

**Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives**  
December 5, 2006

<b>Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives</b>					
<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>	
<b>Sierra Azul – Kennedy Limekiln Area</b>					
1	<b>Public Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue to allow multiple-use on designated trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A, plus restrict use to trails, no off-trail use in serpentine soil areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>
2	<b>Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom)</b> Kennedy Road Trailhead, Gate SA01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change, continue to offer 2-3 parking spaces at Gate SA01, roadside parking and portable restroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx. 5-10 car parking area at Gate SA01, roadside parking, and a permanent restroom facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx. 10-20 car parking area at Gate SA01 and a permanent restroom facility; eliminate roadside parking by installing no parking signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
3	<b>Interior Preserve Trails</b> Limekiln Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/maintain road-width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrow trail to single-track width from preserve boundary (near Limekiln Creek) to Priest Rock Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
4	Kennedy Trail to Priest Rock Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/maintain road-width</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx. 2.5-miles of new single-track trail to bypass a steep road-width section of trail west of Kennedy Trail and north of Priest Rock Trail and/or provide additional interior loop opportunity and a single track trail experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
5	Priest Rock Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realign section of Priest Rock Trail near Kennedy Trail intersection; maintain as a 12-14 foot road-width trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None (a single-track option is provided above, see Item 4)</li> </ul>
6	<b>Regional Trail Corridors</b> Connection between Limekiln Trail and St. Joseph's Hill OSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New regional trail connection from Manzanita Trail (St. Joseph's Hill) to Limekiln Trail (Sierra Azul)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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7	<b>Campgrounds</b> Kennedy Trail, near Vista Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no campground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit-based backpack campground (1-3 sites) off Kennedy Trail, approx. 2.5 miles from Kennedy Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit-based backpack campground (4-6 sites) off Kennedy Trail, approx. 2.5 miles from Kennedy Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A campground located between Kennedy and Priest Rock Trail or further in the Preserve would be too distant from patrol access roads (for emergency access/maintenance), too remote for a restroom, from a water source, &amp; likely lack sufficient shade</li> </ul>
8	<b>Resource Management</b> Rare plants – Limekiln Trail Corridor near Lexington Reservoir County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/maintain road-width trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and minimize disturbance to rare plants along Limekiln Trail; restrict off-trail use</li> <li>Narrow trail to single-track width from preserve boundary (near Limekiln Creek) to Priest Rock Trail; re-vegetate with native seeds/plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with numerous locally rare and/or sensitive plants/habitat; trampling is of most concern</li> </ul>
9	Serpentine Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/status quo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soils areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>
10	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
11	<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue offering docent-led hikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret locally diverse habitat/vegetation communities, serpentine soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide interpretive signage/information for self-guided hikes along selected trails/vista points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
12	<b>Road and Trail Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outcropping</li> <li>Prepare a plan for restoring and closing un-maintained roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Phasing Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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<b>Sierra Azul - Rancho de Guadalupe Area</b>					
13	<b>Public Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/area continues to remain closed to public use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer interim docent-led hiking tours until parking area is constructed (first phase)</li> <li>Open area to hiking and equestrian use once formal parking area is constructed (second phase)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open certain trails (limited area) to hiking and equestrian use utilizing interim parking area (first phase)</li> <li>Open the area to hiking and equestrian use once formal parking area is constructed (second phase)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowing multiple-use (including bicycles) and dogs on leash would potentially result in user conflicts given that Rancho de Guadalupe will likely be very popular among hikers and equestrians (many short loops, close to the urban center, adjacent to a horse stables and AQ County Park); also, the area ranked low as a suitable site for dog use</li> </ul>
14	<b>Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom)</b> Gate SA04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim permit parking at Gate SA04 for approximately 5-10 vehicles until new parking area is constructed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim parking at Gate SA04 for approximately 10-20 vehicles until new parking area is constructed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A permanent parking area at Gate SA04 is less desirable compared to the Pheasant and Hicks Road location, which has better lines of sights, greater parking capacity, better ingress/egress, and can accommodate horse trailers; the two sites are too close together to merit permanent parking areas at both locations</li> </ul>
15	Corner of Hicks Road and Pheasant Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel parking area for approx. 20-30 vehicles, 3-5 horse trailer parking area, and permanent restroom facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel parking area for approx. 30-40 vehicles, 6-10 horse trailer parking area, and permanent restroom facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
16	Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-4 ADA-accessible permit parking stalls and an ADA-accessible restroom near Cherry Springs Pond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A larger parking area near Cherry Springs Pond would detract from the natural aesthetic beauty of the site</li> </ul>
17	<b>Interior Preserve Trails</b> Existing Roads/Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open majority of existing trail/road network to use, address problem areas (seeps, landslides, erosion)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus restore east section of Cherry Springs Road and return to a natural floodplain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
18	Rancho de Guadalupe to Woods Trail/Mt. El Sombroso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New trail connection from Rancho de Guadalupe/Cherry Springs to Woods Trail/EI Sombroso</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
19	Trails near Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve trails near Cherry Springs Ponds to maximize ADA accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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20	Hicks Creek Trail loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New loop trail within Hicks Creek watershed, near Hicks Stables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
21	<b>Regional Trail Corridors</b> Rancho de Guadalupe to Almaden Quicksilver County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no regional trail connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional trail corridor to link eastern Rancho de Guadalupe to western Almaden Quicksilver County Park; road crossing near Hicks Rd &amp; Reynolds Rd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
22	<b>Resource Management</b> Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue ongoing management of cattails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a Pond Management Plan that addresses (1) cattail management, (2) invasive species management, (3) pond habitat enhancements, (4) fresh water retention/water level management, (5) piscivorous bird habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close and restore east section of loop trail; reestablish natural spillway floodplain to improve water quality and create a habitat buffer for wildlife (short term)</li> <li>Same as Alternative B plus work in partnership with the USFWS to include the introduction of California Red-legged frog as a recovery action in the Pond Management Plan (long term)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
23	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
24	Fisheries: Pheasant and Hicks Creek drainages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding sources and partnership opportunities to remove fish migration obstacles and enhance fisheries habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
25	<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue offering docent-led hikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret historic mining operations and locally diverse habitat/vegetation communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites like Cherry Springs Pond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
26	<b>Gates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control off-hours, illegal use of Pheasant Road by installing new lower gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
27	<b>Horse Troughs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no horse trough available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install horse trough at new Hicks Road and Pheasant Road parking area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install horse trough near Cherry Springs Pond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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28	<b>Maintenance</b> Pheasant Road maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Santa Clara County to exchange maintenance responsibility of lower Mt. Umunhum Road for Pheasant Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
29	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, outcropping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat</li> <li>Maintain paved road to Cherry Springs Pond to facilitate special event parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Sierra Azul – Mt. Umunhum Area</b>					
30	<b>Public Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue to allow multiple-use on designated trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A, plus restrict off-trail use in areas with serpentine soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>
31	Mt. Umunhum Summit Phased Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to secure site; keep area closed to the public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer occasional District-led tours to garner public support for federal cleanup of toxics (short term)</li> <li>Same as Alternative A plus keep the monolith (pending a structural evaluation, site safety review, and a cost assessment) and demolish all other structures; allow public access to the peak via a connecting trail after site is deemed secure for public use (see item 34) (long term)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer occasional District-led tours to garner public support for federal cleanup of toxics (short term)</li> <li>Same as Alternative A, plus prepare a phased demolition plan to remove all structures, including the monolith, and restore the peak to natural conditions; allow public access to the peak via Mt. Umunhum Road as the connecting trail after site is deemed secure for public use (see item 34) (long term)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public vehicular use of Mt. Umunhum Road is not feasible given the condition of Mt. Umunhum Road and the expected future level of maintenance, which would not allow for safe vehicular passage by the general public</li> </ul>

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32	<b>Roadside Parking</b> Mt. Umunhum Road near Gate SA08 (Bald Mountain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to offer 1-2 parking spaces along the roadside at Gate SA08 (near Bald Mountain) and 12+ spaces at the Jacques Ridge Parking Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move existing Gate SA08 further uphill to expand available parking to allow 3-5 spaces along the roadside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move existing Gate SA08 further uphill to expand available parking to allow 6-8 spaces along the roadside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
33	<b>Interior Preserve Trails</b> Woods Trail/EI Sombroso to Rancho de Guadalupe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New trail connection from Woods Trail/EI Sombroso area to Rancho de Guadalupe/Cherry Springs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
34	Connection from Mt. Umunhum summit to Woods Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum and implementation of site safety measures, implement a new trail connection from Mt. Umunhum summit to Woods Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum and implementation of site safety measures, open Mt. Umunhum Road as the connecting road/trail to access the summit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
35	<b>Regional Trail Corridors</b> Connection from Mt. Umunhum Area of Sierra Azul east to Santa Clara County Open Space Authority lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no regional trail connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to identify future regional trail connections to the east as new properties are purchased and new trail connections are made possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
36	<b>Resource Management</b> Serpentine soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soil areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>
37	Rock Outcroppings – raptor and bat habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect rock outcroppings/prohibit rock climbing to minimize potential disturbance to raptor and bat habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowing rock climbing would result in damage to the rock surface and the habitat quality</li> </ul>
38	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>	
39	<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue offering docent-led hikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret locally diverse habitat, serpentine soils, Mt. Umunhum summit (former military base)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites like the summit of Mt. Umunhum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
40	<b>Hang gliding</b> Bald Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no hang gliding allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop permit system for use of Bald Mountain as a hang gliding launching site; open to hang gliding use when an adequate landing zone with a sufficient landing buffer has been designated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mt. Umunhum summit is not a viable hang gliding launch site since there would be no nearby parking, the hike to the summit would be too difficult for someone carrying hang gliding gear</li> </ul>
41	<b>Horse Trough</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no horse trough available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a horse trough on Woods Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install 2 horse troughs on Woods Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
42	<b>Maintenance</b> Mt. Umunhum Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Santa Clara County to exchange maintenance responsibility of lower Mt. Umunhum Road with Pheasant Road</li> <li>Continue maintaining road as paved up to Bald Mountain, allow remainder to revert to decomposed asphalt/dirt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining Mt. Umunhum Road as a paved road to the summit would require ongoing maintenance and repaving, which would be extremely costly; allowing the road surface to return to dirt would meet District road and trail standards</li> </ul>
43	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outslipping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Sierra Azul – Loma Prieta Area</b>					
44	<b>Public Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue to keep area closed to public use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open area to multiple-use after securing public access through the Loma Prieta Road/trail corridor; restrict use to trails; no off-trail use in serpentine soil areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>

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**Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives**  
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<b>Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives</b>				
<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>
45 <b>Roadside Parking</b> Loma Prieta Road corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no designated parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After opening a public trail connection through the Loma Prieta area, designate roadside parking for vehicles and a horse trailer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
46 <b>Interior Preserve Trails</b> Rattlesnake Gulch Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to opening the Loma Prieta Road corridor to public use, realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a single-track trail and locate new alignment away from the creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to opening the Loma Prieta Road corridor to public use, realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a road-width trail and locate new alignment away from the creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
47 <b>Regional Trail Corridors</b> Connection from Mt. Umunhum to Soquel Demonstration Forest through Loma Prieta Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no regional trail connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with property owners to establish a through trail connection from Mt. Umunhum to Soquel DF by using the existing Loma Prieta Road alignment where possible; seek trail easements and/or construct trail realignments to avoid private property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
48 Connection from Loma Prieta Area of Sierra Azul east to Santa Clara County Open Space Authority lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no regional trail connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to identify future regional trail connections to the east as new properties are purchased and new trail connections are made possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
49 Loma Prieta area west to Wrights Station Road through San Jose Water land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no regional trail connection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with the San Jose Water Company to secure a public trail connection to the west</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
50 <b>Campground</b> Flat knoll off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes/no campground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit-based backpack campground (1-3 sites) off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, approximately 0.75 miles south of Loma Prieta Way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit-based backpack campground (4-6 sites) off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, approximately 0.75 miles south of Loma Prieta Way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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<b>Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives</b>					
<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>	
51	<b>Resource Management</b> Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
52	Steelhead habitat – Soquel Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a single-track trail and locate away from the creek; re-contour and restore abandoned section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a road-width trail and locate away from the creek; re-contour and restore abandoned section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
53	<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue offering docent-led hikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret serpentine soils, locally diverse habitat, vegetation communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites (e.g. area near Loma Prieta summit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
54	<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install large, vehicle-oriented District signage at Preserve boundaries to mark District ownership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
55	<b>Maintenance</b> Loma Prieta Avenue from Summit Road to “Five Corners”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue same level of District maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer maintenance responsibility of Loma Prieta Avenue to Santa Clara County from Summit Road to “five corners”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining Loma Prieta Avenue as a paved road to the summit would require ongoing maintenance and repaving, which would be extremely costly, allowing the road surface to return to dirt would meet District road and trail standards</li> </ul>
56	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outcropping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Sierra Azul – Cathedral Oaks Area</b>					
57	<b>Public Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue to keep area closed to public use, as shown on brochures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open lower Cathedral Oaks to multiple-use; coordinate with San Jose Water Company to formalize public access connections to the Preserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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<b>Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives</b>				
<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>
58 <b>Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no formal parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with San Jose Water Company to designate a small parking area/roadside parking within the Cothran Road/Wrights Station Road corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A medium to large parking area is not feasible given the topography</li> </ul>
59 <b>Interior Preserve Trails</b> Loop Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/status quo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New trail alignments to connect existing roads/trails to create loop trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
60 Lower Cathedral Oaks to Mt. Thayer and El Sombroso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change, continue to secure site keep area closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the federal government to fully characterize and remediate onsite contamination</li> <li>Following remediation and implementation of site safety measures at Mt. Thayer, connect lower Cathedral Oaks with Mt. Thayer and El Sombroso</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
61 <b>Resource Management</b> Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
62 Serpentine Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/status quo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soil areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern</li> </ul>
63 <b>Horse Troughs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/no horse trough available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a horse trough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install 2 horse troughs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
64 <b>Maintenance</b> Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outslopping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

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<b>Alternative Component</b>	<b>Alternative A: No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended</b>	
<b>Project Area Wide Alternatives*</b>					
89	<b>Satellite Field Office Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No change/no satellite field office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bear Creek Redwoods, Bear Creek Road corridor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul, along the Alma Bridge Road corridor between SA19 and SA21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other locations, including Rancho de Guadalupe area are too remote or have few access options (i.e., in event of emergency, few roads lead into or out of the area)</li> </ul>
90	<b>Cultural and Historical Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No change/limit access to cultural sites; use best management practices when encountering potential artifacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuously update the District's cultural/historical resources inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior to opening new trail alignments to use, recover and salvage transportable cultural resources and store for future public display</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul>

\* Alternatives for Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve are on a separate table and are numbered 65-88.

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