Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Public Workshop – March 14th, 2017 from 5:30-8 p.m.
A multi-agency planning effort to create a coordinated and sustainable trail system that enhances recreation and provides trail connections while balancing the need to protect sensitive environmental resources.

- A multi-use trail system
  - Hiking
  - Mountain biking
  - Equestrians
- Considers planned trails
  - Community Trails Master Plan
  - Other planning documents
Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Partners

[Logos of various organizations including County of San Diego Parks and Recreation, City of Chula Vista, SD Public Utilities, Otay Water District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Border Patrol, and RECON]
Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Description of the Study Area

- 72,523 acres under private & public ownership
- 8 ecological preserves & management areas
- Complex regulatory structures that govern public use
- Numerous sensitive biological & cultural resources
  - including 23 federally-listed, state-listed, or MSCP-covered species
Regional Location
Guiding Principles

Develop a quality recreational experience that:

- Avoids sensitive ecological areas
- Develops trails in areas already influenced by human activity
- Provides buffers to protect sensitive ecological and hydrologic systems
- Develops appropriately when trails do intersect with sensitive areas
- Integrates trail connections with private developments
Conserved Lands

- Otay Trail Study Area
- San Diego National Wildlife Refuge
- Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve
- Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve
- Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area
- City of San Diego Cornerstone Lands
- San Miguel Habitat Management Area
- Otay Ranch Preserve
- BLM Wilderness
- BLM Public Lands
- Kuchamaa Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Cedar Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Trail Planning Process

- **Literature Review**
  - County of San Diego Community Trails Master Plan
  - Chula Vista Greenbelt Master Plan
  - Otay Valley Regional Park Concept Plan
Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Previous Trail Planning Efforts

- Otay Trail Study Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Existing Staging Area
- Proposed Staging Area
Key Environmental Considerations

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Aquatic Resources
- Soils
- Slope
- Land Use Conflicts
Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Sensitive Plants

Otay Trail Study Area
Sensitive Plant Observations
(95 Unique Species)
Final Critical Habitats
- Mexican Flannelbush
- Otay Tarplant
- Spreading Navarretia
Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Sensitive Wildlife

Otay Trail Study Area
Sensitive Wildlife Observations (75 Unique Species)
Final Critical Habitats
- Arroyo Toad
- Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Least Bell’s Vireo
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly
- Riverside Fairy Shrimp
- San Diego Fairy Shrimp
Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Aquatic Resources
Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Soils

Otay Trail Study Area
Soils (Trail/Road Erodibility Rating)
- Severe
- Moderate
- Slight
- Not rated

RECON
Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Slope

- Otay Trail Study Area
- Slope:
  - less than 10% slope
  - 10% to less than 25% slope
  - 25% to less than 40% slope
  - 40% to less than 90% slope
  - 90% slope or steeper
Preliminary Constraints Mapping

Potential Land Use Conflicts

- Otay Trail Study Area
- Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
- Munitions Response Areas (MRAs)
- Correctional Facility Parcels

Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area
- Closed Areas
- Hunting Dog Training Area
- Existing State Housing
- Proposed Hunting Dog Training Ponds and Fields

Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve
- Closed Areas
- Special Hunting Areas

San Diego National Wildlife Refuge
Draft CCP
- Proposed Hunting Area

City of San Diego Public Utilities Trail Guidelines – Source Water Protection Zones
- Reservoir Outlet (2,500 foot buffer)
- Upper Otay Dam (2,500 foot buffer)
- Upper Otay Reservoir (1,000 foot buffer)
- Lower Otay Reservoir (1,000 foot buffer)
- Major Tributary (200 foot buffer)
Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Preliminary Constraints Mapping
Environmental Constraints Overview

Vegetation Communities (Holland/Oberbauer)

- Alkalai Slope
- Beal
- Chamaeous Chamise
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Coastal Scrub
- Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh
- Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
- Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub: Coastal form
- Disturbed Habitat
- Eucalyptus Woodland
- General Agriculture
- Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral
- Maritime Succulent Scrub
- Mule Fat Scrub
- Native Grassland
- Non-Native Grassland
- Non-Native Grassland: Broadleaf-Dom.
- Non-Native Riparian
- Non-Native Vegetation
- Open Water
- Riparian Scrubs
- Scrub Oak Chaparral
- Southern Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest
- Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest
- Southern Interior Cypress Forest
- Southern Maritime Chaparral
- Southern Mixed Chaparral
- Southern Riparian Forest
- Southern Riparian Scrub
- Southern Riparian Woodland
- Unvegetated Habitat
- Urban/Developed
- Vernal Pool
- Wildflower Field
trail planning process

- Literature Review
- Constraints Mapping
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Trail Design
- Biological & Cultural Resource Surveys
- Trail Study Document
Public Input Opportunities

- Online survey
- Two public workshops
  - First workshop – Today
  - Second workshop – Summer 2017
- Individual stakeholder meetings
Q2 How do you enjoy trails?
Answered: 219  Skipped: 1

- By foot (walking) 30%
- By foot (with a stroller) 5%
- By foot (hiking) 60%
- By foot (running) 20%
- By bicycle 90%
- By horse 1%

Q4 What difficulty level would you prefer for new trails in the study area?
Answered: 219  Skipped: 1

- Leisurely 5%
- Moderate 40%
- Challenging 30%
- Difficult 20%
Public Workshop Format

Open House
5:30pm to 6:00pm
Sign-in Table
Poster Board Session

Presentation
6:00pm to 6:20pm

Open House
6:20pm to 8:00pm
Station 1: Interactive GIS Station
Station 2: Trail Design & Amenity Questionnaire
Station 3: User Questionnaire
Poster Board Session
Guidelines for Participating at Stations

- Please form lines
- Be specific
- Consider others time
- Rotate between crowded stations
- Return materials
Expected Outcomes

➢ Your survey responses will help inform the planning process by providing us with valuable information regarding our user base and user preferences.
➢ Trailheads provided at the GIS station will be considered for trail alignments, though not all trailheads will be feasible due to environmental considerations.
THANK YOU

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