



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Central Coast Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/hollister>



**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-CA-0900-2015-21-EA
Laguna Ridge Trail
DECISION RECORD**

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to construct the Laguna Ridge Trail for day use hiking with regularly scheduled, controlled access on the Coast Dairies public lands, in Santa Cruz County, California. The Laguna Ridge Trail is designed to ensure public safety and protect natural and cultural resources while a long-term plan is developed for the Coast Dairies. Based on DOI-BLM-CA-0900-2015-21-EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact, the following constitutes my decision.

Decision

It is my decision to approve the specific management actions described under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) in DOI-BLM-CA-0900-2015-21-EA.

Alternatives Considered but not Selected

A no action alternative was considered that would limit recreation opportunities on the Coast Dairies public lands to BLM guided tours.

Decision Rationale

Based on information in the EA and consultation with my staff, I have decided to approve the preferred alternative. The Laguna Ridge Trail provides a sustainable recreation opportunity that can be managed to protect natural, cultural, and social resource attributes of the public lands. The preferred alternative best meets the purpose and need identified in the EA because it provides access for recreation opportunities while ensuring public safety until a land use plan to establish long-term resource management and protection goals for the Coast Dairies is complete.

Consultation and Coordination

Consultation on Coast Dairies was initiated in 2001 during the development of the Coast Dairies Long-Term Resource Protection and Access Plan (ESA 2004); and again in 2006 for the Hollister Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 2006). Consultation efforts continued throughout the planning process for the acquisition of Coast Dairies, including site visits with representatives from federal and state wildlife agencies, and with tribes.

The main emphasis of the BLM's Coast Dairies Interim Management Plan (June 2014) is to protect threatened and endangered species and their associated habitats. Accordingly, the Laguna Ridge Trail is designed to have no effects on threatened or endangered species listed under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, or their associated critical habitat(s).

BLM also conducts government to government consultation, as appropriate, with American Indian tribes under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, 16 U. S. C. Section 470f) for interim management activities and the development of a long-term management strategy.

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Additional requirements for tribal consultation can be found in the Native American Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), Executive Order 13175: "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments", Executive Order 13007: "Indian Sacred Sites" (1996), and Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" (1994).

Public Involvement

BLM posts information about proposed actions that are under environmental review on their NEPA [website](#). BLM also announced the intention to develop public access at the Coast Dairies at several community meetings in Davenport, CA and Bonny Doon, CA. To promote partnerships and enhance the stewardship of the Coast Dairies public lands, BLM made the preliminary EA (DOI-BLM-CA-0900-2015-21-EA) available for a 30-day public review and comment period that ran from June 10, 2015 through July 10, 2015. In total, BLM received twelve (12) letters with comments on the EA from one (1) state agency: California Coastal Commission; one (1) tribe: Amah Mutsun Land Trust; two (2) organizations: Rural Bonny Doon Association (RBDA) & Sierra Club; and eight (8) individuals. In response to public comments, BLM incorporated additional information into the relevant resources sections within the document and developed a new preferred alternative to reduce potential effects on transportation (i.e. traffic) and public health and safety.

Opportunities for additional public involvement in BLM-decision making process for the Property will be announced by the Hollister Field Office as they prepare a long-term management plan for Coast Dairies and an associated amendment to the Resource Management Plan for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California (2007).

Plan Consistency

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the Hollister Field Office Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California (2007), the Coast Dairies Interim Management Plan (2014), the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Religious Freedom Act, other cultural resource management laws and regulations, and Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice.

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.



Rick Cooper
Hollister Field Manager

August 31, 2015
Date