



United States Department of the Interior

Redwood National Park

1111 Second Street
Crescent City, California 95531

D18 (Rellim Ridge Trail bike route)

January 22, 2016

Dear Friends:

The National Park Service is seeking your comments about designating the Rellim Ridge Trail in the northern part of Redwood National Park as a multiple use trail. The trail is currently open to hiking and equestrian use only. The NPS proposes to add bike use, along with hiking and equestrian use on the Rellim Ridge Trail. Hiking, equestrian, and bike use on other trails in the park will not change.

The Rellim Ridge Trail is located in Del Norte County east of Crescent City. The trail was established on a former logging road with some steep sections and a clay surface. The park upgraded the road in 1985 to improve drainage and provide a more sustainable surface for use as an equestrian trail. The park is currently planning minor maintenance to improve drainage and the condition of the trail surface. These improvements to the Rellim Ridge Trail are expected to make the trail safer for bike use in addition to hiking and equestrian use.

The Rellim Ridge Trail runs between Howland Hill Road on the north and Hamilton Road on the south. The northern segment of the trail leaves Howland Hill Road at the gated access road for the Howland Hill Outdoor School and follows the access road for several hundred yards as far as the vault toilet and parking area for the outdoor school. From the parking area, the trail runs south to Hamilton Road in the Mill Creek Watershed (MCW) in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. The Rellim Ridge Trail connects to the MCW via an east-west spur that is part of Sheepshed Road. Sheepshed Road is currently open to bicycles and equestrians under state park regulations and policies. The enclosed map shows the current and proposed trail designations.

Part of the Rellim Ridge Trail is also part of the Mill Creek Horse Trail. The horse trail between the trailhead and the outdoor school road has a surface that makes it unsustainable as a multi-use trail for horses and bicycles. The Mill Creek Horse Trail east of the outdoor school access road will not be open to bicycles.

NPS regulations require that we seek public comment before designating a route for bicycle use. Upon completion of public involvement, the superintendent may designate an administrative road for bicycle use through announcement in the annual compendium of regulations, provided the designation is

consistent with protection of the park's natural, scenic and aesthetic values; safety considerations and management objectives; and will not disturb wildlife or park resources.

We look forward to your input about the proposed designation of Rellim Ridge Trail as a bicycle route. We are accepting comments until February 29, 2016. There are two ways you can comment.

You can visit the project website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RellimRidgeBikeUse> and use the comment function.

You may also send written comments to:

Superintendent
Attn.: Rellim Ridge Bikes
Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second St
Crescent City, CA 95531

If you would like more information about this proposal, please contact Aida Parkinson at 707-465-7703 or aida_parkinson@nps.gov.

We appreciate your interest in Redwood National Park and look forward to your input about the proposed designation of Rellim Ridge Trail as a bicycle route.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Prokop", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Prokop
Superintendent

Enclosure: Rellim Ridge Trail Proposed Bicycle Route