



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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AGENDA DATE: January 24, 2007

TO: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

FROM: Nancy L. Rapp, City of Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Administration

RECOMMENDATION: That the Front Country Trails Multi-jurisdictional Task Force:

- A. Elect a Chair and Vice Chair;
- B. Approve the Front Country Trails Multi-jurisdictional Task Force Statement of Purpose;
- C. Establish a regular meeting schedule;
- D. Receive resource manuals and information from staff; and
- E. Adjourn to the Saturday, February 3, 2007 Work Session.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, and the Los Padres National Forest share jurisdictional oversight of Santa Barbara's Front Country Trails (FCT). On-going and newly identified multi-use issues on the FCT continue to be a source of concern for the 3 agencies involved with trail management and trail-users, as well as maintenance, management, planning and governance issues. On April 6, 2006, a Joint Meeting of the City of Santa Barbara Park and Recreation Commission and County of Santa Barbara Parks Commission was held and a recommendation was put forth to establish a multi-jurisdictional Task Force to address FCT issues. Representatives of the 3 agencies have been appointed to serve on the Task Force, and the first meeting of the Task Force will take place on January 24, 2007.

Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

The primary purpose of the Task Force is to develop recommendations which should be considered by the three jurisdictions in order to foster responsible, coordinated, cohesive and comprehensive management of the Front Country Trails for the greater good of the community. Additionally, the Task Force will provide a public forum to solicit and gather input from the public, trail users, property owners, community organizations and interest groups.

Specific areas of focus include:

- Use policies/Public Safety
- Governance and management
- Trail maintenance programs, including protection of natural and cultural resources
- Long term planning, Multi-jurisdictional Front Country Trails Master Plan

Membership

There are 6 appointments to the Task Force, including:

Steve Forsell, City of Santa Barbara, Park and Recreation Commissioner

Beebe Longstreet, City of Santa Barbara, Park and Recreation Commissioner

Jim Hickling, County of Santa Barbara, Park Commissioner

Suzanne Perkins, County of Santa Barbara, Park Commissioner

Bruce Emmens, Los Padres National Forest, Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer

Linda Riddle, Los Padres National Forest Santa Barbara District Ranger

A number of staff liaisons from the 3 agencies have been identified to support the work of the Task Force.

Statement of Purpose

A Statement of Purpose has been drafted for Task Force review and adoption. The document addresses the purpose, key objectives, meetings and agency representation of the Task Force.

Regular and Special Meetings

It is anticipated that the initial work of the Task Force focusing on use issues and trail maintenance will extend over a period of 2 years. During this time it is recommended that the Task Force meet on a monthly basis, and schedule additional public hearings or work sessions as needed. The 3 agencies concur that the multi-agency task force can be an effective tool in the long-term to insure cohesive and coordinated management of the front country trails. At some point, the Task Force may determine that quarterly or semi-annual meetings are sufficient for addressing issues and concerns.

It is recommended that the Task Force establish a regular monthly meeting schedule. Due to the significant public interest in the FCT and the work of the Task Force, it is recommended that the regular monthly meetings be scheduled in the same location each month and that all meetings be televised whenever possible. It is anticipated that several additional public hearings or work sessions will be scheduled in the future. All meetings of the Task Force will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act. The 3 agencies have agreed to share the cost for televising meetings, which is estimated at a cost of \$4000-6000 per year.

Staff recommends that the Task Force select either the first or second Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm for regular monthly meetings. These meetings will be held in City of Santa Barbara Council Chambers in City Hall. Meetings are anticipated to be 2 hours in duration depending on the agenda.

Resource Manuals

To assist Task Force members with their work, staff from the 3 agencies have compiled resource manuals which will be distributed at the January 24th meeting. Manuals include maps, historical information, policy and trail maintenance and management information. Over time additional resource materials will be added to the manuals.

February 3, 2007 Work Session

A Task Force Work Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2007, from 9:00am-2:30pm at the Louise Lowry Davis Center (De la Vina and Victoria Streets in Santa Barbara). The primary purpose of the work session is to provide Task Force members with background and resource information on the FCT, and an overview of the work conducted and recommendations formulated by the Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) and the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA). Following the staff presentation, questions and discussion, there will be an opportunity for public comment. The work session will close with the Task Force identifying next steps and providing any necessary direction to staff. Lunch will be provided, hosted by the City of Santa Barbara. An outline of the Work Session is attached as part of this report.

ATTACHMENT: Statement of Purpose

PREPARED BY: Nancy Rapp, City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Director