

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Trails Management Subcommittee



AGENDA

November 20, 2024  
1:30 p.m.

**CVAG Conference Room**  
73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 104, Palm Desert, CA 92260

*As a convenience to the public, the CVCC provides a call-in option and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue causing a disruption in the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84490706049?pwd=dilVYT63lkhfyF0uHnqJRhH8FWMr6b.1>

**Dial In:** +1 669 900 9128

**Webinar ID:** 844 9070 6049

**Password:** 015893

**1. Introductions and Announcements**

**2. Trails Management Program**

- a) [Review of Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan 2014 Trails Plan Revision \(45 mins\)](#) P2
- b) Conservation Ranger Initiative (15 mins)
- c) Upcoming Projects (30 mins)
  - i) Four Trails Project – CVDMRCA
  - ii) Palm Hills Social Trail Restoration
  - iii) Kim Nicol Trail Improvements

**3. Working Group Updates (30 mins)**

- a) Enforcement of Dog Ordinances
- b) Regional Trail Crew
- c) Bicyclist Outreach

**4. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on January 15, 2025 at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 104 in Palm Desert.

**5. Adjourn**

*At the subcommittee's discretion, public comment may be limited to 3 minutes*

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**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Review of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan 2014 Trails Plan Revision

**Contact:** Tony Quiroz, Conservation Management Analyst ([tquiroz@cvag.org](mailto:tquiroz@cvag.org))  
Kathleen Brundige, Director of Conservation ([kbrundige@cvag.org](mailto:kbrundige@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information Only**

**Background:** At the September 18 meeting, the Trails Management Subcommittee (TMS) recommended that the 2014 Trails Plan Revision be open for review. In 2008, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) was approved and describes the [Trails Management Program](#) (Trails Plan) in Section 7.3.3.2.1. The Trails Plan identified critical needs including evaluating the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep (PBS) health, behavior, habitat selection, and long-term population dynamics. The Trails Plan also originally listed 39 open year-round trails. In 2008, the Trail Management Subcommittee initiated comments and a review process as part of their duties which triggered to refine the Trails Plan which initiated the process of the [2014 Trails Plan Revision](#) which was reviewed by the TMS and wildlife agencies and approved by CVCC at the June 12, 2014, meeting. It was originally elected to move forward as a Minor Amendment Requiring Wildlife Agencies' Concurrence as outlined in the CVMSHCP Section 6.12.3. The process and changes were described on Page 33 of the 2014 Trails Plan Revision:

*"To provide greater flexibility in implementing management prescriptions, enhance recreational opportunities, and streamline monitoring processes, all while ensuring that the recovery of Peninsular bighorn sheep is not compromised, the 2008 Trails Plan has been revised as a Minor Amendment to the MSHCP in 2014. Principal among the 2014 revisions are: (1) addressing new trail construction, rerouting trails, and decommissioning trails on a case-by-case basis based on ongoing or completed research results, instead of deferring such actions until the initial five-year phase of the monitoring and research program has been completed; (2) eliminating the mandatory self-issue permit system as part of monitoring trail use by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders; (3) expanding opportunities for hiking with leashed dogs by allowing them on a segment of the Hopalong Cassidy Trail between its intersection with the Homestead Trail and the cross in Palm Desert; and (4) eliminating the programmatic prohibition of competitive recreation events in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat in favor of addressing proposals for such activities on a case-by-case basis.*

*As an element of the MSHCP, the Trails Plan was approved in 2008 coincident with approval of the MSHCP. The 2014 revision process originally included the solicitation of comments and recommendations from the full Trails Management Subcommittee. Later, a Trails Plan Working Group (TPWG) was convened to refine the revised Trails Plan. The TPWG consisted of public members of the Trails Management Subcommittee, as well as staff from the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Final 2014 TPWG input was presented to the full Trails*

*Management Subcommittee and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains RMUC for consideration and a recommendation at a March 19, 2014 joint meeting. The recommendation for approval of the revised Trails Plan was forwarded to the RMOC. At their April 23, 2014 meeting, the RMOC recommended approval to the CVCC. The CVCC approved the revised Trails Plan unanimously at their June 12, 2014 meeting. The revised Trails Management Plan is pending a Minor Amendment Requiring Wildlife Agencies' Concurrence."*

The Minor Amendment was delayed due to Wildlife Agency priorities in the review of other CVMSHCP Permit needs, including a Major Amendment process that was completed in 2016 adding the City of Desert Hot Springs to the CVMSHCP, as well as the completion of a Peninsular bighorn sheep fence in La Quinta. As part of the duties of the TMS, a complete review of the Elements of the Trails Plan will begin with the November 20, 2024 meeting. If significant changes are found to be needed, a new TPWG will be convened to work on Trails Plan revisions, which will then move through the process of Reserve Management Unit Committee and the Reserve Management Oversight Committee, as well as the process to move forward with the Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agencies' Concurrence.

**Fiscal Analysis:** None