MBOSC’s Position Regarding Public Access at Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument

Cotoni Coast Dairies (CCD) is a property that has many amazing resources both natural and cultural. It also has the potential for world class recreational access that would serve both local residents and visitors to Santa Cruz County’s North Coast. The Bureau of Land Management has a responsibility to balance the management of these various resources with public access which MBOSC believes they can do successfully. MBOSC has assessed opportunities for trail based recreation on the property and has the following recommendations:

1. CCD is a large enough property to support the conservation of cultural, and ecological resources while still providing a diverse and substantial trail network to provide for public enjoyment of the property.

2. Trail access should be provided for a diversity of trail users including walkers, hikers, runners, disabled users, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

3. Trail planning, construction and maintenance should place a high value on minimizing disturbance to sensitive cultural, biological, and hydrological resources consistent with NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) and BLM Manuals and Handbooks/policies and practices.

4. Trails should include interpretive elements to educate the public on natural history and management of the property.

5. The trail network should be designed and constructed using today’s best practices including:
   a. Use of sustainable techniques to minimize erosion
   b. Design features to minimize user conflict
   c. Utilization of user specific trails (hike/horse and bike) as well as multi-use trails where appropriate to provide for diversity of user experiences
   d. Use of design and construction methods defined in BLM’s Guidelines For a Quality Trail Use Experience which is the definitive guide for managing mountain bike use on public lands.
   e. Emphasize user experience in trail design and construction.
   f. Provide a variety of length and difficulty options for all trail users.

6. Trail connectivity to other parks and regional trails (existing and planned) should be a priority for trail network design including connections to:
   a. San Vicente Redwoods
   b. Rail Trail/California Coastal Trail
   c. Wilder Ranch State Park
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(continued)

7. Trail and staging area layout should minimize privacy, trespass, and safety impacts to property neighbors including Swanton and Davenport.

8. The BLM should partner with local organizations to provide resources for trail planning, construction, maintenance and management. These organizations include The Santa Cruz County Horsemens Association, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, the Sierra Club, among others.

9. A volunteer backcountry patrol (to include hikers, bikers, and equestrians) should be established to augment BLM ability to provide public safety and protect sensitive resources.

10. The BLM should charge for parking to create a sustainable funding source for management of the property. Parking lots should be large enough to prevent overflow parking on local roads.

11. An annual parking pass should be available.

12. Parking facilities should include
   a. Bathrooms
   b. Trash receptacles
   c. Regular bathroom and trash service
   d. Horse trailer parking with adequate space for equestrian staging
   e. Seating areas/shade structures
   f. Signage
      i. Interpretive
      ii. Wayfinding
         1. Including suggested routes for various trail users
         2. Difficulty/distance information
      iii. Regulations