

Aggregate comments provided through five public workshops conducted on behalf of this plan in January to February, 2005. Comments are sorted by topic area where possible.

Trails

- Public access should avoid [sensitive] habitat areas
- Use existing cattle trails/rancher trails to lessen impact of new trails
- Bicycle/trail connections (Rancho Murieta- Folsom)
- Trail routes – be sensitive to surrounding landowners
- Off lease dog trails where appropriate
- Equestrian trails
- Non urban trails – natural materials surface, limited fencing, easy to follow
- ADA compliance in some areas and programming hiking areas
- Provide some single use trails
- Trails that teach
- Put trails in a place that are convenient
- Site trails downhill from homes - Brown's Ravine/Folsom Lake
- Opportunities for multi use trails
- Dogs may not be suitable in naturalistic area
- Provide access for ADA/disabled
- Have separate trail system for each activity. Have bike-only trails. Have hike-only trails. Have horse-only trails.
- Need for people-dog exercise trail opportunities/open space
- Separate trail use instead of multi-use trails

Education Outreach

- Expanded outreach programs to include school groups?
- Make sure public use is of equal value [priority] to habitat priorities
- Environmental education through multi tiered interpretive program
- Mining/cultural education opportunities
- Opportunity for school field trips
- [Provide] maps and interpretation signage
- Bring people/kids to resource
- Education/hands-on with restoration type projects
- [Provide] education about cattle
- Provide education regarding Prehistoric uses
- Education opportunities for youth for:
- Natural resources and agriculture use
- Stewardship program
- Education - knowledge in history, geology, birds, plants on docent-led hikes
- Focus on high school kids- the purpose and process including acquisition process etc. are all important for them to know

- [Focus on] Urban center kids near by – education value
- Nature Studies for local schools
- Establish an outdoor education program like Slide Park
- Its important to garner generational [long term] commitment to the Reserve [stewardship] [but] it is hard to attract and secure

Other Uses

- Appropriate uses – biking- equestrian – hiking – multi use trails preferred – not separating uses
- Family oriented activity such as hiking, biking (slow speed), and picnicking.
- Multi use: equestrian, humans, dogs etc.
- Day use picnic facilities for small groups and families
- Overnight group camping for youth
- Multiple use is important
- Public access in areas without sensitive needs/habitats
- Legal obligation to provide public access amenities – i.e. restrooms
- Don't let DCH be the “catch-all” for all needs
- Agriculture – tourism/ ecotourism
- Consider State Parks area or other portions of DCH – identified for more intensive recreation use (passive)
- Consider agriculture – tourism opportunities strategies
- Small group camping (under supervision of some type).
- Equestrian uses.
- [Provide for] overnight opportunities for special trips
- People uses – mix with cattle? Open gates? Camping? Hunting? No dogs, quota on access? Help with habitat restoration projects?
- Great opportunity to [develop] additional recreational uses

Facilities

- Bathrooms –
- Water –
- Garbage (trash collection)–
- Parking –
- Fire control –
- Fencing/gates –
- Roads/trails –
- Signage – staff –
- Focused access points with education information/trail information
- ADA access –
- Power
- Restroom facilities (friendly to landscape)
- Limit the size of the parking lot in order to limit the # of people and reduce the impacts of recreation on grazing and environment.

- Creativity with how facilities to fit environment
- Interpretive Center?
- Protect view shed from too many trails
- Parking adequate for trailers
- Minimal signage- utilize maps instead
- Restrooms/compost toilet
- Overnight group camping for youth
- Place restrooms “underground” to lessen impact on view shed

Docent Support/Strategies

- Promote community volunteer services
- March is biggest month for led docent hikes about 100 people average 30-60
- Patrols - needed with human use
- Make use reservation-based
- Consider volunteer trail patrols
- How should volunteers be involved?
- Conduct more docent led tours like bird outing
- Have to get more people involved

Phasing/Timing/Funding

- Open public access when?
- Uses: integrate them slowly
- Plan according to corridors
- Seasonal changes- rotating access
- Consider revenue generation [to] supports aspects of DCH

Security/Operations/Strategies

- Restrict park hours (Dawn to Dusk) to limit problem activity.
- Limited use during certain times of year depending on habitat impacts
- Consider a membership program to promote user responsibly and since of ownership.
- Reservation for use may be helpful in monitoring use (EBMUD) Comanche and Pardee reservoirs
- Buy access “tags” limited to season, etc. (appointment system; reservations/permits)
- Patrols - needed with human use
- Make it reservation-based use?
- Sign-in or register or membership type concept instead of open to general public
- Controlled access via trail plan
- Need lots of security with public access
- Level of security- & who? Cooperation with Rancho Murieta?

- Volunteer security- use it!
- Membership for public use – creating ownership
- Emergency plan for park –plan for park users- plan for responding to fires
- Integrate public access with grazing
 - Education of general public
 - Signage
- Control access
- Public access- rotate the people like cows – have different areas open in alternate years/months/seasons
- One access point with security
- Provide active security with Resources
- [Allow] motorized vehicle use?
- Charge for port-a-potty use?
- Reactions to membership system – Prohibits/discourages:
 - Spur of the moment use
 - Infrastructure expected
 - Fees vs. volunteer help
 - Patrols = wouldn't pay
- Consider seasonal closures:
 - Rainy = messy with horses – build good/easy-to-maintain trails – need resources/volunteer help
 - 105 degrees = prohibitive bikes
 - Calving time = sensitive time for rancher

Long Term Visions

- Sacramento County vision for the Reserve is for it to become - an open space park – like the American River Parkway (co-tenant to Conservancy)
- Give public opportunity for open space – stewardship
- Property provides a stepping-stone to increase and connect open space.
- Deer Creek Hills Preserve should be a self-contained area - not part of linear system [in terms of trails or access]
- DCH can provide a focal point for “community building” activities such as volunteer clean-up parties, theme picnics promoting unity)
- “United we stand” approach join together with other conservation groups
- People want nice places to get out to nature – like State Parks
- Why do people go to Europe to see what it used to be like here!
- There seems to be a ratio between rate of growth and peoples awareness of need for open space
- Growth targets predetermine subsequent planning decisions – need to watch targets
- The Conservancy should look at mutual support for opportunities with surrounding properties

Concerns/Issues

- Trash removal
- Have to deal with public dumping at minimum?
- Illegal dumping – how to control?
- Public access vs. private lands – basic concerns from the view of the neighboring landowner
- Prohibition of OHV's applies to State-owned portions of the Preserve also
- Will number of people/visitors be limited or managed? What about people who want to come out on their own- want to go beyond property limits? What about parking for them?
- How are neighbors impacted by trails? Will there be internal buffers for trails?
- Will bicycle access- (motorized or not) be allowed? - not restricted by MOU
- Need to address potential of future use by mountain bike/horse/dogs and what strategies are there to control/manage them
- Fire hazards - always additional caution during & after May
- Keeping people off certain sensitive areas – 4,000 acres with trails?
- Carpooling is encouraged – perception of people on trails
- Trespassing by mountain bikes & horses on private property a big issue -
- Impact of people? How much acceptable?
- Need to define use projections?
- Public will abuse the landscape (vandals, teen parties, fire starting, trash dumping, conflicts with neighbors). Will there be adequate law enforcement?
- Provide adequate # of law enforcement to handle and prevent problems.
- Maintenance and usage – design trails plan