

Comments and quick summary on Cow Mountain Recreation Implementation Plan as affects equestrians

LCHC is not listed under sign in people for scoping meetings see page 8

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

To ensure quality recreational experiences for public lands users, ANNUAL trail condition assessments shall be performed on all trails in the Cow Mountain Recreation Area to determine where deferred maintenance should occur during annual maintenance cycles (see Appendix C and Appendix I for Soil Conservation Plan and Trail Monitoring Protocol).

REDESIGNS

The following trails will be redesigned to provide better equestrian access from Mill Creek Road up to Mayacmas Campground. Current conditions are not accessible by horse. No additional miles will be added or removed from the North Cow Mountain trail network (see Appendix A).

- Mayacmas Trail
- Valley View Trail

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DEVELOPMENT

- An approximately 5.46 mile enclosed mountain bike course with intermediate and advanced loops will be developed with a trailhead located on Scotts Valley Road.

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- An approximately 1.59 mile downhill mountain bike course will be developed from Green Gate Trailhead along an existing firebreak down towards Mill Creek Road.

- An approximately 12 mile mountain bike loop with main trail heads at the Mayacmas Campground head south on the eastern ridge toward the FCC communication site traversing both the Glenn Eden Trail.

- An approximate 3.57 mile equestrian loop along the Upper Scotts Creek area.
- An approximate 2.18 mile equestrian loop along the Little Cow Mountain area.
- An approximate 8 mile multi-use loop north of the Mayacmas Campground.
- An approximate 6.45 mile multi-use connector trail leading down from Lake Mendocino to the North Mayacmas Loop Trail. If this connector is

developed, a campground will be developed north of the Vichy Springs Trail, featuring loop trails.

* Purposed trail routes are subject to change dependent upon ownership, deed restrictions, developed natural/wildlife resource issues, or cultural resource conflicts discovered during further Environmental Analysis.

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NOTICE, NO CURRENT HORSE WATER at MAYACMAS

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Campgrounds, North Cow

The Mayacmas Campground is beginning to show signs of age and the facility requires redesign to provide better recreational opportunities with Park & Camp sites, Ride-in Equestrian Camping, and Primitive Camping with no parking (Hike & Camp). With the potential expansion of the facilities an additional toilet will need to be installed on the far end of the campground, investigations to provide water sources for water access for horses, better parking facilities at campsites, and a redeveloped loop road. If the Lake Mendocino/North Cow Mountain Connector trail is eventually developed, the north portion of North Cow Mountain will require a facility with appropriate amenities to provide users a recreation destination. When this connector is completed or other trail equal to this connector's purpose, the Northern Cow Mountain Recreation Site will be developed with 3 campsites offering picnic tables and fire-rings, water access for horses, and a self-composting

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Campgrounds, South Cow

The Sheldon Creek Campground will be redesigned to better accommodate equestrian camping. The closed campground will be reinstated and all of the campground will be redeveloped to its original capacity and will also include a turnaround loop through campground for horse trailers. If plausible, per BLM regulation, water access will be reinstated.

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TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS North Cow

Proposed Management Actions Trailheads, North Cow

All external and internal trailheads on North Cow Mountain require significant updating and improvement. The following internal trailheads will be improved: Willow Creek Trailhead and Mayacmas Campground Trailhead with trail signage, info kiosk, and improved parking. Glen Eden Trailhead (Scotts Valley) with improved barriers and water access for horses. The following internal

trailheads will be developed: Green Gate Trailhead, Glen Eden Trailhead (at Mendo-Rock Road), and the 'Water Tank' Trailhead with trail signage, info kiosk, and improved parking. The following external trailheads will be developed: A Lake Mendocino Trailhead will be developed with local partners to provide trail signage, info kiosk, and parking to accommodate equestrian access. A Vichy Springs Trailhead will be developed with local partners to provide trail signage, info kiosk, and parking to accommodate equestrian access.

" A Scotts Valley Mountain Bike Course Trailhead will be developed with local partners to provide trail signage, info kiosk, and parking to accommodate mountain bike access."

If the acquisition of parcels along the northeast side of North Cow Mountain is successful, a trailhead near Blue Lakes along Highway 20 will be developed with local partners to provide trail signage, info kiosk, and parking to accommodate equestrian access.

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TRAILHEAD ACCESS SCU (Sheldon Creek)

Trailheads, SCU

Currently, Sheldon Creek has no developed trails or trailheads. An equestrian accessible parking area along campground road between the turn-around loop access points and a trailhead on the south side of the Toll-Road will be developed. Pending survey, a trailhead will be developed from Adobe Creek Road.

EQUESTRIAN USE

Equestrian, North Cow

Equestrian use is encouraged in all ROS Zones, but access points and facilities are very limited at this time. Use is almost entirely on the Glen Eden Trail, which has a trail head on Scotts Creek Road and runs for about 6.5 miles to its terminus at Mendo-Rock Road. The Clearlake Horsemen's Association assisted with the construction and maintenance of the trail. The trail is usually brushed by hand, using inmate crews or volunteers.

Equestrian, South Cow

Equestrian use is allowed but not encouraged north of Benmore Creek due to the high potential for collisions with vehicles on the South Cow Mountain trails. Although there are no present trails or support facilities, equestrian use is encouraged from the ridge line immediately south of Benmore Creek to the southern end of the South Cow Mountain area.

Equestrian, Sheldon Creek

Equestrian use is encouraged, but access points and facilities are limited at this time. See Appendix A for proposed development.

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see page 107 for list of NC trails development and who can use them some say mountain bike only some say equestrian only-they need to clarify

my concerns: some trails need to be horse/hiker only due to safety. We would like BLM to consider the LCHC adopted trail safety standards as we do not accept IMBA standards which are deliberately vague...Sara Maxwell said at Court house meeting that all trails had to be multi-use, however the Draft plan shows specific user trails-clarification needed IMBA means of slowing down bikes are not always possible due to terrain nor safe for equestrian. My intent is that members of the LCHC trail committee review Draft plan and meet with BLM with concerns