



Rubicon Trail Meeting Comments (unable to attend)

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01/25/2010 05:26 PM

Sent by: kenhower@gmail.com

I will avoid putting you in an virtual headlock, and make this brief as I'm sure you are all very busy.

I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting, as I am in South Carolina working...a far cry from our wonderful area.

Tomorrow I ask that the board considers these brief, but important points

1) The residents of El Dorado County matter most. Someone on some national organization's agenda from Colorado or wherever...doesn't matter. This is a LOCAL issue...not a national issue. Keep it that way.

2) The CAO asks that the board defines the trail. Define it as option 3. This is what the users of the trail want. The users put money into El Dorado County using the trail. We buy gas, we buy food, restuarants, auto parts...etc...LOTS of small businesses and JOBS exist in El Dorado County, because of this trail. It IS a tourist attraction to the county. The Dusy Trail, has VERY SUCCESSFULLY used a corridor strategy to dance between two wilderness areas. Volunteers from Frenso 4X4 and other groups maintain the trail with log bridges, etc...to maintain quality. The Rubicon can easily do the same.

3) The county is legally not allowed to use General Fund money. So any arguments that it costs taxpayer money from the County to maintain, is false.

4) The county has HUNDREDS of happy volunteers EAGER to help, EAGER to use grant money from those volunteer hours to do WHATEVER IS REQUIRED.

If the county decides against the wishes of the residents of El Dorado, then volunteerism will decrease, and create more problems...not solve. I am a member of the Rubicon Trail Patrol, the volunteers spend HUNDREDS of hours...BOOTS/WHEELS on the trail..handing out information, picking up any trash, handing out trash bags. These are peoplewe WANT to keep motivated.

5) This is not about "pristine" access. This is a road...a LONG and well established road. There is plenty of nearby pristine access for those that like to enjoy this activity. There is plenty of area for EVERYONE to enjoy.

6) This is not a pollution issue or Co2 issue. More sediment from I50 goes in to the American River than EVER is a problem on the Rubicon Trail. I don't hear anybody from any exclusionary group asking for I50 to be closed....Let's define the Rubicon Corridor and it's variants....and work together to make it the best place it can be.

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Ken