



May 27, 2016

Lisa Mangat, Director  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

RE: SUPPORT for Proposed Rulemaking Change

Dear Director Mangat:

I am writing on behalf of the Safe Trails Coalition regarding the April 22, 2016 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Coalition wholly supports the clarification and specific authorities this action takes that allows regulation of off-trail (out of bounds) use in specific and specially designated areas within the California State Park System.

By way of background, the Safe Trails Coalition was formed three years ago by Audubon California, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Sea and Sage Audubon, and Sierra Club. Collectively and along with our more than 30 supporting organizations, our focus is to find the balance between responsible recreational needs and resource protection in our parks, preserves, and natural lands.

California's State Park System is an important resource for all residents and visitors. State Parks offer more complete and connected trail systems. Furthermore, State Parks protect important habitats and species that often times cross multiple jurisdictional lines. State Parks fill a role that other agencies cannot fill.

The mission of the Department includes "[helping] preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity," and "protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources..." Without proper authority, only three units within the system had the ability to prohibit off-trail use in the most sensitive places within our parks. Expanding the authority to include all State Park units is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your leadership and foresight in making this rule change a reality. Should you need to contact us for more information, please phone me directly at 714-779-7561.

Sincerely,

Melanie Schlotterbeck  
Coalition Coordinator

ENCLOSED: Safe Trails Coalition Factsheet

cc: Chino Hills State Park  
Crystal Cove State Park