

SANTA BARBARA FRONT COUNTRY TRAILS WORKING GROUP  
NOTES  
FEBRUARY 26, 2003

Attendees: Jim Childress, Jeff Saley, Rich Tobin, Toney Biegen, Chris Orr, Chuck Anderson, Brian Robinson, Ray Smith, Rebecca Martin, Kalon Kelley

Brian provided an overview of the last two meetings for those who had been absent.

A short debate, with managed time, followed, regarding a reported incident of mountain bikers going too fast down Tunnel Trail and a close call with a hiker and whether the hiker had in some way provoked or made the incident worse by his angry, vocal reaction. There was also a debate/discussion over the accuracy of information on the Safe Trails and IMBA websites.

No actions or decisions resulted from this discussion/debate but it was realized that a common incident reporting procedure such as the one existing on the LPFA website should be used. Incidents should be reported in a factual, non-judgmental way and summarized for reporting back to the Trail Working Group.

Ray Smith made the point that it seemed to him that current uses on trails (such as increased mountain bike use) have changed the way trails are used and this might influence our survey efforts. But as Brian pointed out, the **current** mix of uses is relevant and needed by the agencies. All agreed that a substantial survey effort would be necessary to be valuable.

Chuck and Toney have come up with a list of survey questions. It was decided that we use the questions produced to date and let Brian come up with a couple of formatting options for them to present at the next meeting. Suggested survey dates would also be presented to the group.

In order to circumvent or minimize organized group efforts to bias the survey, locations of the survey will not be made available until survey day.

All agreed we should start surveying as soon as possible in order to take advantage of good weather. The target month will be April. March will be spent in refining and completing the survey instrument.

Next meeting date – March 11, 2003 from 5 to 7 PM at the Santa Barbara Library to coincide with the honorary ceremony for Kerry Kellogg at the Santa Barbara Trails Council Meeting.

All Trail Working Group members committed to attending the April and May Trail Day events on the Santa Barbara Ranger District (details to be announced) and encouraging their group contacts to do so as well.

