



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-16-110
August 30, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Proposed Trail Names for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Phase I Public Access Trails

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Forward the following trail names to the full Board for their review and consideration: "Harrington Creek Trail" for the main ranch road in lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve; "Folger Ranch Loop Trail" for a new loop trail off the main ranch road; "Coho Vista Trail" for the existing trail to the vista point in upper La Honda Creek; and "Regismontana Trail" for an existing trail leading to the Redwood Cabin area.

SUMMARY

In preparation for opening lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve to the public in 2017, the General Manager recommends new trail names for lower and upper La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Creek) for the Legislative, Funding & Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) to consider forwarding to the full Board. The proposed trail names for lower La Honda Creek are: "Harrington Creek Trail" for the main ranch road and "Folger Ranch Trail" for a new loop off the main ranch road. The proposed trail names for upper La Honda Creek are: "Coho Vista Trail" for an existing unnamed trail leading to the vista point and "Regis-Montana Trail" for an existing unnamed trail leading to the Redwood Cabin area. The proposed trail names are consistent with the naming criteria specified in the Board-adopted Policy for Site Naming, Gift and Special Recognition. Pending Board approval, the new trail names would be incorporated as part of new sign orders and revised brochure maps.

DISCUSSION

According to the District Site Naming Policy, Preserve trails shall ordinarily be named after: a) geographical, botanical or zoological identification; or b) historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site.

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan Phase I implementation (Attachment 1) will open approximately 5 miles of the main ranch road on the former Driscoll Ranch to hiking and equestrian use. In April 2016, the Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) committee considered designating an additional 1 mile of ranch road as a trail to provide a loop opportunity in the former Folger Ranch area. The PNR committee recommended that the General Manager forward this new trail segment to the full Board for approval (R-16-48), which is anticipated for

summer 2017. Both trails would be opened to hiking and equestrian use when the Sears Ranch Parking Area is constructed in Fall 2017.

The 6-mile main ranch road through lower La Honda Creek traverses the Harrington Creek watershed, and crosses its lush riparian corridor approximately 1.7 miles from the Sears Ranch Road Preserve entrance (Attachment 1). Harrington Creek is an important perennial tributary to San Gregorio Creek that is known to support the federally-threatened California red-legged frog and Steelhead salmon and contains historical Coho salmon (federally-endangered) rearing habitat. Harrington Creek is also within the larger San Gregorio Creek watershed, which is the second largest watershed in coastal San Mateo County. In light of the creek's importance and the District's goal of reinforcing the value of the public's local natural resources, the General Manager recommends naming the main ranch road "Harrington Creek Trail".

A one-mile loop road off of the main ranch road, which will be considered by the Board for trail use at a later date, provides access to the former Folger Ranch. The Folger family and other wealthy San Francisco area families were instrumental in maintaining cattle grazing as an enduring land use on the San Mateo County coast, a land use that the District continues to support. A knowledge of ranching history on lower La Honda Creek is critical to understanding the land today. Therefore, the General Manager recommends designating this portion of ranch road as the "Folger Ranch Loop Trail".

In addition to the new trails in lower La Honda Creek, two existing trails in upper La Honda Creek also require formalized names. The first trail is approximately 1.1 miles long and connects the permit-only Allen Road parking lot to the vista point, which provides sweeping views of the San Gregorio Creek watershed. The District is the largest landowner within this watershed, with 34% of all watershed lands located within La Honda Creek and El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserves. Further downstream, San Gregorio Creek is one of the last remaining coastal streams that supports Coho salmon, and the District has partnered with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to improve instream habitat for this species. The General Manager therefore recommends that the trail to the vista point be designated as the "Coho Vista Trail".

Branching off this trail, a second, 1.2-mile trail leads to the Redwood Cabin area. The trail is lined with the rare plant King's Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos regismontana*), a California endemic species that grows in the northern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains on sandstone and granite outcrops. This species is included in the California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. For these reasons, the General Manager recommends naming the trail after the scientific name of the rare plant: "Regismontana Trail".

FISCAL IMPACT

Selection of names for new and existing trails will not result in any additional fiscal impact. These names will be used as part of new trail sign orders and new brochure orders, which are already anticipated and included as part of the existing Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Selection of trail names is not considered a Project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

Following LFPAC consideration, the General Manager will forward LFPAC's recommendations for trail names to the full Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Attachment

1. Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Phase I Public Access Trails Map

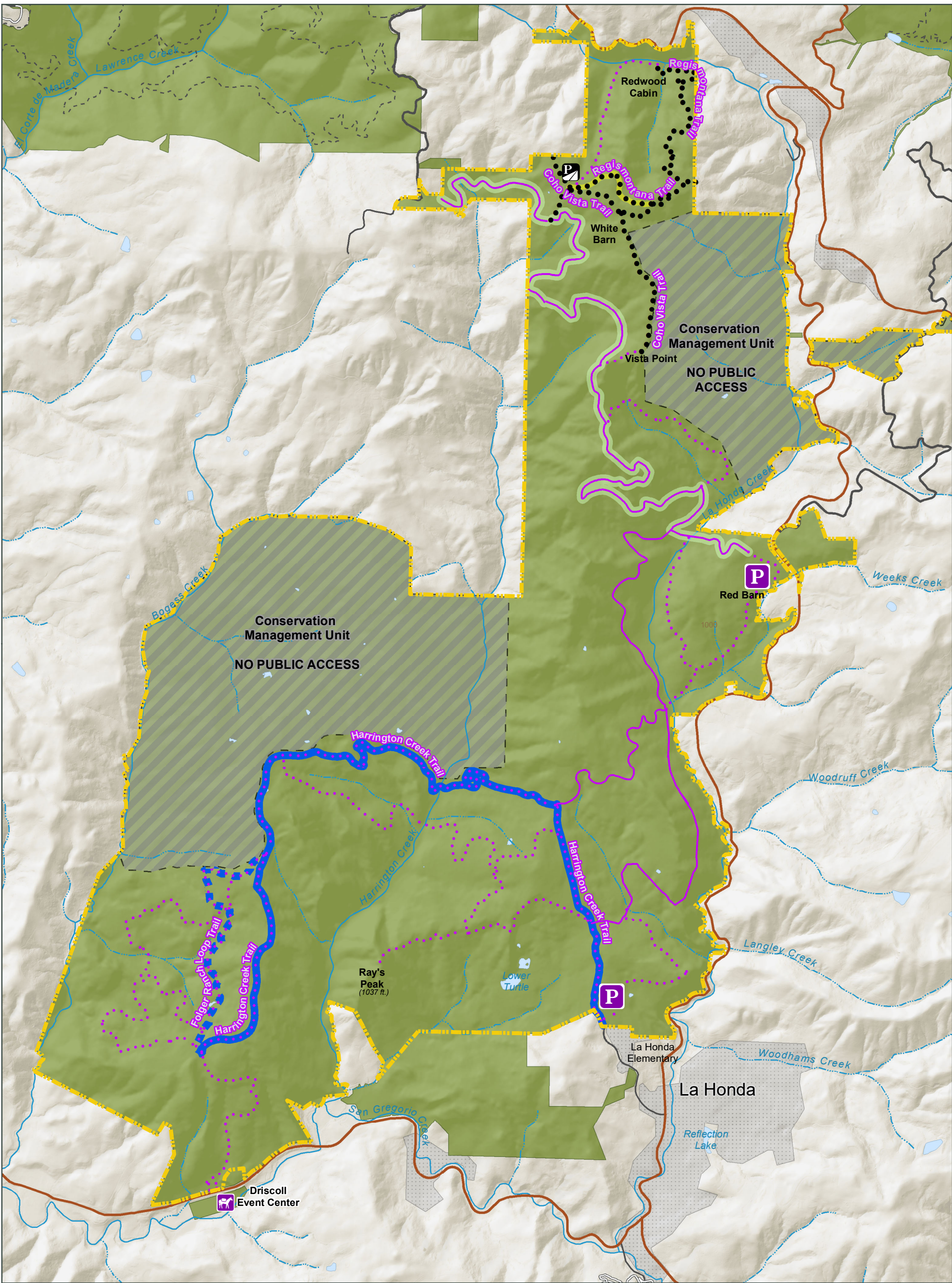
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Path: G:\Projects\La_Honda_Creek_Master_Plan\Implementation\TrailNames\Figure11_LHWP_PhaseITrailNames_v2.mxd



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD



August 2016
Feet
0 1,500 3,000

Public Access Phase I: Proposed Trail Names

Trails

- Existing Public Trails (Permit Only, Hiking, Equestrian)
- Phase I Trails: Main Ranch Road (Hiking, Equestrian)
- Phase I Trails: Trail Loop
- Future Hiking and Equestrian Trails
- Future Multi-Use Trails (Hiking, Equestrian, Bicycling)
- Future New Segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Hiking, Equestrian, Bicycling)
- Future Easy Access Segments

Land Use

- Conservation Management Unit (No Public Access)
- La Honda Creek Master Plan Boundary
- Preserve Boundary

Facilities

- Existing Parking Area
- New Parking Area
- Permit Only Equestrian Parking Area