



Laguna Canyon Foundation

Trail Project Work Plan

Laguna Ridge Trail

Decommissioning/Restoration of Old Alignment: Phase 2

Park Name Wilderness Park, OC Parks



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February 2017

Introduction

This document provides a work plan for Phase 2 of the decommissioning and restoration of the old trail alignment that was bypassed by the reroute completed in the 2015-2016 trail season near the top of the Laguna Ridge Trail.

Background

Laguna Ridge Trail, also known as T&A, started out life as a ranch road. For many years, this trail was a favorite of the small cadre of Laguna Beach mountain bikers, and despite its steep, fall-line alignment, it stayed a stable, narrow singletrack for over a decade through the 1980s and early 1990s.

Starting with the wildfires in 1993 and culminating with the El Nino rains in 2010, a series of natural events and a dramatic increase in users began causing erosion problems along the trail. For years up until the present day, these sections continued to widen as most trail users avoided the jumbled centerline and stayed on the margins, damaging the fragile native vegetation and further eroding the trailbed.

OC Parks and Laguna Canyon Foundation, working together to assess trails in the wilderness parks, identified Laguna Ridge as a top priority, and concluded that the first step in saving this trail would be to reroute the top section off of the fall-line to create a longer and more gradual grade. This would render the trail more sustainable and have the added benefit of being rideable uphill as well as down. LCF Staff worked closely with OC Parks in 2014 to design a reroute that would strike a balance between protecting the surrounding sensitive habitat and maximizing the user experience and long-term trail sustainability.

LCF volunteer crews and staff worked through the 2015-2016 season to build the 0.3-mile reroute, only to have a wildfire burn through the area in June 2016, resulting in the closure of the trail. We stabilized the new alignment by installing erosion control measures and placing brush to prevent users from shortcutting through the burned areas. Once this work was accomplished, the trail was reopened in October 2016.

Last month (January 2017), OC Parks brought in a contractor to begin the decommissioning of the original trail alignment. The contractor used heavy equipment to break up the compacted trailbed, recontour the channelized slopes, and divert water from the old alignment to prevent further erosion.

With the generous support of grants from the Gimbel Foundation and the Marisla Foundation, LCF will soon begin work with the Orange County Conservation Corps to plant and seed this area with native plants in order to restore the impacted area to healthy native habitat as required by OC Parks' conservation mandate. We will also be working in the burned area to help protect it as it heals from the fire and address the rehabilitation of a dozer line that was constructed as part of the fire suppression effort.

Project Information

Trail Name: Laguna Ridge

Park: Laguna Coast Wilderness

Length/size of project section: Bypassed section of old alignment is approximately 1/10th of a mile long and 0.2 acres in area. Dozer scar is approximately 400 feet long and is also approximately 0.2 acres in size. The reroute is approximately 0.3 miles long. The burn area is approximately 50 acres in size.

Type of Project: Erosion Control, Weed Management and Habitat Restoration

Project Goals:

1. Enhance erosion control measures to protect trail reroute, prevent runoff from both the bypassed and decommissioned old trail alignment and prevent channelization on the dozer scar
2. Monitor for and control through hand-pulling invasive non-native weeds in burn area
3. Restore native vegetation to bypassed section of old trail alignment and the dozer scar

Estimated Labor Requirements:

4 weeks OCCC crew @\$4,200/week	\$16,8000
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LCF Staff time (project management)	\$18,500
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No time of OC Parks Staff is anticipated for completion of this project.

Tool Recommendations:

Battery powered reciprocating & circular saw kit \$275

Singlejack sledgehammers

Shears

Spades

Mini-shovels

Pick-mattocks

Macleods

Garden Rakes

Wire cutters

Materials Requirements:

Interpretive Signage	\$2000
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2,000 ft weed-free burlap straw wattles	\$3000
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1,000 1-ft wooden stakes	\$250
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Lumber and posts for 20 check dams	\$1500
500 1 gallon container plants	\$2500
500 2" liner container plants	\$750
8 lbs native seed	\$480



Photo of dozer scar from fire suppression efforts with channelization beginning to occur.



Photos of original trail alignment before and after decommissioning.



Closeup of a section of decommissioned trail that will be revegetated to create healthy native habitat.



Photo of rerouted trail going through burn area.