

# MMWD WATERSHED OPEN HOUSE BREAKOUT GROUPS COMMENTS September 9, 2009

## What Can The District Do?

- Prioritize social trails
- Designate some of the social trails as authorized trails.
- Education.
- Narrow Vocabulary (Unauthorized, illegal, social, unpermitted, etc.).
- Enforcement (e.g., motion sensor cameras).
- Improve signage & maps.
- Demonstrate alternate routes (make the public aware of where the authorized trails are).
- Maintain a visual presence on the watershed (rangers, volunteer mounted patrol).
- Signs with trail routes.
- Have any trail modifications or change of use follow CEQA process.
- Be clear about reasons for phase-outs of unauthorized trails; provide rationale, get greater acceptance.
- Evaluate if some non-systems trails make sense to keep because they provide a better experience to visitors.
- Reassess if some unauthorized trails can be maintained.

- Identify costs of maintaining some unauthorized trails (e.g., annual trail pass); seek ways to generate funding for maintaining trails.
- Provide access to single track trails by cyclists.
- Let the public know the distinction between MMWD lands and adjacent parks lands (brand).
- Re-Brand (Water First – Recreation Next).
- Focus on the different kinds of people that use the watershed; recognize communication approach will likely be different depending on the user types.
- Ask people to adopt trails.
- Frame trail closures as good things.
- Don't build new trails.
- Reroute & Reuse.
- Educate about the consequences of going off trail.
- Stop putting up signs saying that a trail doesn't exist anymore.
- Use grant money towards other things since unauthorized trails will be maintained regardless.
- Prioritize (manage invasive plants may be a higher priority than managing trails).
- One-for-one policy (for every trail closed, a trail is better maintained).
- Provide information links on invasives.
- Consider historic aspects of trails to help set priorities
- Closures create more resource impacts than the original trail.
- Tap the energy of those individuals who are into building unauthorized trails.

- Evaluate the actual impacts of trails to sedimentation and other environmental impacts; distinguish those impacts from impacts by roads.
- Roads are not increasing in number; trails are.
- Trails impact the habitat and critters – they expand the human footprint into nature.
- Make MMWD Road & Trail Plan available at public libraries.
- Listen to the public and change the way MMWD deals with public comments.
- Provide a clear contact list of MMWD staff and locations, so the public knows who to contact.
- Advertise trail days through newspaper columns like Barry Spitz and Tom Stienstra.

## **What Can The Public/Volunteers Do?**

- Disseminate information through user groups (e.g., guided hikes by organizations).
- Adopt trails (provide labor and funding to maintain certain trails).
- Volunteer for trail days or roving steward.
- Report to MMWD illegal trails that are observed.
- Stay on authorized trails.
- Remove traces of travel off-trail.
- Don't build unauthorized trails.