



P.O. Box 2326, Loomis CA 95650

November 8, 2010

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

Dear Ted:

This is a follow-up to our letter dated August 24, 2010, concerning the illegal bike trails located on the Hofmann property that is now controlled by State Parks. We were very pleased to see the opening in the fence at mile 38.5 closed, and that barriers were erected by the Folsom Lake Trail Patrol under the guidance of a State Parks Ranger. However the barriers and the fence were all torn down within a week. As of yesterday, the illegal downhill trail (inside the Hofmann property) had not been fenced or blocked off, so it is still accessible to mountain bikers if they enter at Twin Rocks/Boulder Rd. LBHA is requesting that this trail also be blocked.

The building of illegal bike trails is not just happening in FLSRA. Many other parks across the nation are having the same problems. An official at a park in the northwest stated that most of the builders had no knowledge of how to build trails, how to maintain the environment or provide safety for its users. The illegal trails caused much environmental damage to the area. The trails took only a short time to build, but it took a long time to restore the area after they were removed. Had the bikers gotten official permission to build the trail, it would have had to go through all the work of CEQA and other permit requirements. All safety issues for not only the bikers but other users would have been considered.

Looking at the Conditional Use Permit for the Hofmann property, it shows that all the 44 lots had Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) Habitat on them, In addition, a 1980 document states that there may be archeological sites on the Hofmann property. While the 1980 report is confidential, the abstract does state that the 659 acres of land which previously included the Hofmann 82 acres had prehistoric and historic findings.

With this in mind, it is requested that when trails are developed in the trail master plan that those--if added to the Hofmann area--be limited to Equestrian/ Pedestrian trails as they would not be as damaging to the environment as a technical bike trail. As winter rains start, the illegal bike trails will cause a lot of run-off and environmental damage.

Some ideas to help prevent illegal trails from being built in the area of the Hofmann property which is now part of FLSRA ,might include:

- Build a barrier or short fence along the right-of-way of Twin Rocks/Boulder where the entrance to the park is located. There have been some Wednesday evenings when as many as 70 cars with bikers have been parked along the road. The neighbors

report hearing the hoots and hollers of the riders as they ride the illegal trail. Besides the parking, the noise is also an inconvenience to the neighbors that live there. The authorities have been called at times about the parking. If the entrance was only for local walk-ins, it would deter bikers from coming. A "No Parking" barrier would also penalize horse trailers, but they could make arrangements to park at the local stables along that road or go into the Granite Bay entrance to the park and utilize the Horsemen's Assembly Area.

- Signage: It is known that signs come down faster than they go up. However, a sign is needed stating: **ILLEGAL TRAIL—RIDING OR USING THIS TRAIL CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THIS SENSITIVE AREA—VIOLATORS WILL BE CITED.**

The area of mile 38 to 38.5 is known to be an area of illegal trails. It is also known that mountain bikers ride Tuesday-Thursday evenings as well as during daylight hours. With that in mind, a ranger should be assigned to patrol that area more frequently during times of heavy mountain bike use.

In closing, as winter approaches and the ground gets wetter, more illegal trails will be built. They need to be stopped before too much damage is done. Since there is VELB habitat in the form of elderberry shrubs confirmed by the US Fish & Wildlife biologist, it is requested that State Parks allow only the existing equestrian/pedestrian trails to remain in the Hofmann property and not create any new multi-use trails for reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

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

Copy To:

- Jim Michaels FLSRA, State Parks
- Scott Nakaji, FLSRA, State Parks
- Brian Moses, FLSRA, State Parks
- Ruth Coleman Director Ca State Parks
- US Fish & Wildlife-Office of Law Enforcement
Attn: Marilee Brown, Special Agent 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2928 Sacramento, CA 95825