

Bike-Jump Vandal Trail

at Milepost 38.5 of the Pioneer Express Trail
northwest of Beeks Bight, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

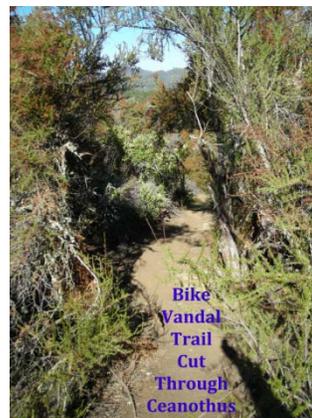
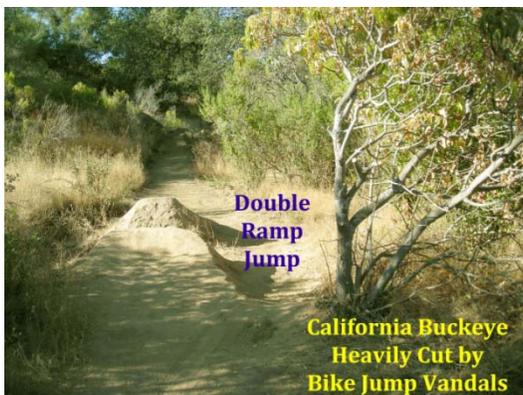
August 2010

Location:

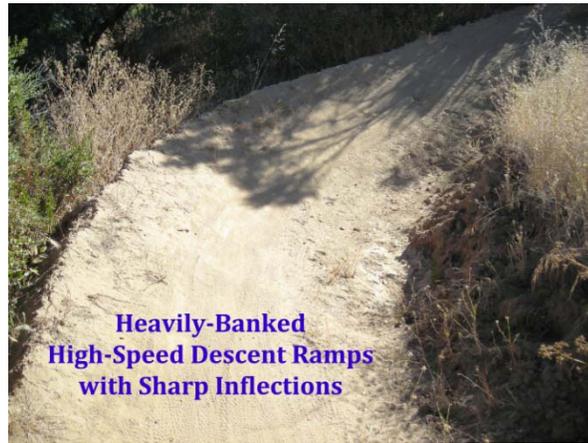
The bike-jump vandal trail is located at Milepost 38.5 along the Pioneer Express Trail within Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. This illegally constructed trail steeply descends about 125 vertical feet, and it connects with the Los Lagos Lateral Trail on the west. The western coordinates are 38.771388°North and 121.136645°West. The eastern coordinates near Milepost 38.5 are approximately 38.770842°North and 121.139266°West. The trail has more than 20 ramped-jumps with about a dozen S-shaped or U-shaped inflections. The length of the illegal trail is estimated at 400 yards. The trail-bed and bike-jump ramps involve so much earthwork that the scar is readily visible on GoogleEarth satellite imagery dated 2010.



At left: The eastern junction of the illegal bike-jump trail with the Pioneer Express Trail at Milepost 38.5. The official decal which shows that this is a horse and hiking trail only has been partly peeled-off. *At right:* the former fence has been cut away by bike vandals.



A significant amount of chaparral has been cut by the vandals for access to the steeply descending jumps. This includes ceanothus, oak, and California buckeye.



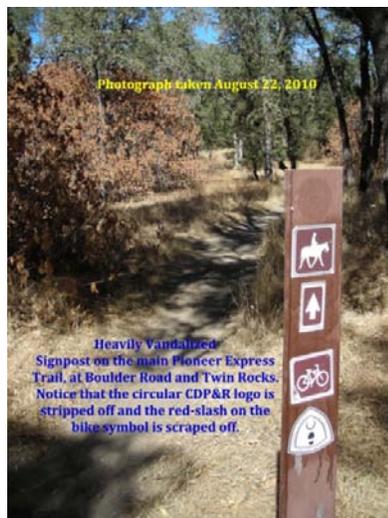
At left: there are S-shaped and U-shaped sharp turns in soft granitic soils that are easily eroded.
At right: Most of the sharp inflections have heavily banked trails for descents at high speeds.

Restoration of the Natural Habitat:

The bike-jump vandals have spent hundreds of hours constructing this illegal bike trail. They used shovels and pick-axes, with heavy loppers to cut chaparral. The date of the illegal construction is not known, but judging from the age of the cuts on larger trees and erosion of the bike trail, it was likely constructed about 2008. The inference is that this second-phase of illegal bike-jump activity took place immediately after the bike-jump grotto on the "Hoffman" parcel (northeast of Twin Rock Road and Boulder Road) was destroyed by CDP&R work-crews (derived from Placer County Sheriff's jail-crews). Evidently, the same bike-jump vandals simply retreated one-half mile northeast to a more secluded area at Milepost 38.5 inside Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, and rebuilt their illegal bike-jumps with brazen impunity.

It is estimated that it will take a six-man crew about one week to destroy the bike jumps and remove the earth embankments. Much of the bike trail is so steep that work-crews will not have safe footing while using pulaskis, McLeods, picks, and shovels. The restoration might be performed best after the ground is slightly saturated by the first autumn rainstorm, but before the onset of heavy winter rains. It is estimated that it will take about a decade for the chaparral vegetation to grow back. The nearest access for Sheriff's work-crews is to hike-in from the parking lot at Beeks Bight.

It will take professional CDP&R maintenance crews to restore more than a dozen damaged trail signposts whereby the "No-Bike" symbols have been scraped-off and defaced by aggressive vandals.



On Pioneer Express Trail, at junction with spur trail to Beeks Bight. Photograph taken 8-22-2010
Heavily Defaced No-Bike Sign. At lower left, notice the remnant of the red-slash indicating No-Bikes.

Heavily Vandalized Signpost on the main Pioneer Express Trail, at Boulder Road and Twin Rocks. Notice that the circular CDP&R logo is stripped off and the red-slash on the bike symbol is scraped off.