



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP

Of The Ventana Chapter

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Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
617 Water Street
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

Subject: Proposal for San Vincente/Cemex Redwood Access Plan

Dear Esteemed Fellow Conservationists,

We approve of your decision to propose the transfer of San Vincente/Cemex Redwood Lands to National monument status. This area is prime mountain lion habitat, as well as home to other endangered species and an abundance of biodiversity. The Sierra Club urges the utmost sensitivity in wildlife protection before you open this land to the public.

Specifically, we support protecting the majority of this land for wildlife, the trees, the restoration of redwood forest and watershed protection. We support **limited and controlled** public recreational access and scholastic research.

We support ecologically-designed single-use trails that are monitored. We agree that there should be no new trails within or near known mountain lion dens, which are documented by the Puma Project.

The lack of monitoring and enforcement of mountain biking and horse riding in our local State Parks has resulted in severe erosion damage, additional illegal trails and negative impact in sensitive habitat areas. Also, dogs off-leash are a deterrent and a danger to wildlife. Multi-use trails shared by hikers, mountain bikers and horses are known to have conflicts and need separate trails. We do not want these problems repeated here.

Therefore, we advocate that **an effective enforcement plan** be implemented prior to opening the lands up for recreational use. In order for any enforcement plan to be effective, it needs to have paid Monitors/Rangers and serious consequences for offenders.

We suggest having one public entrance and user fees that will fund a monitor/enforcement program. This would include trail heads that consist of proper signage, monitoring by rangers and fines for offenders. Examples of proper signage are: "No bikes/horses on this trail", "Dogs on leash only", "Trail will be closed if people violate these guidelines."

As a meaningful consequence for breaking trail rules (bikes/horses not staying on designated trails, dogs being off-leash etc.) people would be fined and after repeated offenses the trail would be closed to the public.

Additionally, The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) declared our Coastal Redwoods, Sequoia Sempervirens as endangered species in December of 2013. Consequently, when any subcontractors engage in timber harvesting on this land, please exercise increased vigilance and stewardship in view of the serious status of our Redwoods.

We would like to see this access plan prioritize wildlife and habitat protection.

In Appreciation of Your Work,
Sierra Club-Santa Cruz Group