

SAFE TRAILS WORKSHOP: POST EVENT SURVEY

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Duck Club, Irvine, CA

Question #1

**What segment was most beneficial to you and provided helpful information?
(choose one)**

Session	Response Percentage	Response Count
Keynote	5%	2
Public Safety Panel	12.5%	5
User Group Panel	17.5%	7
Land Manager Panel	55%	22
Break Out Sessions	10%	4
Total:	100%	40

Question #2

Did you have an “ah ha” moment at the workshop where you gained an insight or insights that you hadn’t had before the workshop? If so, what was it?

These 34 answers are presented verbatim with no corrections for typos or clarifications.

Type of “Ah Ha” Moment	Quantity
Partnership Opportunities	4
Illegal Trail Issues are Rampant	4
Mountain Bikers Pose Problems, Needs Work	2
Great Fundraising Ideas	2
Same Problem, Different Year	2
Significant Increase in Park Usage	2
Different Mind Sets (Land Manager v. User)	2
User Groups Need Better Leadership	1
Public Safety Component	1
The Land Has Restrictions	1
How to Respond in an Emergency	1
Inability to Quantify of Incidents	1
Keynote Speaker	1
Breadth of Issues	1
Hiking Community Needs to Drive Change	1
Enforcement, Trail Closures Are Ahead	1
Land Managers Need Help	1



1. That perceptions are very strong, and it is user groups responsibility to self monitor, and help mentor "leaderless" groups misusing the trail.
2. No, but found the OC Fire Authority info particularly interesting
3. No
4. How can we partner together to enhance trail safety
5. The concept of partnering with REI and other corporate entities (i.e. bike manufacturers) would be a great way to get our conservation message out there, i.e. via bus wraps on OCTA, Metrolink car wraps, other.
6. What you inherit is what you get - difficulty presented by political and gift giver's restrictions
7. The acknowledgement that mountain bikes can sometimes pose safety and trail vandalism problems
8. Dave shared some great insight on fund raising ideas that was very helpful
9. The same problem from 15 years ago, no changes.
10. All parks and preserves have issues with illegal trails.
11. No, It seems the same issues that have always been around continue to be around.
12. That you need to provide not only the trail name but the park name if there is a wilderness emergency
13. Powerpoint presentation by Andrea Gullo showing how it took active measures to block an illegal trail.
14. It reinforced that solutions likely several. Cooperation and dialogue between landowners and public is key, and sufficient staffing a must
15. sure, hiking, has thousands hikers, but couldn't quantify the collisions with mtb'ers.
16. I think the key note speaker set a tone that I was grateful to hear One of working together and the importance of our openspaces and parks and trails.
17. the idea that "user groups" should be considered & consider themselves as "partners" w/ land managers, & whether they = advocacy groups?
18. I was struck throughout the morning by the breadth of the stake holders and their concern/use of our public trails. I was also struck by the HUGE groups of users and the obvious immediacy for policies which will save our trails for all of our use and for generations that follow us!
19. No
20. Based on their numbers and participation, it seems that it may be the hiking community that will drive changes in trail use and safety.
21. Yes
22. I came to realize the drastically increase in park users in the past years
23. I think the land managers come from a resource protection mind set and the users groups are very focused on what they want instead of working with the parks
24. I was surprised at the reported "trail conflict" that runs rampant at the various facilities.
25. A few people were talking directly to the biker groups on safety issues
26. There was some good info in the fundraising workshop that I will explore.
27. No
28. partners not just users of trails
29. yes - bikers use open space for a different reason than equestrians and hikers
30. Andrea Gullo--"Only thing that has worked is fencing and enforcement" which I translate to mean that is where we are headed--shutting everybody out with fences because mtn bikers have traded trail work for trail use that would otherwise never be tolerated and we can't keep



up w/o fencing everybody out. Same concept repeated by Steve Larson when the solution to a trail not being sustainable for mtn bikers under IMBA standards is to shut it to everybody.

31. The theme of population growth and increase use of park trails as a major factor in all conflicting interests vs resources.
32. Land managers need help from the public to effectively meet goals of land habitat preservation.
33. No
34. Other user groups experienced similar problems and concerns

Question #3

Is there a topic that should be covered in a future workshop?

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Future Workshop Topics	Quantity
Penalties for Violations (Enforcement)	4
Trail Connectivity	3
Trail Etiquette	3
Finding Balance, Common Ground	3
Partnerships	3
Youth Outreach	2
Training/Volunteer Opportunities	2
Trail User Education and Outreach	2
Trail Watch Programs	1
Improved Park Planning	1
Negative Impact of Poor Media Coverage	1
Staging Areas	1
Self-Monitoring	1
Trail Use	1
Private Dollars to Enact Immediate Needs	1
Trail Misuse Deterrence	1
Sustainability	1
Increased Trail Use Issues	1
Trail Design	1
Safety	1
Issue of Multi-Use Trails Becoming Single Use	1
Liability	1

1. Youth Outreach, Education
2. Managing a Trail Assistant Volunteer Program
3. Designated use trails. Unified communication/planning of all park resources in the county.
4. trail connectivity
5. Negative impact of poor media reporting



6. Trail etiquette for all users.
7. More about training and volunteer opportunities
8. Hikers should have a "field interview" when caught cutting trails, etc. Subsequent violations should sharply increase fines and actual cleanup time. Fines to some wealthy people are inconsequential. Picking up litter and carrying rocks would get their attention.
9. Methods & techniques for educating trail users on land stewardship, trail etiquette, etc.
10. staging areas
11. More follow up on efforts to bring mountain bikers and equestrians together for the safety of both
12. Restoration of habitats, closing of illegal trails and enforcement of the rules.
13. Maybe more about preserving habitat vs. public use.
14. How to address younger generations of trail users who are careless and ignorant to the importance of preserving nature
15. Enforcement
16. How user groups (hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers) can monitor themselves.
17. Ways to complete the trail and bikeway systems. To develop a candance. And education of agency staffs about trail and bikeway programs
18. mtb'ers might have some thoughts about trail use.
19. the completion of our county trail system and the fact that the population will only continue to grow and the open spaces, trails and parks will not
20. getting the message out to ALL, not just those "in the room;" how to do PR to reach the populace not reached by NOPs, NOIs, etc. & get them to understand how what's being proposed will improve the park/reserve even if it means removing a big old non-native tree, e.g..
21. How does the "public" fund what must be immediately enacted to protect and preserve our trails?
22. More experiences from land managers on what they do to deter user groups from breaking the rules.
23. Sustainability was my favorite
24. Impacts of increased use on trails and consequences to archaeological resources/ Cultural Resources
25. Partnership instead of users - adaptive management
26. Safety and sharing the trails...
27. rare plant preservation versus trail maintenance
28. Use of volunteers to protect and maintain the trails
29. Trail design
30. Collaboration
31. Issues with urban trails; linkage with wilderness trails, safety on urban trails
32. how to bring rogue bikers under control
33. Directly confront the dilemma of multi-use trails in name being single use trails in reality, ie the very real problem of hikers, runners, equestrians, perhaps even some cyclists, avoiding trails to avoid bikes.
34. How participating organizations can remain in touch as a group after the workshop
35. Misuse of mitigation banking.
36. A focus on what user groups have in common rather than the differences
37. Liability issues



Question #4

Based on the workshop, what specific solution to a trail problem do you think deserves our immediate attention??

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Specific Solution	Quantity
Stopping Illegal Trails, Destruction of Resources	6
Trail Etiquette	5
Trail Separation	4
Effective Enforcement	3
Trail Signage	2
Partnerships	2
License Plates on Bikes	2
Implement Master Plan of Bikeways	2
Volunteer Training	2
Youth Outreach	1
Centralized Phone # to Report Problems	1
Stop Impacts to Park Users	1
Stop Trail Collisions	1
Trail Permit	1
Trail Closures	1
Leadership from User Groups	1
Resolution to the Clash of Views	1
Reporting	1
Limit Speed	1

1. Youth outreach and empowerment to lead user groups to sustainable recreation
2. illegal trails (although from the workshop itself it seemed as if mountain bikers were the biggest problem)
3. Centralized phone number for reporting problems at any park.
4. a strong focus on trail etiquette
5. Destruction of cultural resources.
6. Informing all trail users of proper trail etiquette.
7. Trail signage
8. Cyclist's anti-social behavior (speed, cutting trails, negative attitude towards authority). Rangers should ticket them--especially the Laguna group in general, and their leader in particular. Penalties for subsequent violations should be increased *drastically*, before there is a fatality!
9. Improve communication between different user groups and between user groups and land managers
10. Disenfranchisement of park visitors in order to allow unrestricted mountain biking
11. Either segregating bikers to other trails or odd/even riding days or citing for unsafe use of trails



12. Enforcement of existing laws
13. A "standard" organization-parks-wide list of trail etiquette/rules to be passed out on cards and posted on websites and signage.
14. Segregating trails for specific users
15. i liked the idea of rotating signs to switch up the message and catch the eye, and believed the volunteers at trail heads and on trails as monitors and providing information sounded like what works best.
16. license plates for mountain bike users
17. Keeping trail users from making illegal trails and staying off illegal trails.
18. Trail and bikeway development (at least for routes which connect open space and the user. I'd suggest attention to implement and expand the existing master-planned systems
19. Trail Collisions
20. The completion of the county master plan of riding and hiking trails and connections from all the local trails to that master trail system and an outreach to trail to user groups for proper trail use so we all continue to have use of the multi trail system
21. train trail maintenance groups to recognize small, unattractive rare plants that may be growing alongside the trails because they like disturbed sand soils, e.g..
22. The abuse and current rate of destruction of our trails must be stopped at once. I feel that each trail user must "buy" a yearly trail-use permit and must carry that permit with him/her any time he/she is using any trail. Yes, this would demand additional patrolling in the short term, but would be a way to make certain that each permit holder was given a copy of trail rules upon purchase and..... the fees paid for our trail passes would augment the costs somewhat, or perhaps completely, of the patrols needed.
23. Mountain bikers and their monopoly of the trails v . Other user groups
24. More education on trail etiquette and safety
25. Illegal trails and how to close them
26. Damage being caused by increased number of mountain bikers
27. Leadership from each user community needs to emerge, be supportive and give back to the parks, and push for a bigger stewardship message in the County
28. The way to close off a trail successfully.
29. A clash of views about how maintain trails -- native artifacts, plants and dead trees versus slash and mow practices
30. More training of volunteers
31. Reporting - seems like many have a problem with bikes, but few reported instances means that the agencies are not aware of the problem and will not take action. If more people report their bad experiences, then the agencies will have the support to take action.
32. separate equestrian and hiking from mountain bikes
33. establishing license plates for mtn bikes to hold the abusers accountable
34. Require something on bikes that limits their speed to 8 mph. Solves trail degradation issues, user experience degradation issues, and habitat degradation issues.
35. Increase in trained volunteer trail monitors and ambassadors for good behavior on trails.
36. Blocking and preventing illegal bike trails.
37. How user groups may act as advocate for landowners/land managers
38. Effective enforcement



Question #5

How often should these workshops be held? (choose one)

Option	Response Percentage	Response Count
Once a Year	45.9%	17
Twice a Year	35.1%	13
Three Times a Year	10.8%	4
Four Times a Year	5.4%	2
More Often	2.7%	1
Total:	100%	37



Question #6

Was there a stakeholder group, business, agency, organization or individual that you feel we should include in our next outreach efforts or at future events?

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Who is Missing	Quantity
Bike Shops, Manufacturing Companies	3
Warrior Society (other Mountain Bike Groups)	3
CA Dept. of Fish and Game / US Fish & Wildlife	3
Forest Service Staff	2
Disabled Community	1
Sierra Club	1
FHBP Speaker	1
Retailers	1
Media	1
Trail System Partners	1
Better Messenger	1
Up and Coming User Groups	1
CA Native Plant Society	1
Old Goats	1
Broader Perspective Speakers (not so self concerned)	1
CA Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance	1
Businesses	1
Individual Clubs	1
City of Orange Community Svc. Dept.	1
Irvine Ranch Conservancy	1
Hispanic, cultural clubs/leaders	1
Elected Offiials	1
Extreme Users	1

1. Business other bike shops, youth environmental clubs,
2. ?
3. Disabled community, Dayle McIntosh Center
4. I'm not sure if Cleveland National Forest was there, if not them.
5. Bike manufacturing company and Laguna Rads
6. Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
7. Debra Clark (Trabuco Canyon District of Cleveland National Forest)
8. Mountain biking groups/clubs/shops (Warrior Society in paticular); Trails4All
9. audubon your tour book was very informative about birds.



10. Speaker from Beaches Harbors and Parks would be a nice addition
11. The Mt. Bike industry
12. Maybe more Mountain Bike and other outdoor sports Retailers. More researchers-scientists-educators-naturalists that use trails for studies and docent-led hikes.
13. all groups that contain or address young mountain bikers
14. Dave Whiting (OC Register); Stacy Blackwood (OC Parks Director); Hans Keifer (Bellfree Inc. trail builder)
15. All user groups, together, to complete the trail and bikeway systems. Work toward this end is just crawling
16. warrior society, share, sierra sage trail maint
17. someone who may be better at getting the word out to the public we just do not reach outside our bubble effectively
18. OC Chapter, CA Native Plant Society as a user group/partner
19. regarding number 5: meetings need to be held as needed until the current serious issues are solved, or at least in the process of being solved.
20. organizations with up and coming user groups to recruit to educate their peers
21. I think there were good choices there
22. California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance/ and also ultra runners group such as "Old Goats"
23. Leaders that focus on more than their own stuff.
24. None
25. What about a forum to include representatives from different businesses for each user group
26. CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, as they do manage trails and open space in OC
27. more individual clubs
28. City of Orange Community Services Dept.
29. Dave Raetz, Irvine Ranch
30. no
31. Leaders/representatives from Hispanic and other cultures
32. USFWS, CDFW-It would be helpful for them to share their mission and tie into the Park's goal of land preservation.
33. wildlife agency representative(s) since purposes and prohibitions associated with land use are tied to regulation
34. extreme sports, younger users
35. Elected officials

