for multi use, per the PEIR Program and the adjustment is not justified.

Julie Murphy

I-102-
30

From: [Andy Nelsen](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 12:49:43 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Nelsen, Andy

Andy Nelsen
andymnelsen@gmail.com
619-952-8329

From: [Cliff Nelson](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:00:40 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Nelson, Cliff

Sincerely,
Cliff Nelson
13234 Olive Grove Dr
Poway, CA 92064

From: [John Nickerson](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca draft management plan
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:27:47 PM

Greetings,

I grew up in Poway in San Diego County. I frequented the area in and around Cuyamaca State Park as far back as I can remember. I remember trips to the park in the winter to play in the snow, followed by hot apple cider in Julian. Other times of the year we would hike through its forests and openings to observe wildlife and get some exercise. I was always in search of the elusive mountain king snake. I went to sixth grade camp at Cuyamaca. Cuyamaca State Park was also a favorite study area for plant taxonomy field trips when I studied at Palomar College. I think it was these sorts of experiences as a child that led me to my career as a forester.

I-110-1 As a registered forester now living (and working) in the other extreme of the state, I still get the opportunity to visit Cuyamaca occasionally. During a family visit for Thanksgiving several years ago I was impressed with the change that occurred at Cuyamaca as the result of the Cedar Fire. I was equally impressed with the efforts to implement restoration activities and thought of the challenging social and ecological pressures that influence management actions. Seeing the planted conifer seedlings struggling to re-establish the island forest population gave a sense of hope that the unique forest community will be sustained. This is important since the drastic loss of forests resulting from the Cedar Fire can hardly be considered a natural event.

I am appreciative of the work that went into the development of the draft management plan. I especially enjoyed reading about the history of the park. The themes considered and addressed in the plan are impressive. I think the plan is well-written and outlines a course of action that will enable Cuyamaca to sustain its historical and natural assets while serving a burgeoning population that needs, now and in the future, the ability to connect with recreational opportunities and natural and human history in an outdoor environment.

The draft management plan addresses both active and passive vegetation management in an appropriate manner in order to address the uncertainties of natural succession to coniferous forests, especially given the climate trends anticipated in the future. The Cedar Fire was obviously extremely hot, resulting from 100+ years of fire suppression. The plan's call for prescribed fire is applauded and will likely create the 'natural' ecological conditions present prior to European settlement. It will also result in a forest community more resilient to future environmental disturbances. The activities envisioned under the management plan will allow Cuyamaca State Park to serve as a rich laboratory for studying varied successional responses to restoration.

I look forward to future visits to the park to observe firsthand how the approach to land management plays out. You can bet one of my focal points will be investigating the patterns of plant succession and, especially, conifer reestablishment.

--
John Nickerson

Nickerson, John

3461 Burnette Way
Ukiah, CA 95482

Office: 707-468-8529
Cell: 707-489-2443

From: [Brian Nixon](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:23:58 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Nixon, Brian

Sincerely,
Brian Nixon
11894 Cypress Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92131

From: [Bill Nolte](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:03:33 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
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 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
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 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Bill Nolte
IMBA Member

WLN92024@yahoo.com

Nolte, Bill

From: jeff.osteen
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 9:36:13 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,
Jeff O'Steen

O'Steen, Jeff

From: [Molly Olberz](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 6:47:01 AM

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Molly Olberz

From: [Mike](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho SP general plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:13:48 PM

Bravo to the CA State Park for drafting a sensible plan which considers and improves mountain biking and other trail uses in the area.

I support the plan as proposed, and I thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep/make the CA Parks system user friendly, and to consider all users including cyclists.

Sincerely,

Mike Ousley

Ousley, Mike

From: [Michael Owen](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Saturday, October 04, 2014 12:34:22 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Sincerely,
Michael Owen

From: minetteo@hotmail.com on behalf of [Minette O. Review, Environmental@Parks](#)
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Comment on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:22:37 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Sincerely,

Minette Ozaki
2275 Via Aprilia
Del Mar, CA 92014

San Diego Mountain Biking Association Board Member
Valley Center Trails Association Board Member

Ozaki, Minette

From: [John Paterson](mailto:John.Paterson@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:50:44 PM

Hi,

I would like to thank you for an opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I grew up in San Diego and have visited the park since I was a little boy and loved the park. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Sincerely,
John Paterson
14750 Carmel Ridge Road
San Diego, CA 92128

From: [Derrick Patstone](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca General Plan Update
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:38:50 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Derrick Patstone

From: [Susie Patton](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 11:10:06 AM

I have reviewed the General Plan for Cuyamaca and I have to say it is one of the most attractive documents I have read lately. I am supportive of the following items in the Plan:

- 1) Rebuilding a horse camp in the north. It has been too long since the fire and we need this process to move ahead.
- 2) This is a beautiful destination for horse groups and we want to keep it that way
- 3) Use of volunteer groups to accomplish work in the park. Backcountry Horsemen are great at doing the hard work on the ground.

I have a few concerns:

- 1) Equestrian groups need to be consulted to complete long loops to specific destinations. There are too many trails that don't go to the desired locations.
- 2) Keep mountain bikes and horses off of the same trails and out of the same camps. This is a critical safety issue.
- 3) Don't close a trail until a re-route or alternate route is complete.

Another issue, not really part of the Plan is the non-horse use of horse only camps. Please continue to try to resolve this issue without any permanent loss of horse camps.

Susan and Troy Patton
Backcountry Horsemen Members

From: [Janine Paulette](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 6:51:18 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am an equestrian that rides regularly in the Cleveland National Forest, including Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Just yesterday I heard about the Plan regarding changes to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. This is brand new to me and I would respectfully request an extension on the implementation of the Plan to allow me adequate time to read it in its entirety. Apparently the information about the Plan has not been disseminated in an efficient manner leaving us without the ability to determine how the changes will affect us.

Again, please extend the deadline for the implementation of the Plan.

Thank you and I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janine Paulette, Mount Laguna CA 91948

From: [Terri Polley](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:28:48 PM

- I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

- I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

- An item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park. I believe it is beneficial to all parties to keep horse camping areas as specific use - minimize the conflict between different user types.
Terri Polley

Terr

From: [Bob Ponting](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:18:04 PM

Dear California State Parks,

i want to thank you for an opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and applaud the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

1. I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Sincerely,

Robert Ponting
5762 Calvin Way
San Diego, CA 92120

Cell: 858-210-5084

From: puppetsafari@cox.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan comment
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:02:38 PM

Dear Planning Team,

I am in full agreement with the comments submitted by Cyndi Denny and Julie Murphy on the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

I am a life-long San Diegan, many years a horse owner, an independent business person, and treasurer of the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, a 501(c)3 equestrian group in south county. TRVEA has had thousands of members over the life of our organization and it is safe to say that EVERY ONE of them LOVES Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and values it as a place to enjoy our equestrian recreation.

PLEASE make a good equestrian presence continue to be possible in this beautiful Park! Cuyamaca is one of the greatest places on earth and one of the nicest places in all of San Diego County for long distance riding and for equestrian family and friend gatherings.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mary Johnson Powell
TRVEA

Powell, Mary Johnson

From: zypowers@gmail.com
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:59:45 PM

Dear California State Parks,

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Sincerely,
Zina Powers
1724 El Rosal Pl
Escondido, CA 92026

From: [Rob Raab](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Rob raab](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 3:25:20 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Raab, Robert

Sincerely,
Robert M. Raab (San Diego County Resident)

P.S.: This is a form email, but I agree holeheartedly with all contents.

From: [Jeff Rucker](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:56:33 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Jeff Rucker

Jeff Rucker
Director, Project Management
Systech Corporation
10908 Technology Place, San Diego CA 92127
858-613-2427

From: [Steve Rush](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Regarding Cuyamaca State Park plans
Date: Saturday, October 04, 2014 10:27:57 AM

I have been informed that there may be some redrawing of lines in the park, that would allow access to some trails that up to now are not accessible to bicycles. This would be great for me.

I am partially disabled, and while I cannot hike for more than one hour without pain I can pedal my trail bicycle for many hours, with no pain at all.

I would DEFINITELY use/ride on all of the trails that would be accessible under the proposed re-drawn lines. I enjoy the park as it has increased the number of trails I can use over recent years, but it would become my go-to destination in San Diego county, were this re-drw to actually happen.

Even though I have a permanent blue placard, I still regularly ride the trails in the park, as well as in the nearby Mt. Laguna area. I simply do so carefully. It is one of the things remaining that I can do which makes my life worthwhile.

Sincerely,

/Stephen Rush, San Diego CA.

From: [Gail Sabbadini](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, September 07, 2014 9:44:09 PM

There are lots of places for people to camp, there are very few places for people to camp with their horses. Please keep those few that do exist for exclusive use by equestrians. Thank you.

Sabbadini, Gail

From: [Jenny Sathrum](mailto:Jenny_Sathrum)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Camping for Horses
Date: Saturday, October 04, 2014 10:54:28 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am a horse owner who is concerned about the plans for camping in the Cuyamaca area.

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp. As a BVH member I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan. I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere. I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers to increase safety for all, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items like kids playing with balls. Horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to KEEP the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros. I feel that when considering additional trails, thought must be given to horse, rider and biker safety on mixed use trails so that proper protocol is followed. If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail. Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns and consideration of equestrian users at the parks!

Sincerely,
Jenny Sathrum
Horse Owner/Trail user
Bonita, CA

Deborah Schott
19535 Casner Rd
Ramona, CA 92065

Sept. 3, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in regards to the State Of California Parks – **Cuyamaca General Plan Update**. The proposed update is bluntly omitting equestrians from using this park.

The plan does not include a location for the replacement of the Equestrian Family Camp that is to take the place of the Los Caballos family camp ground that has been taken away and closed off for other uses. We have been waiting for this since 2007, yes 7 years !

In going through the 500+ page document, the following issues arise:

Pgs. 1-19 Does not include the wording “North End Equestrian Camp and Staging Area, as requested in the GP, by the stakeholders.

Pgs. 2-6 Needs to include the wording “Includes Equestrian Parking” .

Pgs. 2-14 “Driving Forces Behind Trends” fails to include horseback riding – PLEASE ADD.

Pgs. 2-49 states park users are in favor of current recreational opportunities. . . . This Has Changed ! We equestrians PROTEST the shared use of equestrian camp grounds.

Pgs. 3-5 “ Green Valley is NOT “well received” although many equestrians worked hundreds of hours to build this camp, it is substandard for many users. The road and sites are far too small for the average truck and horse trailer to fit.

Pgs. 3-10 1.1.5 Equestrian have requested an equestrian camp here. NO HOTEL!

Pgs. 2-49 ...additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read “ North End Equestrian Camping Facilities and Staging “ .

Pgs 4-16 and 4-37 All Historic Zone goals Need to INCLUDE “camping areas with Horse Corrals and Livery. Horses were a huge part of the HISTORY and SHOULD be included.

Pgs. 4-20 SHOULD READ “ Exclusive Use Of Equestrian Campgrounds”.

Pgs. 4-21 should read – new location has not “YET BEEN LOCATED” .

Pgs. 4-82 #4 CONCERN here, as is states remove trails as necessary... We equestrians any removal of trails without replacing them with an equivalent trail, considering all aspects of the trail.

Schott, Deborah

Pgs. 5-36 “Potential” should read “ a new equestrian staging in the area will require...”

Pgs. 5-42 and 5-43 – We Request A NEW EQUESTRIAN FAMILY CAMP in the NORTH section of the Cuyamaca State Park ! and have been requesting this for 7 years now....

MAP: pgs. 2-9 existing conditions – trails are equestrian or hiking only. Perfect ! but the signs that have been placed at these trails are multi-use and include bikes! No proof of the “PEIR” approval process to have these signs installed.

It is my sincere hope that these issues and more, do not fall on deaf ears. Horse have been a long standing part of the Cuyamaca State Park, dating back to its inception. Even today, the equestrians offer assistance to thousands of park guests each year, officially and unofficially. Hikers and equestrians enjoy sharing trails, where safe. Most hikers stop to take pictures and pet the horses. It’s an experience that “makes this park” . It was horses who built this park, hauling in the necessary supplies. Please include us ! I’ve been riding my horses on this land for 45 years, it’s why we have parks, to build families, and now my children and my grandchildren ride these trails. Please consider us. Call me anytime with any questions, I’d be happy to speak with you and your team.

Kindest Regards,

Deborah Schott
760-443-0809
Email: BigSchottRanch@hotmail.com

Cc:
Senator Joel Anderson
Assemblyman Brian Jones
Congressman Duncan Hunter
San Diego County Board Of Supervisors Dianne Jacob

From: [Probabilly](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:16:24 PM

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
 - 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to

working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Regards,
William Sefton
6191 Rancho Mission Rd #310
San Diego, CA 92108

From: melindasetterman@cox.net
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 12:18:21 PM

GENERAL PLAN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

October 6, 2014

Re: Comments about the Plan

I am a user of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. I ride the trails on my horse and hike on foot on the trails, and I camp with my horse at both Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Horse Camps. I request that the two horse camps remain open and available for horses as a priority.

The General Plan for the Park has ignored the equestrian community's requests for an additional camp and more trails and also has discriminated against equestrians by restricting and pushing out horses from facilities and/or trails.

A priority should be to build a horse camp in the northern part of the park which is a replacement for Los Caballos Horse Camp which was closed after the Cedar Fire, over ten years ago. Another priority is to rebuild the other group camps so they are made available and there will be enough group camps for both equestrians and non-equestrians.

There should be additional trails added, some multi-use and some horse only, and that the park should consult with equestrians, the stakeholders, or MAU for suggestions on where to place the trails and connection to other trails. And if any trails are to be closed that alternative routes be opened before closing the original trail.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Melinda Setterman
10635 Vista Camino
Lakeside, CA 92040
619 937-5061
melindasetterman@cox.net

From: [Duke Shea](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Ranch State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 12:24:31 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. **I travel down the the Cuyamaca / Julian area several times a year from North Orange County.** I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Shea, Duke

Duke Shea
Brea, CA

From: [John](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:25:15 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
John Shummate
3243 Lone Jack Rd
Encinitas, CA 92024

From: [Evan S](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 10:34:53 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR as presented, with specific mention of the following items:

I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular I would like to mention support for the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

- 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
- 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
- 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
- 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
- 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
- 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Evan Sollberger
San Diego, CA

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Peter StClair <phstc2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 5:15 PM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have read the General Plan and EIR.

They are deficient in many respects.

I-137 -1 First and foremost, they do not address issues raised by Parks Forward--particularly who uses parks, how and why, and at what cost.

While EIR's do not address costs and benefits, a General Plan should address how people will use the park and outline the financial and personnel resources will be used to implement the plan.

I-137 -2 Based on what little actual data is provided in the General Plan, it appears the park might be better served by expanding camping, hiking, bicycling and equestrian uses while at the same time allowing most of the rest of the park (Wilderness areas) to remain as is. Indeed, much of the General Plan appears to be directed at Historical and Cultural issues, which were of little to no importance to users who responded to surveys.

Second, the General Plan does not adequately address four of the most important issues facing the park:

- I-137 -3
1. Climate change, fire, drought and impacts to natural resources
 2. Trails and Roads (mountain bike and horse trails are put off to some later date)
 3. Equestrian camps and other equestrian related facilities such as watering sites, corrals, etc.
 4. Hual Cu Cuish use.

I-137 -4 I believe the statements about fire regime in Southern California may not be entirely accurate. There is a fairly long history of large wildfires. They are not just the result of accumulation of "brush". The concept of vegetative "mosaic" as some kind of restraint on wildfire has been discredited by academic work, scientific analysis and investigations following the Cedar and Witch fires. Therefore, some of the goals of the General Plan may lack scientific foundation.

I-137 -5 Without further analysis of these it is impossible to make a determination whether the proposed plan is better or worse than an alternative plan. Indeed, once issues 2, 3 and 4 are addressed in more detail (I read the meeting summaries and notes), the plan will be a very different document.

I-137 -5 The issues are of such critical importance to how the park will be used, staffed, paid for and exist that you cannot fall back on the concept of tiered EIR's to justify approval of this EIR. The data to make a meaningful determination whether the proposed plan is better than alternatives are just not there. The General Plan is too sketchy when it comes to how people will actually use the park in the future.

I-137 -6 Third, the visitor survey indicates the main park users live in San Diego, are white, have very high incomes (exceeding the county median by a great deal) and like to hike and camp. They do not use the visitor center,

I-137
-6 they do not pay much attention to interpretive programs, they do not visit historic or cultural resources. So given the lack of specificity in the General Plan as to future improvements that might attract different users, it is impossible for the EIR to come to any conclusion about impacts.

I-137
-7 It seems to me the General Plan fails to address the reality of how the park is used and does not set forth a vision as to how it will be used. Therefore my first comment, the failure of the plan to integrate recommendations of Parks Forward, is of heightened concern.

The General Plan would look a lot different if the writers had dealt with how people actually use the park and how the park should be staffed and funded.

I-137
-8 Fourth, the Plan and EIR appendix defines the term Adaptive Management to refer to re-use of historic structures. In natural resource conservation, the term is used to describe a process whereby unanticipated changes, such as climate change, fire, drought, disease, invasive species, or other threats are managed. This kind of adaptive management is missing from the plan.

Fifth, the Plan and the EIR assume restoration and reforestation--particularly in the Sky Islands, can work.

I-137
-9 Various programs instituted without environmental review have been ongoing for seven years since the Cedar Fire yet no data is provided in the General Plan or the EIR that would allow a reader, or an environmental analyst, to determine what has been proposed, what has been done, what protocols were followed, what has worked and what has failed.

The entire concept of programmatic restoration and reforestation appears to be at odds with other goals and policies set forth in the General Plan, including prohibitions present in wilderness areas of the park.

I-137
-10 Sixth, I could not find information on campground utilization. Are there enough campsites to meet demand? There is a possibility that Hual Cu Cuish could be used for camping, but even that possibility does not seem to be analyzed in the EIR.

I-137
-11 In summary, I do not think there is enough information in the General Plan to allow an EIR to be completed and certified.

What is the point of the EIR if none of the most critical threshold issues concerning human use of the park have been resolved?

Peter H. StClair
2341 Whitman Street
San Diego CA 92103
619-260-1307

From: [Jeanine Stacy](#)
To: [Review.Environmental@Parks](#); [Patterson.Bob@Parks](#)
Cc: [Denise McKay](#); [ca_barrelracer@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 10:31:35 PM

Please review my concerns on the general plan add Page 6-11 Management

I have also requested the Equestrian camping issues in the park be included in the GP and according Page 6-11 and California State Parks Commission Policies.

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

STATEMENTS OF POLICY

Page 35 Policy number III.7 Conflicting Recreational Use

"Where there is conflicting, through legitimate, demands for recreation use of the state park system unit, the department will make every effort, consistent with public safety, to provide opportunities for such uses through separation according to time or location, or through similar operational measures."

Page 40 Policy number IV.3 Public Safety

"As a corollary of its charge to administer, protect, and develop the State Park System the Department of Parks and Recreation has a responsibility for safety of visitors and personal. Every reasonable caution shall be taken to reduce or eliminate existing and potential hazardous, dangerous, and defective conditions, if any, which are sources of injury to persons or property."

I also request an extension to the General Plan due to this distraction from the plan on the equestrian camping issue.

The General Plan is very lengthy and we equestrians need more time to focus on the plan.

Jeanine Stacy
619-368-5584

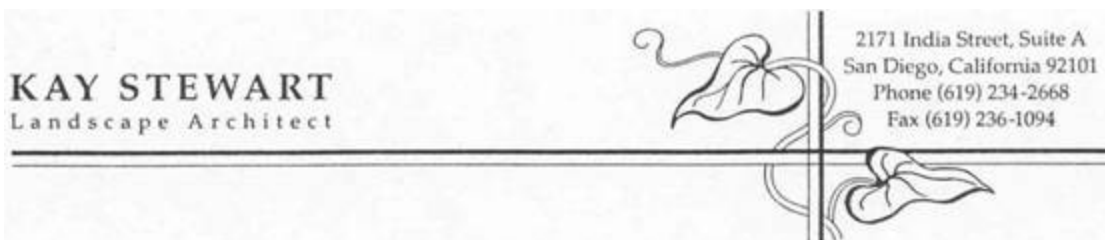
From: [Kay](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: kaytaff@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 5:41:02 PM
Attachments: [CRSP_GP_personal_comments.doc](#)

Dear General Plan staff,

I have attached comments to the Preliminary General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a word document, and also have copied and pasted them into the body of this email.

Sincerely,

Kay Stewart, CA Landscape Architect
2171 India Street Suite A San Diego CA 92101
www.kaylarch.com
619-234-2668



October 6, 2014

Attention: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
enviro@parks.ca.gov
subject line: "Cuyamaca Rancho SP General Plan"

re: Proposed Preliminary Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("CRSP") General Plan ("GP")

Dear CRSP General Plan Team:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and ask questions about the CRSP GP.

The CNPS San Diego Chapter has submitted comments to the GP, all of which I support. I submit this letter as an individual.

I-139-1 First, I want to add one concern about vegetation mapping shown on Figure 11. Chaparral whitethorn is the vegetation type noted for roughly half of CRSP. Were transects made? How many? Where? Is there a data base that can be reviewed? One area that is shown as this type, the south and east faces of Stonewall Peak, appears by me to be dominated by a mix of *Arctostaphylos* spp, not *Ceanothus* spp, and a CNPS member has collected over 400 species of plants in that area. I suspect this area is misrepresented in Figure 11, and that leaves me doubtful that the other areas are correctly represented. Could Figure 11

Stewart, Kay

I-139-1

have a supporting text that explains how the vegetation type was mapped for chaparral whitethorn or other types? If no surveys have been done in an area more than ¼ mile from a transect, should it most properly be identified as “type unknown?”

Also the vegetation type of Sugar White Pine is confined to the Oregon/Ca boundary in the Trinity Alps. It isn't the same grouping of species as at CRSP.

Second, I think the proposed GP and supporting documents are incomplete for failing to accurately describe the “reforestation project”, for failing to propose goals and guidelines, nor evaluate the probable environmental impacts of this project. I think that all this should be done before the GP and EIR would be submitted again for certification.

I anticipate that significant impacts of the reforestation project will be found, and therefore a thoughtful and rational environmental analysis as required by CEQA will be needed. If so, I will welcome that process as an opportunity for CA Parks to find ways to reduce, mitigate, and otherwise constrain the project from causing more harm to CRSP.

I wish to draw attention to two elements of the reforestation project that I think belong in the GP.

Reforestation is mentioned in only two places in the GP. One is in Section 2.3.2 page 2-26: “A Reforestation Project was initiated in 2007 to accelerate recovery by replanting 2,530 acres of previous conifer forest and oak woodland. The long-term goal of the reforestation effort is to restore the biodiversity and ecosystem function of the Sky Island Forest, which includes natural resilience to wildfire, disease, insects, and invasive exotics species. Natural post-fire regeneration is mimicked through a patchy distribution which, once the trees mature, will act as centers of seed dispersal for recolonization of the remaining previously forested areas.”

I-139-2

I think that the “reforestation project” as it has ensued, has grossly overreacted to the death of trees from the wildfires of 2003, and subsequent regeneration of the vegetation in CRSP. I think as it is being implemented, it is failing to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function. I also think it is not being implemented to create patches of trees but rather as connected bands of tree farms with great destruction to understory vegetation, soil, watershed function, and therefore the dependent wildlife in those areas.

About whether this project is needed, it is true that most of the conifers in the park were killed in the 2003 fire. Prior large fires in the historic period, the 1880's, 1970's and 1950's had also killed various conifer groves in extensive areas within CRSP boundaries. Many single aged mixed conifer/oak/pine groves were found before 2003, with various understory vegetation that reflected the tree canopy species, moisture, exposure, and soil conditions, which vary substantially within the park's 25,000 acres.

However only a few hundred Sugar Pines were living on the two peaks at higher elevations before the 2003 fire. Several dozen were old trees, the few remnants of their various aged cohorts from hundreds of years past, illustrating that large prehistoric stand-replacing fires had occurred, as proven by their varied ages and their paucity. Only about ¼ of those trees remained, all on Cuyamaca Peak, after 2003.

Most people understand that preserving the local sugar pine genotype is smart. Actions

other than the “reforestation project” as being implemented are possible, that are appropriate for protection of the CRSP ecosystems, and consistent with CA Park rules and regulations about limiting human action after a natural fire, could have been enacted, such as:

- collecting sugar pine seed every season thereafter from the remaining trees
- leaving a portion for natural dispersal by wildlife, runoff, and wind
- putting some seed into one or two seed saving facilities
- using seed to propagate and grow trees

Where to plant sugar pine seedlings would then be the question. I and many people I've talked with support the idea of selectively planting sugar pine trees where natural regeneration has failed, using methods that are not harmful to the many other species of plants and animals in CRSP. This concern is necessary to avoid damaging the distribution of the 400-plus species of plants and animals that are native to CRSP and that may be critical for the park to sustain itself over time, especially as climate change occurs.

I-139-2

There could be other plants in addition to sugar pine, e.g., white fir, incense cedar, and the three-needle pines (*Pinus ponderosa*, *coulteri*, and *jeffreyi*) which have all regenerated to some degree, but also could benefit from some infilling; or other species of plants that might be at risk in CRSP. The process of making a plan would decide which kind, how many were needed, where, what site preparation, if any, is needed. Why has this not been done in a way that is open to public and scientific review and discussion? The CEQA process would have enabled this to happen.

In 1910 Dr. Mike Wells provided a set of key research papers to CNPS regarding forest regeneration and *Ceanothus* interactions. All showed that native species of *Ceanothus* rebuild soil that has been stripped of nitrogen and other nutrients. One experimental study proved that shrubby *Ceanothus* adjacent to and above replanted conifers enhanced the growth of the young trees when compared to trees planted away from the shrubs (Erickson and Harrington, 2006). This is the kind of information that is needed to prevent big mistakes from being made. Why isn't this information included in the GP?

Why doesn't the GP, consistent with the goals of preserving the park, consider other possible actions, and through goals and guidelines, have transparent and comprehensive scientific discussions of the alternatives?

My third concern, is that I think the GP needs to clearly explain the CA Park contracts involving the state's carbon sequestration that lie behind the large scale tree-planting methods being used in CRSP sometimes referred to as “the reforestation project.”

I-139-3

The only mention of this project in the GP is in Section 2.6.3, Supporting Organizations, as follows: “American Forests/ConocoPhillips, Arbor Day Foundation, Coca-Cola®, Disney®, Odwalla® Inc., Poseidon Resources LP, and Stater Bros.® are funding partners for the Park's multi-year Reforestation Project that began in 2007.”

In fact, Disney and all the others are CA Park's customers, not “sponsors”. They are commercial customers in a contract with the parks for CRSP to provide them with carbon sequestration. This carbon offset program lets corporations pay for carbon sequestration in commercial conifer forest land and by planting trees in urban areas, to offset the corporations' carbon releases in their operations.. They would pay foresters to leave

commercial trees standing longer to offset their corporate CO2 output or plant where no trees exist yet in cities. The carbon gains are to be calculated over 100 years. Why isn't this clearly explained?

CA Parks are intended to protect all their natural resources, not just large conifers. In CRSP a couple of hundred species of plants won't survive being re-burned so soon after the 2003 fires, by people using commercial forest techniques that include cutting down and burning everything, to make it easy to plant thousands of little trees. This method disregards species diversity and the complex ecosystem they support. Also, as current research shows, it probably sets back the trees' growth by interfering with soil restoration. Probably for this reason, parks are not mentioned in the legislation. as likely candidates for the carbon offset program.

However, somebody (who was it?) got the idea that planting conifer trees in CRSP after the 2003 fires would kick off the act's implementation. This was done without any critical analysis of the actual species needs, alternative methods, impacts of alternate methods on the rest of the ecosystem, etc. CRSP's reforestation project was and is a publicity stunt for the carbon offset program. It started off by planting around a hundred thousand Jeffrey Pine seedlings from the central Sierra, at elevations in CRSP well above where Jeffrey pines grew before 2003, as well as adjacent to surviving local Jeffrey pine trees, which will contaminate the local gene pool of the Peninsular Range adapted populations. Could the GP please explain why this project is exempt from CEQA analysis given the clear impacts?

I-139-3

Shouldn't the public be informed that millions of dollars have been invested in the CRSP carbon offset tree-planting program? Shouldn't they know as part of the GP discussion of the reforestation project that this money pays for conifer tree-planting with disregard for all other species in CRSP?

The corporations that invest these large sums of money to plant conifer trees in CRSP have an expectation that the measurable and appreciable growth of trees is to be the outcome of their investment. If tree establishment is not achieving certain goals, additional acreage in CRSP could be required for tree planting per the contract. How does this not violate CA State Park regulations prohibiting the use of state park resources for any commercial enterprise?

These funds have also paid for a number of salaries in CA Parks now for around seven years. CA Parks organized a tree-planting team, and collaborated with a local non-profit volunteer group to serve to disburse funds received from Climate Action Reserve, a financial broker which also gets a share, by serving as the contract-interface between the Parks and the corporate funding sources. Does this suggest that these large sums of money have led CA Parks to avoid public transparency because people might question the integrity of CA Parks and its commitment to the mission of preserving CRSP's ecological integrity?

I ask these questions in the hope that coming up with good answers will help improve the future of CRSP with informed, committed action intended to assure its survival as an amazing natural treasure held in the public trust by CA State Parks.

Sincerely,

Stewart, Kay

Kay Stewart
CA Landscape Architect # 2967
2171 India Street Suite A San Diego CA 92101
www.kaylarch.com
619-234-2668

Citation:

Heather E, Ericson and Constance A. Harrington, Conifer-*Ceanothus* interactions influence tree growth before and after shrub removal in a forest plantation in the western Cascade Mountains, USA (Forest Ecology and Management 229 (2006) 183-194.

From: [James](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:51:00 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
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connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely, James Street, Street properties P.S. mountain biking is good for the economy

To the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/30/14

This is my comments and corrections after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers, and in some cases section number. I also made note of missing information and reference other pages/sections in the plan.

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Page EXE-3 Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the General Plan.

Page 1-19: Under equestrian stakeholder meetings, it should say "requests" for north end equestrian camp and staging areas. At every public meeting of the plan, equestrians requested a north end replacement camp for losing Los Caballos. The locations should specifically reference north end of the Park. See Page 2-49, sect 2.7.4 please.

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Page 3-5 Issues Analysis: While Green Valley Horse Camp is appreciated by equestrians, BUT it is not an equal replacement of Los Caballos. While Los Caballos had more sites, level ground, room for larger rigs, and shade over corrals and in the north end of the park. In Green Valley Horse Camp, only the ADA accessible sites are level, also only 12 sites out of 15 to reserve as two sites are ADA and site 8 is the Camp host site. The rest of the GVHC sites

are not level. Some sites require four-wheel drive to back the rigs into place. Half of the GVHC corrals do not have shade of any kind. This camp does not easily allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs that equestrians use. As the RV industry has changed with bigger rigs so has equestrians' trailers. There are only three pull-through sites to accommodate larger rigs. Access into some sites with larger rigs is difficult due to site location. Despite the many shortcomings of the Green Valley Horse Camp, equestrians are grateful for it, but this camp needs improvements which will encourage increase use, just as much as the other campgrounds.

Corrections: Equestrians have "requested" an equestrian campground and equestrian staging in the North Region of CRSP to replace Los Caballos in the north end of the park, not a "strong desire." Please see 2-49 2.7.4 where it accurately states "requests" for a horse camp in the northern part of the Park and additional horse staging areas.

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Rangers should consider campers without dogs and young children when placing non-equestrian campers with Equestrians at Green Valley Horse Camp. Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp is also being rented to non-equestrian groups, making group camp unavailable at key times for equestrians who only have the one group camp to use for the whole Park. Also, small equestrians clubs cannot afford to camp at Los Vaqueros because they cannot afford the \$ 550.00 a night.

Stated on Page 2-10: It is written "that a group camp in Paso Picacho Campground that was closed is being rebuilt and planned for reopening." So with the rebuilt group camp in Paso Picacho coming online, this issue is being addressed.

Page 4-16 and Page 4-37: And all Historic zone goals – Stonewall Mine and Haul-Cu-Cuish, are these historical re-builds going to include facilities, cabin/camping areas with corrals/livery also? If it is a historical re-build, it should include horse facilities as they were a part of the building transportation of the area during that time, also to include a blacksmith shop for the tourists?

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this would have meet code requirements. The shower floors are almost flat (level), not allowing for good drainage, the shower and dressing area floods with the present shower heads in place. Water literally flows under the door thresholds to the outside. If the shower heads had a swivel feature, one could adjust the showerhead downward for short individuals and redirect the water from spraying to the back wall. At present, if you are 5' 2" and shorter, the jet spray actually shoots over your head because the shower heads do not swivel. We know that the new bathroom at Los Vaqueros was expensive for the park and it is a shame that for the expense, the design is so poor.

The old shower house at Los Vaqueros was a better designed as old as it was, and you actually had a dressing area where your clothes stayed dry and you could change without standing in water.

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Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological artifacts. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications.

Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely, Billi-Jo Swanson



Member of Lakeside Frontier Riders, Bonita Valley Horsemen, Pine Valley Mountain Rider, Ramona Trails Assc, TRVEA, BCHSD, AQHA, AZQHA, APHA, PtHA, NFQHA, FQHR

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

From: [Julia Tarnawski](#)
To: [Nastro, Louis@Parks](#); [Ketterer, Brian@Parks](#); [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#); [Review, Environmental@Parks](#); [gail.ramer@asm.ca.gov](#); [Falat, Dan@Parks](#); [Wade, Sue@Parks](#)
Cc: [Julia Tarnawski](#); [Ducntuc Bruce](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Comments
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 7:00:39 PM

Attention to the State Park Planning Team:

This is a formal appeal for a 90 day extension of the public comment period of your process of adopting the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP).

- 1) The State Park Planning Team has not sufficiently sought comment from the public in that the State Parks have denied access to comment meetings and have narrowed down input to hand-picked stakeholders, some of which have a conflict of interest. This is in direct violation of the Brown Act.
- 2) The State Parks took down (over a year ago) the information sign at the Sweetwater trailhead, and, consequently many people were unaware that the CRSP General Plan was available for public comment.
- 3) The General Plan is voluminous and requires hours of tedious reading to provide comment.
- 4) I, and many other stakeholders, have been advised of the General Plan word of mouth just recently, two weeks ago, and need time to circulate petitions regarding certain items neglected in the plan.

I would appreciate an immediate response to this request, as I have not had time to properly read the

plan, and I would like an opportunity to provide my stakeholder input.

In addition:

I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.

I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e., **safety for all;** horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.

I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.

- An item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julia K. Tarnawski, M.A., M.Ed., CCC

RTGTR (READY TO GO TRAIL RIDERS, a gaited horse group)

ETI (EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, INC.), Corral 20 member

NPWHA (NATIONAL PLANTATION WALKING HORSE ASSO.) member

PWHA of California (PLANTATION WALKING HORSE ASSO. of Calif.) member

FOSH (FRIENDS OF SOUND HORSES) member

From: [John Tellew](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:42:00 PM

Dear California State Parks,

As a San Diego County mountain biker who truly believes that mountain bikers are among the best stewards of open space national forest and state park lands, I wish to convey the following message, as suggested by IMBA:

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

John Tellew
La Jolla, CA
858 229 3439

From: [etfireman](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:16:00 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Please continue to recognize that the overwhelming majority of off-road cyclist have the greatest respect for maintaining the beauty and integrity of our precious wildland ecosystems.

I'm a nature lover, outdoor enthusiast, and bicycle adventurer who desperately wants to share a heritage of outdoor exploration with my children via cycling. Riding on sterile bike paths alongside the hustle and bustle of metropolis is not the same as experiencing nature as it was intended. Cycling is not the graffiti and hip-hop subculture, we represent the best of those who respect nature and we are true stewards of the outdoor experience...

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

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Sincerely,

Eric Thomas

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Note® II

Thomas, Eric

From: [Frank Tirpak](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:17:05 AM

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Sincerely,

Tirpak, Frank

Frank Tirpak
(619) 846-5078

From: [Heidi Trowbridge](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: cuamaca state park horse camp
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:38:04 PM

To: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Planning Team

Email: enviro@parks.ca.gov Date: 9/29/14

Subject: Comments regarding the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Dear Planning Team,

Please consider the following comments and corrections I have listed, after reviewing the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. My comments are listed by page numbers and section number. I also made note of missing information and referenced other pages/sections in the Plan.

Page EXE-3: This section needs to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the north end of the Park and to be included in the General Plan.

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Page 5-8: Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??? Should it be listed as Alternative 3, preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake?

Pages 5-22, 5-23: "Human remains," this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of archeological items. This should be clarified.

Page 5-34: Impact Analysis, Instead of "could" it should read "should."

Page 5-36: "Potential" equestrian staging area should read, "A new equestrian staging in the area will require....."

Page 5-41: Again, no project alternative (for Los Caballos), as stated above on page 5-8?

Page 5-42 and 5-43: New alternative not necessary?

We requested a new Equestrian camp in the north end of the Park. Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the Park to be included in the General Plan.

Page 6-16: What are the names of the "over 50" equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them? My club was not contacted.

Page 6-31: Should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. Please follow the Programmatic EIR for Changes to Trail Use - California State Parks

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Heidi Trowbridge

10863 Oak Creek Dr, Lakeside CA 92040

cell: 619.971.0699.

Lakeside Frontier Riders

Avid Trail User of the Park and frequent equestrian camper.

Heidi Trowbridge

theknottyhorse@aol.com

From: [John Tyler III](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Cc: daphne.tyler@adp.com
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 9:05:44 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.

10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.

11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.

Tyler, John & Daphne

12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
John & Daphne Tyler
2859 Brandeis Drive
Oceanside, California 92056
760-403-0791
jt3_sd@live.com

From: [Ken Uekert](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 12:58:40 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Ken Uekert
16711 Georgios Way
Ramona, CA 92065

From: [Richard Van Every](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:01:26 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park.

Thank you for making this change.

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7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer%2

From: [di-link](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:04:47 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Dianna Van Trump

11066 Creekbridge Place
San Diego, CA 92128

From: [Gail Van Velzer](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca State Park comments
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 7:23:33 PM

- It should be a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
- As a BCHC member, I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.
 - I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.
 - I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.
 - I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.
 - If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.
 - Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.

I am in several horse groups and ride the trails all the time. Currently I am part of the Rancho Cucamonga Equestrian Patrol, a horse unit of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. I belong to the Backcountry Horsemen, Santa Ana River unit, and as such, do a lot of trail maintenance. I am also part of the Rubidoux Riding Club, and we just ride the trails. Personally, my husband and I have been riding the Pacific Crest Trail this year, so you can see I ride those trails a lot.

I have a lot of experience with encountering other trail users, like mountain bikers, hikers, motorcyclists, etc. My horses are trained against bikes, dogs, baby strollers, balloons, backpacks, and all sorts of other "scary" things. While my horses are trained against these things, when the mountain bikers, and sometimes motorcyclists, come around corners at such speeds and silently, they will spook almost any horse. This is not safe from either standpoint. A horse can throw a rider and also kick at the offending "predator". I would like to see trails that are set aside exclusively for stock and hikers, which is also the historical use of this area.

As for the campgrounds, I am aware that there is only about 25% usage by equestrians, but that number may be a little skewed. First, the campground at Green Valley really isn't conducive to larger rigs so many people choose not to go there because of this. Also, at our BCH State meeting over the weekend, one person mentioned that twice, their reservations were cancelled by the Park. Whatever the reason, it still makes them not want to try in the future, especially since they had to drive over 4 hours to get there. I have driven into horse campgrounds only to find them occupied by something other than horses in the corrals, like ATV's! As a general rule, equestrians are a lot more respectful of the environment and other people. We don't get drunk and cause damage to campgrounds. We don't blare our music so loud that it rocks the neighboring sites. We don't leave our trash. We are usually in bed early so we can get up at the crack of dawn to care for our horses and ride early. If the campgrounds, or future campgrounds, were inviting to equestrians, we would utilize them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gail van Velzer

From: [Skip Virgilio](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:15:39 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Charles, "Skip" Virgilio
7307 Celata Lane
San Diego, CA 92129

From: [Bruce Warren](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:11:35 PM

Dear California State Parks,

I usually find myself writing to oppose a plan that seems to limit access for mountain biking. Thankfully, now I can write to support one!

I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR. I will not belabor the point with specifics, but understand others are providing those. However, if you need further detail, please let me know.

Overall, the proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Bruce M. Warren
Bruce@sendLGM.com

From: [John Watson](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 7:42:00 AM

Please extend the public comment period of the General Plan of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park .
Thank you
Becky and John Watson

Sent from my iPad

From: [M. Watton](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 11:47:25 PM

October 6, 2014

ATTN: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team
California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106

The General Plan update for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park states at page 4-90 under the heading 4.5.1 ROADS and TRAILS MANAGEMENT Plan, that “[a] comprehensive Roads and Trails Management Plan should be completed to address a wide-range of trails issues at the Park,” but no time line for the completion of this task has been outlined. Due to the non-allowed use of trails by bicyclists within the wilderness area and the lengthy consideration within the Plan given to the preservation of natural, cultural and historic resources, it would appear that the completion of the Roads and Trails Management Plan would need to be expedited. Specifically, the proposal by “CDPR” to convert trails to multiuse is problematic on a number of levels, including the following reasons:

(1) In the May 22, 2014 notes entitled, Mountain Bike Stakeholder Meeting #2, Item no. 2, the San Diego Mountain Biking Association stated the following:

“Cherry stem Deer Park Trail to create a Backcountry corridor through the Wilderness zone. This has been done before in Federal Wilderness Areas.”

In fact, *roads* have been “cherry stemmed” between *two separate* wilderness areas in federal wilderness, but *trails have never been “cherry stemmed” through a contiguous wilderness area*. If Deer Park Trail is “cherry stemmed” through this wilderness area, it will (1) be precedent setting, and (2) defeat the intent of a wilderness area with regard to the exclusion of wheeled conveyances within a wilderness area.

(2) Equestrian use allows elderly population to access the park. The slower pace of horseback riding is often not compatible with the speed of bicyclists, especially on single track trails where blind curves could cause a bicyclist to collide with a horseback rider. Trails need to be designed and designated for safety. The use of bells on bikes is pointless when a cyclist going a high rate of speed cannot stop and hits a horseback rider (this has happened to me).

Furthermore, the ramps, boardwalks, and other constructions on or around trails created, legally or extra-legally, by bicyclists are not compatible with equestrian use.

The national trend is to separate trail users according to their speed of travel, or to

eliminate bicyclists from single track trails that lack a clear line of sight around curves and lack places along trails where trail users may pass each other.

In light of the proposed conversion of hiking and riding trails to multiuse, a public record of trail user conflicts needs to be maintained. Often conflicts on trails are not memorialized, are overlooked, or are anecdotal. Statistics on issues need to be collected in order to obtain a clear picture of the potential issues. The designation of multiuse on existing riding and hiking trails, if approved at a future date, should be on a trial basis for a period of time in order to assess the success of the expansion and correct, or re-designate trails back to riding and hiking only, as needed.

Finally, in other California state parks, equestrian camps are reserved for the exclusive use of those park users with horses. The current policy of allowing non-equestrian park users to camp in equestrian areas after 5:00 pm is problematic in that Cuyamaca is a prime destination for equestrians from not only southern California, but central California, and probably beyond as well. The drive to Cuyamaca takes six hours from my area, yet I have made this drive on a number of occasions, as have many of my fellow equestrians. Arriving before 5 pm may not be possible when traveling with horses, even with careful planning, and arriving from that distance to find there is nowhere to camp with one's horses would be distressing and disastrous. Equestrians cannot just spend the night at a motel and wait for a campsite to open up the next day.

The closure of Los Caballos Horse Camp combined with the opening of equestrian facilities to non-equestrians, ultimately results in the discrimination against a primarily elderly and/or disabled population that relies on horseback travel to access trails. The park needs to be accessible to everyone, including the elderly and disabled who may only be able to enjoy the trails from horseback.

Sincerely,

Marcy Watton

Vice President, Public Lands
Antelope Valley Unit
Backcountry Horsemen of California

Vice President
Corral 138
Equestrian Trails Inc.

From: [Mark Webb](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:23:56 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Mark Webb
MBAU Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

From: [Cheryl Wegner](mailto:Cheryl.Wegner@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Cc: [Terry Jorgensen](mailto:Terry.Jorgensen@Parks)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 6:33:03 PM

Hello,

I want to share my concerns with you regarding the General Plan update. I am an equestrian. In recent years I have discredited others who expressed concerns that the park leadership wants to get rid of us. I now have become very concerned that this may be true.

The General Plan should include:

- * Seek out and build a family horse camp in the northern part of the park to replace Los Caballos. Green Valley was helpful as a stop gap. However, it does not have the capability of allowing many of the modern day rigs. If possible the camp should be away from other camping populations to increase safety and reduce conflict. It should have access to multiple trails and connections.
- * Before the closing of a trail a reroute must be in place. And a closure should not occur before the public has been given plenty of notice and opportunity for comment.
- * Support Los Vaqueros as an Equestrian Camp. Reasonable compromises have been suggested.
- * Use your volunteers and appreciate the contribution they make. Restore the Trail Maintenance Unit. (With budget constraints this one should be a no-brainer!)
- * Support the Mounted Assistance Unit. It is a well respected group of volunteers that continue to serve the people's park very well.
- * Trails should be planned to provide loops of varying distances and have multiple options and destinations.
- * Trails should be built to accommodate all user groups, using clear line of sight when possible; designs should not be built for one user group (Mountain bikers have encouraged the use of inslopes, which increase speed and reduce safety of others on the trail, while making the rain water track to the wrong side. Should be out sloped.) Enforce mandated trail designs that are proven to accommodate all users.
- * Look at your pricing. It is not equitable to equestrians. Horse camp should not cost the \$35/night that it does. It is not a bargain (especially when you cannot check in until 2pm and must be out by 12pm) and is one notable reason for the lack of use, in addition to the fact that some rigs just cannot get in there. There are only a few sites there that can accommodate the average rig. The same goes with Los Vaqueros. Other group camps statewide are no where near the cost of Los Vaqueros. It seems there's an effort being made to price equestrians out and then say that we just didn't use them enough.

It is important to recognize that Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has been and can continue to be a park for the people, all people.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input. I have used and enjoyed CRSP since 1985. I always called it "my heaven on earth". I know many others who feel the same, most are equestrians.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Wegner
236 Oak Street

Ramona, CA 92065

From: rich@thebikeshoptemecula.com
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 8:45:15 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

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Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Rich Wessels

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: lisa whitebread <lisa@designworksflorals.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Cuyamaca; Review, Environmental@Parks
Subject: concerns for Equestrian Parks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I'm struggling with some omissions from the proposed plans for CRSPark.

It seems EQUESTRIAN has been omitted several times in critical areas of the general plan. It has also been ignored in many other areas of concern. Specifically in the Green Valley and Los Vaqueros parks. We've already had some severe safety issues in both with reference to non-equestrians animals and children—compromising safety to all. Needless to say a lawsuit would be a terrible way to discover the gross miss matching of these two types of camping!!

Merrigan day use parking is in desperate need of larger/equestrian parking access—asap.

There is confusion between mapping in Los Vaqueros and trail markers—some say horses and hiking only, some say bikes as well may use—need to come together on this point.

Page 4-20 needs to read “exclusive equestrian use” as planned

5-42-43 needs to read new alternative to Los Caballos IS necessary!!

Peir program needs to be included on info

Thank you,
Lisa Whitebread

RTA
BCH
LFR
SVSC

From: [Thomas Wilson](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:20:11 PM

Dear Cal State Parks:

We have been recently made aware of the proposed changes to the trails in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. We would like time to review and make comment to these proposed changes. This is a formal appeal for a 90 day extension of the public comment period of your process of adopting the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP).

- 1) The State Park has not sufficiently sought comment from the public in that the State Parks have denied access to comment meetings and have narrowed down input to hand-picked stakeholders, some of which have a conflict of interest. This is in direct violation of the Brown Act.
- 2) The State Parks took down (over a year ago) the information sign at the Sweetwater trailhead, and, consequently, many people were unaware that the CRSP General Plan was available for public comment.
- 3) The General Plan is voluminous, and requires hours of tedious reading to provide comment.
- 4) I and many other stakeholders, having been advised of the General Plan word of mouth just recently two weeks ago, need time to circulate petitions regarding certain items neglected in the plan.

I would appreciate an immediate response to this request, as I have not had time to properly read the Plan, and I would like an opportunity to provide my stakeholder input.

Sincerely,
Tom and Christine Wilson, DVM

From: [Rob Winslow](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:36:32 PM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park.

Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.

7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.

8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer%2

Sincerely,

Rob Winslow

12515 Salmon River

San Diego CA 92129

858-538-8867

From: [Katharine Woessner MD](mailto:Katharine.Woessner@Parks)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:00:05 AM

Dear California State Parks,

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

- A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.
- B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.
- C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:
- 6) Move boundary back considering presence of SDGE power line and access roads.
 - 7) Decommission wilderness at Green Valley. This will provide multi-use access on the East Side Trail north to the Outdoor School, a critical connection that will open up new loops.
 - 8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.
 - 9) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet west of West Side Trail to allow for multi-use trail connection.
 - 10) Adjust wilderness boundary 100 feet east of East Side Trail to maintain existing multi-use trail connection that has been used by bikes for decades.
 - 11) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Blue Ribbon Trail. This will provide an excellent connection to the south end of the park that is a much safer alternative to Hwy 79.
 - 12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Katharine M. Woessner, MD, FAAAAI
Scripps Clinic Medical Group
(858) 764-9025

From: [William Wood](#)
To: Review.Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:16:56 PM

Dear California State Parks,

I am a husband, father of two young active adults and Biotech professional. As a family we enjoy the great outdoors primarily with camping, hiking and biking.

Thank you for another opportunity to comment on the General Plan Update, and thank you for all the work that your staff has put in to this process so far. I am writing to express my overall support for the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR with specific mention of the following items:

A) I support the wording in the Management Zones Matrix to allow mountain bikes on designated roads and trails in cultural and natural preserves. This gives State Parks the ability to maintain mountain bike access to trails in such areas where it is appropriate, recognizing that such trails may provide important connectivity or access to certain areas of the park. Thank you for making this change.

B) I support the Mountain biking goal and guidelines as listed on page 4-23 as well as the Trails goals and guidelines on page 4-29.

C) I support adjusting and better defining the State Wilderness Boundary, in particular the following items in Table 2 on pages 4-72 and 73:

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8) Establish multi-use corridor along Harvey Moore and Deer Park Trails which is critical to maintain mountain bike access to Cleveland National Forest.

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12) Adjust wilderness boundary to 100 feet west of Kelly's Ditch Trail to provide a key connection north to Julian and maintain access to a future Trans-County trail alignment.

Wood, William

Please approve the plan as it is now written. The proposed changes are a very positive step for multiple use and will help provide positive experiences for all users in the future. I encourage State Parks to continue this momentum and look forward to working with you on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Bill Wood
2674 Canyon Rd
Escondido, CA 92025

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From: [Woods, Christine](#)
To: [Nastro, Louis@Parks](#)
Subject: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan comment
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:57:47 AM

Dear Mr. Nastro,

I am writing on behalf of equestrian camping concerns in this plan. I have camped at Green Valley and had a difficult time parking our rig in that facility. The trails were difficult to follow as well. I have upcoming reservations at Los Vaqueros Group camp and excited to check out that facility. Equestrians have so few options anymore for camping and trail riding and we camp regularly so want to support any plan that provides options for equestrian campers/trail riders. You have a lovely area but unfortunately due to the fire the Green Valley campground has its limits and not the best set up for equestrian camping. In fact, the handicapped site is the best site in that campground which I understand you must have but can't it be one of the other level campsites since it goes vacant most of the time?

I appreciate you considering these requests in your process.

Sincerely

Christi Woods
10515 Cliota St.
Whittier, CA 90601
562-355-8718

From: [Dana Yenawine](#)
To: Review_Environmental@Parks
Subject: Cuyamaca Park Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 4:58:03 PM

Cuyamaca Park Planning Team,

As a longtime Mtn. Bike user of the Park, in excess of 25 years, and a shorter term equestrian user, <15 years, I would like to make a couple of comments and suggestions regarding the Plan for the Park.

I firmly believe that the horse community warrants its' own horse camp at the north end of the park to replace the one destroyed in the fires. The equestrian community has done so much for the park, establishing and maintaining trail networks, etc. and they appear to have gotten shortchanged here. They deserve to have their own isolated camp with room to pull-through rigs carrying horses, and to be segregated from the other park users, including mountain bikers, hikers, and others. It's a fact that not all of these varied users play well together, and when one of the participants is entrusted to control a 1,000 pound animal the results can be ugly.

I also feel that some of the trails need to be made available to horses and hikers only, with Mtn Bikes excluded. I believe that there are enough trails for the bikes to use, the network gives access to Mt. Laguna if desired, and again, sometimes these differing trail users to mingle well. Even though the majority of long-time bikers 'get-it' about dealing with horses and their riders, there are always a few weekend warriors who borrow a bike and are determined to show how fast they can go, not respecting general courtesy that says horses and hikers get right-of-way. Beyond that, it is sometimes nice to hike a quiet trail and not be interrupted by a swarm of bikers whizzing by. I'm sure my attitude is not well received in the Mtn Bike community, where they are always after access to trails, but between Cuyamaca as is, and Mt. Laguna for the hard core amongst us, there are plenty of trails.

Thank you for your time.

Dana Yenawine
Jamul, CA

Review, Environmental@Parks

From: Gail Young <gybruin@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Review, Environmental@Parks
Cc: Gail Hackbarth Young
Subject: Equestrian Campgrounds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here is list of my concerns in the General Plan For Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Page exe-3 specifies "equestrian Camping" at Los Vaqueros and Green Valley Equestrian, no mention of other non equestrian groups/campers,...We want equestrian only.

Need to include the location of the Equestrian Family Camp in the Plan in the north end of the park be included in the GP otherwise this will continue for 10 more years.

Page 7 EXE Summary Wilderness Areas~**decommission**, Allows for mechanized vehicles..are these trails suitable for the changes allowing mountain bikes?

Page 8 EXE Summary~Historic Zones~ Hotels rebuilt in Stonewall and Boy Scout Camp to be run by concessionaires is not right for the area, at least one should be considered for equestrian camp North. I do not agree to the historical rebuild and the impact to mine area with people and traffic with a hotel or cabins.

Page 1-19 Fails to say North end Equestrian camp and staging area as requested.

Page 2-6 Day use parking at Merigan needs to include Equestrian Parking in the description.

The map on page 2-9 existing conditions~ Shows trails adjacent to Los Vaqueros as hike and equestrian only..(so does the map they gave me Thursday 08/21/14 and yet on the trail the sign says multi use..and mountain bikes use it.. Clearly this wasn't approved by the "PEIR" program the state uses for for changes in trail designations to multi use..

Page 2-10 and 2-11 Specifically "horse camps" as popular uses in the park Adjust the sites to 14 one site is not reserve able as the host site. (#8)

On Page 2-14 "Driving Forces Behind Trends" They failed to add "horseback riding! Please add...

Page 2-15 fails to mention the Los Caballos loss (although not burned.) important for a clear history as to why the camp closed.

Page 2-49 Overall park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities facilities and **management**..this has changed!We equestrians protest shared uses of equestrian camp grounds.

Page 3-5- Well received Green Valley Equestrian Campground? Not all equestrians agree with "WELL RECEIVED" This camp does not allow for the type of living quarters trailers and larger rigs equestrians use. The trail access to the trails system is lacking in both safety and connectivity

Page 3-10 3.3.5 Equestrians push for the equestrian camp here, The General plan indicates a camp. (before they build a hotel!)

Page 2-49 additional equestrian staging and camping facilities should read "North end equestrian camping facilities and staging" in the language here.

Page 4-16, and Page 4-37 and All Historic zone goals~Stonewall Mine and Haul-cu Cuish,are these historical re-builds going to include facilities cabin/camping areas with corrals/Livery also? If it is a historcial re-build it should include horse facilities as they were an huge part of the building, transportation of the area during that time..include a blacksmith shop? Please include this in your plan.

Page 4-55~#6 as long as the re-route is done before closing the trail ...

Page 4-20 should read exclusive use of equestrian campgrounds.

Page 4-21 should read a new location **HAS not yet been found.**

Page 4-21 No, Green Valley Falls Equestrian is substandard as far as trailers/rigs..

Page 4-82 #4 is a concern "remove trails" as necessary....

Page 5-8 Clarify Los Caballos and continuation from 1986 plan listing 16 camps 128 people and 32 horses...??
Should it be listed as alternative 3 preferred plan is...to re-locate the camp in the north end of the park close to lake.

Pages 5-22- 5-23 "human remains", this section confuses actual bodies of humans with "human remains" which is evidence of humane artifacts...it should be clarified.

Page 5-34- Impact Anaylis- instead of "could" it should read "should"

Page 5-36 "potential" equestrian staging area should read "**a new equestrian staging in the area will require.....**"

Page 5-41 again no project alternative (for los Caballos)as stated above on page 5-8 ?

Page 5-42 and 5-43 -new alternative not necessary?
We request a new Equestrian camp in the north part of the park.

Page 6-16 What are the names of the over 50 equestrian groups you contacted? How did you contact them?

Page 6-31 should include the PEIR program on all trail reclassifications. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26278
Gail S Young

Sent from my iPad

From: [Dalynn Zampino](#)
To: [Nastro, Louis@Parks](#); [Ketterer, Brian@Parks](#); [Patterson, Bob@Parks](#); [Review, Environmental@Parks](#); [gail.ramer@asm.ca.gov](#); [Falat, Dan@Parks](#); [Wade, Sue@Parks](#)
Subject: re: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:20:36 AM

Dear California State Parks:

This is a formal appeal for a 90 day extension of the public comment period of your process of adopting the General Plan for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP).

- 1) The State Park has not sufficiently sought comment from the public in that the State Parks have denied access to comment meetings and have narrowed down input to hand-picked stakeholders, some of which have a conflict of interest. This is in direct violation of the Brown Act.
- 2) The State Parks took down (over a year ago) the information sign at the Sweetwater trailhead, and, consequently, many people were unaware that the CRSP General Plan was available for public comment.
- 3) The General Plan is voluminous, and requires hours of tedious reading to provide comment.
- 4) I and many other stakeholders, having been advised of the General Plan word of mouth just recently two weeks ago, need time to circulate petitions regarding certain items neglected in the plan.

I would appreciate an immediate response to this request, as I have not had time to properly read the Plan, and I would like an opportunity to provide my stakeholder input.

My interest in this issue is that of an avid equestrian trail rider and it seems this plan has forgotten, incompletely represented or short changed the horse and rider community in the use of this long time equestrian resource. Please consider this extension.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dalynn Zampino
25712 Via Del Rey
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675