

Trails and Grazing

Research and outreach performed by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council indicates that grazing is compatible with appropriate public access and trails. Numerous organizations and land management groups throughout California currently have ongoing public access through grazing lands were contacted and the information gathered is included in this document.



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Trails Council

Las Varas Ranch

Analysis of Issues
Related to Livestock
Grazing Operation
and Trail Use

Neil A Havlik, PhD.



March 24, 2014

Planning Commission
Santa Barbara County
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Neil A. Havlik, PhD.

672 Serrano Drive #11
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93405
neilhavlik@aol.com
805-801-3416

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Neil Havlik. I have been asked by the Santa Barbara Trails Council to comment on the proposed subdivision project at Las Varas Ranch, west of Goleta, California, particularly in relation to the continued livestock operation, trail routing across the property, and the compatibility of those two programs.

Personal Qualifications

I am a long-time and well-known natural resources manager, having been involved in this profession in California for nearly forty years. I graduated with a degree in biology from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California (College at that time) in 1968, earned a Master's Degree in Botany from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1971, and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1984.

In my professional career I worked for a number of public and nonprofit organizations as a planner, resource manager, natural history educator, and researcher. In most of these positions I was involved in many aspects of land and resource management, particularly involving the use of livestock grazing as a management tool, and integrating livestock uses with public use of those same lands. This generally included public use of hiking, riding, and bicycling trails. Specifically, the organizations for which I worked were:

- East Bay Regional Park District, where I worked in 1972 to 1978 and again from 1981 to 1987. At the Park District I rose from the position of park worker to resource analyst to range and property management specialist. In the latter position I was responsible for oversight of all agricultural operations within the 75,000 acres of the Park District's 40 properties at the time. There were approximately 25 different livestock grazing leases covering about 40,000 of those acres, virtually all of which were open to non-motorized public use (riding and hiking) on unfenced trails, which brought livestock and trail users in frequent close contact. I served as the liaison between park management and the various livestock and other agricultural operators. This meant being involved in many aspects of those operations, particularly in regard to their effect on public use and vice-versa.

- Solano Land Trust, where for nine years (1987-1996) I was the organization's executive director. During my tenure, the trust acquired over 5,000 acres of rangelands in four major properties which were eventually opened to the public for hiking, nature study, and other educational purposes. Like the lands of the Park District mentioned above, these rich grasslands continued to be used for livestock grazing operations as well as the public trail use (each site had one livestock grazing lessee) and as executive director I once again served as the liaison between the trust's Board of Directors, the licensees, and the public.
- City of San Luis Obispo, where I worked as the City's Natural Resources Manager for sixteen and a half years (1996-2012), until my retirement in July 2012. My primary duties at the City included creation of a greenbelt around the City, which was a high priority for the community and for the City Council, and establishing resource management programs for the lands so acquired. During my tenure the City acquired over 3,500 acres of land in fee title and another 3,500 in conservation easements, making an excellent beginning to the goal of a complete greenbelt around the City. At the time of my retirement, the City operated ten open space areas; open to the public, and ranging in size from about 30 acres to over 1,000 acres. Six of these sites had livestock grazing operations on them which were continued, with certain changes made to accommodate resource protection needs such as excluding livestock from springs and streams, or to balance the agricultural operations with newly introduced public use. However, once again, trail use was considered compatible with continued livestock grazing, and the grazing areas of these properties were again crossed by numerous unfenced riding and hiking trails. In my role as Natural Resource Manager I was responsible for development of management plans for these properties, as well as overseeing the implementation of those plans. This included determining the livestock grazing regimes there, and again serving as the liaison between the City, the livestock operators, and the public.

In each of these positions I have been called upon to judge the proper balancing of competing uses for the lands involved. Some had seasonal livestock grazing operations, others were year-round; some were stocker operations with only young cattle, others were cow-calf operations with a mix of adult and very young animals. This variety of operations in differing settings has given me valuable experience in working with those operations, where each livestock operator has his or her own management perspective. In addition, many of the lands had rare or endangered species in them, which called for special management or protective measures. Virtually all of the lands, however, were open to some level of public use on many miles of hiking and riding trails. These trails were multiple use, and generally unfenced, allowing livestock to intermix with trail users, *often in close proximity.*

Addressing Problems and Use Conflicts

In my many years of experience addressing potential issues between hikers or riders and livestock, I generally found them to be minor and actually uncommon. The most frequent complaint from the livestock operators was that the public would sometimes leave gates between pastures open, so that livestock could move out of the pastures where they had been placed. This required the operator to round up the livestock or drive them back into the proper pasture, which added to management costs and time requirements. (In fact, gates being left open when they should be closed or closed when they should be open are historically the greatest complaint by cattlemen, and this can occur where public roads cross pasture boundaries). Other complaints involved people living near the parks allowing their dogs to roam the countryside, with the dogs occasionally harassing and sometime even injuring or killing livestock, especially calves. However, it should be noted that this complaint is quite distinct from people walking their dogs in the parklands and allowing them to chase livestock. The latter was also a complaint by operators, but was considered much less serious than the former.

Complaints from the public generally involved people complaining about stepping in manure while hiking or bicycle riding, and the generic complaint that livestock were incompatible with a park setting. However, in all my time in these positions I recall only one incident in which a citizen actually claimed injury, by having been “buted” by a mother cow when the citizen inadvertently got between the cow and her calf while hiking. The person was frightened but not seriously injured, and the matter was handled by the operator’s insurance carrier. There was occasional property damage from cattle getting out of the fenced areas; however, this usually involved damage to gardens or crops. Here again claims were relatively minor and were routinely handled by insurers. I recall no incidents in which a livestock operator made a claim against a park visitor.

In summary, during my almost 40 years as a public land manager charged with balancing public use with livestock operations, I found that people typically showed common sense and proper “range etiquette”, and there were generally no problems. I think that the problems were more vocalized in the urban East Bay than in the more rural Solano County or San Luis Obispo areas, where agriculture is close at hand and is second nature to many people’s experiences. In my experience, livestock operators adapted well to public use within the leaseholds and managed their operations in balance with recreational uses. I can recall only one livestock operator who relinquished his leasehold when the property was planned to be opened to the public, but the property was quickly leased again without difficulty.

Applicability to Las Varas Ranch

I have reviewed the Agricultural section of the Las Varas Ranch EIR, as well as the “Las Varas Ranch Trails Analysis” by range consultant Dr. Orrin Sage. Dr. Sage stated that the cow-calf operation at Las Varas Ranch utilizes several pastures to separate heifers (young

cows that have not yet had a calf) from their mothers (the heifer weaning areas), and to keep them separate from other cattle during their pregnancies and time of giving birth (the heifer calving areas). Dr. Sage stated that these pastures were selected for ease of access by the livestock operator for better safety from predators such as coyotes or mountain lions, and for protecting the general health of the animals during these times.

This particular grazing situation, involving the heifers and later they and their newborn calves, appears to be the key issue supporting Dr. Sage's findings of a significant impact to the grazing operation, and appears to be the driving force for his recommendations regarding the near-shore Coastal Trail location and for extended periods of trail closure. However, based upon my own long experience and review of the maps and aerial photos, I believe it would be a simple matter to develop screening to shield the cattle from trail users and vice-versa, thereby obviating the entire issue.

My recommended solution for this issue would involve:

- Fencing off a strip of land thirty to forty feet wide along the southerly edge of the heifer weaning and heifer calving pastures for the trail and creation of a vegetative buffer to screen trail users from the cattle. Fencing should be standard "turkey wire" or other durable non-passable fencing that would also prevent intermixing of dogs and livestock.
- Vegetating the fenced trail corridor with a mix of plants of the locally native coastal sage scrub community would create an effective screen between these pastures and the Coastal Trail within just a few years.

Based on my review of the site, the gentle topography and relatively good soils along the bluff top favor this possibility. As many as a dozen species could be utilized for this effort. These species can establish naturally when coastal areas are released from grazing pressure or other grassland maintenance techniques, and this tendency could be speeded up by planting and irrigation for two to three years to ease their establishment. It is estimated that a fenced strip of land thirty to forty feet wide and occupying an area of less than two or three acres would be needed to accomplish this effect along the southerly or seaward edge of the heifer weaning and heifer calving pastures. This would not seriously affect the functioning of these pastures as they are not of sufficient size to support the livestock within them without supplemental feed anyway, and they are already subject to such feeding and other animal husbandry techniques for the health and predator safety reasons stated above. This of course involves the regular presence of humans in and among these animals.

Westerly of these pastures the trail is proposed to cross under the railroad tracks and be in an area of use by older cows which are more used to people and not so likely to be affected by their nearby presence.

I would conclude by stating that making what are essentially permanent land use decisions such as the location of the California Coastal Trail based upon the perceived or anticipated behavior of livestock is not the soundest basis for such decision-making. The project EIR notes that changes to the nature of the grazing operation, or even its elimination by the new owners, as a possibility. For such high-value estate properties, cattle could be replaced by horses, which are much more tolerant of both people and dogs, and they might in fact be pets themselves. Grazing use itself might be replaced by new orchards or vineyards. These changes could all be abrupt, and have nothing to do with the existence or location of the trail.

It appears to this reviewer that the potential conflicts between the livestock grazing operation and trail use are overstated, and that obvious, simple and effective opportunities exist to mitigate the potential impacts of trail establishment and use on that operation. My many years of experience with the different types of grazing operations on land with public trail uses, including those involving young cattle and calves, indicates that problems are not common, can be anticipated, and can be obviated or completely avoided by simple and effective management techniques.

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Havlik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Havlik, PhD.
Natural Resources Manager (retired)
City of San Luis Obispo, CA.

cc: The Hon. Doreen Farr

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6/18/14



Santa Barbara County Trails Council
P O Box 22352
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
www.sbtrails.org

Re: Compatibility of Cattle Grazing and Recreational Trails

Dear Planners:

My name is Doug Carscaden. I am the supervising ranger for the City of San Luis Obispo and have been in this position for the last 10 years. Our agency manages approximately ~1,500 acres of grazing land with 9 different cattle operations/leases. Our grazing land typically supports a couple hundred head max and consists of cow/calf and stocker operations along with horses/colts. Our agency's lands are used for both grazing and recreational trails and our pastures support ~18 miles of public trails. These trails are multiple-use (Hiking and Biking) and cross our land with trail users passing in close proximity to cattle and horses. Grazing areas have perimeter and pasture fencing with active trail users in the same pastures as the livestock. We have even developed mini cattle guards to facilitate recreation but keep the livestock where desired at pasture crossings and illuminate the need for gates. Picture attached.

The experience of our organization has over the last 10 years, on the whole, been positive because recreational trails and cattle grazing have proven to be compatible. We receive few complaints from trail-users about our grazing operation, with an average 5 annually, typically based on general interest, resource damage or concerns for the health of the cattle and horses. Problems caused to our lessees by trail-users typically include Dogs off leash and occasional gates being left open. We have never had a lessee complain about cattle losing weight or experienced any significant conflicts or negative impacts on grazing operations.

We employ a couple trail management strategies to educate the public and to ensure compatible use. Signs, mini cattle guards, rotation of grazing between pastures, and rangers in the field to answer questions if needed.

Sincerely yours,

Doug Carscaden
Ranger Service Supervisor
City of San Luis Obispo



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6/12/14

Santa Barbara County Trails Council
P O Box 22352
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
www.sbtrails.org

Re: Santa Barbara County Trails Council--Public Trails/Grazing

Dear Mr. Otis Calef,

Point Reyes National Seashore was established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy "In order to save and preserve, for purposes of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped." This public land was purchased in fee out of private land and then leased back to the ranchers of dairy and beef operations, who are essentially still here today.

Today, over 2.5 million visitors come to Point Reyes National Seashore annually and the dairy and beef operations are still in production. Of the approximately 150 miles of hiking trails, only a couple go through grazed lands. Trails such as Bull Point and Bolinas Ridge can have grazing and hiking taking place simultaneously and we have never had any interactions that could have caused disruption to the beef operations at those locations.

John A. Dell'Osso
Chief of Interpretation and Resource Education
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
415-464-5135
john_a_dell'osso@nps.gov

Commemorating 50 years of Point Reyes National Seashore

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lassen
National
Forest

Eagle Lake Ranger District
477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188 Voice
(530) 252-5803 Fax

File Code: 2200/2300

Date: June 27, 2014

Santa Barbara County Trails Council
P O Box 22352
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
www.sbtrails.org

Re: Compatibility of Cattle Grazing and Recreational Trails

Dear Planners:

My name is Kirsten Pasero. I am a Rangeland Management Specialist for the Eagle Lake Ranger District on the Lassen National Forest in Susanville, California. I also oversee the recreation program for the Eagle Lake Ranger District. I have 25 years of experience with land management agencies, both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. I have worked in locations with a variety of recreational trails including wilderness, non-wilderness, equestrian and Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) trails that were within permitted grazing areas. The Lassen National Forest manages approximately 410,000 acres of suitable grazing land with 18 Term Grazing Permits that authorize grazing on one or more of the 50 active grazing allotments. Each permit varies in the number of livestock authorized based on the carrying capacity of the allotment area. Allotments range in size from 8,000 acres to 150,000 acres in size and may be grazed by 50 to nearly 1,000 livestock (cow/calf pairs) for 3-4 months annually. There are nearly 500 miles of developed trails on the Lassen National Forest, consisting of 30 miles of National Recreation Trails, 125 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, and 325 miles of other trails. These trails are multiple use for walking, hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Most are cross-country trails and traverse grazing areas that are not separated from trail-users, except for few of the recreation trails in campground areas where livestock are not permitted.

The experience of the Lassen National Forest has on the whole, been positive because recreational trails and cattle grazing have proven to be compatible. We receive few complaints from trail-users about our grazing operation, with an average 3-4 annually, typically based on hikers/bikers not knowing how to act around livestock, fear of livestock, or harassing livestock when encountered. Problems caused to our permittees by trail-users typically include failure to leave gates as they are found (open/closed). We have never had a permittee complain about cattle losing weight or experienced any significant conflicts or negative impacts on grazing operations associated with trail users.

We employ several trail management strategies to educate the public and to ensure compatible use. To help trail users access trails crossed by fences, we often use walk-through gate designs that allow easy passing but still control livestock. Signs, such as *Please Close Gate* or *Leave Gate as Found* are used on metal or wire gates.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Kirsten R. Pasero

KIRSTEN R. PASERO
Rangeland Management Specialist



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5/30/2014

Ben Munger
Ranch Manager | Midland School
5100 Figueroa Mountain Road
Los Olivos, California 93441

Santa Barbara County Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

Re: **Compatibility of Cattle Grazing and
Recreational Trails—Midland School**

Dear Commissioners,

I am the ranch manager for Midland School and have acted in that capacity for over 15 years. For more than 75 years Midland School has had a cattle lease on the school's approximately 3,000 acres of property in the Santa Ynez Valley and the foothills of the San Rafael Mountains. During this time, the school has had many grazing leases and different grazing operators and some level of recreational trail use by students and members of the community. Over the last two or three decades, such recreation trail use has increased while grazing has continued. Most recently, the school, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Trails Council, improved approximately ten miles of unfenced trails through our grazing lands; some of these trails actually follow historic cattle trails.

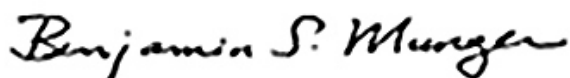
There are usually 150 cow calf pairs or 200 stockers on our ranch during the grazing season depending on the lessee. Students have access to all of the property and walk, ride horses, or bicycles along all of our trails. Our cross country team and other trail runners exercise on our trails. The school's property is also open to the public, provided they fill out a hiking or horse riding permit. Our trails experience moderate to high levels of public use particularly on weekends and depending on the time of year. All of our trails are unfenced and students and the public recreate where there are cattle, often in close proximity to grazing cattle, including calves.

We have never had a cow, calf, steer, or bull injured during at least the last 25 years besides a driver on Figueroa Mountain Road forcing a steer into a cattle guard because the steer was on the road. Figueroa Mountain Road is open range above the county bridge and cattle can be on the road legally between the bridge and the National Forest boundary. Yes, in spite of the sometimes heavy use of this road by cars, bikes and nature lovers, particularly in spring or during winter snows, only minimal problems have occurred with our open range cattle.

Midlands Schools experience with cattle grazing and trails being compatible uses is positive. There is very little trash at these public access points and there has never been an instance of animals eating or being sickened by a plastic bag. The public are respectful of our ranch rules and help us by identifying things like water troughs that are empty or damaged fences. There has not been an incident of gates being left open where cattle have gotten on the road—most of the time it is our fences that are in need of repair that allows cattle on to sections of Figueroa Mountain Road that are not open range. Because all of our trails are unfenced, trail users and cattle are frequently in close proximity, without serious negative consequences.

None of our lessees have complained about cattle losing weight because of stress caused by people walking or riding by them. There have been no incidences of people harassing livestock or complaining about livestock to the land owner. Folks are genuinely appreciative of having a place to recreate and value the experience just as it is—a mixture of wildland and ranchland. We hope that Midland School can provide a positive example of coexistence of recreational trail use with cattle grazing.

Sincerely,



Ben Munger

Ranch Manager

Midland School

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June 25, 2014

Santa Barbara County Trails Council
P O Box 22352
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
www.sbtrails.org

Re: Compatibility of Cattle Grazing and Recreational Trails

Dear Planners:

My name is Aaron Lazanoff. I have been a manager for the past the 7 years of lands that have public access. Our agency manages approximately 4000 acres of grazing land. Our grazing land typically supports 250 cow/calf pairs. There are trails throughout some of our grazing lands. The trails that we do have are not separated from the pastureland.

My experience over the past 7 years with grazing and public trails has presented many challenges, but these uses can sometimes be compatible. Problems caused by trail-users typically include failure to close gates, littering, erosion, unauthorized new trail creation, and dogs. Overall, cattle health is not significantly affected.

We employ several trail management strategies to educate the public and to ensure compatible use. These strategies include signs and self-closing gates.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lazanoff
Beef Operations Manager
Animal Science Department
Cal Poly State University

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Agriculture and Trails Questionnaire

Research and outreach performed by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council indicates that grazing is compatible with appropriate public access and trails. Numerous organizations and land management groups throughout California that currently have ongoing public access through grazing lands were contacted. To date, all organizations contacted have reported negligible issues between the public and grazing operations.

Land Management	Acreage	Miles of Trails	Type of Agriculture	Years of Coexistence	Incident Frequency
City of San Luis Obispo	700 total	9 miles	Cow/calf, stocker	15	0 – human interaction; 5x year dogs harass livestock ^a
East Bay Municipal Utilities District	112,000 acres	1,200 miles	Cow/calf	30+	>1 per year ^b
Point Reyes National Seashore	71,000	150 miles	Cow/calf, dairy	50+	>1 per year ^c
Los Padres National Forest	5,000 with grazing, 1.7 mil total	1,200 miles	Cow/calf, stocker, horses	100+	>1 per year ^d
East Bay Regional Parks Department	21,945 with year-round grazing	1,200 miles	Cow/calf (~5,000 annually)	40+	>1 per year ^e
Midland School	2,860		150 cow/calf pairs or 200 stockers	75+	1 incident with car, other than that never
Contra Costa Water District	20,000	53	3,000 sheep, 1500 head of cattle	13	1 ever
Bureau of Land Management - Ukiah Field Office	1132	1	cattle	9	never
Lake Berryessa Running Deer Ranch, Napa County		100 miles			
PG&E – Point Buchon Trail and Pecho Coast Trail		3.4		6	
Solano Land Trust	22,161	Varies from property to property, about 15 each	Cow/calf, stocker, sheep	Up to 25	1 incident ever
Lassen National Forest	20,000	10	Cow/calf		Gates left open annually, nothing serious
Cleveland National Forest	2500	5 miles	Cow/calf	40	1 minor incident a season

- a) Doug Carscaden, Supervising Park Ranger, City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, 2013.
- b) Mike Silva, Watershed Naturalist, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, 2013.
- c) Dylan Voeller, Rangeland Technician, Point Reyes National Seashore, 2013.
- d) Gary Montgomery, Forest and Rangeland Specialist, Los Padres National Forest, 2013.
- e) David Amme, Vegetation Program Manager, East Bay Regional Parks Department
- f) Ben Munger, Ranch Manager, Midland School

City of San Luis Obispo

1. **Name:** Doug Carscaden
2. **Position:** Supervising Park Ranger
3. **Contact:** dcarscad@slocity.org or 805-781-7302
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Livestock and trails have co-existed ever since SLO acquired these properties, Bishop Peak has had livestock since they got the land 15 years ago, there are 4 open spaces with cows that each have different cattle leases, 2 of the spaces don't have cattle in the winter so the trails don't become trampled, other properties were acquired in 2000 and 2006 and have had cattle since then, the next door neighbor to Reservoir Canyon has water rights for their cattle for the past 60-70 years, kept the ranch on the Johnson Ranch property
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Both, some places have stockers if they are there for a short intense amount of time, some places request cattle ranchers to provide older cows so they are used to people more, roping steers in for a month sometimes if they are not going to use them, never had a bull in the breeding season but have had everything else.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** 10-25 for each open space depending on the size and amount of vegetation
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?**
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** About 9.1 miles, trail is fenced, some of the open spaces have multiple pastures in them and are rotationally grazed
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** The only problem is when people let their dogs off leash and harass the livestock, cows usually hang out where there aren't trails so there are no reports of people being hurt, reports of dog harassment 5-10 times a year
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** N/A
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Fences to keep cows out of riparian areas, cattle guards, spring gates, drive through gates, signs that cows will be in the area
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Two of the open spaces are multi-use for hiking and biking, one is mostly hiking with a short horse segment, one is solely hiking

East Bay Municipal Utilities District

1. **Name:** Mark Silva
2. **Position:** Watershed Naturalist
3. **Contact:** msilva@ebmud.com or 510-287-2035.
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Since the start of the trails system and at least as long as he's been working there, at least 30 years.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Number of cattle changes by leases, anywhere from 250-300 head down to 30 at any given time.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Approximately 50 miles total – area is both fenced and open range. There are cross fences but there are some areas with big gaps.
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** About 9.1 miles, trail is fenced, some of the open spaces have multiple pastures in them and are rotationally grazed
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Approximately zero annually. Approximately 8-10 years ago there was a person concerned about getting charged, but nothing happened and that was the only complaint.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** 1 in the last 10 years
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Signs are posted on the trail saying that it is a grazing area and to keep the gates closed, although the gates have springs to self close. Cattle are rotated between pastures to the location of grazing and trails shift.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Hikers and hors

Point Reyes National Seashore

1. **Name:** Dylan Voeller
2. **Position:** Rangeland Technician
3. **Contact:** 415-464-5216 or Daisy Arao at 415-464-5127
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Since the National Seashore was created probably since the 1960s.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf and dairy.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Unknown.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Unknown
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** There are very few. There was one issue with an off-leash dog harassing a calf. That's the only incident.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** 1 in the last 10 years
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** There are gates and signs. Gates on pedestrian trails are spring loaded to close automatically. We're installing equestrian gates so they don't have to get off their horses. We have some fencing to keep cattle off of steep slopes and environmentally sensitive areas.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use.

United States Forest Service – Los Padres National Forest

1. **Name:** Gary Montgomery
2. **Position:** Forest and Rangeland Specialist
3. **Contact:** gdmontgomery@fs.fed.us. 805-925-9538 ext. 215
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Likely for generations; however, grazing allotments were established in 1906.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf and horses.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Approximately 5,000; however, the amount of cattle depends on the size and location of the allotment.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Most allotments have trails in them.
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Very few. We have not had any reports of dogs harassing cattle in the last few years.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
N/A
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Most places are just open land. Some areas have a sign up saying that cattle are grazing but that's mostly for vehicle travel like on Figueroa Mountain. Usually the hiking trails don't have signs/fences/gates.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use. Some are hiking only, most are hiking/equestrian; however some are OHV only.

East Bay Regional Parks Department

<http://www.ebparks.org/stewardship/grazing>

1. **Name:** David Amme
2. **Position:** Vegetation Program Manager
3. **Contact:** 888-327-2757 ext. 2344 or damme@ebparks.org
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Over 20 years
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf that are rotated seasonal.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** We graze/manage thousands of acres, so that's hard to estimate. The East Bay Regional Parks Department is one of the largest grazing organizations in California.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Some allotments have 15-20 miles of trails. Total length is unknown.
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Very few. Two-three times per year there will be issues with people having their dogs off leash and the dog will take off after the cow.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
N/A
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** There are gates to keep the cattle in. There are signs posted at trailheads stating that cattle are grazing on the land and give people an idea of what to do and how to react to cattle if something's going on. The signs tell people not to approach the cattle, don't get between a cow and a calf, and to keep dogs under control or on a leash.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use.

EBRPD – Parks that have Grazing

Park	Acreage	Miles of Trails
Briones	6,117	
Garin/Dry Creek	1,200	20
Las Trampas	5,342	
Sunol	6,859	
Wildcat	2,427	
TOTAL		

**List can be expanded with parks that have seasonal grazing, but some are with goats and sheep (<http://www.ebparks.org/stewardship/grazing/parks>).

Bureau of Land Management Ukiah office

1. **Name:** Briana Halstead ; **Position:** Natural Resource Specialist
2. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?** Trails & livestock have coexisted on the Stornetta Public Lands near Point Arena, CA since 2004 when the SPL's were acquired from private land owners. It has been under an Interim Management Plan since then, where hiking, and minimal recreation use is allowed, but no major infrastructure or management has taken place as of yet.
3. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?**Cattle
4. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Spread over the entire allotment (1132 acres) at any given time, the rancher typically runs about 50-60 cattle. _Depending on the year, however, and the moisture and amount of forage- there could be as few as 15-20 or as many as 120 out there. _The main "trail" (keeping in mind there are no constructed trails yet, only user-created trails) runs along the coastal bluff, so although they are there, the amount of cattle near or actually on this trail is likely small.
5. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** ~1 mi
6. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?**—The trail itself is not fenced off (from the livestock), however it is within a large pasture, so you could consider it fenced, I guess.
7. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** None that I am aware of.
If yes, the how often/many? Annually? N/A
8. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
9. **~How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
N/A
10. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** All trail/public access points are pedestrian "gates" which are always open and accessible to pedestrians, but not large enough for livestock to get through.
11. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** The Stornetta Public Lands have deed restrictions that disallows motorized & mechanical vehicles- including equestrian. So the SPL is open to hikers only at this time.
12. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** **Y** / N
13. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):** bhalstead@blm.gov

Solano Land Trust

1. **Name:** Sue Wickham ; **Position:** Project Manager
2. **How many acres does your organization manage?** 22,161 acres (broken up in different properties)
3. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?** Up to 25 years on some properties
4. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Stockers and cow calf, sheep on one property
5. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** depends, as many as 1000, some cows love to be near the trails
6. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** 13 miles, 15 miles (they have different properties with different trail lengths)
7. Is the trail: fenced or **open range?**
8. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** No
9. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** 1 incident with runners. There was a race on the property near the cows, some of the cows ran too and knocked a guy over.
10. **~How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** 1 incident ever, described above
11. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** signs on gates, separate hiker gate, after wet season they smooth trails (because of hoof prints)
12. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Yes (except the property with sheep), **no dogs**
13. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** **Y** / N
14. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):** sue@solanolandtrust.org; (707) 432-0150 ext. 207

Cleveland National Forest

1. **Name:** Lance Criley; **Position:** Rangeland Management Specialist
2. **What is the acreage of the area with trails and grazing (approximation is fine)?** Several different areas on the forest. Highest recreational use are with grazing is @2500 acres.
3. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?** 40 years
4. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/calf
5. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** 150 pairs
6. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands? 5 miles Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Trail has gates where it enters grazed areas.
7. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** We have had some users frightened by cattle, and one fake charge by a bull. No injuries. Going the other way, we have many problems with people letting dogs chase cattle and with mountain bikers cutting fence at gates so they do not need to dismount. **If yes, the how many annually?** I receive at most one call a season from hikers about cattle.
8. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** No injuries.
9. **~How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
10. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** We have installed interpretive signs at some trailheads about cattle and have installed "mountain bike cattle guards" to try to reduce instances of fence cutting.
11. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** YES
12. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** Yes
13. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):** Lance Criley, 619-445-6235 ext. 3457
lcriley@fs.fed.us

Lassen National Forest

1. **Name:** KC Pasero ; **Position:** Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist, USFS
2. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?** Most trails are long existing within our grazing allotments. It varies within areas depending on whether there are recreation areas or wilderness areas. The PCT crosses a portion of the Forest.
3. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Most operations are cow/calf on the Forest.
4. **How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Varies. Sometimes could be several hundred.
5. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands? Varies Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open range.
6. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** Sometimes but not necessarily major. Usually associated with hikers or bikers not knowing how to act around livestock, fear of livestock, or harassing livestock when encountered. Sometimes, issues with gates not being left as they are found. Often try to provide pass through gates for trail users that still control livestock.
7. **If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** No major issues. See above.
8. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** See 6 above.
9. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** Gates left open, annually. No injuries or serious incidents.
10. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Gates, usually trail-user friendly, and signs such as “please close the gate”.
11. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Yes, all of those mentioned.
12. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** Y / N
13. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):** kpasero@fs.fed.us

Contra Costa Water District

1. **Name:** Mark Swisher; **Position:** Watershed Resources Specialist with Contra Costa Water District
2. **What is the total acreage of the grazing area (approximation is fine)?**
20,000
3. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?** Since about 2000
4. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Sheep, cow/calf, and stocker
5. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** At the peak of the growing season we can have up to 1,500 head of cattle and 3,000 sheep
6. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** 53 miles of unfenced trails
7. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** Internal gates are regularly left open which can be problematic when trying to segregate groups of animals. Hikers uneducated about livestock sometimes are intimidated by curious stock following them. There was one instance a few years back when a hiker was charged by a sick cow.
8. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** Only the one mentioned in number 7 but the injuries were minor and the hiker was more concerned about the condition of the sick cow.
9. **~How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
See response to 7 and 8.
10. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Self closing pedestrian gates are used along the trails and all are signed requesting that trail users ensure gates close behind them. Fences are configured to limit trail crossings.
11. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Yes, about 13 miles are multiple use but the rest are for hikers only.
12. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** Sure.
13. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):**

Mark Swisher
Watershed Resources Specialist
Contra Costa Water District
mswisher@ccwater.com
USPS mail: P.O. Box H20, Concord, CA 94524
shipping: 100 Walnut Boulevard, Brentwood, CA 94513
office: 925/240-2363
cell: 925/890-1552
fax: 925/513-2084

PG&E Pecho Coast and Buchon Point Trails

1. **Name:** Sally Krenn **Position:** Terrestrial Biologist
2. **What is the total acreage of the grazing area (approximation is fine)?**
2000 acres for the Point Buchon Trail and 3000 for the Pecho Coast Trail
3. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted on your property?**
Since the late 1800's
4. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?**
Point Buchon Trail - Cow/calf; goats and sheep ; Pecho Coast Trail - cow/calf and stocker
5. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Point Buchon – 140 to 160 cow/calf; goats 200/kidding 350; sheep 100/lambing 200.
6. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Point Buchon 3.75 miles/Pecho Coast Trail – 2 miles
7. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Point Buchon – rotational grazing program/ hikers do hike through paddocks (people passes are installed) – Pecho- primarily open range
8. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock?** No – only minor occur approximately 2 times/week ; hikers will ask where the cows are as they are afraid of them.
9. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** None
10. **~How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**
None
11. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Our fences on the Point Buchon trail are electrified. Single wire for cows/mesh fencing for goats/sheep. We post signs and create people passes for the hikers. We also have an interpretive sign that describes our grazing program (attached). Pecho coast trail has barbed wire fencing with people passes and this is a docent led hike; so the docents inform the hikers that they will be hiking on a cattle ranch.
12. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Only hiking
13. **Would you be willing to answer additional questions in the future?** Yes
14. **Best Contact Info (phone/email):** sxk2@pge.com 805-801-0288