

DRAFT

New Policies and Revisions to Existing Policies Governing Visitor Use of Roads and Trails

Note: Words marked with an asterisk () are defined on page 2.*

A. New Visitor Use Policies

1. Horses and pack animals must stay on designated* roads and trails, except when watering or resting the animal. Off-trail riding is prohibited. Riding on undesignated* roads and trails is prohibited.
2. Possession and riding of a bicycle is permitted only on designated roads and trails. Off-trail riding is prohibited. Riding on undesignated roads and trails is prohibited.
3. Pedestrians must stay on designated roads and trails. Off-trail pedestrian use is prohibited. Pedestrian use of undesignated roads and trails is prohibited.
4. MCOSD shall strive to increase road and trail connectivity for mountain bicycle use, and provide opportunities for short to medium distance loops, and long distance rides. MCOSD may consider one-way trails, uphill-only, and single-use trails to achieve these ends.
5. Open space preserves provide opportunities for mountain bicycle riding at low to moderate speeds. Extreme mountain bicycling activities, including racing and high speed downhill riding, are not appropriate uses in open space preserves.
6. MCOSD may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within designated areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail uses, and protect natural resources. Examples of areas where this policy may apply include those proximate to stables and those traditionally heavily traveled by equestrians.
7. MCOSD shall strive to prevent unintentional displacement* of trail users.
8. MCOSD has zero tolerance for unauthorized trail construction and unauthorized reopening of closed or decommissioned* roads and trails. MCOSD shall prosecute such violations to the fullest extent of the law. MCOSD shall explore and apply new deterrence methods, including increased penalties and user group-targeted land closures, to stop such damaging and unlawful activities.

B. Changes to Existing Trail Policies *(All other trail policies remain unchanged.)*

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MCOSD shall permit bicycling on trails designated for their use. ~~, including (a) new trails that MCOSD builds and designates for shared use and (b) existing trails on new lands, when compatible with natural resource protection and the safety of trail users.~~

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MCOSD shall discourage the use of trails that are not part of its system of maintained trails. ~~, when use of such trails is inconsistent with natural resource protection.~~

C. Definitions of Terms

Decommissioned: A road or trail that is permanently closed for the purpose of restoring the disturbed area to its natural condition.

Designated: A road or trail that is part of the designated road and trail system that emerges from the Road and Trail Management Plan/EIR process.

Undesignated: A road or trail that is not part of the designated road and trail system that emerges from the Road and Trail Management Plan/EIR process. While undesignated roads and trails will continue to exist for a period of time after adoption of the RTMP/EIR, their use would be unlawful.

Displacement: Self-selected cessation of use of a road or trail by members of a user group that is related to increased use by another user group, and concerns for safety, and/or decreased quality of experience.