

ASRA Trail User Group Subcommittee November/December Meeting Summaries

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013 Meeting

- Overview of the Subcommittee's goals included discussions of both the importance of and the many challenges involved in fulfilling these goals. These goals are:
- Select two to three existing trails in the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) currently closed to mountain bikes to pilot test for use.
- Review usage of existing trails and potential usage designation changes for ASRA consideration.
- "Importance discussion" related primarily to improving safety and access of the trails to the growing number of users.
- "Challenges discussion" included the need for extensive user education and how to establish enforcement due to the limited State Parks budget/resources.
- The Endurance Capital Committee agreed to assist with finding hiker representation.

Monday, Dec. 2, 2013 Meeting

- Foothill Hikers Linda Glazier and Dexter Wold were approved as hiker representatives.
- There was a much more detailed discussion about subcommittee's goals and the need for a thorough understanding the issues surrounding pilot trail selection and trail usage modifications.
- The need to protect the Western States Trail was highlighted.
- The Subcommittee will revisit other trail usage programs around the U.S. and select examples of the most successful.
- Discussion of potential trails for usage changes and for pilot programs resulted in recognizing the need for a large and detailed map that shows the trails' current designated usage. Mark Falcone volunteered to provide this for the next meeting.

Monday, Dec. 17, 2013 Meeting

- Linda Glazier and Dexter Wold were present and enthusiastically accepted their positions as hiker representatives.
- Revisiting existing trail usage programs revealed many problems and often failures, causing the Subcommittee to recognize the need to be more cautious and thorough in determining viable solutions.
- Since ASRA will be the ultimate decision maker for accepting any plan the Trail User Group submits, there is the need for user data to back the plan. Surveys, monitoring trailheads, online systems like Strava, were all discussed. Checking with State Parks for past data is the first step.
- Although Mark Falcone provided the large map requested to help with pilot trail selections, due to a shortage of time, it was agreed to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.
- The Subcommittee recommended postponing the January 15 Trail User Group meeting to a later date, tba, dependent on the time needed for following up on the above concerns.