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BOS Rcvd 12/1/2020

Comment on BOS Agenda, December 2, 2020, Item #20-1410

1 message

Ethan Koenigs <motherlodetrailstewardship@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>

Mother Lode Trail Stewardship, a local 501 3c nonprofit, based in El Dorado County submits the following comment with regard to BOS agenda item #20-1410.

My name is Ethan Koenigs and I serve as President of the Board of Directors of the Mother Lode Trail Stewardship. Our mission is to Create - Enhance - Preserve and Promote trails and trail-based recreation experiences in El Dorado County. We currently have 59 members, most of which are residents of El Dorado County. We recognize that it takes concerned citizens to come alongside land managers to help get trails maintained and built. Our volunteers are eager to help and are looking for opportunities to create new trail experiences in the County.

We strongly encourage the Board to begin dedicating a portion of the SMUD funds to County Parks and Recreation to help provide new trail experiences on County-owned lands. One example of a potential use is the County's 65-acre parcel that sits within Cronan Ranch. This parcel is currently not utilized for any active recreation purposes. Cronan Ranch is an extremely popular, BLM-managed property that provides critical access to public lands for recreation purposes. There is an existing network of trails and access to the South Fork American River at the ranch but more trails are needed. The trail use there has surged in recent years and especially since the pandemic. The BLM would like to build more parking on the County property, which is needed, but the community also needs some more trails to help disperse the users and provide some novel trail experiences.

Mother Lode Trail Stewardship would like to work with the County to develop a small network of trails through the property that would serve as a cycling skills building area. This skills area would provide a way for riders of all levels to develop their skills on trails of varying difficulty. This helps younger riders learn how to ride properly and safely and provides a space for much needed outdoor recreation for all users.

Junior High and High School mountain biking has grown significantly in the last 5 years. Most of the High Schools in our County have teams and I was able to get some numbers from the head coach who informed me that they have 180 High School Riders, 80 High school Coaches, 120 Jr. High Riders and 45 Jr. High Coaches, between all of the teams. Many of the teams have to travel out of the County for lack of trails in our region, they practice in Granite Bay and other areas that provide the diversity of trails and adequate facilities. These students should have a place in our County where they can ride with their teams and develop their skills. In addition many parents want to take younger grade school aged children to a place where they can develop their skills in a safe, outdoor setting. These types of facilities also help to build the County's reputation as a phenomenal place to visit for outdoor recreation and this supports our local economy. We would like to come alongside the County and help develop a professional design for this site that could be used to secure funding for construction and when the site was developed MLTS could take on maintenance responsibilities to help offset any maintenance costs to the County.

This is just one example where this model could be used and having a regular source of funding to help develop existing County sites would help get our communities in the western portion of the County some much needed, active, outdoor recreation sites. We applaud Supervisor Parlin's efforts to seek funding for these types of recreation projects.

Thank you for your time, Ethan

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Ethan Koenigs

President - Mother Lode Trail Stewardship



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