



To: Michael Schneider, Auburn State Recreation Area Superintendent
Re: ASRA General Plan: Regional User Group Recommendations
January 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Schneider,

The City of Auburn's Endurance Capital of the World Committee and several other trail user group representatives would like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss the following documents. It is a compilation of suggestions to consider for the ASRA General Plan and a letter from the Western States Trail Foundation. Our next meeting is on February 11, 6:30 pm, at the Placer Co. Visitors' Center (1103 High St, #100, Auburn), so that is one possibility. We would also be willing to meet with you at your office at a date and time that would work for you. For the latter option, could you suggest several dates/times?

Sincerely,

ECC Committee Members:

Robert A. Miller, Chair; Cynci Calvin, Secretary; Matt Spokely, Auburn City Council Representative, Colleen Conley, Lisa Kodl, Jim Northey

Background

In October 2013, the City of Auburn's Endurance Capital Commission (ECC) hosted an ASRA Trail User Group Meeting. This meeting, and two subsequent meetings, brought a wide variety of ASRA users together to discuss the current problems and safety issues related to the ever-increasing popularity of the ASRA trails. The goal of the meetings was to create a document listing recommendations, and submit this document to ASRA to be considered in the ASRA General Plan.

Equestrians, mountain bike riders, runners, and hikers (including walkers, bird watchers, and nature enthusiasts) were all represented at these initial meetings. Due to the size of the group, the ECC created

a smaller Subcommittee to delve into the details of possible solutions that included the importance of educating users about trail etiquette and safety, shared use, on/off day use, changes in current user group designations of some trails, and construction of new trails. The Subcommittee consisted of qualified representatives from the equestrian, mountain bike, runner/ hiker groups, who were tasked with receiving input from the larger groups they represented. The Subcommittee vetted both changes in current trail use and brainstormed new trail construction.

After months of meetings and much research, the Subcommittee presented short term, medium term and long term goals to the Endurance Capital Committee. The options in this letter are, by-and-large, informed and supported by the different trail users convened in the Trail User Subcommittee of the ECC, except for the equestrian representatives when options involved mountain biking use of the Western States Trail.

Recommendations

Short Term Goals involve a heavy emphasis on trail etiquette education for all user groups through:

- Creating, printing (in an easy-to-carry brochure), and website posting of current ASRA trail maps with etiquette guidelines. The brochure will be provided free at select Auburn businesses. (*note: the ECC has funding for this approved in their 2014-2015 ECC Committee Work Plan*).
- Improve signage for current trail designations and add trail etiquette guidelines to the signs.
- Outreach to area clubs and organizations to be proactive on trail use and trail etiquette issues.
- Establish a multi-user trail patrol (this is also listed on the medium range goals).

Medium Term Goals:

1. The Subcommittee determined that a key priority is to provide mountain bike riders a route from Auburn to Cool without forcing them to ride on very dangerous sections of Highway 49. The following option as described on Map #3 was discussed; however, the subcommittee did not reach consensus due to the proposed use of a section of the Western States Trail. For this reason, the ECC would like to engage in a discussion with ASRA regarding options to provide mountain bikers with access to these trails (such as a pilot project):
Map #3: a trail from the Quarry Rd. Trail to Olmstead Loop Trail addresses this issue by showing routes that would be straightforward to implement.
 - (A) Reopen old road bed to allow lesser grade access in climbing PG&E Road
 - (B) Open Old Skid Trail for safer Hwy 49 crossing/access
 - (C) (C-1) Open trail parallel to west side of Hwy 49 to 49 Crossing/WS Trail.
 - (D) (C-2) Open the trail parallel to the east side of Hwy 49 next to Teichert's dilapidated fence to 49 Crossing/WS Trail
 - (E) Shared use of Western States Trail section to Olmstead Loop trail
2. Initiate a discussion, with input from user groups, on other existing trails that may be suited for a change in use, specifically focusing on trails between Auburn to the American River Confluence, and between the Confluence and Cool.
 - There is a need to create more trail options to accommodate the growth of mountain bike users and promote safe use of trails for all user groups.
 - In addition, several options can be considered for changing trail user designations, including: one-way directional trails, odd/even day use, and "piloting" before finalizing changes.

Long Term Goals:

1. Resurrect prior projects to determine viability for completing those projects:
 - Development of the American River North Fork Trail (see Map #1)
 - Construction of a second bridge across the American River (near the old Diversion Tunnel)
2. Budget the construction of new trails for multi-user groups and specific-user group designations. Included in this document are two more maps describing these areas for changes that would allow access to more trails for the ever-increasing number of mountain bike riders. The trail options are lettered and in black ink.

Map #1: Clementine & American River North Fork Trails

(A) Connection from Foresthill Loop to Ponderosa Road using a portion of #19 Long Point Fuel Break Trail

(B) Connection from Ponderosa Road to Stagecoach using portion of Cod Fish falls Trail

(C) Revive the American River North Fork Trail Plan

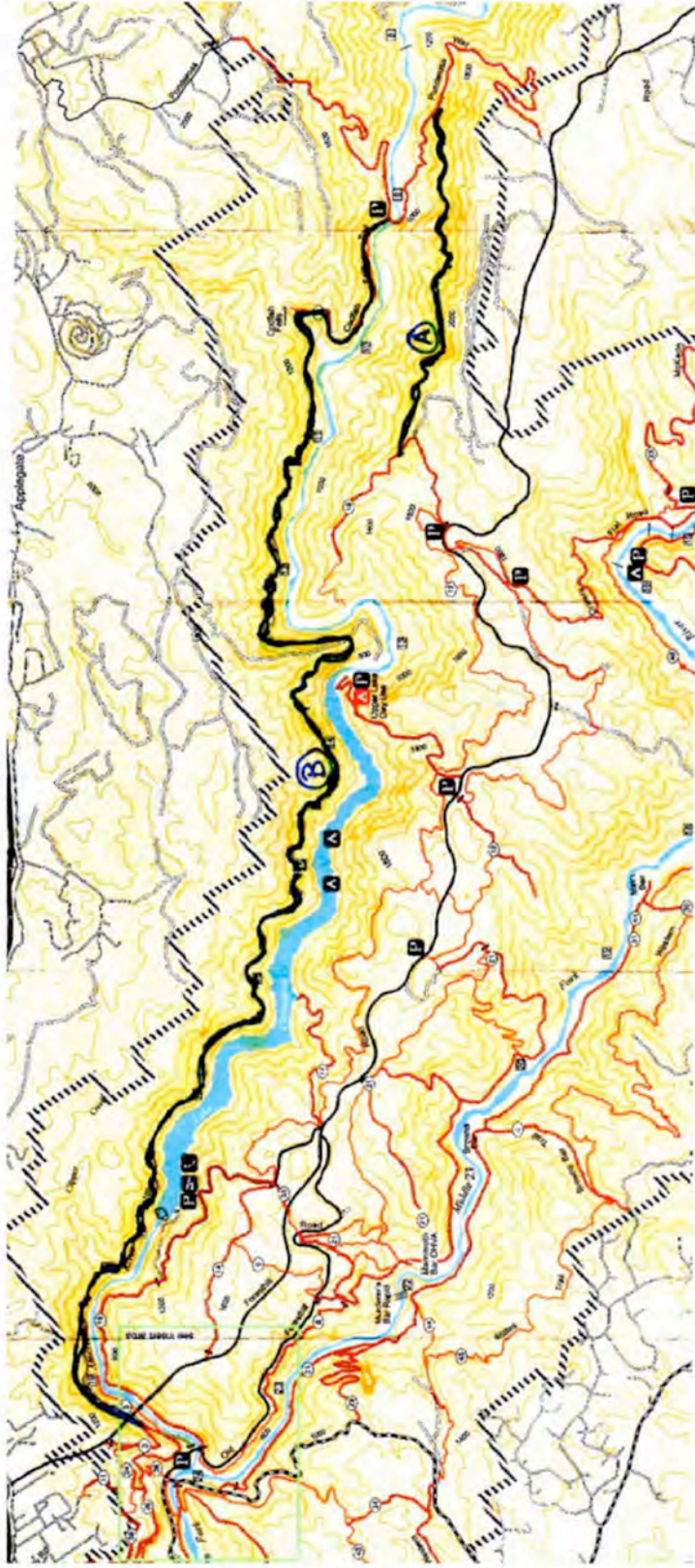
Map #2: Mountain Quarry Bridge to Olmstead Loop: Three possible options to connect Mountain Quarry Bridge to Olmstead Loop Trail and using the East side of the American River Middle Fork Canyon.

Summary

Clearly building more trails is the best option to cope with the increasing number of user groups on the existing trails, but everyone understands that this is much more of a long-term option given the expense and staff resources needed to make this happen. In the meantime, we believe there are other proactive and viable options that will lead to a better balance of trail and trail users, and which will reduce hazards and improve safety for all ASRA visitors.

Clementine, North Fork Trails

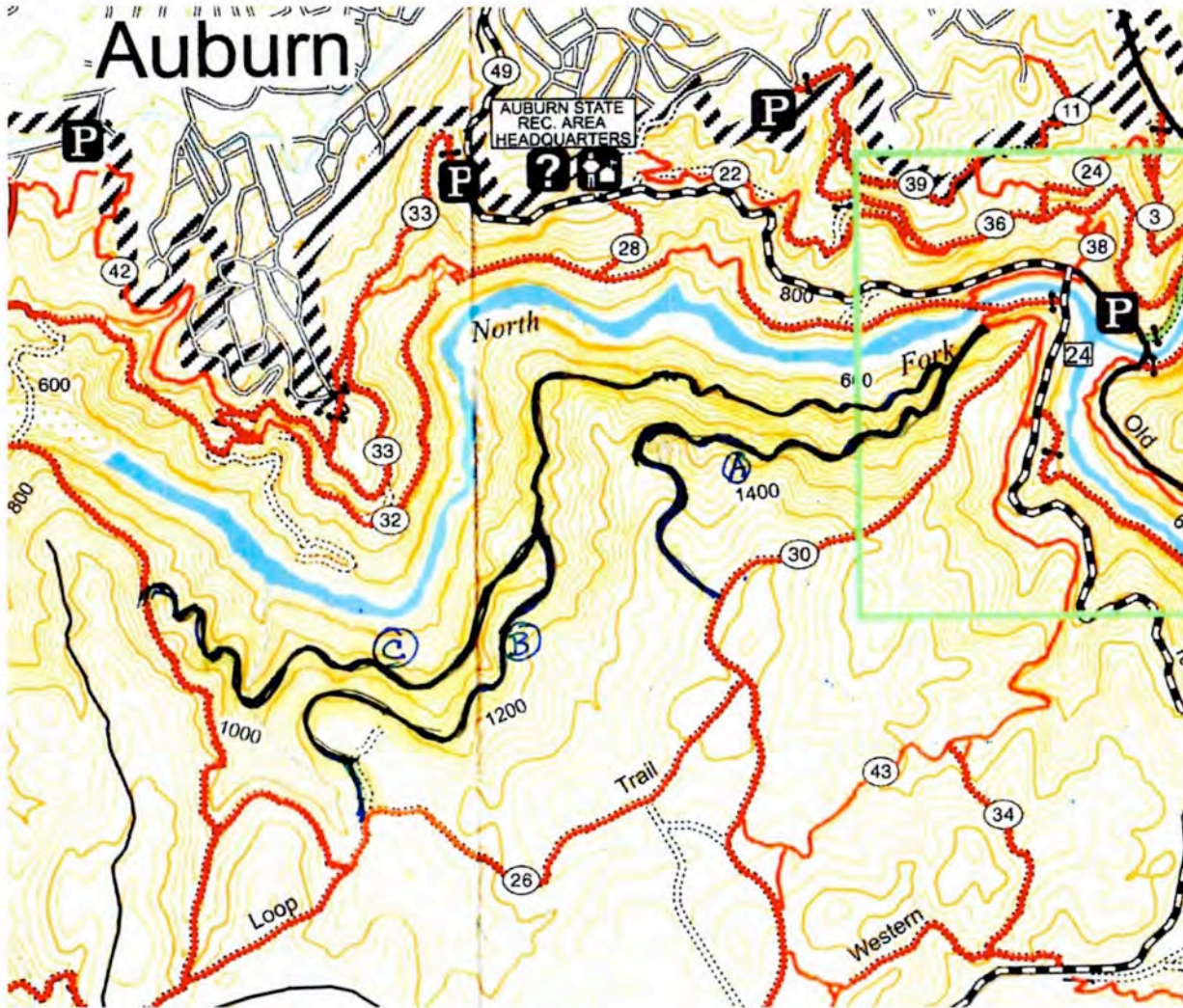
Map #1



- (A) Connection from Foresthill Loop to Ponderosa Road using a portion of #19 Long Point Fuel Break Trail
- (B) Connection from Ponderosa Road to Stagecoach using portion of Cod Fish falls Trail
- (C) Revive the North Fork Trail Plan

Map #2

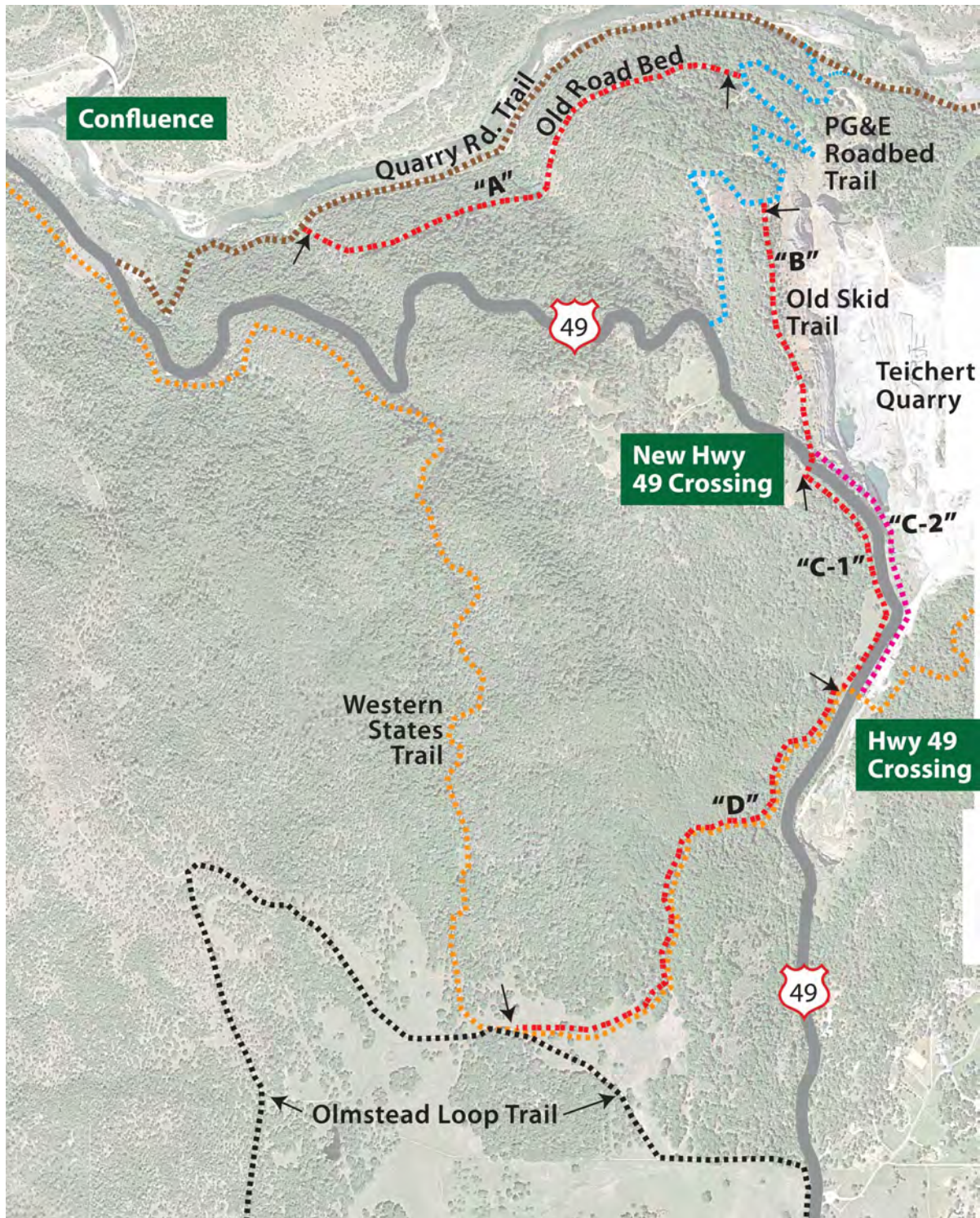
Mountain Quarry Bridge to Olmstead Loop



Three possible options to connect Mountain Quarry Bridge to Olmstead Loop Trail and using the East Side of the Middle Fork canyon

Map #3: Quarry Rd. Trail to Olmstead Loop Trail

- A. Reopen Old Road Bed to allow lesser grade access in climbing PG&E Road
- B. Open Old Skid Trail for safer Hwy 49 crossing/access
- C-1. Open trail parallel to west side of Hwy 49 to a New Hwy 49 Crossing
- C-2. Open trail parallel to east side of Hwy 49 to the Hwy 49 Crossing/WS trail
- D. Shared use of Western States Trail section to Olmstead Loop Trail (0.9 mi.)





WESTERN STATES TRAIL FOUNDATION

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State of California Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Gold Fields District
501 El Dorado Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: ECC Trail User Group Recommendations

Dear Mr. Schneider,

We, the undersigned, served as equestrian representatives on the Trail Safety and User Group Sub-Committee under the Endurance Capital Committee (ECC). The ECC is planning to submit recommendations from this group to you, to the Auburn City Manager and to the Auburn City Council. We would like you to know that the Sub-Committee did not vote on any of these recommendations, and that the ECC has disbanded the group without our prior knowledge, and without a democratic process. We believe that requirements of the Brown Act have not been adhered to as the ECC's proposal was drafted from discussions and meetings that we were not aware of.

We would like you to know that equestrians and hikers were not fairly represented in this process and that this current proposal is contrary to the mission of the Auburn Endurance Capital of the World. The current ECC proposals, if approved, would jeopardize the safety of hikers and equestrians and the Tevis Cup Endurance Ride itself, which is the premier equestrian endurance event in the world.

This is our position on the current proposal:

Short-Term Goals - We approve written etiquette guidelines for trail users, improved signage, out reach to trail organizations, and trail patrols. We would like to have input on the etiquette brochure before printing.

Medium-Range Goals - We oppose shared use of the Western States Trail with mountain bikes, shared use one-way directional trails, and odd/even day use. We oppose any pilot programs on these narrow canyon trails and bridges, as they will jeopardize the safety of all users.

Long-Range Goals - We approve construction of a bridge near the old diversion tunnel and development of the North Fork Trail. We approve newly constructed parallel bike trails that are not visible from hiker/equestrian trails. We oppose shared use with mountain bikes on the Mountain Quarries Bridge.

The Western States Trail was surveyed, funded, built, and has always been maintained by, the Western States Trail Foundation, so that equestrians would have a safe path along the canyons into Auburn. Yearly, thousands of hikers, runners and equestrians currently safely share this trail along the river between Foresthill, Greenwood, and Auburn.

Respectfully,

Kathie Perry, Board of Governors, Western States Trail Foundation
Linda Glazier, Board of Governors, Western States Trail Foundation

Co:
Tim Rundel, Auburn City Manager
Keith Nesbitt, Mayor, City of Auburn
Dr. Hill Kirby, Council Member, City of Auburn

A Western States organization of California and Nevada Horsemen to save and preserve for future generations the historic Western States Trail of Cowpioneers and Gold of California and the trail route of miners from the gold mines of California to the silver mines of Nevada. To encourage public participation in riding and hiking on the Western States Trail to sites of once populous Gold Rush mining camps and



locations of events prominent and important in the history of the West. To sponsor annually the Western States 100 Miles One Day Ride for international competition. To recreate public attention and interest everywhere for endurance riding as made famous in our western history more than a century ago, by the riders and horses of THE PONY EXPRESS.