

California Recreational Trails Plan Program Goals - Progress Report

GOAL FOR FUNDING

Develop adequate and stable funding for planning, acquisition, development and management of trails.

Action	Progress to Date
1. Promote continued state funding and identify new funding sources for acquisition and development of trails or to formalize traditional trail routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 84 Minor Trail Program Funding • Other funds from prior bonds, conservancies, CalTrans, and other sources (to be summarized) • Road & Trail Management Plans will justify and support future funding needs • Support re-authorization of Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) funding
2. Encourage public agencies to incorporate trails and trails planning into their normal organizational infrastructure, including the development of annual operation and maintenance budgets to adequately care for trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Trails & Greenways Conference planning and operations training sessions
3. Leverage available funds through the use of matching grants. Increase the trail labor pool through public/private cooperation, including funding, donated materials, and volunteer labor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTP workshops through CSP Division of Grants and Local Assistance • Promoting Land & Water Conservation Fund grants • Promoting State Coastal Conservancy grants for Coastal Trail
4. Provide grant programs or other funding to encourage development of local trail system plans. This could be accomplished, in part, by including criteria and scoring enhancements for grant applicants who relate their trail project to needs identified in an existing and approved local or regional trails plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Element of current Recreational Trail Program granting criteria for scoring • Funds from prior bonds, conservancies, CalTrans, and other sources (to be summarized)
5. Develop appropriate legislative support for trails funding, including encouraging, on the state level, the inclusion of trail categories in future bond acts and aggressively pursuing the re-authorization of Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) on the federal level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the 2010 Initiative for the re-authorization of the federal TEA funding by including awareness and training session at 2008 CT&G Conference

GOAL FOR TRAILS INVENTORY	
Prepare regional and statewide inventories of existing, planned, and potential trails.	
Action	Progress to Date
1. Design and complete a survey of all State Park trails and establish an easily accessible master trail database, along with procedures and protocols for maintaining accurate data. Encourage cities, counties, regional parks and federal land managers to survey all trails within their jurisdictions. Make data available on the internet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP Road & Trail Management Planning process includes detailed inventory GPS/GIS process • CRTC progress with web "Trail Portal"
2. Encourage local communities, government and organizations to contribute trail data, including both current trail information and planned trails, to readily accessible trail databases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "GreenInfo" data base for California Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan • CRTC progress with web "Trail Portal" • Current CSP coordination with San Diego and San Mateo Counties
3. Encourage increased data gathering regarding trail use, including numbers of trail users, types of trail use (equestrian, hiking, mountain bike, etc.), miles traveled, most popular trails, visitor surveys and other information that may be useful or required for adequate planning, development, operation and maintenance activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road & Trail Management plan process training as a part of the 2008 CT&G Conference
GOAL FOR REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE LAND-USE PLANNING	
Promote and encourage the incorporation of trails and greenways development and linkages into all local and statewide land use planning	
Action	Progress to Date
1. Recommend amending the California Subdivision Map Act to require a trail element in all future local government plans. Until such a legal requirement exists, continue encouraging local agencies to incorporate the current option to include a recreation element in their general plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional trail planning training sessions and case studies taught at CT&G Conferences

Action	Progress to Date
<p>2. In cooperation with other trail management agencies and organizations, develop standardized policies, guidelines and educational support programs for trail system planning, including products and processes to stimulate trail system planning by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using trail inventories as a key planning tool -Coordinating to the extent possible local and regional planning efforts-Identifying trails that should be connected • Promoting regional trail planning forums --Educating trail planners on common goals. • Identifying trails that should be connected • Promoting regional trail planning forums • Educating trail planners on common goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP is beginning to actively promote comprehensive Road & Trail Management Planning both within the State Park system and with other agencies
<p>3. Educate local planners and decision makers about the value of including trails in their initial land use planning efforts. This should include efforts to insure that trail dedications for accessing public facilities and open space are part of all development projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT&G Conference training sessions on land use planning issues relating to trail systems and connectivity
<p>4. Encourage local government agencies to develop trail system plans by making it a requirement for submitting a grant application or give preference to those grant applicants with a local or regionally adopted trail system plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the RTP scoring criteria favors applications that are consistent with regionally adopted trail system plans or recreation plans.
<p>5. Provide open space corridors with adequate space to accommodate trails and allow areas for wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional trail planning opportunities taught at CT&G Conference educational sessions
<p>6. Establish and link web sites to assist state, local, and federal trail system planners. This may include the California Trails Connection website, a partnership effort. Support and encourage development of a national website, which can provide standardized information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The California Trails Connection website is no longer a viable solution • The American Trails website is becoming a very good source for national trail planning and management information
<p>7. Develop and maintain trail maps on a GIS (Geographic Information System). Create GIS maps of public trails in California. The GIS maps would also serve as an overlay for planners in developing and updating land use plans in California.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating and training regional trail planners how to prepare Road & Trail Management Plans at CT&G Conference
<p>8. Link GIS data to the California Legacy Project (CCRISP), so that identified key attributes can be analyzed for proposed trail corridor and public land acquisitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction and focus of the California Legacy Project has changed and does not apply to trail GIS data.

GOAL FOR TRAIL ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION
Develop and encourage expanded cooperation and collaboration among trail advocates, wildlife advocates, and cultural resource advocates to maximize resource protection, education, and trail use opportunities.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. Convene and support statewide and regional trails conferences and workshops that share current information, promote diversity, plan future actions, and recognize significant achievements. The California Trails and Greenways Conference, hosted by the California Dept. of Parks & Recreation since 1983, will continue to be the most prominent trails conference held in California.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP continues to host and maintain a significant sponsorship role in the California Trails & Greenways Conference.
<p>2. Develop multi-jurisdictional plans for habitat linkages. Since most wildlife corridors cover multi-jurisdictional areas, it is essential that planning discussions and activities include the land managers for the corridor region, as well as stakeholders and affected regulators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action is being accomplished by the natural resource community of conservancies, counties and land management agencies. • Little progress on linking the natural resource planning with trail system planning
<p>3. Encourage trail-supplying agencies to place an emphasis on providing more day-use trail opportunities close to urban areas. Divert use away from overused trails by promoting the use of trails that are typically underutilized, especially during peak days and times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road & Trail Management Planning addresses trail use needs and dispersion of trail use over a determined system
<p>4. Continue to provide trail design and construction training programs that include multi-agency participation in order to foster planning cooperation and widely accepted trail design standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP Trail Training Program has been providing nationally recognized trail training for over 13 years and will continue to provide trail training opportunities to all agencies and land managers

GOAL FOR TRAIL RESEARCH
Promote research that documents trail usage, environmental impacts and trail-based recreational trends and identifies future issues and needs.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. Support or establish a program for accessing trail related research needs and for designing and initiating research projects. These should include conducting and publishing research on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How trails can better meet the special needs of youth and seniors in California • Ecological benefits of good trail design, construction, and management • Social and cultural barriers and how they affect trail use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No research conducted in California, a few studies have been conducted in the Mid-West relating to tourism and MTB impacts to trail tread.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>2. Encourage and support scientific studies that address trail impacts on the environment. This will include developing baseline data and threshold guidelines for assessing the impact of trails on wildlife. Conduct necessary surveys to determine what baseline data is available to measure the impact of trails on wildlife. If necessary, conduct scientific studies, surveys, and inventories to allow for the development of adequate baseline data to address the impacts of trails on wildlife, and to assess the adequacy of various mitigation measures. Develop studies of how managed areas can reduce impact versus impacts from unmanaged trespass situations. Using the data collected, develop carrying capacity/threshold guidelines and management policies for trails in sensitive areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No research conducted to date. • Change of Use Survey Matrix being developed by CSP will support and benefit from additional scientific studies.
<p>3. Develop an effective marketing program aimed at organizations and groups that could best use the research findings in order to increase trail accessibility and use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be addressed once research is conducted
<p>GOAL FOR STATEWIDE TRAIL STEWARDSHIP Promote adequate design, construction, relocation, and maintenance of trails in order to optimize public access and resource conservation.</p>	
Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. Provide training and educational information about state-of-the-art trail design and construction techniques to the trail builders by supporting trail maintenance and management courses and workshops and enabling trail managers and volunteers to attend education opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued CSP high quality trail training program • Continued field workshops at CT&G Conferences • Continue conducting Recreational Trail Program trail planning and grant workshops with CSP Grants and Local Services Division
<p>2. Extend and improve delivery of initial and ongoing trail training opportunities to trail stewards, such as volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain low cost registration fees for the CT&G Conference • Explore scholarship opportunities for trail training programs
<p>3. Support efforts to assure that all levels of government provide adequate budgets for maintaining their trails.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal progress due to limited funding opportunities for trail maintenance • Increasing promotion of Adopt-a-Trail programs
<p>4. Conduct and distribute periodic reviews of new trail-related products or trends. Encourage trail managers to work with manufacturers to help resolve identified problems in new trail related products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Progress

Action	Progress to Date
5. Review and evaluate existing trail related educational programming designed to enhance trail usage and the public's understanding of each trail's related natural and cultural resources. Provide coordination for the collection and dissemination of trail related literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American Trails website is a good current source of trail related literature on a national level • Interpretive trail programming sessions will continue at the 2008 CT&G Conference
GOAL FOR ENCOURAGING PUBLIC USE OF TRAILS Encourage public use of and support for trails programs throughout California.	
Action	Progress to Date
1. Work toward developing a common database aimed at identifying trail accessibility and accommodation and, once developed, provide the information to the public. This would aid users in their understanding of the purpose and condition of any particular trail and aid them in deciding which trails best suit their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRTC "Trail Portal" web site, currently under development, will assist the public with trail use information • The recently initiated, CSP trail inventory process, will assist State Park trail users web based trail information on individual park units.
2. Promote volunteer participation in trail stewardship programs and support all stakeholder organizations that promote good trail stewardship, such as, adopt-a-trail programs, California Trail Days and National Trails Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue support of California Trail Days hosted and supported by the California Trails and Greenways Foundation • Promote Adopt-a-Trail programs with federal, state and local land managers
3. Support the public information and education efforts of land management agencies and other interested parties by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding agency and non-profits. trail-related website content and Links • Expanding distribution of publications, especially regional and trail specific maps and guidebooks, to libraries, visitor centers, park entrances, trailheads, travel agencies, etc. • Partnering with other agencies and trail user groups to produce informational materials. • Use broadcast, cable and print media to promote trail information and public use of trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRTC "Trail Portal" web site, currently under development, will assist the public with trail use information • The recently initiated, CSP trail inventory process, will assist State Park trail users web based trail information on individual park units • Local and regional trail guide brochures continue to increase in accuracy with the increase of GPS/GIS available data
4. Encourage and support the development and use of trails that are close to home, and promote the use of underutilized trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue CT&G Conference sessions on urban trail planning • Continue promotion of Road & Trail Management planning
5. Educate trail users, students, and trail advocates on the potential impact that trails and trail users have on wildlife and on the environment, based on scientific studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate and reliable trail impact studies are yet to be produced, once studies of this type are available the information can be shared

GOAL FOR TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY**Provide trail users with easily accessible trails and accurate information on trail locations and conditions.**

Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. Design and implement or support assessment surveys and research projects that will help determine trail user information needs. Develop a methodology and implement a program to collect data on the number of trail users, the type of use, reasons for choosing the trail, and the benefits users received. The results should be publicized and used to promote individual trails and general trail benefits, and to determine public information needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little progress to date • Potential future CRTC template survey available to the public
<p>2. Provide barrier-free or fully accessible trails that offer a variety of features and experiences. They should include trails which access unique natural, historical and cultural features, or other unique experiences, and should be accessible via a barrier-free or fully accessible trail whenever possible. Also, every effort should be made to provide accessible, continuous loop trails and/or trails that connect with other features that are accessible to people with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP Accessible Trail Program within the Accessibility Unit has removed barriers from over 40 miles of SCP system trails • CSP continues to be the front-runner in development and management of Accessible trails in the nation
<p>3. Assist communities and trail managers with trail assessment and design. Trail assessment, using such recognized programs as the Universal Trails Assessment Program (UTAP), would include assistance in determining a trail's specific usage possibilities, including evaluation of its entry and use obstacles and in analyzing all possible alternatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTAP training available through the developer of the program, Beneficial Designs of Nevada • CSP is signing accessible trails with trail condition information for users and will be posting information on the Department's website
<p>4. Establish a technical assistance program for accessibility guidelines, including educational materials and training programs, to help trail managers design, construct and maintain the most accessible trails possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An accessibility design and construction class is being developed by CSP to be included in the established Trail Training Program • CSP is currently revising the Department's Trail handbook to include accessible design throughout the document
<p>5. Establish and implement a universally recognized trail accessibility designation program that will identify the intended use, the difficulty and the suitability of each trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is currently being developed by the Federal Access Board, once drafted into law, this will be the required by all trail managers and agencies

GOAL FOR MULTI-USE TRAIL COOPERATION	
Provide the maximum opportunities for the public use of trails by encouraging the appropriate expansion of multi-use trails.	
Action	Progress to Date
1. Establish a public process, coupled with scientific data and documentation, for determining use groups appropriate for trails within State Parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Change In Use Survey Matrix evaluation process with CSP • Promotion of Road & Trail Management Plan process • Current CSP Trail Policy establishes trail planning process
2. Assist park managers in identifying and resolving conflicts between trail users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Road & Trail Management Plan process including public input for trail use designations • Many land manager are implementing trail safety/information patrols
3. Prepare instructional materials aimed at informing the public on proper etiquette for multi-use trails. This should include, where appropriate, signs at trailheads or critical trail junctions that inform or remind users of proper trail etiquette.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and regional jurisdictions have been implementing a "etiquette triangle" signage • Implementation of CRTC Conflict Resolution workshops
4. Involve user groups to help land managers make informed decisions regarding trail designation and design. Such issues as overall user safety, levels of public use, resource impacts, and needed and available monitoring, patrol and enforcement should be considered when determining trail designations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some regional multi-user trail organizations have made great strides in supporting land managers • Promotion of Road & Trail Management Plan process
GOAL FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS	
Work to identify and resolve conflicts between property owners and trail users and advocates.	
Action	Progress to date
1. Encourage and support open and continuing dialogue among private property owners, community organizations, and professional land use organizations such as farm and cattlemen associations, adjacent public property government entities, and trail expansion advocates regarding trail systems and needed links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego County's Defense and Indemnification Ordinance is a great model for addressing this issue
2. Identify potential tax-related incentives and seek funding for other inducements for private property owners to allow and support public trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Progress on this action
3. Establish, maintain, and disseminate trail use related statistical data, including community and economic benefits, trail-related crime information, liability protection, and other appropriate and useful data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some information available on the American Trails website • No progress in California

GOAL FOR TRAILS PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

The Department’s Statewide Trails Office will continue its guidance and leadership roles in promoting the advancement of trails and trails programs throughout California.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. The Statewide Trails Office will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the California Recreational Trails Committee to guide the implementation of the California Recreational Trails Plan. • As funding is available, implement and update regularly the status of the action guidelines (elements) of the California Recreational Trails Plan. • Extend its efforts beyond the boundaries of state parks, working closely with other agencies and organizations to enhance trail quality and expand opportunities for linkages. • Provide grant proposal writing training opportunities and provide clearinghouse-related services for trail-related grant programs. • Sponsor and oversee the annual California Trails and Greenways Conference. • Provide public information regarding trails throughout California with emphasis on trails and linkages that occur within California State Parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working on update status report for California Recreational Trails Plan with CRTC • As a element of the “Plan” update the regional trails information will be updated and enhanced • Continue conducting Recreational Trail Program trail planning and grant workshops with CSP Grants and Local Services Division • Continued sponsorship and planning for the California Trails and Greenways Conference • Continue progress with the CSP system trail inventory process and link with the increased data collected through the “Trail Portal” progress
<p>2. Support trails-related research and assist in disseminating research studies and information to public land use agencies throughout California.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress on this action

GOAL FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL

Evaluate the status of previously secured easements for the California Riding and Hiking Trail and evaluate the feasibility for continuance of the trail’s expansion.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>1. Secure graduate students, interns or volunteers to organize the records of the previously secured easements and to identify the current active portions of the California Riding and Hiking Trail (CRHT) and their ownership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statewide Trails Office has hired a student intern that is working on identifying easement issues in areas of high concern statewide
<p>2. As funding becomes available, research the ownership status and the uses and conditions of the previously secured easements that are not currently identified as active portions of the trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a task of the previously mentioned student intern

Action	Progress to Date
<p>3. Secure funding to hire a consultant to analyze the potential for completing the California Riding and Hiking Trail and to prepare a report to be presented to the California Trails Committee for its recommendation for the future of the CRHT. If it is determined that the CRHT has significant potential for success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding through the State’s General Fund, federal trails and transportation grant sources, and future Park Bond Acts to acquire land in fee title or to secure easements, consistent with other trail priorities; • Identify new trails that may be in place or that are planned that could provide alternative linkages for the CRHT; • Notify counties and cities in the vicinity of segments of the trail of the State’s willingness to work cooperatively with them on the trail; • Use the California Recreational Trails Committee to recognize official additions to the CRHT, should it be deemed appropriate for continuance of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding in recent years has not been available to hire a consultant to research the viability of completing the historic vision of the CRHT • No new purchases have been completed with respect to additions to the CRHT current ownerships • CSP has been actively working with San Diego and San Mateo Counties to plan potential CRHT ownership transfers to coordinate alternative linkages with regional trail systems • Through the update of this Plan and future staff reports the CRTC will be involved in the progress of CRHT ownership planning