



P.O. Box 2326, Loomis CA 95650

August 24, 2010

Superintendent Ted Jackson
Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
7755 Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear Superintendent Jackson:

An unauthorized mountain bike trail has once again been built on State Park property which was originally to be named Los Lagos Unit No. 3. This 88.7 acre site was sold to the state park system around 2000 when the developer, the Hofmann Company, abandoned plans to build a 44-lot planned development on the site due to road issues.

In June 2008 when the mountain bike jumping grotto was first discovered and reported to the Headquarters at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, park personnel fenced off the area with orange plastic fence. At a later date, park personnel attempted to flatten the mountain bike jumps.

This letter concerns the new quarter-mile mountain bike trail discovered in August of 2010. The trail was built with no permits or permission and, in addition, is possibly in a sensitive area. The area of the trail is within a possible Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) habitat. Much damage to the area was done in the building of the trail. The sensitivity issue has been presented for review to the Office of Law Enforcement section of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife by a concerned Park neighbor.

LBHA's main concerns are that, first this bike trail was built without permission, second, that it was built in a possibly sensitive area destroying vital habitat and lastly and most importantly, that there are several safety issues because this new trail ends at the Pioneer Express Trail and this forces the bikers to go onto the Pioneer Express Trail, in order to access the multiuse trail. The Pioneer Express Trail is an Equestrian/Pedestrian only trail. Many of these bike riders only whiz by saying "howdy" without slowing down. This is extremely dangerous to all involved. This is extremely dangerous if a pedestrian who may wander onto the illegal trail were to meet a fast moving biker coming down the hill.

Also, some very dangerous jumps have been incorporated on this illegal trail in steep terrain. In fact, some jumps require the rider to jump over a deep open area (pit) built into it.

We understand that budget cuts have reduced rangers and the ability to patrol the park as needed. However, activity on the Pioneer Express Trail area - between mile marker 38 and 38.5 is getting heavier, and it would be beneficial to send out a ranger to check out the area occasionally.

Attached are some photos of the illegal trail showing how much earth was moved as well as vegetation that was cut and removed. The photos show obvious disruption of the habitat

including the cutting of foliage and trees. In addition, there was a tremendous amount of digging of the surrounding soil in order to create the side walls of the downhill track and to bank the earth high enough to create large mountain bike jumps. Several California Code of Regulations that may have been violated in the building of this trail, including CCR Title 14 4306(Plants and Driftwood), CCR Title 14 4307 (Geological Features) and CCR Title 14 4319 (Games and Recreational Activities). All sections are misdemeanors which carry a maximum punishment of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1000 fine. This information was found at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?nav=1&page_id=21301

Someone can and will get hurt, whether it is a biker or an unknowing horseman or hiker. The liability will be on State Parks, which would be devastating even though Parks was not the builder nor approved of the trail. Comments from some of the bikers interviewed concerning the trail are along the order of: "well, where are the kids supposed to go, they will just get into trouble somewhere if they don't have these trails."

The building of illegal and dangerous trails without approval of State Parks must cease for the safety of all. This illegal bike trail must again be removed and not permitted to be rebuilt. This is especially dangerous in that the trail, at one end, joins the Pioneer Express Trail which is for Equestrian/Pedestrian use only. Building of a bike trail is not the issue, just its location. There is obviously a great need for this type of trail, however the location of such a trail needs to be revisited. After proper permitting and safety issues have been addressed, a trail could -- and should -- be built at a different location. The new trail should not intersect with Pedestrian/Equestrian trails for obvious safety reasons. There are many bike only areas where this type of venue would be safer for all. There is the bike only Darrington Trail in the Salmon Falls area that might be a good place for this type of "bike trail".

Attachments: Bike Trail Photos CD
Bike-Jump Vandal Trail Report dated August 2010

Sincerely,

Kathy Dombrowski
LBHA advisor to the board
Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association

Copy To:

- Ms. Ruth Coleman – Director, Department of Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife - Office of Law Enforcement
Attn: Marilee Brown, Special Agent 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2928 Sacramento, CA 95825
 - Supervisor Jim Holmes District 3
 - Supervisor Kirk Uhler District 4
 - Assemblyman Ted Gaines

Photos and report on trail are on line at:
<http://www.garlic.com/~lbha/BikeTrailPhotoLinks.htm>