

SAFE TRAILS WORKSHOP
Thursday, September 26, 2013
Duck Club, Irvine, CA

Break Out Sessions 1 & 2:
Trail Sustainability & Maintenance

Ideas:

- Volunteers – Network for user groups (training, educational meetings on ecology, design, cultural resources, etc.)
- Need to consider cultural resources
- Rare plants – train volunteers (sometimes [plants] are small and not attractive)
- Safe retention of dead and dying trees

Solutions:

- Important to plan/design trail for sustainability (drainage vs. widening)
- Monitoring for changes
- Educate and public relations – but still need fencing
- Certified Professional Trail Builders with volunteer follow up
- OC Maintenance Crew needed (example: LA County Parks & Recreation)
- Master Plan for the County
- Efficient report mechanism for issues requiring work
- Funding – highway funding for bikers, multi-use funding harder to get, permit for use (for hyper-local improvements)
- Shared maintenance programs
- Sustainability education
- Preventative maintenance
- Maintenance certification program (state, county, individual associations)

Challenges:

- High cost of deferred maintenance
- Maintenance is first cut when there is a loss of funding
- Trail standards vs. loss of habitat
- How to change established uses
- Guidelines/standards vs. reality/site conditions (safety, erosion, type of use)
- Existing trails on acquired land
- Property use restrictions
- Lack of money – need user groups to do work
- Difficult to make new trails (need to maintain what we already have)
- Growing population makes it difficult to enforce
- Education before enforcement
- Problem is a small percentage of non-compliant users causing serious problems/damage

