



To: Ray Krauss, Friends of the Mark West Watershed
Fr: West Coast Watershed
Re: Saddle Mountain Management Plan Progress
Da: September 12, 2008

In collaboration with Pacific Watershed Associates, Lisa Bush, Robert Evans & Associates, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District and Tom Origer and Associates, West Coast Watershed has completed the following tasks towards the development of the Saddle Mountain Management Plan.

1. Summary and synthesis of existing reports and literature relevant to the Saddle Mountain property

Completed: An extensive resource catalog has been developed for the Saddle Mountain property, Mark West watershed, and surrounding area. Resource catalog includes document name, author/agency, published date, and brief description.

Future work: Incorporate detailed research regarding disturbance regimes, and habitat restoration approaches. Incorporate bibliographies from FMWW and other groups.

2. Mapping all information into a GIS database in a format acceptable to the District

Completed: Baseline and property description maps have been developed from GIS data to support fieldwork, data analysis, and text development. Draft maps: Location Map, Adjacent Parcels, Soils Map, Topographic Map, Vegetation Communities, Geologic Features, California Natural Diversity Database Map, Baseline Map, Management Map, Property Photo Map. In addition to existing GIS data, field collected GIS/GPS data include: well locations, erosion sites, roads/trails, sensitive plant species, sensitive habitats/features, invasive plant species, potential restoration sites, photo locations, archeological/cultural sites, and other management features.

Future work: Incorporate additional assessment work: road/trail condition, potential trail locations.

3. Natural Resources Inventory

Completed: Field research, documentation and mapping of plant/animal communities, rangeland condition, sensitive species/habitats, geology, hydrology, prominent features, road/trail condition, cultural/archeological resources and water quality in the area.

Future Work: PWA expects to finish the road assessment work by September 30. Trails consultant to be retained by District – work has not yet started.

4. Mapping, documentation and summarization of any legal features or constraints

Completed: Data regarding easements, ownership boundaries and adjacent ownership have been mapped and documented.

5. Documentation and mapping of natural resource problems

Completed: Documentation and mapping of natural resource problems such as landslides, invasive species, road/trail-related sediment, impacts to sensitive habitats, human use patterns, and decadent structures.

6. Mapping and prioritized list of development, management and restoration opportunities on the property

Completed: Draft maps and lists of management and restoration opportunities have been developed including vegetation management for fire control or biodiversity enhancement, sensitive habitat/species protection and enhancement, TMDL/NPS implementation, invasive species management opportunities

Future work: a) meetings with all consultants to develop an integrated approach to management and restoration, and identify potential conflicts among management strategies; b) meetings with the District to evaluate the draft management strategies; c) meetings with the community to present and evaluate the draft management strategies; d) revision of draft management strategies; e) final prioritization, text development and mapping of management and restoration strategies

7. Pending Scope Tasks: a) Development of appropriate trail, access road, parking and view-shed locations and recommendations regarding the removal or modification of existing built features (eg, roads/trails); b) Development of adaptive management framework and funding strategies; c) Development of draft Saddle Mountain Management Plan and public review process; d) Development of final Saddle Mountain Management Plan.

Please contact Karen Gaffney if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above: kgaffney@westcoastwatershed.com or 433-7377 x2.