



Soquel Demonstration State Forest

Recreation Study Final Report February 1993



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February 16, 1993

Thom Sutfin, Forest Manager
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Dear Thom:

Enclosed you will find the final report of the recreation study for Soquel Demonstration State Forest. The revisions include editorial changes and clarification responding to public, Advisory Committee and Department comment.

Upon rereading the survey data it seemed important to give more emphasis to the enthusiasm for the educational potential of the Forest that many respondents feel. To that end I have added another finding (see page 12, Forest Education section).

In addition to providing you with a recreation data base, this study has underscored the importance of continued, systematic and broad-based public involvement. The challenge of balancing many, diverse public needs with management objectives and legislative intent is daunting, perhaps the most of any of the State Forests in which I have worked. Nonetheless I remain excited about the unique opportunity to make Soquel State Forest a model demonstration of multi-use management.

Please convey my appreciation to the Committee for their involvement. I wish you luck in your final months of developing the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marcia".

Marcia McNally

Soquel Demonstration State Forest

Recreation Study Final Report

The intent of this study is to inform the management plan currently being drafted by the Department with the assistance of an advisory committee. This study was also intended to be the primary vehicle by which a significant number of citizens could give input into the plan. The results provide baseline information about existing recreational users and potential users that can be utilized as more detailed recreation planning occurs.

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February 1993

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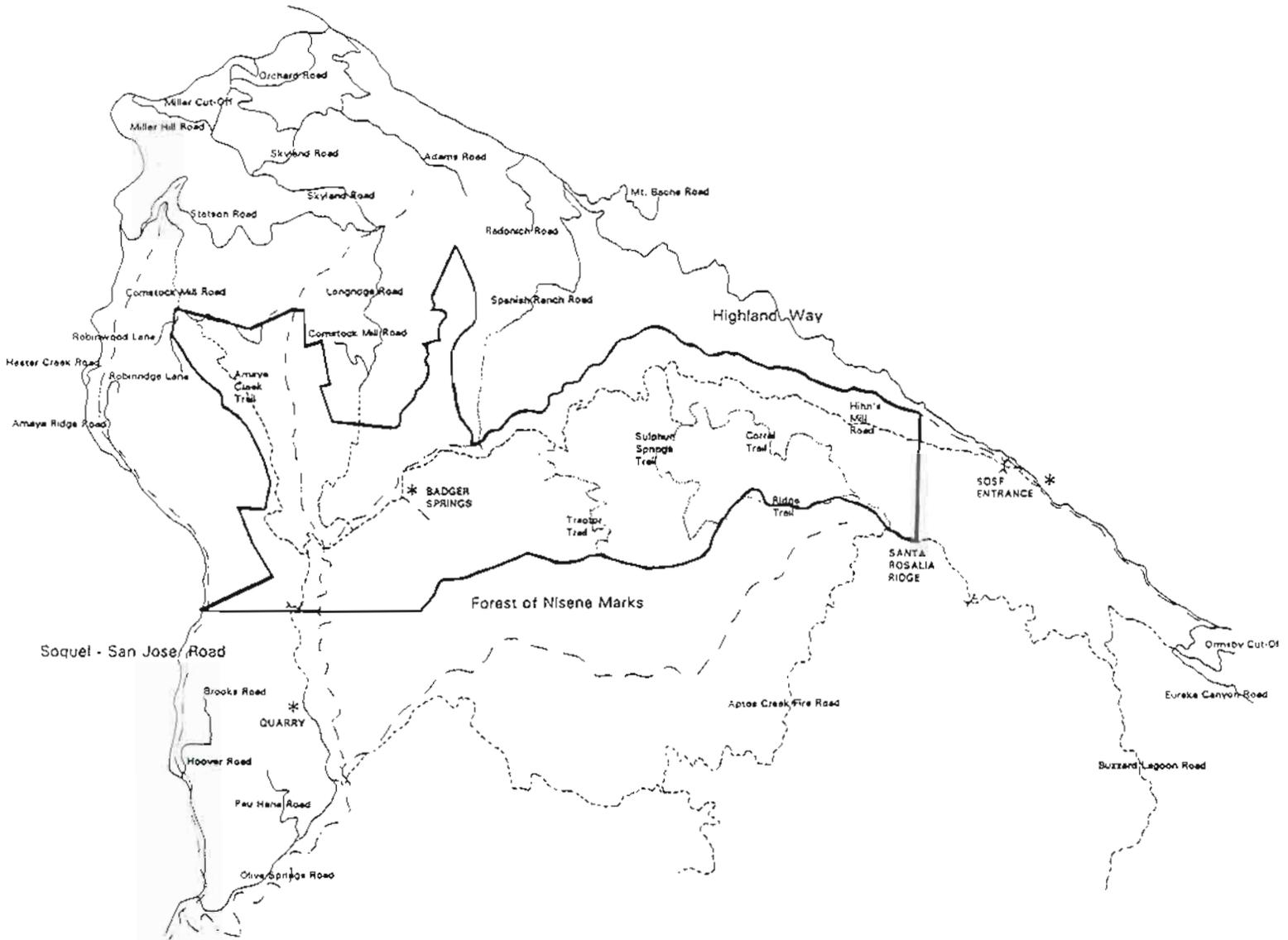
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SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST



Introduction

In December 1991 the University of California Berkeley, Center for Environmental Design Research, entered into an interagency agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Department) to conduct a study of recreation use and needs on Soquel Demonstration State Forest (the Forest).

The intent of the study was to inform the management plan currently being drafted by the Department with the assistance of an advisory committee. This study was also intended to be the primary vehicle by which a significant number of citizens could give input into the plan. Further, it was hoped that the results would provide baseline information about existing recreational users and potential users that could be utilized as more detailed recreation planning occurred.

This report contains the findings of the recreation study and makes recommendations. Included is a profile of respondents to the recreation questionnaire, input on desired recreational improvements, public attitudes towards Forest management objectives and a discussion of recreation-related issues. Also included is a description of the research methods employed and a review of existing reports and documents as they reveal the Department's intentions regarding the recreation program.



Seven hundred ninety-two (792) individuals, representing a broad range of interests, responded to the recreation survey.

Research Method

The primary method used to solicit public input regarding Forest recreation and management was a survey. Prior to developing the survey instrument, background information was gathered from several sources. First, fifteen individuals were interviewed during the fall of 1991 to identify recreation-related issues (Valentine, 1991). In February 1992 members of the research team (the Researchers) were given a tour of the Forest by the Forest Manager. Existing documentation and reports concerning the Forest were reviewed as well.

Based on the interview findings, the tour and background material, a questionnaire was then drafted and pretested. A process for disseminating the questionnaire was also developed at this time which included distribution to users encountered in the Forest, and distribution through the mail to target groups and individuals currently using the Forest, neighboring property owners, and members of the public who might have an interest in using the Forest in the future. Seven hundred ninety-two (792) questionnaires were collected (see Appendix A for complete results).

Since the designation of Soquel Demonstration State Forest is recent, the mailed questionnaire was intended to be an outreach mechanism as well as a survey instrument. Identifying a broad range of survey recipients began with looking at current users, particularly equestrians, hikers and mountain bicyclists. Various user groups were then contacted for membership mailing lists and for other contacts. The Harbinger File was also used to identify environmentally-oriented organizations. Forest neighbors were identified using County tax map information. Community organizations were identified with assistance from Mountain Network News (MNN) staff. Additional outreach was conducted by Forest staff, including collecting names at a slide show presentation and at several public tours of the Forest.

Using this method twenty-eight target groups were identified (see Appendix B for a listing). Three thousand six hundred eighty-four (3,684) questionnaires were mailed, and 599 were returned, for a return rate of 16%. It is important to note that the return rate varied considerably by sample (see Appendix B).

One hundred thirty (130) questionnaires were collected in the field. Collection began on Easter Sunday -- the Researchers were in the Forest for a total of nine different days. Forest staff assisted in this process by carrying a supply of questionnaires when working on site. There were also several locations on the Forest where a sign was posted asking interested users to leave their name and mailing address if they wished to receive a questionnaire (80 names were collected).



While in the field the research team recorded, sketched and mapped observations.

During the outreach phase of the study, concern was expressed by the Advisory Committee that not enough was being done to make the questionnaire available to the public. To that end 3,200 questionnaires were distributed through the MNN. Sixty-three (63) were returned. A box was installed at the Summit Store similar to the one used in the Forest and two names were collected.

While in the Forest the Researchers also conducted field observation; recording notes, doing sketches and taking photos. Each time a user was observed it was recorded on a map, indicating type of user, location and direction of travel (see Appendix C).

Table 1: Profile of Selected User Groups

<u>All Users</u>	<u>Mt. Bikers</u>	<u>Hikers</u>	<u>Eque- strians</u>	
76%	68%	83%	96%	"local" respondents
68	82	60	39	male
31	16	39	59	female
62	74	57	42	have used Forest less than 5 years
38	53	36	45	use the Forest once a month or more
65	67	66	65	use the Forest a few hours per visit
69	89	63	51	45 years old or younger

Notes: These groups are not necessarily mutually exclusive, therefore it is possible that one respondent mountain bikes, hikes and rides a horse in the Forest. The sample size for each group is as follows: all users, 453; mt. bikers, 237; hikers, 230; equestrians, 77.

Table 2: Profile of Neighboring Property Owners

<u>%</u>	
47	number who use the Forest
90	"local" respondents
54	male
44	female
31	have used the Forest less than 5 years
22	use the Forest once a month or more
76	use the Forest a few hours per visit
45	45 years old or younger

Note: Sample size is 144.

Findings

User Profile

Of the 792 survey respondents, fifty-nine percent (59%) were men and 39% were women. Three quarters of the survey respondents (74%) were "local".¹

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the respondents indicated they currently use the Forest. Three quarters of these users (76%) were local. Forty-three percent (43%) said they do not use the Forest at this time, even though the majority (73%) of them were also local.

One of the survey questions asked how the respondent first found out about Soquel Demonstration State Forest. A check list of possible answers was provided. "I didn't know I was in the Forest/Never heard of it" received the highest number of responses (29%) on the check list.² Twenty-three percent (23%) of the respondents indicated they had heard about the Forest through friends and family. In addition to having used the Forest for a long time (13%), seeing the sign (4%), seeing the Forest on a map (4%), participating in a school program (2%) and not remembering (2%), respondents wrote in such things as: through a club or organization, through the media, through the State (both the Department and the California Department of Parks and Recreation) and by attending the lecture given by the Forest Manager.

In order to better understand the results, the data was collated by several subgroups. Table One provides a profile of the three main user groups and compares it to all the respondents who currently use the Forest. Of the 453 respondents who indicated that they are using the Forest, about equal numbers mountain bike (52%) and hike (51%). Only 77 respondents, or 17% of the users, indicated they ride a horse on the Forest. This finding is important given that both The Nature Conservancy plan for the Forest (TNC, 1988, p. 8) and the 1991 Annual Report (CDF, 1992, p. 6) specify equestrians as the primary Forest user group. This perception is likely explained because equestrian respondents have used the Forest longer than either of the other two groups and are the most local.

In contrast, mountain bikers are a recent phenomenon on the Forest -- 74% have used the Forest for less than five years. Many more bikers were male (82%) than female (16%) and they were

1 "Local" in this case is defined by residence in Santa Cruz County, the Summit area and Los Gatos.

2 The Researchers also received seven phone calls from questionnaire recipients who had never heard of the Forest and wanted to know where it was and how to get a map.

Table 3: Reasons Why People Use Sequel State Forest

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
294	65	it's peaceful
292	64	enjoy the forest environment
255	56	to be outdoors
237	52	mountain bike
234	52	it's undeveloped
230	51	hike or walk
229	51	the trees are beautiful
228	50	there aren't many people
224	49	it's shady and cool
223	49	for the solitude
223	49	relax
219	48	to be with nature
205	45	observe wildlife
200	44	it's free
199	44	enjoy the view
197	43	I live close by
189	42	it's private
149	33	explore a new area
138	30	to be with family/friends
137	30	it's off the beaten path
127	28	no one bothers me
108	24	I've been coming for a long time
105	23	nature study
104	23	it's warm and sunny
98	22	picnic
86	19	to learn about the forest
77	17	horseback ride
76	17	play in the creek
66	15	there aren't many rules
64	14	there's lots to do
54	12	walk my dog
48	11	it has a lot of history
33	7	to learn about forest management
32	7	collect mushrooms
13	3	use an off-road vehicle
6	1	target practice
3	1	hunt
51	11	other

Note: Sample size is 453.

younger (89% were 45 years old or younger) than the other two user groups. These findings are consistent with profiles of mountain bikers using other public lands. As well as being relative newcomers to the Forest, mountain bikers are the most frequent users. This is somewhat surprising since they are the least local user group of the three.

All three groups are predominantly trail users who come to the Forest for a few hours at a time, as opposed to the whole day. This is likely explained by the Forest having few facilities besides trails, that overnight camping isn't allowed at this time, and the fact that the Forest is still relatively unknown. Further, the one day use area that has been slightly developed, Badger Springs, is inaccessible by vehicle, precluding non-trail users.

The responses by an additional subgroup, Forest neighbor property owners, were examined.³ As indicated in Table 2, only 47% of the neighboring property owners currently use the Forest. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the property owners indicated they had never heard of Soquel Demonstration State Forest. It is also interesting to note that of the neighboring owners currently using the Forest, only 22% frequent it once a month or more.

Reasons for Use

As shown in Table 3, many of the most frequently cited reasons users come to Soquel State Forest include those amenities associated with this type of environment: because it is peaceful (65%), to enjoy the forest (64%), the trees are beautiful (51%), it is shady and cool (49%). The opportunity to be outdoors (56%), relax (49%) or get exercise (mountain bike, 52%; hike or walk, 51%) were also reasons given often by survey respondents. Other reasons particular to this Forest and its context include it being perceived as a refuge from the urban environment (it's undeveloped, 52%; there aren't many people, 51%; for the solitude, 49%) and it being immediately adjacent to a sizable community (I live close by, 43%).

It is important to note that hardly anyone indicated they came to the Forest to use an off-road vehicle, target practice or hunt. This is a fortunate finding in that these uses are not allowed and the Forest has been actively patrolled by staff to curtail these activities.

The answers to this question were also looked at by subgroup. As shown in Tables 4 and 5, mountain bicyclists, hikers, equestrians and neighboring property owners use the Forest for basically the

³ The Forest neighbor property owner group is not necessarily mutually exclusive from the three user groups already discussed, therefore it is possible for a respondent to have been a Forest neighbor property owner, a mountain biker, hiker and equestrian and use the Forest for these purposes.

Table 4: Why Selected User Groups Use Soquel State Forest

<u>Mt. Bikers</u>	<u>Hikers</u>	<u>Equestrians</u>
59% it's peaceful	81% enjoy the forest	75% it's peaceful
57% enjoy the forest	77% it's peaceful	69% shady & cool
50% be outdoors	69% be outdoors	65% enjoy the forest
47% not many people it's free	64% relax it's undeveloped	64% live close by
46% enjoy the view	63% for the solitude not many people	58% be outdoors

Notes: These groups were created by aggregating all of the respondents who said they came to the Forest for that particular use. In the case of mt. bikers, 100% checked "mountain bike". In the case of hikers, 100% checked "hike or walk". In the case of equestrians, 100% checked "horseback ride". Thus the reasons for coming to the Forest listed in this table are in addition to mt. biking, hiking and horseback riding. The sample size for each group is as follows: mt. bikers, 237; hikers, 230; equestrians, 77.

Table 5: Why Neighboring Property Owners Use Soquel State Forest

<u>%</u>	
85	hike/walk
84	I live close by
78	it's peaceful
75	enjoy the forest environment
68	it's shady and cool

Note: Sample size is 68.

same reason. There are several notable differences -- for example, the number one reason property owners use the Forest was to hike or walk (85% of those who use the Forest), and high on the mountain bikers' list was because there is no use fee (it's free, 47%).

Access

One of the biggest issues on the Forest is access. To that end, it was important to document where users currently enter and exit the Forest.

Table 6 shows that access depends on the user group. It is reassuring that hikers use Highland Way, currently the only designated vehicular access point. And it is not surprising that the main routes for equestrians include the Longridge trail and the trail from Spanish Ranch, as they are both long-established circulation patterns.⁴

There are several details worth pointing out. From field observation and mapping the Researchers suspected that the most heavily used access into the Forest for mountain biking was from the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, via Santa Rosalia Ridge. This observation was confirmed by the survey results. What is surprising is how few mountain bicyclists claim to use the quarry/Olive Springs Road⁵ to exit given what was observed. It is likely that knowing that using this exit constitutes trespassing, some bicyclists declined to check it on the questionnaire even if they used it.

But it is also surprising how commonly this "illegal" access point is used by equestrians and hikers, a number of whom are neighbors. In fact, the CHY property is the third most frequently used access point for all current Forest users. And members of all of the user groups are concerned about gaining legal access through it, as indicated in respondents' comments:

Definitely need egress at the bottom end of the creek -- nobody likes to ride down, then around and ride back up! How about weekend easement through the quarry? People will continue to trespass there without a viable alternative. Creekside trail out the bottom? [mountain bicyclist]

Access is all important and nothing has been done to improve the situation. We have trailered our horses to the remote Highland access and it is dangerous and difficult to get to and find. Olive Springs must be developed access for neighbors and the public. [equestrian]

Clarify exit via Olive Springs Road or quarry. [hiker]

⁴ Both routes begin on private property, however.

⁵ The term "quarry/Olive Springs Road" includes all access through CHY property.

Table 6: Ranking of Where Users Enter and Exit Soquel State Forest

Enter

<u>All Users</u>	<u>Mt. Bikers</u>	<u>Hikers</u>	<u>Eque- strians</u>	<u>Prop Owners</u>	
1	1	2	6	5	from Forest of Nisene Marks
2	2	1	4	1	Highland Way
3	4	3	2	2	Olive Springs Road/the quarry
4	3	5	7	6	Buzzard Lagoon
5	7	7	1	6	Spanish Ranch
6	6	4	3	3	Long Ridge
6	5	6	5	4	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
453	237	230	77	68	sample size

Exit

<u>All Users</u>	<u>Mt. Bikers</u>	<u>Hikers</u>	<u>Eque- strians</u>	<u>Prop Owners</u>	
2	1	2	6	4	from Forest of Nisene Marks
1	2	1	4	2	Highland Way
3	3	3	2	1	Olive Springs Road/the quarry
4	4	5	7	7	Buzzard Lagoon
5	7	7	1	6	Spanish Ranch
4	6	4	3	3	Long Ridge
4	5	6	5	5	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
453	237	230	77	68	sample size

Notes: Subgroups aren't mutually exclusive. The "1" means that this access point was checked more frequently than other access points by that user group. The term "Olive Springs Road/the quarry" includes all access through CHY property.

In addition to the quarry, other access-related issues were observed during the course of the study. Most importantly, the Highland Way entry is relatively inaccessible. The roads leading to it (Highland Way and Eureka Canyon Road) are narrow, winding and landslide-prone. Yet these roads get considerable use given their condition, being shared by neighbors, commuters, road bikers, mountain bikers, equestrians with horse trailers, other Forest users, sight seers and motorcyclists.

Another access issue concerns the north and west boundaries of the Forest, which is where the bulk of the neighbors live. The roads serving these residents are even narrower, more winding and steep, making the addition of Forest-related traffic felt more pointedly. In some cases the roads, or parts of them, are private.

Comstock Mill Road is the most pressing neighborhood road issue at this time. Forest use by non-neighbors has caused confrontations, as indicated by one survey respondent:

When biking out of the forest via Comstock Mill Road in May '92 my husband was approached by a home owner who told him he was on a private road and there was no public easement. The home owner claims he had been burglarized by mountain bikers recently. He said he saw the tire tracks. We were incredulous knowing how difficult a ride this is and anyone there who mountain bikes wouldn't think of carrying any extra weight...this kind of problem has to be addressed.

The right of the Department and the public to use Comstock Mill Road for access to the Forest is unclear. Neighbors are angry about the use of their road by outsiders and have submitted several petitions to the Department. One resident has also begun a letter writing campaign in the MNN.

Nonetheless, the Department has widened Amaya Creek Road for administrative and emergency purposes. This road is also considered one of the primary multi-use trails on the Forest, and has a small trailhead post at the top. There is a sign on the State Forest at the intersection of Hihn's Mill and Amaya Creek that has the effect of directing users up the trail and out via Comstock Mill.

An additional access issue is limited equestrian access to the Forest. As indicated in Table 6, the three access points most frequently used by equestrians are on private land. While the Highland Way entrance is available, the roads to it and the bridge over the creek can be difficult to maneuver safely when pulling a trailer. Further, it is not clear if the Pelican parking lot meets State standards for a facility shared by equestrians and the general public.

Table 7: Ranking of Changes That Would Make SDSF A Better Place To Use

All Resp.	All Users	Non-Users	Mt. Bikers	Hikers	Eque- strians	Prop. Owners	
1	1	3	1	1	1	3	more trails
1	2	1	2	1	2	6	trail connections to other public lands
2	4	1	6	3	6	2	signs pointing out things of interest
3	3	9	4	2	3	1	leave it like it is
4	6	1	12	4	11	2	marked, self-guided walks
4	4	6	3	10	7	11	multi use trails
5	7	2	10	8	8	7	toilets
5	5	4	7	5	7	8	better directional signage
5	5	5	6	6	4	4	better public access to reduce trespass
6	5	6	5	11	5	12	trails for specific uses
7	8	3	8	7	9	5	newsletter about Forest programs and research
8	6	8	7	9	10	10	limited logging
9	9	6	9	10	9	11	public programs teaching forest ecology and management
10	8	9	8	10	7	15	camping facilities
11	11	5	13	13	9	9	picnic tables
11	10	7	11	13	12	10	opportunities for volunteers to be involved
11	10	6	14	12	12	16	environmental education center
12	11	9	13	12	13	12	opportunities to learn about timber management
12	12	7	15	14	15	13	docent-led hikes
13	12	9	14	16	15	14	openings to view out
14	12	10	16	15	16	16	forester-led tours
15	12	13	11	16	14	17	fewer rules
16	14	11	18	17	15	16	fire pits
17	13	12	18	17	11	19	reservation-only group camp
18	15	13	17	18	16	18	more rangers
19	16	13	19	19	17	20	more rules
792	453	339	237	230	77	144	sample size
81	99	57	99	99	100	76	% who responded to the question

Notes: Subgroups aren't mutually exclusive. The "1" means that this change was checked more frequently than other changes by that user group.

User Priorities

As already mentioned, this study has been a primary vehicle by which the public could give input into recreation planning for the Forest. To that end it was important to ask survey respondents what things they thought would make the Forest a better place to use. Table 7 shows the results, first by all respondents, and then by subgroups.

When looking at all current users, it is clear that trail-related improvements, particularly more trails and trail connections, are the top priority. Also very important to users are better public access and signage, and leaving the Forest as it is, instead of overdeveloping it, as articulated by these respondents:

Don't "improve" the woods into a "city park".

I feel this small piece of remote untouched land needs to be preserved in its current UNDEVELOPED state. My kids need to know forests don't grow with trails, signs, markers and toilets!

It is interesting to note differences between user groups. For example, multi-use trails were a priority to mountain bicyclists. This is not surprising given that mountain bikes are typically restricted to multi-use trails if they are allowed on public lands at all. Advocating this type of trail is seen by some as the way to ensure use, as noted by one mountain biker:

I would like to see a multi-user environment maintained. There should be a charter that stipulates that all user groups have equal rights to parklands that can't be arbitrarily removed from one group for a perceived incompatibility. If folks have to get along they will.

It was also predictable that mountain bikers and equestrians place a high priority on trails for specific uses.

As Table 7 indicates, neighboring property owners, as their first priority, would like to see the Forest left as is. This respondent group expressed concern that logging and other management activity will negatively effect the view and backdrop to their properties:

Try to avoid changing appearance from above. Enclosed picture is what I view south/SE. No visible signs of population.

Many local residents are very concerned that logging will destroy our view of this beautiful ridge, which we have loved for years as a natural, undisturbed forest.

Further, given the Forest's proximity to a large metropolitan area, some neighbors have expressed fear that public access will

Table 8: Attitudes Towards Forest Management Objectives

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
P 643	81	the Forest should be managed for protection of old
S 84	11	growth redwoods
B 65	8	
P 568	72	the Forest should be managed to improve fisheries and
S 133	17	wildlife habitat
B 91	11	
P 552	70	the Forest should be managed for watershed protection
S 139	18	
B 101	13	
P 497	63	the soil resource should be conserved by reducing and
S 183	23	controlling erosion
B 112	14	
P 422	53	opportunities to learn about forest management should
S 265	33	be provided for school children, small land owners,
B 105	13	natural resource professionals, environmental groups and
		other interested members of the public
P 399	50	fire protection should be demonstrated with a
S 272	34	coordinated fire prevention and control program
B 121	15	
P 350	44	the Forest should be managed on a sustained basis,
S 317	40	allowing some trees to be harvested periodically in a
B 125	16	way that is compatible with the watershed, recreation,
		wildlife, fisheries and aesthetic resources
P 346	44	compatible recreational opportunities should be
S 328	41	provided
B 118	15	
P 327	41	monitoring and studies should be conducted to assess
S 317	40	the benefits and risks of forest operations to
B 148	19	watersheds in urban areas
P 291	37	innovative demonstrations and education in forest
S 369	47	management should be conducted, including silviculture,
B 132	17	habitat diversity, logging methods, hydrology, protection
		and recreation
P 71	9	timber should be harvested in amounts sufficient to
S 555	70	generate income to pay for operating expenses and
B 166	21	property taxes

Notes: P = primary, S = secondary and B = blank. Sample size is 792.

bring in a "bad element," increase the danger of fire, and increase the amount of traffic on local streets, as expressed by this respondent:

We do not want more city people who bring fire and crime.

One of the interesting ways to look at the answer to this question was to look at what those respondents who currently are not using the Forest would like to see happen.⁶ High on the list are those things one would expect at a public facility -- picnic tables and toilets (even though these are not a particular priority to current users) and trail-related improvements. A significant difference between this group and the others is that "leave it like it is" was not a high priority. This finding is likely explained by the fact that many (55%) had never heard of the Forest and perceived it to be inaccessible, as indicated by this respondent:

I never knew that the Soquel Demonstration State Forest existed. Maps need improving -- unsure of entrances that are open.

A newsletter and improved signage were also important to non-users.

Several other findings are worth mentioning. Given the Forest's education mandate, it is significant that of the three primary, current user groups, only hikers seemed interested in signs pointing things out and marked, self-guided walks. This is not surprising, in that these amenities best serve a user on foot.

It is also important that a program that would include a Forest education center, opportunities to learn about timber management and docent or forester-led hikes and tours does not seem appealing at this point to any of the three main user groups. Non-users, however, ranked these education-oriented improvements significantly higher, indicating that such facilities could serve different users than those who presently come to the Forest.

Forest Management Objectives

One of the last questions asked respondents to evaluate Forest management objectives and indicate if they considered them to be primary or secondary. As shown in Table 8, the overwhelming attitude of all survey respondents is that objectives which emphasize protection should be primary. It is equally significant that these results do not vary by any of the analyzed subgroups.

⁶ It is important to note that only 57% of this group answered this question. Many wrote in that they felt incapable of answering since they had never been to the Forest.

There are several other points that merit discussion. First, respondents seemed ambivalent about the primacy of the objective that stated "compatible recreational opportunities should be provided". This is surprising. It is possible that existing users fear that "compatibility" could mean restricted use, or that timber harvesting would be given priority.

It is also important that hardly any of the respondents felt that timber harvesting should pay for Forest operating expenses and property taxes. A number of survey participants actually wrote "No" and crossed out this objective.

There is clearly skepticism on the part of some respondents about timber harvesting on the Forest. Some questioned the need for Forest management at all, as articulated by these respondents:

Most soil erosion takes place in the largest storms. Pelican logging in 1981 in southwestern sector was followed by January 1982 "100 year storm". Soil loss through landslides was severe, much greater than adjacent unlogged section. "Sustained basis management" is usually wishful thinking to justify over-cutting.

I have problems with the term forest management. A forest isn't a man-made business requiring management.

On the other hand, there were a number who favor multi-use management and look forward to innovative Forest practices:

The public needs to understand that forests need professional care. Forests need professional nurturing to provide maximum benefits to all users -- wildlife and people. Just as farm land today needs more families than the same land a century ago, managed forests can provide more for its users.

I would like to see experiments to see the results of creative sustained yield forest practices. Creative and innovative management practices should be done and the results demonstrated. Good management is compatible with many other uses. Show professionals how to do a better job.

Additional Findings

The above discussion of the results is primarily based on the survey responses. There are additional observations regarding the recreation program at Sequel State Forest that merit mention.

Non-Trail Use: Consistent with the policy set forth in The Nature Conservancy plan (TNC, 1988, p. 11), vehicular access to the Forest is limited to the northeast corner, at the parking area located on Pelican property. The defacto result of this policy is that only long distance trail users and groups with permission to drive on the Forest (typically school or tour groups) have



Opportunities to enjoy the interior of the Forest, such as the view of Soquel Creek from Badger Springs, are unavailable to non-trail users.

access to the Forest. This issue was articulated by one survey respondent:

I wish it was possible to drive closer to the center of the property. Presently the attractive areas are accessible after a long hike down a dusty road. I have visited the property once, for the dedication ceremony [held at Badger Springs].

Non-trail users are shut out from the best the Forest has to offer. Badger Springs, the lovely flat with direct access to Soquel Creek, requires a 10 mile round trip hike or ride from the Pelican lot. The views from Santa Rosalia Ridge and the Sulphur Springs meadow are equally inaccessible.

Forest of Nisene Marks State Park: The Forest is fortunate in that it shares a boundary with another public land, the 10,000 acre Forest of Nisene Marks State Park (FNMSP). Recreationists are starting to use both facilities in one outing, particularly mountain bikers and hikers, as discussed in the Access section. This in some ways extends the boundaries and facilities of both. In fact some people think that the Forest is part of the FNMSP, as expressed by one respondent:

I have never heard of this forest, however, I always considered [it] part of Nisene Marks.

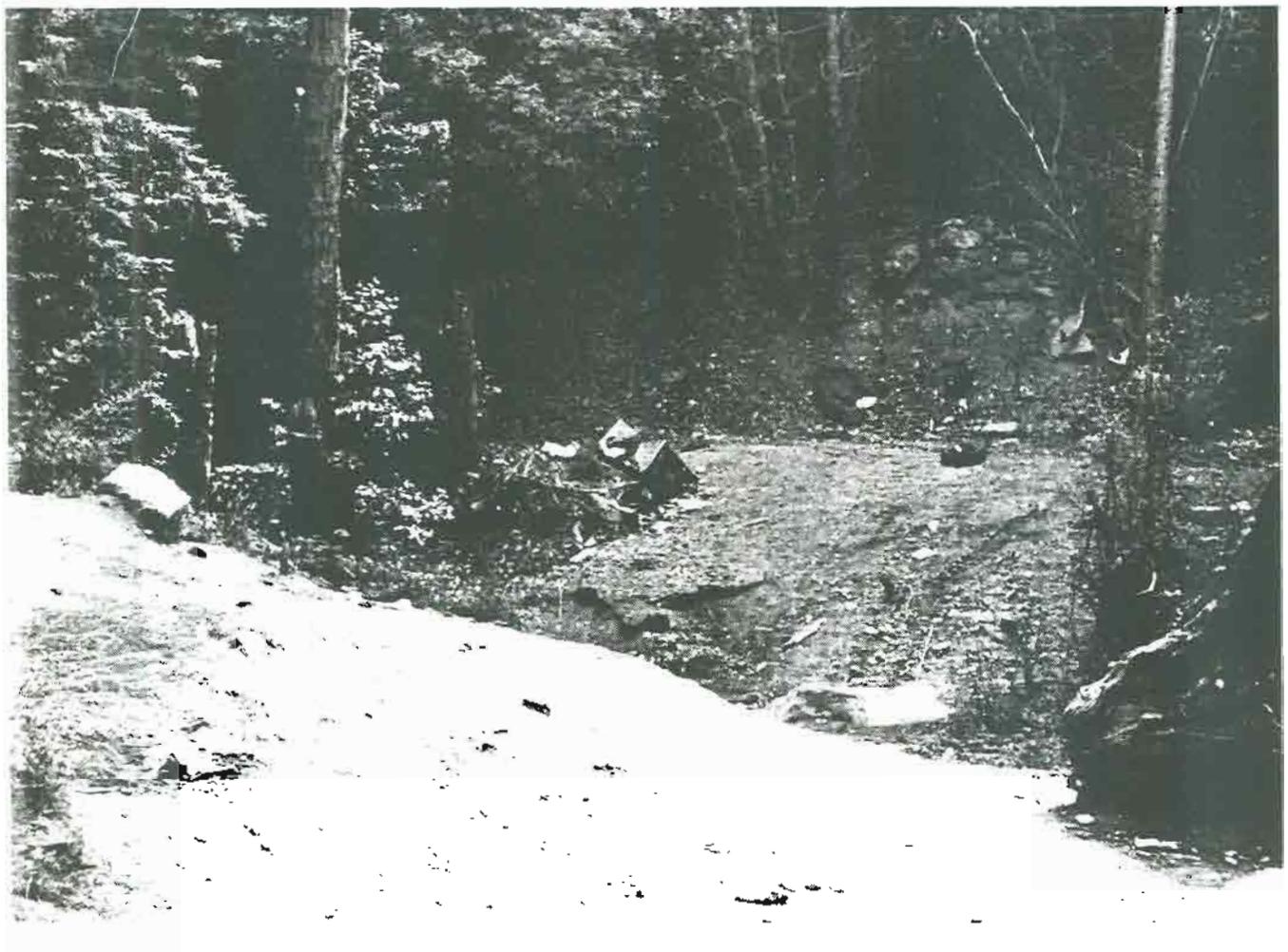
Management staff for the facilities appear to have a good working relationship with each other. Recently, Forest staff erected a trailhead bulletin board on State Parks property, taking advantage of the high level of recreational use the ridge gets to direct users onto Forest trails.

The opportunity to strengthen this relationship has been observed by some respondents, who had suggestions about how to coordinate efforts:

Coordinate plans with FNM State Park for access, trails, camping facilities. Improve public access through lower route. Designate equestrian area.

Since demo forest and Nisene Marks Park are adjacent, perhaps a management agreement should be worked out to have parks manage recreation (although State funding may limit this option).

Rattlesnake Gulch: Long before the Department took over management of the Forest, target shooting at Rattlesnake Gulch was occurring. This situation persists and is a detriment to Forest use. Due to the topography, the sound of gunfire can be heard throughout the Forest -- at Badger Springs, on the ridge. As a result some people are afraid to use the Forest because they feel



Even though it occurs on private property, shooting at Rattlesnake Gulch is a problem for Forest users.

as though there is shooting all around them, even though the shooting occurs off-site:

I'll mention the target shooting again. Just the other day, there were some idiots shooting near the Highland entrance, and they were on the Soquel State Forest side of the road!-- You couldn't see them, but the shots were so loud I stopped jogging, afraid to proceed. After about 5 minutes, the gunfire let up and I continued on. I have seen other users of the forest become very upset at this situation.

Forest Map: The new forest map, while attractive, graphically clear and informative, is tough to use on the ground. There are several problems. First, it is hard to understand the Forest's context as depicted on the map and therefore it is hard to orient oneself. This seems to be a problem for both first-time and regular users. Second, the actual access points are not clear, particularly as they relate to the FNMSF. At the time the study was conducted, the Forest trails indicated on the map had not been signed.

While doing field work in the Forest the Researchers were told a number of stories of how people got lost. Many survey respondents complained, writing in comments such as:

Hi. I took a new trail on the map that was here. The trail was a joke. We got very lost. Please get it together with your map.

I'd come more if there was a map. I heard about the forest from a friend who took me on horseback. I was amazed. But it's so big I was afraid I'd get lost. I don't know boundaries -- how to access forest other than the trail I used. While there we ran into a forest ranger who was lost. My friend knew the trail and showed him the way. That's why I'm reluctant to go far on my own.

Forest Education: Given how new State management of the Forest is and how little the general public typically is aware of the State Forest's demonstration and education mandates, it was encouraging that a number of the survey respondents are interested in the educational potential of the Forest. This enthusiasm was expressed with comments such as:

I am an elementary school teacher who is interested in teaching science. My theme is "forests". I have developed curriculum around kelp forests, redwood forests and rain forests. I'd love to visit Soquel Forest, too!

Thank you for the opportunity to become aware of your program. As a creekside resident (for the past 20 years) we

7 Rattlesnake Gulch is located on private property adjacent to the Forest, off Highland Way.



The seasonal occurrence of these ladybugs is one of many things the public can learn about on the Forest.

have experienced many changes in our environment. It's great knowing there is an agency monitoring these changes and educating the public at large.

Specialty Uses: Several uses that are not large in number but are more unique to the Forest merit discussion. Currently, mushroom collecting is allowed by permit and permits are only issued to groups. One of the organizations that received the recreation survey was the Fungus Federation. Several of the respondents from this group want to be able to collect mushrooms on an individual basis.

The Forest is also used by several small groups for emergency training, particularly search and rescue activities which use dogs. These users wish to be able to continue to use the Forest.



The Forest is in a landslide-prone area, which often makes vehicular access difficult.

Summary of Findings

The following twelve conclusions were drawn based on the findings and the analysis:

1. At this point in time, almost as many respondents to the recreation survey don't use the Forest as do. The main explanation for non-use was they had never heard of it, even though most of these respondents were local.
2. People who do use the Forest come for the ambience the Forest has to offer, and because it serves as a convenient refuge from the urban environment.
3. The predominant uses are trail-related. Of these, there are three times as many mountain bicyclists and hikers as equestrians.
4. There are significantly more men using the Forest than women.
5. Access is a pressing, complex issue. The CHY property on Olive Springs Road is the third most frequently used access point, by all three of the predominant user groups. The sole vehicular access point to the Forest, off Highland Way, is remote and the roads leading to it subject to landslide. Non-trail users are virtually precluded from Forest use at this point in time.
6. The top priorities for recreation-related improvements are more trails and trail connections to other public lands, but priorities vary by user group. Also key to users is to leave the Forest as it is and not overdo it. Education-related improvements do not appear to be as important to current users, with the possible exception of interpretive signage. However, education-related improvements are important to respondents who presently are not using the Forest.
7. Approximately half of the neighboring property owners surveyed currently use the Forest. Some (whether or not they use the Forest) are concerned about the impact that public access and timber harvesting will have on their quality of life. Many of the concerns are more commonly associated with city parks, such as the possibility of theft, vandalism and impact on neighborhood roads. There is also neighbor concern about the effect of management activities on the viewshed.
8. Preservation of old growth redwoods, the watershed, fish and wildlife habitat and soil is the overwhelming respondent

priority for management. There is both skepticism and optimism about future management of the Forest.

9. The locational and management relationship between the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park and Soquel Demonstration State Forest is very positive and offers future opportunity for creativity. Users are currently using both facilities in a single outing.
10. Forest orientation needs improvement, particularly signing and the Forest map.
11. The situation at Rattlesnake Gulch is likely to continue to be a problem for Forest users.
12. There is an encouraging level of interest in the Forest's educational potential.



Signage at the quarry boundary is not solving the trespass problem.

Recommendations

Soquel State Forest management is in the unique position to use public input in preparing its initial management plan.⁸ This will allow the staff and advisory committee to anticipate and plan for a desired recreation program, rather than having to work around what has evolved over the years. With this opportunity in mind a series of recommendations are made.

Recreation Planning

The results of this study show that there is active interest in the Forest on the part of current and potential users. The study provides recreation policy direction for staff and the committee in preparing the first phase of the management plan. It is important, however, that during Phase Two of planning these policies and the survey data be translated into a specific plan for recreation development and programs.

For example, Forest staff spent a lot of time in 1991 on trail development. This was a smart decision in that it immediately benefitted the dominant user groups. In the next year, however, it will be important for the focus to shift towards those potential users that the Department would like to accommodate.

Determining the best strategy to provide for potential users will take careful consideration. Existing plans call for such things as a campground, a developed water source and a day use area. Whether or not these improvements are appropriate will need to be weighed against such things as how to best retain the qualities existing users value, how to ensure minimum impact on surrounding neighbors, opportunities to expand Forest education and access limitations.

It is also important to acknowledge that flat land is scarce on the Forest. The temptation will be to make the flat areas, such as Badger Springs, all things to all users. The extent to which these areas are developed should be done with flexibility in mind.

The Quarry (CHY Property)

With little effort the Forest has become a popular place to hike, bike and ride. An unfortunate by-product is illegal use by recreationists of the CHY property for Forest access, even though it is well signed.

⁸ This is different than the other State Forests in that they had been owned by the State for a number of years before a recreation study was conducted.



The impact of recreational use on neighbors should be minimized.

The Department must acknowledge that signing and personal conversations with users are not solving the problem. If this is a major concern to the Department, then either legal access through CHY property must be acquired, a viable alternative in the immediate area sought, or a vigorous citation campaign initiated. If Forest management decides to crack down on trespassers, it must do so with an equal hand, and not just focus on mountain bikers. This will require patrolling during the weekdays and at odd hours as well as on weekends.

Neighbor Relations

Because of its location, the Department has the opportunity to demonstrate how Forest management can be compatible with urbanization. Forest staff will have to spend more time than is spent on other State Forests addressing neighbor-related issues, however.

Of primary importance is to legally clarify the Comstock Mill Road access issue. Individuals in this neighborhood have already proven their ability and willingness to take actions that embarrass Forest staff. The Department can ill-afford to let this situation persist or spread to other adjacent neighborhoods.

Being a good neighbor will require responsiveness but also firmness. It must be made clear to neighbors that Soquel State Forest is not a city park, but a public land with a complex, legislated mandate that includes education, public use and logging.

Nonetheless, every effort should be made to consider the impact of proposed management activities on surrounding neighbors. For example, it may be important to conduct a viewshed inventory so that future timber harvest plans can be evaluated in terms of specific visual impact. What is considered a small group selection cut on Jackson State Forest may look like a major clear cut to users and residents around Soquel.

Land Acquisition

It is likely that additional land will need to be acquired to solve recreation and education access needs for the Forest. It is crucial that a thorough analysis of all management access needs be done first, as well as an assessment of what land is currently available or could become available in the future. Factors to consider in this analysis from a recreation point of view should include: a viable access alternative in the vicinity of Olive Springs Road, access into the Forest for non-trail users, land needed to make trail connections to other public lands, a Forest education center and a legal and safe staging area for equestrians.



With monitoring, the Forest has the opportunity to become a model in multi-use trail management.

Timber Management

Given the response to the management objectives question and the politics in Santa Cruz County in general, the preparation of timber harvest plans for the Forest will need to be developed with careful thought, considering many complex factors. As the Department already knows, public education is a key component of a successful timber program. For example, the general public today tends to equate logging with clear cutting ancient forests. It will be important to get the word out that a primary mandate of Soquel State Forest is the protection of old growth redwood.

It is also clear that cutting enough timber to pay for operations and taxes is undesirable to most of the survey respondents. Given this point of view, it is critical that management plan goals and policies place primary emphasis on the timber program as a demonstration, not as a revenue generator.

Multi-Use Trails

Soquel State Forest has the opportunity to become a model in effective multi-use trail management. Currently, it doesn't suffer the problems and conflicts experienced on other public lands that allow hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking.

It will be important to closely monitor the satisfaction of all users groups, and enlist their help in maintaining a conflict-free environment. This is a feasible goal. For example, the Association of Concerned Trail Riders (ACT) has been helpful in addressing mountain bike-related issues in the FNMSP. Further, Wilder Ranch was mentioned by several respondents as a good multi-use model which may be worth investigating.

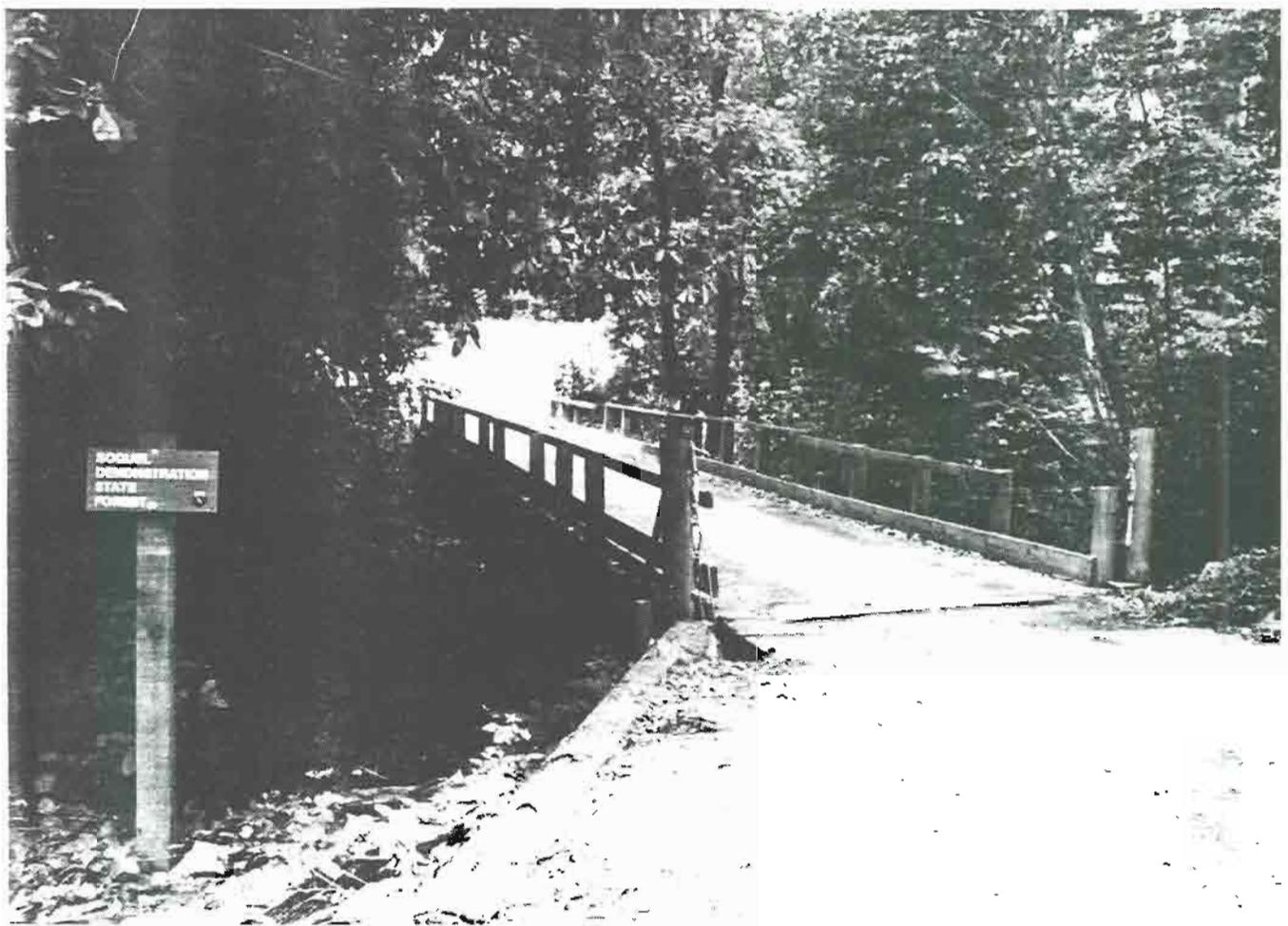
Publicity, Clientele and Capacity

There is a lot of interest in Soquel State Forest -- the Researchers were surprised at the level of response to the survey from those who had never been to the Forest. The potential exists to attract many more users through publicity.

Generating recreational use on State Forests has not been the Department's preference in the past, however. It is unclear if the intentions are different for this forest since it is located in a heavily populated area. In the next planning phase it will be important to determine the Forest's carrying capacity and clarify the Department's intentions. Further, it will be necessary to consider the target clientele considering that at this point in time, use is primarily local, male and trail-oriented.

Orientation

There are several changes that would improve Forest orientation and not require a lot of effort. First, the map needs to be



Improving Forest orientation would aid recreationists.

improved to better match what exists in the Forest. Further, some context must be included. While it may be considerate of the Comstock Mill Road neighbors to omit its connection to Amaya Creek Road, it is unnecessary to do so where the FNMSP and Forest trails meet. Some survey respondents went so far as to suggest developing a joint map.

Additionally, Forest orientation would also be improved with better signage. Forest access points are not clearly visible, including the sign on Highland Way, which is hard to see from the road.

Forest Of Nisene Marks State Park

As already discussed, the relationship between the FNMSP and the Forest has a lot of potential. It is possible that "erasing" the jurisdictional lines when problem solving could lead to innovative solutions that would benefit both facilities and extend the State's resources that much farther.

Forest Education

Every effort should be made to incorporate the findings of this study into the Forest Education program to ensure that recreation users benefit and the enthusiasm for education grows. For example, the finding that most users move through the Forest rather than linger in it make the location of interpretive materials tricky. Understanding where mountain bikers and equestrians stop to rest when in the Forest and locating educational signs in these areas will greatly increase the chance that they will be viewed. A bench and sign at the view point on the ridge across from the Corral trailhead, even though it is technically located on the FNMSP, might be one example of a strategic investment. This thinking should be extended to planning for the Forest Education Center as well as other parts of the Education program.

Outreach

Forest staff has been very responsive to requests by equestrian and neighboring home owner organizations to meet and talk about the Forest. This effort must be continued and expanded to include mountain bike, docent and hiking groups. A lot of interest was also generated by the survey. Continued public tours of the Forest should be conducted for respondents as a way to show appreciation and to disseminate the results of the study. Maps should be distributed to respondents as well.

Finally, there is interest on the part of some respondents to volunteer. Forest staff should follow up and capitalize on this enthusiasm, but thought should be given to how to utilize volunteers in a way that matches individual interests with management needs and ability to supervise such a program.



Soquel Demonstration State Forest, as envisioned by legislators and the Department, has great potential.

Conclusion

The recreation study has demonstrated that there is unusual public interest in Soquel State Forest. There are also many issues to address. Some of these issues, such as access, are pressing but complex, and will take time to resolve. While addressing these issues, it will be important to take steps that solve smaller problems articulated by the public, such as improving the map and signage, so as to be responsive and to have a sense of forward movement.

The potential exists for Soquel State Forest to be a model demonstration in many ways, such as the compatibility of timber management in an urban area, multi-use trail management and creative co-jurisdictional problem solving. There are so many people interested in the Forest that continued public outreach and education can only contribute to its success. This study has been an important step.

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Appendix A: Survey Results

Soquel Demonstration State Forest: All Surveys

N = 792

Note: In some questions the respondent checked more than one answer, thus the totals may be greater than the N and the percentages may total a number greater than 100%.

1. Do you use Soquel Demonstration State Forest?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
453	57	yes
339	43	no

Note: This question asked in the Mailed and Mountain Network News questionnaires only, but the "yes" figure includes the 130 surveys collected in the Forest.

2. How did you first find out about the Forest? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
227	29	didn't know I was in Soquel Forest/hadn't heard of it prior to this
185	23	from family/friends
104	13	have used it a long time
46	6	saw it on a map
42	5	saw the sign
12	2	don't remember
10	1	through a school program
201	25	other (specify)
10	1	blank

3. If you do not use Soquel State Forest, why don't you?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
187	55	I've never heard of it
94	28	I didn't know it was open to the public
62	18	I don't know how to get in
23	7	it's too far away
11	3	I have no time
7	2	I have no reason to go there
5	1	there are better places to go (specify where and why)
2	1	I'm not the outdoor type
1	0.3	I don't like it because (specify)
0	0	there's nothing to do there
35	10	other (specify)

N = 339

4. A. If you do use the Forest, how long have you been going there?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
225	50	less than 5 years
55	12	5 to 9 years
54	12	10 to 19 years
42	9	20 years or more
54	12	this is my first visit
23	5	blank

N = 453

- B. How often do you go? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
4	1	every day
67	15	once a week or more, but not every day
103	23	once a month or more, but less than once a week
180	40	once a year or more, but less than once a month
37	8	less than once a year
54	12	this is my first visit
8	5	blank

N = 453

- C. When you come to the Forest, how long do you usually stay? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
293	65	for a few hours
115	25	for the day
55	12	just pass through
6	1	blank

N = 453

5. A. When you use Soquel State Forest, which way do you typically enter:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
183	40	from Forest of Nisene Marks
165	36	Highland Way
52	11	Olive Springs Road
50	11	Buzzard Lagoon
39	9	Spanish Ranch
38	8	Long Ridge
34	8	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
20	4	the quarry
23	5	other (specify)
7	2	blank

N = 453

B. When you use the Forest, which way do you typically exit:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
169	37	Highland Way
144	32	from Forest of Nisene Marks
62	14	Olive Springs Road
43	9	Long Ridge
42	9	Buzzard Lagoon
40	9	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
36	8	Spanish Ranch
32	7	the quarry
22	5	other (specify)
15	3	blank

N = 453

6. Why do you come to Sequel State Forest? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
294	65	it's peaceful
292	64	enjoy the forest environment
255	56	to be outdoors
237	52	mountain bike
234	52	it's undeveloped
230	51	hike or walk
229	51	the trees are beautiful
228	50	there aren't many people
224	49	it's shady and cool
223	49	for the solitude
223	49	relax
219	48	to be with nature
205	45	observe wildlife
200	44	it's free
199	44	enjoy the view
197	43	I live close by
189	42	it's private
149	33	explore a new area
138	30	to be with family/friends
137	30	it's off the beaten path
127	28	no one bothers me
108	24	I've been coming for a long time
105	23	nature study
104	23	it's warm and sunny
98	22	picnic
86	19	to learn about the forest
77	17	horseback ride
76	17	play in the creek
66	15	there aren't many rules
64	14	there's lots to do
54	12	walk my dog
48	11	it has a lot of history
33	7	to learn about forest management
32	7	collect mushrooms

13	3	use an off-road vehicle
6	1	target practice
3	1	hunt
51	11	other (specify)

N = 453

7. What kinds of things would make Soquel State Forest a better place for you to use? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
279	35	more trails
277	35	trail connections to other public lands
197	25	signs pointing out things of interest
194	24	leave it like it is
166	21	marked, self-guided walks
164	21	multi use trails
161	20	toilets
159	20	better directional signage
155	20	better public access to reduce trespassing
152	19	trails for specific uses
141	18	newsletter about Forest programs and research
125	16	limited logging
119	15	public programs teaching forest ecology and management
113	14	camping facilities
106	13	picnic tables
104	13	opportunities for volunteers to be involved
104	13	environmental education center
89	11	opportunities to learn about timber management
85	11	docent-led hikes
76	10	openings to view out
72	9	forester-led tours
56	7	fewer rules
49	6	fire pits
44	6	reservation-only group camp
29	4	more rangers
10	1	more rules
121	15	other (specify)
150	19	blank

8. Soquel Demonstration State Forest is the newest in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's State Forest system. The legislation designating this forest and Board of Forestry policies specify the management objectives below. For each objective, please check "P" if you feel it should be a primary focus of forest management or "S" if you feel it should be secondary.

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
P 643	81	the Forest should be managed for protection of old
S 84	11	growth redwoods
B 65	8	

P 568	72	the Forest should be managed to improve fisheries and
S 133	17	wildlife habitat
B 91	11	
P 552	70	the Forest should be managed for watershed protection
S 139	18	
B 101	13	
P 497	63	the soil resource should be conserved by reducing and
S 183	23	controlling erosion
B 112	14	
P 422	53	opportunities to learn about forest management should
S 265	33	be provided for school children, small land owners,
B 105	13	natural resource professionals, environmental groups
		and other interested members of the public
P 399	50	fire protection should be demonstrated with a
S 272	34	coordinated fire prevention and control program
B 121	15	
P 350	44	the Forest should be managed on a sustained basis,
S 317	40	allowing some trees to be harvested periodically in a
B 125	16	way that is compatible with the watershed, recreation,
		wildlife, fisheries and aesthetic resources
P 346	44	compatible recreational opportunities should be
S 328	41	provided
B 118	15	
P 327	41	monitoring and studies should be conducted to assess
S 317	40	the benefits and risks of forest operations to
B 148	19	watersheds in urban areas
P 291	37	innovative demonstrations and education in forest
S 369	47	management should be conducted, including silviculture,
B 132	17	habitat diversity, logging methods, hydrology,
		protection and recreation
P 71	9	timber should be harvested in amounts sufficient to
S 555	70	generate income to pay for operating expenses and
B 166	21	property taxes

Note: P = Primary, S = Secondary and B = Blank.

9. Where do you live -- ie what is your primary place of residence?
(check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
196	25	the Summit area
98	12	Santa Cruz
85	11	Soquel
67	9	elsewhere in Santa Clara County
61	8	San Jose

47	6	San Lorenzo Valley
37	5	Aptos
24	3	Los Gatos
20	3	Corralitos
20	3	elsewhere in Santa Cruz County
18	2	Scotts Valley
14	2	San Mateo County
13	2	Capitola
13	2	Monterey County
12	2	Watsonville
8	1	La Selva
6	1	Rio Del Mar
3	0.4	Freedom
2	0.3	Davenport
47	6	other (specify)
1	0.1	blank

10. How old are you?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
5	1	under 18
45	6	18 to 24
196	25	25 to 35
246	31	36 to 45
189	24	46 to 59
32	4	60 to 64
59	7	65 or older
20	3	blank

11. What is your gender?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
471	59	male
312	39	female
9	1	blank

Soquel Demonstration State Forest: Mailed Survey

N = 599

You may know that in 1990 Soquel Demonstration State Forest (formerly Pelican Ranch) was dedicated for public use by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Over the next year the Forest Managers, with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, will be developing a management plan for Soquel State Forest. As part of this process, we are surveying people who might be interested in the Forest. Your opinions are important to this planning process. Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Be sure to answer every question. Thank you!

1. Do you use Soquel Demonstration State Forest?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
303	51	no
296	49	yes

2. How did you first find out about the Forest? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
198	33	hadn't heard of it prior to this
111	19	from family/friends
79	13	have used it a long time
28	5	saw the sign
23	4	saw it on a map
11	2	don't remember
9	2	through a school program
162	27	other (specify)
9	2	blank

Other

"Mountain Biker" Sample:

3	While in FNM
2	Through bike club
2	While riding
1	This study
1	Coast Redwood Docent Guild invitation
1	Working at a bike shop
1	Trail book
1	FNM ranger
1	Word of mouth

"Equestrian" Sample:

9	Santa Cruz Horsemen's Association
6	Summit Riders
3	Newspaper
1	Horse magazine
1	Equestrian on Wilder Ranch horse patrol
1	Trails organization
1	Santa Cruz Sheriff's Mounted Posse

"Neighbor" Sample:

22 Live close to it
 9 Newspaper
 4 Park ranger/CDF employee
 2 Public hearing
 1 This study
 1 Didn't know it was different that FNM
 1 Used to 4-wheel there

"Mushroom Picker" Sample:

9 Fungus Federation
 1 When the Forest was acquired
 1 Newspaper
 1 Ranger contacted our group

"Docents" Sample:

4 Through SCMNHA
 4 Newspaper/radio
 2 This study
 1 Through CDF
 1 At work
 1 Through FNM
 1 Letter from the State
 1 Sierra Club
 1 Lecture
 1 Attended dedication

Rest of Sample:

10 Newspaper/news media
 10 Museum lecture
 6 FNM Advisory Committee
 6 Association with CDF
 5 Park ranger/CDF patrolman
 3 Helped plan it
 3 This study
 2 Search and Rescue
 2 When the Forest was dedicated
 2 State duties
 2 On bike
 1 Office was located next to the school where I work
 1 Live in the area
 1 Santa Cruz State Parks docents
 1 While hiking
 1 I manage the quarry
 1 Sierra Club
 1 Carried legislation to authorize it
 1 Fought logging on property
 1 Sandy Lydon
 1 Worked for Pelican Timber Company
 1 Through the land trust
 1 Monterey Bay Search Dogs
 1 The Nature Conservancy

3. If you do not use Soquel State Forest, why don't you?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
168	55	I've never heard of it
81	27	I didn't know it was open to the public
54	18	I don't know how to get in
23	8	it's too far away
10	3	I have no time
7	2	I have no reason to go there
5	2	there are better places to go (specify where and why)
2	1	I'm not the outdoor type
1	0.3	I don't like it because (specify)
0	0	there's nothing to do there
31	10	other (specify)

N = 303

There are better places to go

1 I get carsick on winding roads
 1 Home -- live near FNM
 1 Coastal areas -- Wadell, Ano Nuevo
 2 Blank

I don't like it because

1 Best areas of Forest inaccessible by vehicle

Other

9 Will in the future
 4 Just learned about it
 3 What's available?
 3 Moved away
 2 Where is it?
 1 New to the area
 1 No demonstration forestry yet
 1 Rained the day I planned to go
 1 No organized hikes
 1 Haven't biked lately
 1 Inertia
 1 Not enough free time
 1 Unaware of its availability
 1 Maps not available
 1 No place to park a horse trailer safely
 1 Riding would involve trailering therefore there is some overhead

4. A. If you do use the Forest, how long have you been going there?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
158	53	less than 5 years
38	13	5 to 9 years
43	15	10 to 19 years

34	11	20 years or more
23	8	blank

N = 296

B. How often do you go? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
2	1	every day
37	13	once a week or more, but not every day
69	23	once a month or more, but less than once a week
150	51	once a year or more, but less than once a month
30	10	less than once a year
8	3	blank

N = 296

C. When you come to the Forest, how long do you usually stay? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
201	68	for a few hours
64	22	for the day
36	12	just pass through
4	1	blank

N = 296

5. A. When you use Soquel State Forest, which way do you typically enter:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
111	38	from Forest of Nisene Marks
110	37	Highland Way
41	14	Olive Springs Road
34	11	Long Ridge
30	10	Spanish Ranch
23	8	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
20	7	Buzzard Lagoon
15	5	the quarry
19	6	other (specify)
5	2	blank

N = 296

Other

"Equestrian" Sample:

1	Roberson Ranch
1	Posse grounds near Santa Cruz Horsemen's Association

"Neighbor" Sample:

8 Our property
 3 Adjacent/private property
 1 Robinwood Lane
 1 Property access into the park

Rest of Sample:

1 Not sure - near Summit Road
 1 Cabrillo College side
 1 Friend's house
 1 Through residential area -- can't remember name

B. When you use the Forest, which way do you typically exit:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
107	36	Highland Way
85	29	from Forest of Nisene Marks
48	16	Olive Springs Road
35	12	Long Ridge
30	10	Spanish Ranch
26	9	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
24	8	the quarry
17	6	Buzzard Lagoon
20	7	other (specify)
8	3	blank

N = 296

Other

"Equestrian" Sample:

1 Roberson Ranch
 1 Posse grounds near Santa Cruz Horsemen's Association

"Neighbor" Sample:

7 Our property
 5 Adjacent/private property
 1 Robinwood Lane
 1 Trails

Rest of the Sample:

1 Various ways
 1 Not sure - near Summit Road
 1 Friend's house
 1 Through residential area

6. Why do you come to Soquel State Forest? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
204	69	enjoy the forest environment
204	69	it's peaceful
175	59	to be outdoors
173	58	it's undeveloped

167	56	hike or walk
165	56	there aren't many people
160	54	for the solitude
156	53	it's shady and cool
155	52	relax
152	51	to be with nature
152	51	the trees are beautiful
140	47	observe wildlife
138	47	I live close by
136	46	it's free
132	45	enjoy the view
129	44	it's private
122	41	mountain bike
99	33	explore a new area
93	31	it's off the beaten path
92	31	to be with family/friends
90	30	no one bothers me
83	28	I've been coming for a long time
76	26	nature study
68	23	picnic
65	22	horseback ride
60	20	it's warm and sunny
59	20	to learn about the forest
55	19	play in the creek
47	16	there aren't many rules
42	14	walk my dog
41	14	there's lots to do
32	11	it has a lot of history
30	10	collect mushrooms
19	6	to learn about forest management
9	3	use an off-road vehicle
3	1	hunt
2	1	target practice
37	13	other (specify)

N = 296

Other

5	Exercise
5	Training/testing
3	Great single track
2	Great climbs and descents for cycling
2	Volunteer work
1	Planning
1	Historical displays of lumbering area
1	Field trip with school
1	Not too many cars
1	Photography
1	To see the pillage the CDF calls management for \$\$
1	There are other cyclists
1	For work
1	Visit archaeological sites
1	An emergency (lost people)
1	Curiosity aroused by survey

- 1 Run
- 1 It feels good
- 1 Just to be, feel ,write
- 1 It's quiet
- 1 Closest hike to home
- 1 A variation from our regular walk
- 1 4H Club
- 1 It's gorgeous
- 1 To kick off X-country vehicles tearing up the land
- 1 blank

7. What kinds of things would make Soquel State Forest a better place for you to use? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
229	38	trail connections to other public lands
207	35	more trails
144	24	signs pointing out things of interest
138	23	leave it like it is
129	22	better public access to reduce trespassing
124	21	toilets
118	20	marked, self-guided walks
117	20	multi use trails
114	19	better directional signage
113	19	newsletter about Forest programs and research
111	19	trails for specific uses
95	16	public programs teaching forest ecology and management
87	15	limited logging
86	14	opportunities for volunteers to be involved
85	14	camping facilities
82	14	picnic tables
79	13	environmental education center
73	12	opportunities to learn about timber management
67	11	docent-led hikes
59	10	forester-led tours
56	9	openings to view out
38	6	fire pits
38	6	reservation-only group camp
35	6	fewer rules
23	4	more rangers
8	1	more rules
81	14	other (specify)
138	23	blank

Other

"Mountain Biker" Sample:

- 3 No logging
- 3 Accurate maps
- 1 Fewer trail restrictions
- 1 More single track
- 1 No cars past Soquel lot
- 1 Mountain bike access
- 1 No horses

- 1 Trash cans on trails
- 1 More publicity about area and access points
- 1 Access through quarry on Soquel Creek Trail
- 1 Wilderness area/less developed

"Equestrian" Sample:

- 1 Horse camping
- 1 Marked trails and mileage
- 1 Staging area in Soquel
- 1 Emergency phone
- 1 No bikes
- 1 Preserve archaeological sites
- 1 No logging
- 1 Hitching posts
- 1 Bust motorcycles

"Neighbor" Sample:

- 3 Map of trails
- 3 No fire pits
- 3 No logging
- 2 Keep it secret
- 2 No improvements/park acquisition if logging required
- 2 Get users to pack out trash (or get trash cans)
- 2 No target shooting
- 2 Leave it unspoiled/natural
- 2 Better signs on road that leads to access
- 1 Preserve habitat
- 1 Eliminate non-native plants
- 1 Horseback riding
- 1 No camping
- 1 Clean up Soquel Creek basin
- 1 Publicize park and access
- 1 Water faucets
- 1 Make it a true community working forest
- 1 Allow motorcycles

"Mushroom Picker" Sample:

- 1 Don't limit mushrooming to group use only
- 1 Mushroom hunting
- 1 Allow reservation-only vehicle access to groups

"Docents" Sample:

- 3 No logging
- 1 More publicity
- 1 Information about programs at entrances and on map
- 1 No shooting/firearms
- 1 Interpretive center at Highland entrance

Rest of the Sample:

- 4 Drinking water
- 3 Bike access at quarry
- 2 No vehicular access
- 2 More legal access points
- 1 Bike connection to Aptos Creek
- 1 Rehab trails

- 1 Keep it wilderness
- 1 No bikes off roads
- 1 Minimize improvements
- 1 Conservation and recycling education
- 1 Continue to allow bikes
- 1 Better maps
- 1 No firearms
- 1 No logging
- 1 Ranger-led mountain bike rides
- 1 More single tracks for bikes
- 1 Equestrian access through lower road
- 1 Protect it from development
- 1 Increase public awareness
- 1 Kids programs

8. Soquel Demonstration State Forest is the newest in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's State Forest system. The legislation designating this forest and Board of Forestry policies specify the management objectives below. For each objective, please check "P" if you feel it should be a primary focus of forest management or "S" if you feel it should be secondary.

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
P 477	80	the Forest should be managed for protection of old growth redwoods
S 70	12	
B 52	9	
P 425	71	the Forest should be managed for watershed protection
S 96	16	
B 78	13	
P 423	71	the Forest should be managed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat
S 102	17	
B 74	12	
P 382	64	the soil resource should be conserved by reducing and controlling erosion
S 131	22	
B 86	14	
P 315	53	opportunities to learn about forest management should be provided for school children, small land owners, natural resource professionals, environmental groups and other interested members of the public
S 201	34	
B 83	14	
P 279	47	fire protection should be demonstrated with a coordinated fire prevention and control program
S 223	37	
B 97	16	
P 276	46	the Forest should be managed on a sustained basis, allowing some trees to be harvested periodically in a way that is compatible with the watershed, recreation, wildlife, fisheries and aesthetic resources
S 227	38	
B 96	16	
P 252	42	compatible recreational opportunities should be

S 252	42	provided
B 95	16	
P 240	40	monitoring and studies should be conducted to assess
S 241	40	the benefits and risks of forest operations to
B 118	20	watersheds in urban areas
P 220	37	innovative demonstrations and education in forest
S 271	45	management should be conducted, including silviculture,
B 108	18	habitat diversity, logging methods, hydrology,
		protection and recreation
P 51	9	timber should be harvested in amounts sufficient to
S 416	69	generate income to pay for operating expenses and
B 132	22	property taxes

Note: P = Primary, S = Secondary and B = Blank.

9. Where do you live -- ie what is your primary place of residence?
(check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
124	21	the Summit area
85	14	Santa Cruz
77	13	Soquel
52	9	elsewhere in Santa Clara County
40	7	San Jose
39	7	San Lorenzo Valley
31	5	Aptos
17	3	Scotts Valley
17	3	elsewhere in Santa Cruz County
17	3	Los Gatos
15	3	Corralitos
11	2	San Mateo County
8	1	Monterey County
8	1	Watsonville
7	1	Capitola
7	1	La Selva
5	1	Rio Del Mar
2	0.3	Davenport
1	0.2	Freedom
35	6	other (specify)
1	0.2	blank

Other

6	San Francisco County
5	Alameda County
2	Fresno County
2	Marin County
2	Motor home
2	San Benito County
1	Alabama
1	Alaska
1	Amador County

1 Calaveras County
 1 Contra Costa County
 1 Denver, Colorado
 1 Los Angeles
 1 Minnesota
 1 Nevada County
 1 Ohio
 1 Sacramento
 1 San Diego
 1 Stanislaus County
 1 Texas
 1 Virginia
 1 Blank

10. How old are you?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
1	0.2	under 18
19	3	18 to 24
129	22	25 to 35
191	32	36 to 45
155	26	46 to 59
29	5	60 to 64
56	9	65 or older
19	3	blank

11. What is your gender?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
342	57	male
248	41	female
9	2	blank

12. If there is anything else you would like to add that you think would be important to this study, please write it in the space below:
 [Editor's Note: The following is quoted verbatim.]

"Mountain Biker" Sample

I have never used the Soquel Demonstration Forest simply because I never knew it was available or how to get to it. I frequently bike ride and hike in Nisene Marks and I love the atmosphere -- I would like to learn more about the demonstration forest.

I like the forest as it is. It needs nothing else. It is a rare and wonderful place, and needs no bureaucratic meddling.

This could be a valuable education resource, showing methods of sustained resources.

I think determination of the largest user group would be useful. By my assessment, I feel that mountain bikers would probably have the largest numbers.

I like mountain biking. That is my main weekend activity.

The forest should be multi-use, ie mountain bikes, hikers, equestrians. We can all use the park without conflict -- use volunteers for trail building and maintenance -- enforce safety rules when needed. Don't punish all of us because of a few bad apples!

I like the idea that you're allowed to walk a dog in the forest. Too many parks don't allow dogs these days.

It is important to have multi-use for responsible forest users.

Open up more single track and better non-trespassing access.

I am an avid cyclist, including mountain biking, and would like to see that mountain biking interests get representation in the decision process (I personally belong to ROMP 408-534-1130).

Multi-use trails that will not force the restriction of mountain bikes.

Would like to see how hikers, mountain cyclists and equestrians "get along" -- that is -- accidents and incidents on the trails. Would like to see if multi-use on trails is a "positive force" in this park.

Save the old growth trees especially, no logging would be best especially when old redwood trees have difficulty surviving by themselves.

No logging. Keep mountain bike trails open.

Timber harvesting may generate enough money to pay for the upkeep of the forest. I had not considered that. I am from southern Oregon. I have seen what logging can do. I would hate to see logging trucks coming in and out of the forest and I would hate to see the roads that are built to accommodate the trucks. If it could be done without those problems, I might support it.

Parks are not compatible with cars.

Making/maintaining trails costs money. There are adopt-a-trail programs in place in other forests, their examples may help with some of the trail decisions. It's great to be asked about this stuff!

I'm looking forward to a first visit.

Doesn't selective removal improve a mature stand? I like "greenbelt" preserves and the idea of "expansion" of the Nisene Marks reserve.

I can't offer any opinion on best objectives, knowing nothing of the terrain, natural features and ecosystems of that area.

I have bicycled from Buzzard Lagoon Road through Nisene Marks to Soquel a number of times and have never seen any sign of "Soquel State

Forest". Since I hike and bike a lot, I am sure I would use such a park frequently. I've lived here over 15 years and it's a mystery to me how come I never heard of this place.

I like the idea of more parks, but I'm not willing to pay any more taxes for any reason.

I am sorry I didn't know about the area before. I enjoy and use Nisene Park extensively.

I would be willing to work with other volunteers to improve trail access and egress for hikers, equestrians and mountain bike riders, particularly access to Olive Springs Road.

Definitely need egress at the bottom end of the creek -- nobody likes to ride down, then around and ride back up! How about weekend easement through the quarry? People will continue to trespass there without a viable alternative. Creekside trail out the bottom?

Old growth trees should definitely be left alone, timber harvesting on public land is a complete rip-off, and it would be nice to have some hiking and biking trails instead of horse trails.

Some of the answers to #8 may be contradictory -- not sure what implications of each question are. Do not see this area on any local recreation maps. I am a mountain biker and would welcome, of course, any new trails!

The preliminary goal should be protection of old growth redwoods. I can not think of any use for redwood lumber that justifies the destruction of these magnificent forests.

Currently I'm co-chair of Responsible Organized Mountain Peddlers; we're organizing a San Mateo Chapter; we encourage multi-use with access for bicyclists.

Leave it alone.

Forests are natural environments and should not be managed for logging or watersheds. Trails should be maintained to minimize erosion. Picking mushrooms should be managed so as not to be over harvested.

This is one of the few local areas where mountain bikes are allowed on single track trails, and this should be continued. Install signs detailing proper riding etiquette. Maps are also needed.

I would like to see a multi-user environment maintained. There should be a charter that stipulates that all user groups have equal rights to parklands that can't be arbitrarily removed from one group for a perceived incompatibility. If folks have to get along they will. Check out the multi-user plan at Wilder Ranch State Park. A real success story!

I have never heard of this forest, however, I always considered [it] part of Nisene Marks.

Would like to ride mountain bike in forest if that's permitted.

Parks should be publicly owned but privately run. Whenever the State involves itself in anything, it creates an unnecessarily large bureaucracy which equals higher costs.

Not having lived in this area for a long time, I was not aware of this forest. I do enjoy other forest and recreation areas and will certainly visit this one in the future. My main interests are hiking and (responsible) mountain bike riding.

I enjoy mountain biking.

I use this area to mountain bike ride because it is remote from other park users who object to bike riders. This area should be planned to accommodate mountain bikers who can cycle to the park therefore not increasing traffic in the Summit/Eureka Canyon area. Also there will be less park user conflicts. Also need access from quarry and Olive Springs Road.

How about having a volunteer program for local youth, young adults, adults have a bike ride through this and other parks, to collect trash, glass, aluminum (recyclables) and use the proceeds to help maintain forests trails; learn more about the forest and how ecology affects everyone.

I don't know how I got on your list, but I now intend to go visit the forest.

I found the forest to be one of the most impressive and beautiful areas I have ever rode my mountain bike in. I would like to see a effort towards keeping mountain bikes allowed in the forest.

"Equestrian" Sample

Map on entry points for riders (horseback) other than trailering to Summit Road entry. EG: connecting trail, if any from Mill Pond or north end of Nisene Marks (I'm a long distance, cross-country rider).

I'd like to see trails just for equestrians (no motor bikes) so it would be safe (like at Henry Cowell)! We need access at Olive Springs Road/quarry area where horse trailers could be parked safely. Also some equestrians aren't allowed in Nisene. I feel horses should have top priority -- perhaps a trail going to trails connecting Farbin Valley trails?

The forest is a unique place of solitude and abundant wildlife. I would hate to see the serenity disturbed by chain saws and logging trucks. Highland Way is not a place you want to meet a logging truck.

Recreational use, especially equestrian use, is of great interest as well as a trail system. Sustainable management of resource with income from harvest going to maintain the forest amenities seems like a good balance. A fire protection program seems critical.

Access is all important and nothing has been done to improve the situation. We have trailered our horses to the remote Highland access and it is dangerous and difficult to get to and find. Olive Springs must be developed access for neighbors and the public.

I moved to Watsonville one year ago. I lived in the Summit area before then. That's when I used the park most. I was a horseback rider. I enjoyed it because it was very private -- no bicycles or off-road vehicles to scare the horses. Good luck!

I would like to ride my horse there from my home. I'd like a map with all possible entrances from Old San Jose Road and riding trails. I think horses and mountain bikes can share trails. Do you have need for a horse patrol like we have at Wilder?

More trails for horses and mountain bikes.

For use by Santa Cruz County Horsemen who do not live near one of the "illegal" entrances a staging area is essential that is on a safer road for large vehicles, and most importantly, that is convenient to the population of the county.

Poor location of staging area. It is too far from Santa Cruz to use on any kind of regular basis -- besides the road is narrow and winding for hauling horse trailers.

I understand that accessibility needs improvement (horse trailering). A road in from Old San Jose Road other than Olive Springs?

I have been riding my horse in the forest for 20 years. I do not want to see it become a modern park.

I am not familiar enough with the potential impact of the management objectives in #8 to intelligently answer. I would like to know more. Thanks.

Please leave it alone for horses and hikers. Natural.

This forest doesn't need "management". Please leave it be as is, limited to horses and hikers. God forbid camp sites, toilets, signs!

1. Design and print trail maps. 2. Make public more aware of forest location and uses available. 3. Control dangerous uses (ie hunting/target shooting). You may want to contact Chuck Beebe regarding the Horse Trail Development (408) 354-8438 (Soquel).

I do not subscribe to the SC Sentinel; only the [Watsonville] Register Pajaronian. Please use that newspaper for your reports, notices, etc. so all the county can be aware of your project.

I would like to know more about the state forest and how I can ride in it.

Don't "improve" the woods into a "city park".

We don't need the woods turned into a "downtown" park. We have managed all these years without all these "improvements".

It is an excellent place to ride horses. I would like to see better marked trails, maps and possibly more look-outs. Vehicle and horse trailer access from Buzzard Lagoon is important to me!

There needs to be a better access into the forest!!!

1. Motor vehicles and trail bikes should not be allowed. 2. Prohibit campfires. 3. Maintain Soquel Creek as a steelhead spawning stream.

The forest is a gem that should be carefully preserved.

My wife and I ride mountain bikes and also trail ride on horses. Pull-through parking for trucks and trailers, tie rails and water troughs would be desirable. Separate parking for small vehicles would also be good. Separate trails for bikes and horses.

If there is going to be demonstration cutting of redwoods, I think there should be close coordination with the Summit Rider organization Carol Waugh 353-1466 to create a plan and schedule as those horsemen who have used and have daily access to the forest should have those rights preserved and maintained. It is those horsemen who appreciate the forest and enables them to continue using their animals in the only environment left in the mountains.

Motorcycles are a problem to horseback riders. We have had several negative encounters! Causing my horse to run away without me. Another almost head-on on a narrow blind trail. The forest is a long way from civilization if there were an accident no would hear or know.

"Mushroom Picker" Sample

There are vast areas already designated for cutting, public and private, which can serve the forest management and timber harvesting objectives outlined above. In the last 100 years these mountains have seen their share of logging. No more is called for.

Any land the State is fortunate enough to acquire must be protected unlogged and undeveloped as trust for all Californians. Acquisition and protection should be the role of the State!

A cooperative rotation of trails between runners, hikers, horses and mountain bikes -- trail maintenance responsibilities awarded to friends of the forest. Nix the autos.

Leave it the way it is, keep it free, keep it wild.

I would be interested why I who live so far from Soquel was chosen to receive this questionnaire.

Even though I have filled out as much of this questionnaire as I can, I feel that my opinions are not as educated as they might be had I known what a "Demonstration State Forest" is defined as and had I been to Soquel State Forest. If you would like to have a more accurate idea of my thoughts, you could send me more info and then I would fill out the questionnaire again.

I probably will not visit the forest for recreation. I would like to see experiments to see the results of creative sustained yield forest practices. Creative and innovative management practices should be done and the results demonstrated. Good management is compatible with many other uses. Show professionals how to do a better job.

The forests should be free at all times and paid for by state or local taxes.

When biking out of the forest via Comstock Mill Road in May '92 my husband was approached by a home owner who told him he was on a private road and there was no public easement. The home owner claims he had been burglarized by mountain bikers recently. He said he saw the tire tracks. We were incredulous knowing how difficult a ride this is and anyone there to mountain bike wouldn't think of carrying any extra weight. It is probably a local gang. The same ones who rob mail boxes in rural areas. But this kind of problem has to be addressed.

Keep the forest undeveloped. Let people collect mushrooms for personal use only -- not commercial harvesting.

Permit private collection of flora (eg mushrooms, edible plants) for private use.

Collecting mushrooms is an important hobby for older people.

A flora and fauna inventory should be conducted ASAP to provide a historical base for all future studies.

I love hiking in this forest!

"Neighbor" Sample

If the State manages this forest on a sustained yield basis (taking only the net increase in the forest's standing board feet every other year) it is unlikely that any meaningful present use or future recreational use will be compatible given that "healing" after harvest would take a year or more and a several month "harvest season" would come during the period of highest potential recreational use every other year. Result: either the forest is being harvested and thus not available for public use, or, it was just harvested and "torn up" for a year or more while the land "heals". UGH!! Further, I doubt that the benefits expected from continual destruction of the forest can justify the expenditure of forest resources. To me this project looks like one more effort by the State to create and maintain another micro-bureaucracy at the expense of this community. The proposed sustained yield management of the forest will result in sustained trashing of the quality of life in this area and I expect residents

will rise to protest the visual, audible and air pollution and loss of recreational opportunity.

Sorry I did not answer before your deadline. Hope it's not too late.

There would be no need for a forest if there were no people. Primary focus is then manage to get as many people to use it as possible for whatever they want, short of flat out destruction. Include motorcycles where it's clear that trees will be removed and roads built anyway. I'm for family fun, no special gay pride camping trips. Get as many people as possible to spend as much time as they can without building homes, show them how many different things the forest can be used for short of selling or removing anything for personal profit, and economic realities will define its ultimate value to humans.

I can go along with very limited quiet uses -- no overnight camping or fires.

Please keep this to a limited access where people can only hike or ride horses. No harvesting of trees. No bicycles. No motorcycles. Horses are ok on trails.

We would like to do backpacking-type camping and r.v. camping also there from Highland to Aptos.

Try to avoid changing appearance from above. Enclosed picture is what I view south/SE. No visible signs of population.

The thought of clear cutting is what angers most people when the term logging methods is used.

No motor vehicles/motorcycles/shooting -- allow only hiking/horseback.

Because it is in the center of surrounding residential areas and noise travels clearly and far through the mountains do not allow noisy vehicles, target shooting, off-road vehicles or motorcycling.

I would be very much interested in visiting the park forest but didn't know about it until now.

I would be very much interested in visiting the park (forest) but didn't know about it until now.

- Keep it simple and primitive.
- Provide entrance/exit in vicinity of Olive Springs.
- Extreme caution should be taken with "harvesting timber" especially for income to pay for expenses.
- Absolutely no off-road vehicles or mountain bikes should be allowed. And strict enforcement of violators must be enforced to protect the forest's integrity.

I have property at 25510 Soquel/San Jose Road and have spent some time here every month for the past 32 years. Most of that time was spent

working on my 7 acres. I feel we should retain as much of virgin growth as possible.

Please keep hunting and shooting out of the forest.

I believe that very selective logging can be done, but only to the extent it does not damage the environment with roads, silting and overcutting. Some old trees should not be cut.

Only foot trails -- no motorized vehicles -- no bikes -- hiking only.

Please we implore you leave it as unimproved as possible.

I think it should be left as is -- as an open space area! Teaching and management can be left to other state parks!! The state system can hardly afford new things -- it would be better to keep the old parks well run and in excellent condition.

The boundaries that are close to private landowners should be clearly marked, and the visitors to the demonstration forest should be told that they shouldn't stray beyond these boundaries.

Access from Olive Springs Road.

Most soil erosion takes place in the largest storms. Pelican logging in 1981 in southwestern sector was followed by January 1982 "100 year storm". Soil loss through landslides were severe, much greater than adjacent unlogged section. "Sustained basis management" is usually wishful thinking to justify over-cutting.

Off-road motorized vehicles should be banned. Hunting and firearms might be banned. Horses should have designated trails that are less easily eroded. Wolves and bears should be reintroduced (ok, so I'm dreaming).

Provide trails for horseback riding, easy access with connecting trails.

As a long time neighbor (14 years) our biggest concern is camping (due to fire danger) and logging (even "periodical harvesting"). There are eight residents at the School and most feel strongly about this.

We live very close to the forest. We would not want it to be "developed" for more tourist-type attractions. We like it the way it is yet think comprehensive forest management could enhance its beauty and function.

The top of Sugar Loaf Mountain has a beautiful, level tree-covered area that should be protected from encroachment of Olive Springs Quarry.

We pay a lot to maintain Comstock Mill Road and worry that all the increase traffic will cost us a lot and make the road even more dangerous. The Nature Conservancy promised us there would be no off-road vehicles or camping and no encouragement of using Comstock Mill Road. We who live here are very worried about fire and want no

camping without it being a regular State Park with rangers in attendance 24 hours a day. At this time we understand that money for park maintenance and for rangers are being cut, so we don't want to see development where there is no control or supervision. We live here because there is no litter, no noise and we pay a lot to maintain Comstock Road.

Specifically no access from Comstock Mill Road or Robinwood Lane. These are private roads. If access is permitted via Comstock Mill Road the State must provide funds to widen and surface this private road -- currently narrow (one car) and dusty where it is unpaved -- not safe for additional traffic. We are very much concerned about fire hazards. No camping or picnic fires should be permitted in the area without Fire Department supervision.

Never knew about existence of park and would like to use it for running. Where do we obtain a map of available trails and access points?

Major concern is fire danger if too many people have access without any rules/oversight.

Although compromise between conservation and public use reduces the optimum affect of either individually, I believe the overall control is improved for the benefit of the greatest number of concerns.

We have two children, ages 5 and 3. We would love to see family programs provided, both educational and recreational.

1. Preservation
2. Education
3. Conservation
4. Access

Feel there are many good choices, but haven't considered them because of the financial crisis the State is facing. If it is open or when it is open to the public want fire safety emphasis -- were evacuated in '85 -- would not like a repeat of that.

Access should be controlled because of fire danger.

Controlled access because of fire danger.

I do not currently live in Santa Cruz mountains but plan to in next year. I would then be interested in learning about the park which I didn't know existed.

I'd come more if there was a map. I heard about the forest from a friend who took me on horseback. I was amazed. But it's so big I was afraid I'd get lost. I don't know boundaries -- how to access forest other than the trail I used. While there we ran into a forest ranger who was lost. My friend knew the trail and showed him the way. That's why I'm reluctant to go far on my own.

Keep this area as undeveloped as possible.

Just found out about this and love it! Don't mess with it too much. It's great in its underdeveloped state.

Please keep this as it is as much as possible -- do not allow logging.

Objective: to be able to observe natural forest condition, and how we can positively affect improvements to sustain that environment.

I would like to be able to enter/exit from Olive Springs Road (the quarry).

To open horse trails through Nisene Marks to the Pelican land.

More education for people who leave their garbage, pets in the park area -- people who visit the park feel it is necessary to travel all roads public or private.

Those of us who live on Olive Springs Road especially near the quarry entrance to the park have to often deal with the parking problems and trash left behind.

How will you be making this decision? Whose perspective do you weight highest? How do I find this out before you make the decision?

Leave it alone.

I have a 2 1/2 year old and 4 month old and we go hiking in the forest a lot. It's a great place to take the kids -- I hope it doesn't get overcommercialized.

We do not want more city people who bring fire and crime.

Good idea! Good luck.

Cutting of timber should only be allowed for proven cases of fire and wildlife protection. Development other than trails should be kept to a minimum. Separate trails for walkers and riders.

Public parking closer to Summit Road would be great. More, well marked trail loops also. Great area, we love it!

(We) I didn't know this was here! Is this part of Nisene Marks? We will plan on exploring this -- enter Highland Way.

When I walk in the forest, my enjoyment is significantly lowered by the sound of gunshots. I don't feel target shooting is compatible with hiking, bicycling and horseback riding safety.

With the State's lack of a budget questionnaires such as this should not be a way to spend my tax dollars.

Please make provision for hiking trails and horseback riding.

We will be using it regularly now we know it's open for public use.

The few remaining redwood trees, or any trees, in this area need protection from its worst enemy -- people.

"Productive" community forests (providing a multitude of benefits) that contribute to a community's self-sufficiency hold the key to our and our children's futures.

I believe that the area should be kept low key on development -- not overrun with people for the sake of wildlife and natural beauty.

I hope to God our house is not in this forest area and putting more restrictions on trying to sell the house. California has screwed us every which way possible, now we lost everything in the earthquake, no help financially because we both worked. We have to file for bankruptcy and on welfare. We'll never use the forest so don't restrict us.

I feel the State Forest usage needs to be a benefit to everyone, not just a select few that fit into designated slots. The neighborhood should not suffer in order for the park to be "economically sound". Being a land owner directly adjacent to this land, I will be directly effected by these policies. Chain saws buzzing all day, trash being littered around the land, several near car accidents on Highland due to careless drivers, no signs into park, etc. If the road into park (Highland Way) would be repaired instead of neglected increased usage would not have a negative effect. Maybe a sign WARNING - county negligence at work!! your tax \$ NOT at work! would be appropriate!

"Docents" Sample

My time for recreational pursuits is limited, over the past 2 years I have found that mountain biking is well suited for my busy schedule. Mountain biking gives me a purpose to travel to an area, and then I can cover more distance and see more in a shorter period of time. I would most likely use the forest for mountain biking.

I can't answer #7 above as I've never been to this place. It is an approximately 60 mile round trip from my home.

Offer a trail of 1 - 2 miles long for dogs off-leash. Refer to Town of Los Gatos Main Street to Lexington Creek Trail, or East Bay Regional Park District (510) 531-9300. They both offer areas of multi use and dogs off-leash.

Does this property abut the Forest of Nisene Marks? I would appreciate a map showing more detail plus a description of the environment of the Soquel Demonstration State Forest. I know very little.

I spend a fair amount of time outdoors and love finding new places to hike -- hadn't heard of Soquel Forest prior to this -- suggest an advertising campaign to publicize it.

I've never heard of the forest but I use a number of the Santa Cruz mountain parks on a regular basis (Big Basin, Castle Rock, Nisene

Woods, Henry Cowell, etc.) and I will use this forest in the future. I visited a State Forest in North Carolina. It had great demonstrations and sustained harvest. Soquel Forest should serve those two purposes, too.

I'm a regular hiker and glad to see a new area opening up.

Single track trails for mountain bikes.

I believe emphasis on Question 8 Items D and P [?] should take care of fire protection and allow nature itself to "do the necessary fires".

Cut no old growth.

I have problems with the term forest management. A forest isn't a man-made business requiring management. This first objective starts with the management premiss and includes too many areas to be able to give one response of P or S.

This seems an excellent survey for getting ideas for your program development. It's too bad that I'm an out-of-state occasional visitor to Felton, California. Good Luck.

I have never heard of the Soquel State Forest until I received this survey Monday. It sounds like a place I would like to go to hike and walk. Also I would like a place where my sister and I can hike and take her dog when they visit. I would be interested in any information, maps, trailheads, access roads, etc. that you currently have. Or, if you could let me know where I could obtain this information. I would appreciate any literature you can send me. Thank you.

I am a volunteer at Rancho del Oso, one of the little known State Parks, nature centers in Santa Cruz County. There should be more publicity of the forest and parks. Look at Big Basin and Henry Cowell -- there are more hikers, walkers than ever before looking for a new place to go.

Look forward to visiting the forest soon.

I would like a good map of existing trails and rules!

Thank B of A for the \$ to buy this property.

As a docent for the S.C. Mountain Natural History Association and a leader of Sierra Club service trips, I think this a beautiful area with lots of potential.

You should have included a self-addressed stamped envelope to get better results on your survey.

I will visit this area in September 1992 and plan to see Soquel State Forest.

I was very surprised to hear about Soquel through this survey. I usually follow area parkland acquisitions closely and had never heard of it before. I called the Trail Center in Los Altos and they also hadn't heard of it. I have also been to Nisene Marks via Buzzard Lagoon and via Olive Springs in the last few years and don't recall seeing any signs. [Editor's note: The Trail Center Board of Directors was sent questionnaires.]

I used to log in New England and I know the necessity of logging and for forest management. At the same time there is so little old growth left here and the wildlife habitat that goes with that, that protecting old growth is of prime importance to me. Logging is necessary. It provides products we need and benefits local and national economies. But the Santa Cruz mountains are so steep and fragile that utmost care should be taken when logged. Forest management is of utmost importance and education of people about it and what the forests can be for us and the wildlife habitat is crucial.

A tip of the hat to you for this study. I hope I'm not too late. I hope we're all not too late.

I look forward to my first visit to Soquel State Forest.

If you wish to increase recreational use of the forest, it's existence must be publicized so people will be aware of opportunities available.

Offer training programs to the logging and lumber industries.

I have a B.S. in forestry and when I retire next year I would like to donate time in assisting with Soquel's various projects and activities.

I have not read any information about this area recently and think it should be written up in local newspapers and publications.

I enjoy walking in the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. I enter at Buzzard Lagoon Road. Could it be that I walk here without knowing it? I like the idea of a demonstration forest where there could be public education about forestry and timber harvesting practices from the forester's point of view.

I think education and preservation should be your primary foci.

Y.S.I. [Youth Science Institute] is a private non-profit environmental education institute. It began in 1953. I answered for us.

Because of this mailing I will now visit this state forest.

I am an elementary school teacher who is interested in teaching science. My theme is "forests". I have developed curriculum around kelp forests, redwood forests and rain forests. I'd love to visit Soquel Forest, too!

We are inactive docents for state parks and feel more areas should be open to public use and education and there should be a balance of environmental and human use.

We are currently inactive docents with Santa Cruz Mountains District and Portola State Park in particular. When we return to SLV I would be interested in visiting. I've ridden horseback there many times in the past, but not in last 20 years.

N.A.

Rest of Sample

Nice that forest is now not very well used or known. Very quiet. Fairly good system of trails for hiking/biking/riding. Would very much like to see good/challenging single track trails left open to bicycles.

In reference to 8-E economics should be a serious consideration, yet this is a "demonstration" forest. I would like to see an emphasis on small logging and milling operations, within [?] local needs, local jobs/bio-regionalism.

Backpack use would be the most improved I would go except for demonstration/education structures and control parking areas. You should've provided an envelope for return use.

This facility could be very important in researching and teaching to the community about the Soquel watershed, and ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Need map and info on where it is, access, facilities, trails, permitted uses. Is there any history worth interpreting there? If so, signs, literature, interpretation would be nice.

For me, the most useful change in the park would be a legal exit following the creek and connecting to the Olive Springs entrance to Nisene Marks. As a cyclist, the Amaya/Comstock exit is very demanding after having climbed to the top of Nisene Marks. Is any such exit foreseeable, or does the quarry own all those lands?

This survey will probably yield incompatible results -- suggest you contact the Castle Rock rangers to get their advice -- the demographics are similar. Overall if you can create a "pleasant" day use area with some forest education I think you'll be doing well. Local people need places such as this to "recharge" in their precious free time. What I would like are many such places in the Bay Area, each unique in some way and none heavily developed -- just some trails, signs and small exhibits. Strive for a series of "small" wins that are achievable in a "reasonable" time.

1. Don't do anything to the park that will increase traffic. Do not make it user-friendly (ie paved roads, picnic tables, directional signs). 2. Don't offer tours of the park. Let this be a secret. Free for everyone, but enjoyed by those who like it the way it is.

Coordinate plans with FNM State Park for access, trails, camping facilities. Improve public access through lower route. Designate equestrian area.

Make the forest pay for itself by firewood sales and timber sales. Use forestry equipment to build and maintain roads and trails. Your own equipment and manpower are available.

I wish it was possible to drive closer to the center of the property. Presently the attractive areas are accessible after a long hike down a dusty road. I have visited the property once, for the dedication ceremony.

Since I have never set foot on the Soquel Forest, my information and interest stems from a ranger's presentation and slide show at a recent lecture series. I do take my 3rd grade students on field trips to visit local habitats. I am interested in the future of open spaces and how logging or other economic issues threaten those spaces. Thanks.

As an avid mountain biker, nature lover and land access activist, I am very pleased and excited to find that the Soquel Demonstration Forest is another area in our county that we can show the public that many different people with many different interests can utilize the same park space in harmony and without major conflict. Let me know how I can help.

Better maps. Clarify exit via Olive Springs Road or quarry.

Riding my mountain bicycle in the forest is a treat. I like that it is relatively undeveloped and unused.

Thank you for letting myself be involved.

I would like to see more single-track bike trails. Also I am unclear and would like to see the existing single-track trail connect to Aptos Creek Road.

This has been an area of great beauty and peacefulness, a natural retreat. Chain saws and logging trucks should be kept to a minimum. Short term (a couple of weeks at a time) cutting with much longer breaks in between would be more tolerable than slow on-going noise, dust and commotion. Keep it to a minimum.

Detailed maps made available.

I'd like to see an effort be made to gain access to some property so that users can exit near Old San Jose Road or Olive Springs.

Basically I think it should be used and managed much like Nisene Marks Forest. Along the road a couple of picnic areas -- trails developed -- road closed to vehicles -- not an area for intensive use.

Incorporate field studies into college student's studies. Coordinate with State, County, District parks systems in area.

As I have never heard of this forest it's difficult to say what I would like done. My primary focus is hiking. I like trails that are five, six or seven miles in length.

I believe it is absolutely essential to preserve what little forest we have left for wildlife habitat and non-destructive uses like hiking and nature study. Hunting and motorized vehicles should be prohibited.

1. Regarding Question 7, you might have asked which of these uses and other uses would not make the Soquel Forest a better place. 2. I support minimal low impact recreation (trail use, nature study); I also support primary use of plant and wildlife habitat protection, watershed and open space.

Next time, please provide an envelope with your address even if it isn't stamped.

No cars, trucks, etc. mobiles would be ok. Keep it as wild and undeveloped and natural as your awareness allows. Please send questionnaire to V. Orgel, 912 Windron Street, Santa Cruz, 95062 as we go there together.

Need better access at south and west sides of the forest. More marked trails.

Better access at the southern and western sides of the forest.

Does this area include Pogonip? And Fall Creek?

Your questionnaire raises the question -- if it is open to the gun nuts for target practice and hunting...is it safe for anyone else? If I had a map of trails and access, I would explore for the purposes of leading hikes there.

The forest offers a great opportunity to demonstrate good forest management, multiple use, including timber harvesting, close to an urban center. Hopefully, developed recreation will be kept to a minimum. Leave as is.

You didn't give those who have never been to the forest but plan to a voice in the responses.

As a Summit resident I would appreciate an opportunity to learn more about the area I live in and how to prevent forest fires, control erosion, etc. These could be taught at SSF or the community center.

Work on improving and preserving the steelhead habitat and population.

Have not been aware of this but plan to see it.

Periodic maps of whole forest and sights of interest ie old growth, river, Sulphur Spring, etc.

I'd like a map and more information. How about doing an article for local Sierra Club (Loma Prieta Chapter)?

I don't know if bike riding is allowed in the reserve now or if you'll be considering it, but don't let it get to be like Nisene Marks! The erosion from bike tires is embarrassing. Since there seems to be a lot of opportunities for bike riders as it is, it would be nice if you opted against it.

Please provide access through the quarry. Maybe we can start on the weekends and holidays when the quarry operations are down.

Access to this beautiful forest should be improved -- either a contract allowing vehicles to use and park on Comstock Mill, and/or parking on Stetson and a trail in from that road. As more people use the forest, more parking at the east entrance will be needed. An expanded network of trails all around the forest, especially down the creek to Olive Springs, would greatly improve the recreational opportunities in the forest.

Locate areas of special concern that should not be logged for reasons of other resource protection. Make research on sustainable available to the logging industry -- not just the public.

Why not provide education to the public about how critical it is to cut down personal use of paper and wood products?

The public needs to understand that forests need professional care. Forests need professional nurturing to provide maximum benefits to all users -- wildlife and people. Just as farm land today needs more families than the same land a century ago, managed forests can provide more for its users.

Forest recreation is abundant in this area...more than anywhere else in the state. Forest demonstration is sparse everywhere.

State (CDF?) should take steps to make public aware that demo forest is open to public recreation and indicate types of rec activities that exist. Since demo forest and Nisene Marks Park are adjacent, perhaps a management agreement should be worked out to have parks manage recreation (although State funding may limit this option).

I am a member of the Nisene Marks Advisory Committee, Santa Cruz County Search and Rescue, Boy Scouts. These are my reasons for access/use of this property.

I never knew that the Soquel Demonstration State Forest existed. Maps need improving -- unsure of entrances that are open. Need more info for Sierra Club, environmental groups.

I would like more detailed access maps showing the forest and adjacent public lands (ie Nisene Marks).

In addition to the addition of more trail access for bicycling, I really think there needs to be some detailed maps made of the entire

area. If we hadn't run into a ranger my last trip in there, I would have had no idea exactly how to get out.

I think the area should be maintained and managed in such a way that all user groups can enjoy the trails. Trails should stay open to everyone.

This land should be kept open as a multi-use area -- excluding motor vehicles. More trails should be built with mountain bikes and horses in mind and educate hikers and other users to be responsible, bikers included.

A more detailed map of the forest and how its trails connect to Nisene Marks would be very useful.

Starting at Highlands Road, the access through the Olive Springs Road, where we were to be picked up was closed. Improve maps.

Horses are not compatible with hikers and mountain biking and should be excluded.

I would like to see the area opened to the colleges and universities for research.

In May I accompanied my son and his 4th grade class (from Mar Vista) on a field trip to the forest. I enjoyed and was very impressed with the information and activities provided by the rangers. I appreciate your offer for educational programs and your work to protect and support the forest ecosystem.

The people in charge of education are doing a wonderful job.

Thank you for the opportunity to become aware of your program. As a creekside resident (for the past 20 years) we have experienced many changes in our environment. It's great knowing there is an agency monitoring these changes and educating the public at large.

Highland Way has many runners using the road and cannot accommodate logging trucks or other large vehicles! This point regarding increased traffic on Highland Way was not raised in the questionnaire. This is a major concern as Highland Way is a one-lane road closed much of the winter -- cannot accommodate increase traffic -- much danger. I am concerned that large numbers of Summit residents and neighbors of SDSF, especially those along Highland Way, have not had an opportunity to express their opinions for this survey!

I think it's great you allow mountain bikes to use the single track trails!

Now that I know about it I will use it for hiking and quiet areas.

Group camping for organized youth groups should be allowed by permit. This should be on a planned basis.

The forest does not need to be a park. Don't clean it up too much for hordes of picnicking car tourists! Thanks for this opportunity.

Thanks for the input. Don't mess it up!

Access is key to enjoyment and education. At least enclose an envelope and stamp for return of survey!

In many other multiple use areas, trails are shared by horses, hikers and mountain bikes. Some trails are for hikers only and some are for hikers and horses. But I have never seen a trail where mountain bikes have the right-of-way. Why not? We have as much right for trail access as any other user group.

I like hiking and would like to know more about this area.

Yes, do you know if mountain bicyclists are the main user group?

I think this is a unique opportunity for the State to increase wildlands and add to its dwindling habitat. A few well-designed trails is about all it needs. Let nature's needs be the primary focus and people needs be secondary. I hope timber harvest is not an option, but if it must be do it with the habitat in mind. Also my primary use is mountain biking but if a negative result occurs like the lower trails of Nisene Marks Park the area should be closed to bikes.

S.D.F. is wonderful simply because it is difficult to get to. One must really want to get in and work at it. Don't improve trails. Leave alone so the setting is as close as possible to natural. Do not develop.

I wish it could be that some lands were completely protected from logging. There needs to be a balance in cities, we are eating land, and forests/parks are logged. So, whatever you can do to preserve the original nature of the land would be good.

I had a difficult time on #8. It seems that all of the items are primary. Prioritizing will most certainly be a challenge.

Mountain biking when properly executed can be far less harmful than many other vehicles including horses. I would be happy to pay a fee for use of this park 3 - 5 dollars a day or some annual fee for unlimited use. Please keep mountain biking legal in Nisene Marks.

Bicycle access from Olive Springs Road, perhaps around if not through the quarry, would make for a wonderful round trip -- up Hinckley Road, left at Sand Point, left at Mount Santa Rosalia, down to dirt road and out through around quarry -- a truly world-class ride.

I'm very grateful that you take interest in the community's opinions and views!

The Soquel Demonstration Forest is one of the only forest areas where Monterey Bay Search Dogs can train and test our wilderness search

dogs. I feel it is very important that the forest remain open to these purposes.

Found the forest by accident on mountain bikes thru Nisene Marks. Locals know about it, but no one else does. Kind of nice and "little used" compared to other parks.

I don't think that logging, even on a limited scale, is a good use for Soquel Forest.

I would really like to emphasize the need to use the forest as a lab for objectively (members from all aspects of the environmental community) studying the effects of selective harvesting.

This area is one of the finest areas in S.C. Co. to train search dogs. Its topography and heavy cover make ideal training conditions.

Soquel Demonstration State Forest: Field Survey

N = 130

You may know that in 1990 Soquel Demonstration State Forest (formerly Pelican Ranch) was dedicated for public use by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Over the next year the Forest managers, with the assistance of an advisory committee, will be developing a management plan for Soquel State Forest. As part of this process, we are surveying people who use the forest for recreation. Your opinions are important to this planning process. Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Be sure to answer every question. Thank you!

1. How long have you been coming to Soquel Demonstration State Forest?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
46	35	less than 5 years
15	12	5 to 9 years
9	7	10 to 19 years
6	5	20 years or more
54	42	this is my first visit

2. How did you first find out about the Forest? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
59	45	from family/friends
20	15	have used it a long time
19	15	saw it on a map
10	8	saw the sign
7	5	didn't know I was in Soquel Forest
1	1	through a school program
1	1	don't remember
23	18	other (specify)

Other

8	Park ranger/CDF employee
3	Bike shop
2	Bike book
2	IAN
2	Live nearby
1	Exploring
1	<u>Mountain Network News</u>
1	4H Camp
1	From earthquake
1	This study
1	Other bikers
1	Pro Mountain Bike Rider

3. A. How often do you use or visit Soquel State Forest? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
2	2	every day
27	21	once a week or more, but not every day
24	18	once a month or more, but less than once a week
20	15	once a year or more, but less than once a month
3	2	less than once a year
54	42	this is my first visit

- B. When you come to the Forest, how long do you usually stay? (check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
77	59	for a few hours
39	30	for the day
18	14	just pass through
2	2	blank

4. A. When you use Soquel State Forest, which way do you typically enter:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
68	52	from Forest of Nisene Marks
35	27	Highland Way
28	22	Buzzard Lagoon
10	8	Olive Springs Road
8	6	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
5	4	the quarry
3	2	Spanish Ranch
1	1	Long Ridge
4	3	other (specify)
2	2	blank

Other

1	Cabrillo
1	No idea
2	Blank

- B. When you use the Forest, which way do you typically exit:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
54	42	from Forest of Nisene Marks
43	33	Highland Way
23	18	Buzzard Lagoon
13	10	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
12	9	Olive Springs Road
8	6	the quarry
4	3	Long Ridge

1	1	Spanish Ranch
2	2	other (specify)
6	5	blank

Other

1	Cabrillo
1	Blank

5. Why do you come to Soquel State Forest? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
106	82	mountain bike
68	52	it's peaceful
65	50	to be outdoors
64	49	enjoy the forest environment
57	44	the trees are beautiful
55	42	enjoy the view
52	40	relax
50	39	it's free
50	38	to be with nature
49	38	it's shady and cool
48	37	for the solitude
48	37	there aren't many people
48	37	observe wildlife
45	35	it's undeveloped
45	35	hike or walk
44	34	it's private
41	32	explore a new area
38	29	I live close by
37	28	it's warm and sunny
34	26	to be with family/friends
33	25	it's off the beaten path
27	21	no one bothers me
20	15	there's lots to do
20	15	I've been coming for a long time
19	15	picnic
18	14	nature study
18	14	play in the creek
17	13	to learn about the forest
15	12	there aren't many rules
10	8	it has a lot of history
9	7	walk my dog
9	7	to learn about forest management
4	3	horseback ride
4	3	use an off-road vehicle
3	2	target practice
2	2	collect mushrooms
0	0	hunt
10	8	other (specify)

Other

2 Run

- 1 Birdwatch
- 1 Love it
- 1 Motorcycle
- 1 Expand horizons
- 1 Friendly ranger
- 1 Because it's here
- 2 Blank

6. What kinds of things would make Soquel State Forest a better place for you to use? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
49	38	more trails
44	34	leave it like it is
36	28	multi use trails
33	25	trail connections to other public lands
32	25	signs pointing out things of interest
24	18	trails for specific uses
24	18	better directional signage
23	18	limited logging
18	14	fewer rules
17	13	camping facilities
17	13	toilets
16	12	marked, self-guided walks
12	9	public programs teaching forest ecology and management
12	9	better public access to reduce trespassing
10	8	environmental education center
10	8	newsletter about Forest programs and research
9	7	opportunities to learn about timber management
9	7	openings to view out
9	7	opportunities for volunteers to be involved
7	5	picnic tables
7	5	forester-led tours
6	5	docent-led hikes
5	4	fire pits
4	3	more rangers
3	2	reservation-only group camp
0	0	more rules
26	20	other (specify)
3	2	blank

Other

- 9 Drinking water
- 2 Don't develop
- 2 No logging
- 2 Overnight camping for backpackers
- 2 Garbage cans
- 1 Open single track to mountain bikers
- 1 Allow motorcycles
- 1 Map availability
- 1 Better map to get here
- 1 Volunteer trail maintenance
- 1 Marked trails

- 1 Increase protected area
- 1 Slow the traffic
- 1 Unsure

7. Soquel Demonstration State Forest is the newest in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's State Forest system. The legislation designating this forest and Board of Forestry policies specify the management objectives below. For each objective, please check "P" if you feel it should be a primary focus of forest management or "S" if you feel it should be secondary.

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
P 112	86	the Forest should be managed for protection of old growth redwoods
S 10	8	
B 8	6	
P 98	75	the Forest should be managed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat
S 22	16	
B 10	8	
P 82	63	fire protection should be demonstrated with a coordinated fire prevention and control program
S 34	26	
B 14	11	
P 82	63	the Forest should be managed for watershed protection
S 35	27	
B 13	10	
P 72	55	the soil resource should be conserved by reducing and controlling erosion
S 42	32	
B 16	12	
P 70	54	compatible recreational opportunities should be provided
S 48	37	
B 12	9	
P 68	52	opportunities to learn about forest management should be provided for school children, small land owners, natural resource professionals, environmental groups and other interested members of the public
S 47	36	
B 15	12	
P 58	45	monitoring and studies should be conducted to assess the benefits and risks of forest operations to watersheds in urban areas
S 52	40	
B 20	15	
P 49	38	the Forest should be managed on a sustained basis, allowing some trees to be harvested periodically in a way that is compatible with the watershed, recreation, wildlife, fisheries and aesthetic resources
S 66	51	
B 15	12	
P 45	35	innovative demonstrations and education in forest management should be conducted, including silviculture, habitat diversity, logging methods, hydrology, protection and recreation
S 70	54	
B 15	12	

3	11	Long Ridge
3	11	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
2	7	Buzzard Lagoon
1	4	Olive Springs Road
0	0	the quarry
0	0	other (specify)

N = 27

B. When you use the Forest, which way do you typically exit:

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
19	70	Highland Way
5	19	Spanish Ranch
5	19	from Forest of Nisene Marks
4	15	Long Ridge
2	7	Olive Springs Road
2	7	Buzzard Lagoon
2	7	Amaya Creek/Comstock Mill
0	0	the quarry
0	0	other (specify)
1	4	blank

N = 27

6. Why do you come to Soquel State Forest? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
24	89	enjoy the forest environment
22	81	it's peaceful
21	78	I live close by
20	74	the trees are beautiful
19	70	it's shady and cool
18	67	hike or walk
17	63	observe wildlife
17	63	to be with nature
16	59	it's private
16	59	relax
16	59	it's undeveloped
15	56	for the solitude
15	56	to be outdoors
15	56	there aren't many people
14	52	it's free
12	44	to be with family/friends
12	44	enjoy the view
11	41	nature study
11	41	picnic
11	41	it's off the beaten path
10	37	to learn about the forest
10	37	no one bothers me
9	33	mountain bike
9	33	explore a new area
8	30	horseback ride

7	26	it's warm and sunny
6	22	it has a lot of history
5	19	to learn about forest management
5	19	I've been coming for a long time
4	15	there aren't many rules
3	11	there's lots to do
3	11	walk my dog
3	11	play in the creek
1	4	target practice
0	0	collect mushrooms
0	0	hunt
0	0	use an off-road vehicle
4	15	other (specify)

N = 27

Other

- 1 Jog
- 1 Take videos of child (nice background)
- 1 Photograph
- 1 Love the wilderness-like feeling

7. What kinds of things would make Soquel State Forest a better place for you to use? (check all that apply)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
32	51	marked, self-guided walks
23	37	more trails
21	33	better directional signage
21	33	signs pointing out things of interest
20	32	toilets
18	29	newsletter about Forest programs and research
17	27	picnic tables
17	27	trails for specific uses
15	24	trail connections to other public lands
15	24	environmental education center
15	24	limited logging
14	22	better public access to reduce trespassing
12	19	public programs teaching forest ecology and management
12	19	leave it like it is
12	19	docent-led hikes
11	17	openings to view out
11	17	camping facilities
11	17	multi use trails
9	14	opportunities for volunteers to be involved
7	11	opportunities to learn about timber management
6	10	forester-led tours
6	10	fire pits
3	5	reservation-only group camp
3	5	fewer rules
2	3	more rangers
2	3	more rules
14	22	other (specify)

9 14 blank

Other

- 6 No logging
- 3 Maps
- 1 Eliminate shooting at Rattlesnake Gulch
- 1 Motorbike access
- 1 High fines for littering
- 1 Ecological preserve
- 1 Grade mountain bike paths
- 1 No gunfire
- 1 Keep it natural
- 1 Better signs at road access point

8. Soquel Demonstration State Forest is the newest in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's State Forest system. The legislation designating this forest and Board of Forestry policies specify the management objectives below. For each objective, please check "P" if you feel it should be a primary focus of forest management or "S" if you feel it should be secondary.

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
P 54	86	the Forest should be managed for protection of old growth redwoods
S 4	6	
B 5	8	
P 47	75	the Forest should be managed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat
S 9	14	
B 7	11	
P 45	71	the Forest should be managed for watershed protection
S 8	13	
B 10	16	
P 43	68	the soil resource should be conserved by reducing and controlling erosion
S 10	16	
B 10	16	
P 39	62	opportunities to learn about forest management should be provided for school children, small land owners, natural resource professionals, environmental groups and other interested members of the public
S 17	27	
B 7	11	
P 38	60	fire protection should be demonstrated with a coordinated fire prevention and control program
S 15	24	
B 10	16	
P 29	46	monitoring and studies should be conducted to assess the benefits and risks of forest operations to watersheds in urban areas
S 24	38	
B 10	16	
P 26	41	innovative demonstrations and education in forest management should be conducted, including silviculture,
S 28	44	

B	9	14	habitat diversity, logging methods, hydrology, protection and recreation
P	25	40	the Forest should be managed on a sustained basis,
S	24	38	allowing some trees to be harvested periodically in a
B	14	22	way that is compatible with the watershed, recreation, wildlife, fisheries and aesthetic resources
P	24	38	compatible recreational opportunities should be
S	28	44	provided
B	11	17	
P	2	3	timber should be harvested in amounts sufficient to
S	45	71	generate income to pay for operating expenses and
B	16	25	property taxes

Note: P = Primary, S = Secondary and B = Blank

9. Where do you live -- ie what is your primary place of residence?
(check only one)

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
53	84	the Summit area
5	8	Los Gatos
2	3	elsewhere in Santa Cruz County
1	2	Soquel
1	2	San Lorenzo Valley
1	2	elsewhere in Santa Clara County

10. How old are you?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
1	2	under 18
1	2	18 to 24
10	16	25 to 35
19	30	36 to 45
27	43	46 to 59
3	5	60 to 64
2	3	65 or older

11. What is your gender?

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	
40	63	female
23	37	male

12. If there is anything else you would like to add that you think would be important to this study, please write it in the space below:
[Editor's Note: The following is quoted verbatim.]

I think parks should have some easy access for those who can't or don't enjoy adventurous hiking, and a greater amount of less

accessible, more untouched areas, for those who do and for the sanity of the wildlife.

Well marked trails and detailed maps for hiking and running. Important to have access to park and trails to and including Forest of Nisene Marks included.

I am very concerned about the beer-guzzling, 4-wheelers who run roughshod over creeks, habitats, trees and plants. This is a common problem.

I'll mention the target shooting again. Just the other day, there were some idiots shooting near the Highland entrance, and they were on the Soquel State Forest side of the road! You couldn't see them, but the shots were so loud, I stopped jogging, afraid to proceed. After about 5 minutes, the gunfire let up and I continued on. I have seen other users of the forest become very upset at this situation.

Thanks for the map in Mountain Network News! Now I know how to use it!

The trails should be more clearly marked. I tried to walk the Sulphur Springs/Corral Trail loop and got lost. I had to back track down the hill on the Sulphur Springs Trail.

I'm anxious to visit this area and would be interested in a tour if enough people are interested.

Balanced use as opposed to closed forest to satisfy the environmentalists.

1. Bicycle trails.
2. Invite Mercury News publicity -- in-depth articles.

I think forests should be as undeveloped as possible. I will not go to a forest that has been turned into a typical park with fences and paved walkways and picnic areas. They attract uncaring people who litter and abuse. It makes me depressed and ashamed.

Separate trails for motor bikes. I have two small children, would love to find a forest for creek play and study. Nisene Marks is too crowded.

Now that I know this area exists -- I'd like to spend more time in there. Could you send me a map of the area? Be glad to pay for it...

Turn the area into a wildlife refuge. Don't log.

None.

Main interest would be in day hiking without competing with bikes and horses. Thanks.

There are many areas for Bay Area residents to participate with the outdoors in every aspect. However, there are few areas left as wild

areas. To preserve the true kinship of nature some areas must be left undisturbed -- to low impact. Increase use never loses its surge.

Don't disrupt the land on the side of the road. It's just more work for you to clean up. I like how the park is right now.

P.S. Do you have a Citizens Advisory panel? I would like to give input on a regular basis.

I feel this small piece of remote untouched land needs to be preserved in its current UNDEVELOPED state. My kids need to know forests don't grow with trails, signs, markers and toilets! Please help those in charge find the value I find in peace. UN"HARVESTED" land is rare and precious. Let us all use it wisely and cautiously and leave it ALONE!

Need to know more about it and visit before I can complete questions 7 & 8. Please also send information and a questionnaire to Shelly Henniger, 21717 Irma Lyle, Los Gatos, CA, 95030, as she teaches environmental education classes and is also very interested. Thank you.

A few years ago our family would have used this area for picnics and hikes. Currently I am kept close to home to care for my 92 year old mother. I believe that California desperately needs all the forest areas, parks, etc. that we can maintain.

I only found it because someone took me there and I parked on their land. A friend tried to find it from your map and failed. Need better entrance and some parking -- signs. But as a woman, I'm afraid to go there alone.

"Harvest" refers to an annual, renewable crop -- not to logging. How can CDF have responsibility for protection and destruction of forest lands at the same time??? Harvest is a misnomer.

If you have public facilities, please provide garbage/recycling disposal. I would love to learn about area, and I would love to volunteer in environmental education. My environmental biology degree can help! I've done interpretation for National Parks.

Thanks for providing a place for us to ride horses, they seem to be few and far between at this point. I would be interested in other parks that allow animals (dogs and horses). Do you have a list?

"D" is for dangerous! [Editor's note: applies to Question 8e] The recent furor over logging sadly seems to consider economics first and the forest last. Logging has its place and is not nearly as scary per se as "management". Americans in general and government in particular have a "control" problem. Preserving first growth redwoods is important, but introducing imbalances to this end is unnatural. Leave the forest alone so it can teach us about what it needs.

Many local residents are very concerned that logging will destroy our view of this beautiful ridge, which we have loved for years as a natural, undisturbed forest. I hadn't realized the forest was open to

the public, for there were no signs indicating it was and I'd been told by Nisene Marks staff that there was no parking on Highland Way for people wanting to enter the park from up here. My kids are too young to ride bikes safely on Highland Way, so car access is our only way.

I am looking forward to hiking in this area and would like to see it preserved as a forest with limited use.

The forest should be left undeveloped as much as possible but timber should be harvested in a limited fashion for two reasons: 1. To help thin out trees so there will be more healthy and mature-in-size trees left 2. Logging will provide access to the forest and if responsibly done will show people that over a period of time that harvesting can take place while leaving it a nice place to visit.

Appendix B: Target Sample

<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Sample</u>
66	20	Weak Day Hikers
34	9	Forest of Nisene Marks (both Advocates and Advisory Committee)
16	5	Amaya Ridge and Bridge Association
29	7	those who attend the Advisory Committee meetings, but not members
8	8	Soquel State Forest Advisory Committee members (3 were sent with FNM)
237	44	Fungus Federation
217	46	Association of Concerned Trailriders
17	1	various parks and recreation commissions
7	2	resource professionals
146	17	local fire fighters (professional and volunteer)
13	4	Santa Cruz Land Trust
92	50	names collected by Forest staff
141	30	Summit Riders Horsemen's Association
80	37	left name on sign up sheet in forest
41	8	Sierra Club, both executive committee and Outings Group leaders
18	1	Green Earth Singles Club
457	41	Santa Cruz Horseman's Association
142	35	ROMP (mountain bike club)
42	1	misc. trails groups, including the Trail Center, Ridge Trail, SCC Trails Committee
11	1	other government bodies or advisory committees
672	89	Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association
25	2	Comstock Mill Road Association
1,166	137	adjacent property owners
7	4	Monterey Bay Search Dogs, Inc.

Appendix C: Field Notes

4/19 Easter Sunday MM

Between 9:45 and 10:00 am, on Highland Way past Spanish Ranch going to the forest entrance, I saw two groups of bicyclists (didn't look like mountain bikes), one with four people, one with about six. Then at the Eureka Canyon Road/Buzzard Lagoon intersection I saw a guy in his truck with a mountain bike.

At 10:20 I reached the point on the ridge where mountain bikers leave the Forest of Nisene Marks and cut off into Soquel State Forest towards Sulphur Springs. No one in sight, but lots of poison oak. The sign board looks good.

I can hear shooters up here.

A solo biker (the guy I saw parked at BL/ECR) zoomed by. I got him to stop and fill out a questionnaire. He had never been here before and was full of questions and conversation (sort of a know-it-all). He said he was against all clear cutting and for old growth preservation. He's really interested in wildflowers -- wanted to know if there were any Calypso orchids on the Forest. He pointed out all of the peaks looking towards Carmel. I sent him down Corral Trail with a map.

It is beautiful and will soon be hot. There is a great view of the bay.

Two guys from FNM rode up together. They were headed down Corral Trail and wouldn't have stopped if I hadn't asked them to fill out a questionnaire. They asked me questions like: Are you with the FNM Association? (No, I have a contract with SDSF.) So you're up here monitoring activity. (No, I'm trying to get a sense of what goes on here.) Do you have any water? I want to top off my water bottle. Do you ride a mountain bike? It's a good way to get around the park.

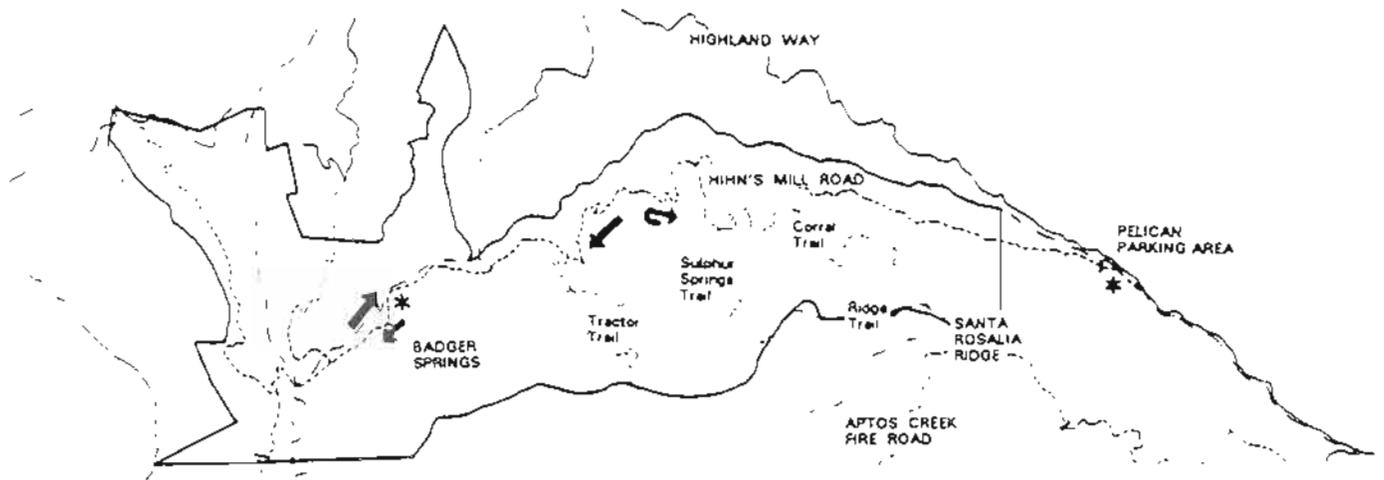
Then a couple from FNM (man and woman) came up. I had to flag them down. But once they stopped and filled out the questionnaire, they had a snack, drank some water and checked out the view. They wished me a happy Easter.

All of the mountain bikers were really sweating -- some dripped on the questionnaires and the ink ran.

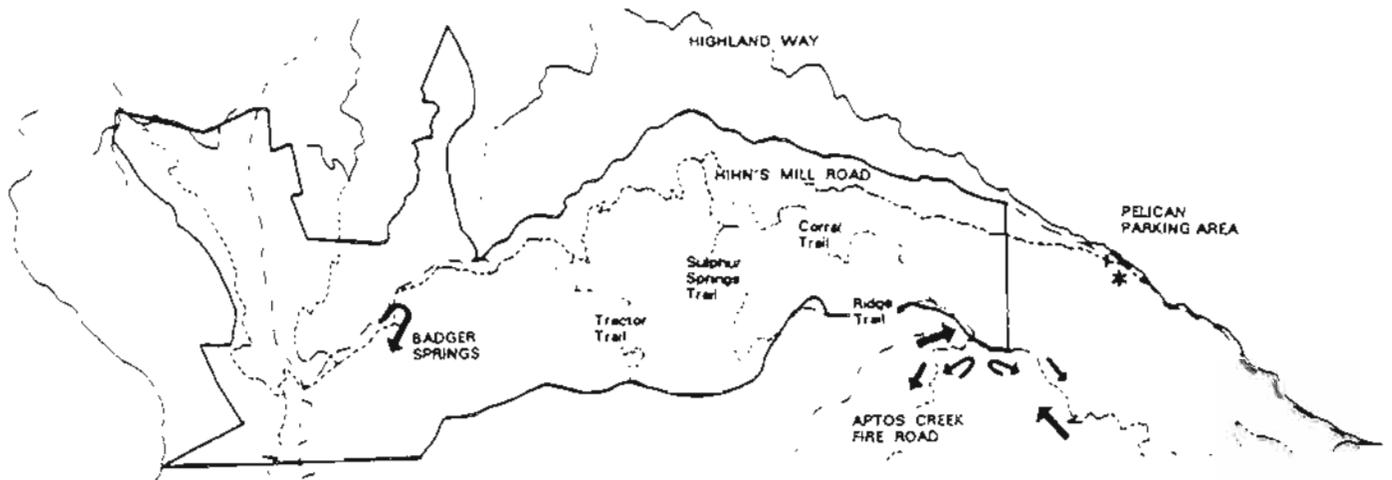
I think people will lie about going out the quarry ie I think not many will check they exit this way.

A guy wearing wild glasses road up from FNM. "What are you doing giving out questionnaires way up here? I'll stop -- I need a break anyway."

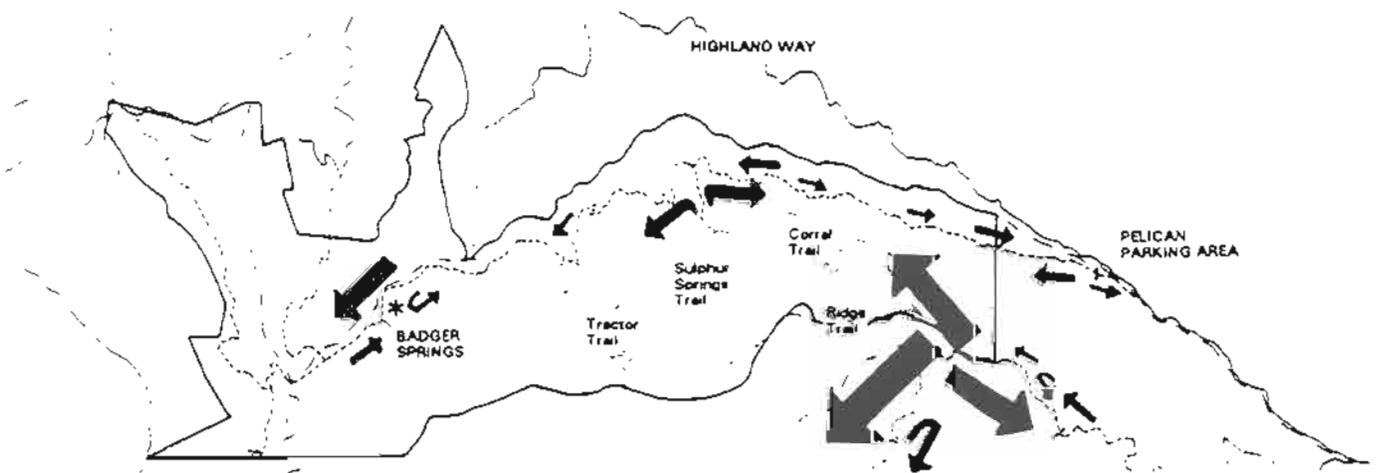
Why are mountain bikers so self righteous? It was the same way in Mulholland Gateway Park. It also appears to be a similar population -- young and male.



SDSF: Observed Equestrian Use, Spring 1992



SDSF: Observed Hiker Use, Spring 1992



SDSF: Observed Mountain Biker Use, Spring 1992

Another guy came up from FNM. The two talked -- one said he had been coming up a number of years before it became a State Forest. "How's the riding over there?" "It's great, but you need plenty of water and food. It's a good climb out but worth it."

Both seemed surprised they were in SDSF.

Both turned around and went back down -- did I modify their ride? They seemed like they had planned to keep going. "Thanks for stopping." "Thanks for being here."

I left the ridge at 11:45 am.

There are no war games today.

I passed one pair and one solo (all men) on mountain bikes on the way down the ridge.

On the ridge road there was a family parked right below the locked gate. He was in a wheelchair, the wife and daughter were walking. I asked him how he got around the gate. He normally slides himself under the gate and his family "throws" his chair over the gate.

Highland Way/ECR are a strange combination of suspicious looking people and mountain bikers with the latest gear.

I arrived at the Pelican parking lot at 12:15 pm. There isn't a soul in sight, although Randy said he saw two mountain bikers before I got there.

There are still ladybugs, but not nearly as many.

It's 1:15 and still no one.

It's 1:30 and I can hear shooters.

I left at 1:45 pm.

I arrived at the Sulphur Springs/Hihn's Mill intersection at 2:00 pm. Randy and I walked up to the meadow - it looked like no one had been there for a long time (no tracks, the grass was growing in the trail) so we walked to the place where the trail intersects with Sulphur Springs Road.

No one came by the entire time.

We were confused about where we were -- Randy checked out the trail but couldn't tell much.

There is nice shade here.

I left the clearing at 3:00 pm.

We got to Badger Springs by 3:25 pm. First, we had to go look for newts. They were in the creek, not on land. They are much faster in the water than when on land.

No one is here although there was horse manure on the road down and horseshoe prints on the path to the creek at Badger.

You can hear the road and shooting.

We left Badger at 4:15 pm and walked to the stream restoration project up the road. There we encountered two equestrians, a man and his son from Los Gatos. They dismounted and were happy to participate.

We saw a lone horsewoman right after that. She has just learned about the area and loves it. She lives on Summit Road.

We tried to walk the jeep road -- fairly soon after leaving Badger (about 1/2 mile) it crosses the creek. Where is this on the USGS and where does Amaya Creek converge with Soquel Creek? There are several slides on the road, in the area where there is bank restoration below.

We left Badger at 5:20 pm and headed home.

4/25 Saturday GD

Driving up Highland Way at about 10:30 am, I passed one runner and three groups of road bikers (11 total). Two young men with what looked like rolled up topo maps had parked at the Highland gate and were getting out of their car. They smiled and waived.

I arrived at the ridge at 11:00 am and immediately stopped one female biker and two male runners. The biker said that she tries to do PR for mountain bikers -- talking about trail manners, etc. She hates the thought that a few are spoiling it for well mannered bikers. While she was filling out the questionnaire, the two runners were also filling out theirs, writing "Control mountain bikers" while saying "Shoot mountain bikers."

Gerry Waggoner arrived in his truck. He pointed out that our stopping point on the road is NOT where we thought we were on the topo map, and that the ridge road is not at all in SDSF. SDSF starts some 300 yards from the trail crossing. There is now a new signboard at the Corral trailhead, and a sign further down the trail at the entrance to SDSF.

There are lots of bikers, most of whom are happy to stop here at the top. It is a long ride up, and a great view. Some complained of getting hopelessly lost on SDSF trails. About two thirds of those who stopped wanted maps.

I went down the trail for a few minutes and when I came back there were folks at the signboard, looking for trail information.

One runner and two bikers passed by -- wouldn't stop. All of the rest did. Some bikers stopped on their own, for a break; some seemed happy to be flagged down.

A young couple came by on bikes with two babies in a bike trailer. That's some stamina. I had seen them earlier on Highland Way. They found this area in a Bay Area bike trails book.

One biker stopped for lunch. He said he would like better marked trails, but not lots of signboards.

Several bikers stopped to take in the view.

Many folks didn't have a good idea of where they were. Some have come to the area for years, and know the area, but still get lost on SDSF trails.

A pair of bikers complained that so few single track trails are open to bikers. After I pointed out the Corral Trail, they continued on down the fire road.

Some bikers mentioned that if you go through the main quarry road you get yelled at, but if you whiz through on a side trail, you can sneak through more easily.

One biker stopped for lunch. Another ate a snack. Most that got up here drank water.

One group of four decided to go down the Corral Trail after looking at my copy of the new map.

I'm getting acquainted with the "face flies" that Rich warned me about.

It is wonderfully sunny and warm here today, with an appreciated breeze.

I left the ridge at 1:35 pm.

I arrived at the Highland gate at 2:00 pm. Rich had given questionnaires to two guys parked at the entrance who were sitting in their camper with a boom box playing "Big Rock Candy Mountain" and other country songs. Since Rich's truck was blocking the bridge, I went over to ask if he would move it. The fellows in the camper offered us homemade jerky and smoked goose, which tasted great. One of the two asked if it was okay if they parked and hung out there and had a few beers. Rich said fine, as long as they don't get drunk and drive, or throw trash around. One of them talked about quail hunting forays in SDSF, before it was SDSF. He knew the logging roads and the land pretty well.

I skipped the empty Pelican parking area in the hopes of finding someone at Badger Springs. I also wanted to finish my lunch at the prettier spot.

I arrived at Badger at 3:00 pm. No people, but many butterflies, newts, and bugs. The new additions to the area since my last visit are a signboard and a chemical toilet. It is pleasant here, green and warm and shady, with a gentle breeze.

At 3:30 pm it is still quiet, no people. It is starting to cool off -- high clouds are forming. I hear the stream, birds, bugs, and wind. There is also a lot of airplane noise -- distant, but audible.

I drew a base map of Badger Springs, noted use traces. It doesn't seem like there has been much recent use -- trails to Soquel Creek are not well trodden, nor are the areas around most of the hitching posts.

At 4:30 pm Rich appeared. He said he saw five Summit Riders who live along Spanish Ranch Road, heading from Amaya Creek trail toward Highland.

At 4:55 pm there still is no one at Badger so I am heading up to the Pelican lot.

On the road up I ran into three female and one male equestrians. They didn't want to do the questionnaire now because they heard that they would get it in the mail as part of the Summit Riders. They were on a training ride -- training a young horse -- and were short on time. They had come in from Spanish Ranch Road, went up Hihn's Mill Road a ways, then back. One, a Spanish Ranch Road resident, was happy to see the sign installed saying "No exit - private property" going up at Amaya Creek. She doesn't want people going through her back yard.

I arrived at the Pelican lot at 5:15 pm. No one is here.

The shooting across the road, from Rattlesnake Gulch, is OBNOXIOUS. One sounds like a semi-automatic machine gun.

There are still lots of ladybugs, and lots of mosquitos.

As far as I'm concerned, this Pelican area is not good for anything, except a parking lot, as long as people keep up this shooting. It has been consistent since I got here.

At 6:00 pm, I flagged down one male biker. He lives five miles away. He says there is always shooting here, but once you're down the road a bit you no longer hear them. He talked about trail manners. He always stops his bike when he sees a horse, trying to be polite. He says he sees mostly horse people in SDSF, not much general use yet. He comes through mostly on weekends. The horse people have given him the impression that the trails are for horse use only, or at least that's what they think. He usually comes in through Amaya. He asked about Spanish Ranch access - is it horses only? I told him it is private property but horse users get permission.

At 6:30 pm I gave a questionnaire to a biker who lives on Highland. He didn't have time to fill it out now, but will mail it back. He was passing through to meet someone to go somewhere -- not as recreational use per se.

It is 6:45 pm and time to leave. I will change the order of my visit next time. There seems to be more early activity when it is warm, because the heat is rough on these steep trails. As I leave, three male bikers went down Hihn's Mill Road -- I tried to flag them down, but they didn't stop. They were casual -- no packs, no helmets, water bottles, fancy bike outfits -- they looked like locals out for a bike stroll.

5/3/92 Sunday GD

On my way in Santa Cruz looked socked in with fog. I passed joggers (three), and bikers (group of three trail bikers, two groups of road bikers) on Highland. I arrived at the Pelican lot at 10:15 am to the sound of gunfire from Rattlesnake Gulch. There were two vehicles parked there. The cable across the entry bridge was down. Are they passing out those new maps that have this marked as "Parking"?

There is no sign of anyone here. There are some fairly recent looking horse, bike, dog, and deer tracks. I wonder how all the artillery noise affects horses. Some of the shots sound like pistols; once in awhile it sounds like a bazooka or something.

I hear a vehicle on Highland Way every 10, 15 minutes or so.

This could be a good staging area for equestrians, if it weren't for the shooting.

I left Pelican at 11:45 am, not having seen anyone.

I ran into two bikers on Hihn's Mill Road near Sulphur Springs that said they hadn't seen anyone all day. One has lived around here all his life, knows the place well. He says you can't hear the Rattlesnake Gulch shooting once you are about 1/2 mile down Hihn's Mill Road, except when you are directly across the canyon from the Gulch. (I was trying to figure that out, but having difficulty because the shooting is inconsistent.) His mother used to ride here. She is a former Summit Rider. He told me that horses get used to cars and shooting noises. He, like several people last week, thanked me for doing the survey.

It is a beautiful, warm day.

The signboards do have the new maps, which are much more useful than the first version.

The next two bikers I ran into were also on Hihn's Mill Road. One lives nearby, used to ride his motorcycle here. He also walks down to the creek from his house. The other biker was here for the first time -- didn't know that the road existed until today. They have not seen anyone else here.

At 12:30 pm I arrived at Badger. No one is here, either.

There are some fresh-looking horse tracks, and there are signs of horse use on the road down here. It is pleasant and cool, not as hot as the other spots. Also, fewer bugs.

It was good to see the signs on the way down here (to Sulphur Springs, etc.) Next time I'll stop at Sulphur Springs as well.

At 1:40 pm, one biker rode through -- he said he filled out a questionnaire last time on the ridge. He was coming from the Amaya Creek direction, but didn't stop to tell me his intended route. He stayed on the road and didn't go through the Badger Springs picnic area at all.

Vincas, forget-me-nots, and ceanothus are blooming.

As I was leaving Badger Springs I saw a horsewoman coming from the Highland direction, who also said she did the questionnaire last week. She really loves this place. She was here for an hour yesterday, saw no one, but heard a motorbike in the distance. She hasn't seen anyone here today. She came in from Spanish Ranch, doing the opposite loop from what she had done

last week. She rode into the Badger picnic area, but never stopped or dismounted. She merely left the road for a few minutes.

I arrived at the ridge at 3:00 pm. The fog is still sitting down on the bay. It makes it kind of muggy up here. It is pretty hot, but there is a slight breeze. There was one pickup truck parked at Highland Way down by the Pelican entrance, but I didn't see its driver about.

War games were going on today, but must have been winding down -- only a few guys left. A big group of them came out from the driveway with the spiked gate. Buzzard Lagoon Road is very dusty down there.

I could see lots and lots of bike tracks on the way up to the ridge. There are also some bike tracks going off down the Corral Trail. The bike tracks and footprints indicate that lots of people stop here to look out at the view. I bet lots of bikers stop here to rest at the top. There's a banana peel where the trail branches off. There are both footprints and bike tracks up to the signboard.

Two bikers came up from the FNM. After filling out the questionnaire, looking at the view, resting, and looking at the signboard and at my maps (topo and SDSF), they took off down the Corral Trail.

One biker had ridden from Felton. He took a long time with the first half of the questionnaire, didn't want to finish, said he hoped he did the first half right. He came up from FNM, continuing on toward Buzzard Lagoon Road. He says it gets real hot up here when there's no fog in Santa Cruz.

One biker came up from FNM, filled out a questionnaire, and rode on about 100 yards, then turned around and went back down the way he came.

I can hear shooting in the distance. Is it because of the direction of the breeze? The flies are bothersome, but the butterflies here are beautiful.

Three bikers whizzed through from the Buzzard Lagoon Road direction. One circled long enough to say that he'd filled out the questionnaire already; the others just kept going.

I left the ridge area at 4:30 pm. I met two more bikers at the ridge road gate. They filled out questionnaires. It was their first time here -- they parked at the BL/ECR pullout and just started riding.

5/9 Saturday GD

I got a late start today, thinking that I would stay out in SDSF late. I only saw one cyclist on Highland Way, one fellow walking on the dusty part of Buzzard Lagoon Road (no war games today). There were a couple of cars pulled off the dirt road, but I didn't see the people. I was delayed in getting to the ridge by a madrone fallen across the road -- I had to break parts off and pull it off the road to get by. It had been WINDY here.

I arrived at the ridge at 1:30 pm. One biker was going to stop here anyway to wait for his two companions. "Are you a ranger?" "No, but I'm doing a survey for the CDF." He was happy to fill out the form. His friends

arrived. "You need WATER up here!" "Is there a place to put a sign: No Off-Road Vehicles?...I HATE off-road vehicles!" The female biker sat and ate some fruit while filling out the questionnaire. The male biker wanted a map, which I gave him. They thanked me for taking the time.

One biker came up from Buzzard Lagoon Road. He complained about the dust in the road near the bottom. It is really thick now. Hard riding.

It is very, very windy up here today. You can see the waves crashing on the coast. There was a lot of debris on the road all the way from the Highland entrance to the ridge.

I took the forms that had been left in the signboard, requesting questionnaires. One said "Hi, I took a new trail on the map that was here. The trail was a joke. We got very lost. Please get it together with your map."

Gerry Waggoner drove up with more maps. He had removed two downed trees on the road from FNM. Good thing he brought the maps - there were none left at the signboard, not even the one that had been stapled up. Gerry said there were 37 people on the SDSF tour this morning. I mentioned that I might come up here on a Monday or Friday. He said that it would be a waste of time, that on a Friday afternoon I might see two people if I was lucky.

At 2:45 pm three bikers whizzed up from the Buzzard Lagoon Road direction. They said they didn't have time to stop -- had to be somewhere at a certain hour.

The wind is roaring through. Unfortunately, it carries the sound of the shooting at Rattlesnake Gulch all the way up here.

Many bikers have been quite taken aback at the sight of my car up here, at least until I explain what I'm doing.

Two female and one male bikers came up from FNM. "Can you stop for a minute to fill out a questionnaire?" "We're stopping for a lot more than a minute!" One woman said they need a log to sit on to look out at the view. The other told me that there is a women's mountain biking group called WOMBAT - Women's Organization for Mountain Biking and Tea. Two of them ate snacks. One said that what he likes is the sound of the wind in the trees.

At 3:45 pm three more bikers came up. One asked "What's over there?" pointing to the signboard/trail crossing. He and his friend continued down into FNM after looking at my map.

A lone biker came by, quite interested and friendly. He wanted to know who was doing the survey and why. He had been down the SDSF trail a couple of weeks ago and had found the old map useless. I gave him the new one, which he liked. We discussed my car - he rebuilds Hondas. He said what is really needed is an exit through the quarry area. The loop would be much nicer then, not needing to climb back up Amaya Creek. He took off down the Corral Trail.

I left the ridge at 4:00 pm. There were two guys in a very big jeep-type vehicle near the FNM gate as I came out, and a couple in a small car driving up from Buzzard Lagoon Road.

I didn't see another soul until Sulphur Springs. The biker from the ridge was stopped there. He said the ride was beautiful. The trail was mostly fine, needed a little work in a couple of places. He asked about the climb back up the Highland entrance - he was tired. I told him it wasn't bad.

At 4:45 pm I arrived at Badger Springs. No is one here. I see bike tracks on the road, and some horse tracks. I went down to the creek ford, below Badger. The road has been cleared since the last time I was here. It smells wonderful down here.

At Badger I am mostly aware of the sounds ... the stream, the birds, the insects. Because it is so quiet here, I am also aware that this seems to be under a flight path. I keep hearing airplanes, both jets and props. I see some indication of horse use here, and also smell horse smells.

There seems to have been someone here yanking out broom. There are a lot of young broom plants that have been pulled out by the roots, along the paths and the road.

It is 6:00 pm -- I thought that I might find some late afternoon walkers here, or equestrians, but so far it is just me, the newts, and now the mosquitos.

I walked down to where they're doing the bank restoration and scared some quail. I can see from the tracks that there is a lot of horse use here. There are several places between Badger and the bank restoration that could also be made into good stopping spots -- picnic, campsites possibly. There is one trail that crosses the stream. From the topo map it looks like it might be the one that goes up to "The Willows" but from the newer SDSF map it looks like it might be "Longridge Trail". I could see that it had been used by walkers, horses, and a dog. I walked back to Badger.

At 6:35 pm Badger is still empty. It is time to leave. On Hihn's Mill Road, I can see a set of bike tracks that seems to have been really tearing down the road -- there are skids in the dirt every few hundred yards. Was he/she just having a good time, or lacking brakes?

I arrived at the Pelican lot at 7:00 pm. No one is there. No one is shooting, either.

At 7:15 pm the shooting started.

There were no people, only two big robins.

I left Pelican at 8:00 pm. I will sleep at the fire station tonight, so as to be here early in the morning.

5/10 Sunday GD

I left the fire station at 8:00 a.m. It is misty and overcast, although the weather report said it might get into the 90's today. The wind is not supposed to be bad today. Between the fire station and SDSF there are four road bikers, five (4 + 1) trail bikers, and a jogger. About three miles before the Highland Way entrance to SDSF, there is a VW pop-top camper with at least a couple of people (I couldn't tell how many) who had camped at the roadside. There were already people parked at Rattlesnake Gulch.

I arrived at Badger Springs at 8:45 am. No one seen in SDSF so far.

I walked down to the Amaya trail crossing. My footprints from yesterday are still the freshest thing on the road. It doesn't look like anyone has been here since.

As of 10:30 am a family of four quail is the only user group. Forget-me-nots are blooming, iris are fading. There is a beautiful grass-type plant with 1/2 - 1 inch flowers that look like white lanterns.

At 10:45 am I left Badger. Still no people.

A lone biker is on the road about a mile below Sulphur Springs. He said he thinks that the most important thing is an easement through the quarry. He lives near the fire station, needs a way out. He usually enters using the Buzzard Lagoon Road and goes up to the ridge, then down the trail. (He couldn't say which one -- Corral, Sulphur Springs ...) He says that the trail from the ridge is good, and is getting a lot of use these days. He has been using the backwoods here since before it was SDSF. He used to camp at Badger before the road was graded (he called it "the old campsite"), and below the stream crossing on the road. He knows lots of the old logging roads and trails. He used to dirt-bike up here. His attitude is a funny combination of respect the place and keep it sacred, don't allow camping, but open it to motorbikes and clear more trails so that there can be restricted use and multi-use trail choices. He also said that motorbikes don't do damage, but that campers and hikers can't control themselves.

I walked up the Sulphur Springs road. Along the way I met a couple of bikers who stopped to fill out questionnaires. She asked about a structure that she had seen before that has since been torn down, ("an old mining structure?") She said that Sulphur Springs was "neat," and full of newts.

Two male bikers came down the Sulphur Springs trail. They went along with me back to my car, which was parked down at the road, to get the questionnaires. They think that it is really important that these upper trails (as opposed to the FNM lower trails) be bike accessible, because there is so much controversy between hikers and bikers in FNM. They said hikers are mean. The day before yesterday, one older fellow walking his dog punched one of them in the stomach as they rode by. They try to be polite, good trail users. One said that he used to take groups of kids with their bikes to the Highland entrance, and pick them up at the other end of the property (quarry? Amaya?) before it was SDSF. One said that he had been lost in SDSF for seven hours once. They also complained about the Rattlesnake Gulch shooters. They are afraid of getting shot when they ride through there. They thanked me profusely for doing the survey.

I walked up the Sulphur Springs trail, since people seem to be coming from there. I met a lone biker coming down, who was very polite and chatty. He talked about how he used to ride a motorbike up here. His main concern: Get the Rattlesnake Gulch shooters out!!! He said he would like to do trail work. He said that part of this trail needs maintenance - that there is a really rocky steep stretch further up. He has been coming to the area since he went to the 4H camp up the road as a kid.

At 12:20 pm there was another lone biker coming down the trail. It was a mildly steep section of trail, but he wasn't going too fast, and was very conscious about announcing his presence as soon as he saw me on the trail. He was polite. He didn't actually stop, but said that he had already done a questionnaire, and didn't want to "contaminate" my data.

Further up Hihn's Mill Road, I flagged down three first timers to SDSF. They heard about the place yesterday from a FNM ranger (Gerry?) who gave them maps. They complained that the map telling how to get here was incomplete and unclear. One of them asked about the shooters (did not like them).

I sat at Pelican between 12:45 and 1:45 pm. I think this is a non-place. One truck is parked here. The shooting goes on and on.

The butterflies around this forest are beautiful. Up Sulphur Springs trail were some exquisite fire-orange columbines.

Some of the bikers really want an exit at the quarry or somewhere at the bottom end. One or two said that it was only the wimps who needed an exit down there. Sometimes when I ask about the quarry, a regular user will say "I try to keep it to a minimum."

At 1:45 pm a local couple rode up on their bikes with one tired dog. They had come from home, on Highland Way, and gone as far as the meadow at Sulphur Springs. She said she was too out of shape for a Badger Springs run right now. He had taken a silviculture class, and knew Thom and Rich and Pelican's old forester. He had surveyed old growth in SDSF for his class. He didn't think there was much left.

It is 2:00 pm and the couple from Sulphur Springs has arrived. It is their truck parked here. They loaded the bikes, she walked over to look at the creek. He got some chips and a cooler from the car. They sat in the shade of the big redwood trees in the middle of the area, rested and had lunch.

There has been no shooting for about 1/2 hour now -- hard to believe. I wonder if that couple would stay resting here if the shooting was going on.

It's been hot and still, but a breeze is coming up.

It is 2:25 pm and the pistol shooting has started up.

At 2:35 pm the couple finished lunch. I asked if they went as far as Badger. "Yes." Had they seen anyone? "Yes, a group of hikers -- about five women, and some kids, and a few men around the picnic table. They must live nearby, because when they left, they all walked down the road." She said that she likes to stop and look at nature. She loved the creek at

Badger. She also said the ride back is a challenge. He said we should install a tow rope for the return ride. It was his first time here.

I arrived at the ridge at 3:00 pm. A hiking couple was walking toward Buzzard Lagoon Road, but would not stop to fill out the questionnaire. Another couple came up from Buzzard Lagoon Road, and did fill out questionnaires. They looked at the signboard. They said they'd do the SDSF trails another day. He used to hike there when it was private property, and was usually afraid of getting caught. He also used to motorbike around here. He had a "Holy Eucharist Poker Run" cap on. He wanted to stop at the view for a snack, but she said it was too late, they had to get back. They went back the way they came.

One biker whizzed by while I was replenishing the map supply at the signboard.

Three bikers came from the Buzzard Lagoon Road direction, and stopped to fill out questionnaires. One looked at the signboard, all of them wanted maps. One was very anti-logging. Another said "Those trails dead-end, don't they?" He had gone down and come to the NO TRESPASS signs at the quarry. He would like to see a way out at the lower end.

I bet it was HOT here earlier. There is a cool breeze now.

A biker just streaked by, drinking from his water bottle as he went (up from FNM). "Already filled one out ..." as he went by.

It is still misty/hazy down below, toward the bay. You can't really see the bay. The breeze is getting cold.

At 4:15 pm two more walkers came up from FNM. They're parked by the gate going towards Buzzard Lagoon. She was suspicious about me and the questionnaires - "Where is this information going?" They wanted maps, and sounded interested in coming back. They had gone looking for the Loma Prieta epicenter.

I left the ridge at 4:30 pm. On the way out, there were three vehicles at the locked gate, and one driving up the road. There were also two vehicles parked at the Highland entrance.

5/16 Saturday GD

At 9:20 am I arrived at the ridge. It is going to be hot today. The sky is really blue, and there is still a small breeze. The loudest sound is the clicking of thousands of insects in the trees and bushes. It seems pretty quiet. No other cars were moving on Highland Way once I passed the Summit Store. I didn't see any bikes, either. On the way in, what looked like a carload of war game guys were setting up their flags. I guess I'll see them on the way out. The bottom of Buzzard Lagoon Road is dustier and dustier each time I come. Someone on a horse has come up here recently, even though horses aren't allowed in FNM.

At 10:45 am a runner came up from FNM. He answered the questionnaire before. He stopped to chat. He is a regular runner here. He runs from Soquel to Buzzard Lagoon and back. He's a FNM advocate, and was wondering

what the questionnaires had been turning up. I mentioned that "water" comes up a lot up here at the ridge. He was carrying two water bottles and said he stashes extras along the road sometimes. He thinks there should be a tank up here because it is a tough climb. They had a tank on West Ridge, but removed it because it was too expensive to test it regularly. He says that from his experience with Advocates for FNM, the best thing for advocates for SDSF to do is to avoid the state bureaucracy altogether -- decide what SDSF needs, raise the money themselves, and do it.

It is 11:20 am. I thought it would be good to get up here early, figuring that serious bikers would be up and out really early, to get to places like this before it got real hot. I guess not. There seems to be much more traffic here in the afternoon. The swallowtail butterflies are enormous.

At 11:30 am a biking couple came up from FNM. Gerry had told them about the SDSF trails, and they were looking for them. They stopped to fill out the form, looked at the signboard, and asked about the trails. They looked at the view, then went down into SDSF. They thought bikers need to be educated about sensitive trails, lest the trails be closed for everyone. (They were referring to lower FNM).

At 11:45 am two bikers came up from FNM. "Is this where we were going to stop anyway?" "Yeah." They filled out the questionnaires. One asked about ways out if they took SDSF trails. He usually goes out Highland, and was happy to know that there is an Amaya Road egress. His friend sat and ate snacks in the shade. Another biker came up from FNM and filled out the questionnaire. All of them went down into FNM. One asked about the steepness of Hihn's Mill Road, wondering whether he could take a child along there for a ride.

One biker went through from the Buzzard Lagoon direction to FNM.

I've heard comments like: "I'll do this sitting down!" "We need water up here! Or somewhere along the way to fill our water bottles." "Where do I put on this form - 'Get rid of the damn flies'?" "Wow, you mean we could have driven up here!?"

The runner passed through on his return.

Rich came by, stayed to chat and eat his lunch. He explained the trail markings to me - yellow flagging on top of Corral Trail, bright pink on Ridge Trail between Sulphur Springs Trail and Tractor Trail, blue flagging on top of Tractor Trail, and red flagging where the Ridge Trail passes Tractor and becomes impassable. WHY is this not on the signboard??? People complain about getting lost in there. This is the type of thing that the signboard should be explaining. I drew it in myself, on the map stapled to the signboard. I have heard so many people expressing frustration about inadequate mapping/signing.

At 12:10 pm two more bikers came up from FNM. Sweat is dripping all over the questionnaires. They also went down into SDSF. More people have gone down the trails this time than I've seen before.

At 12:30 pm I left the ridge. It is still hazy down toward the bay.

At 12:45 pm I reached the Pelican gate. Shooting is loud and clear -- there must be a big gun. Two trucks are parked here, one near the gate and one in the shade. I'm going down to Badger.

Going down Hihn's Mill Road, I ran into five guys from the ridge. They had a quick trip down, and were heading out to Highland.

I got to Badger Springs at 1:10 pm. No one is here, again.

There are some signs of horse use, but I can't tell how recent. The far trail to the stream is getting overgrown. It doesn't seem like there is much use here.

The ceanothus and iris bloom is about over. There is a beautiful pink flower on a stalk with big, broad paphiopedalum-like leaves. Forget-me-nots and columbine are blooming.

At 2:10 pm I had a quiet, pleasant lunch. No one has passed by.

At 2:30 pm three bikers came by and stopped to fill out questionnaires. One had a flat tire (slow leak) and had to stop and pump it up. They looked like hippies, but in full biking outfits. They like it here -- it is pretty. They would like better signage at the bottom end - they had just been lost for an hour. They did not want to see more people/more development here. They came in Highland today, but usually come in via Buzzard Lagoon Road. They did not go into the Badger picnic area, but kept on the road.

At 3:30 pm I left Badger Springs. No other people came through.

I stopped near Sulphur Springs to talk to a lone equestrian -- the same woman I had seen before, who had previously answered the questionnaire. I got back into the car and my clutch went out. The woman offered to call someone when she got back to her ranch, which was an hour's ride away. I managed to get the car in gear after shutting it off. I did not stop at Pelican today because I was afraid that I would not be able to get home. I left SDSF at 4:00 pm.

5/25 Memorial Day Weekend - Monday GD

I arrived at Badger Springs at 11:00 am. There were lots of cyclists out on the road, about a dozen between Highway 17 and SDSF. There were three carloads of shooters at Rattlesnake Gulch. No one was at Pelican. I saw no one on the way down to Badger Springs.

At 11:15 am a lone biker rode through but did not stop. "Do you have a minute to fill out a questionnaire?" "I already did - don't you remember me?" "I see lots of people. Oh, yes. Well, thanks." "Thank you." All this without stopping his bike.

I have seen more squirrels and quail today already than I usually see all day.

There is nothing in the signboard, and no map on it. I put some maps in. There were no forms, and the cardboard slot for completed forms was gone. Only the pen remained.

At 11:30 am two more cyclists came down the road from Highland, a father and son (ages mid-40's and mid-20's). The father said he had gotten a questionnaire in the mail from the Sierra Club. The son filled one out. He said he was glad to have found the place, hoped lots of other people weren't going to come. The father had come Saturday, gone up to the Sulphur Springs Trail, to a point where the trail was steep and very eroded, got off his bike and then came back down. He says the trail should be rerouted there because of deep erosion ruts. He likes that there are no cans, no messes, trash here. They rode to look at the spring, rode into the picnic area, then rode out and down the road. Other than when the father got off his bike for a couple of minutes to look at the spring (climbed up on the west side of the road to stick his hands in the water), they did not get off their bikes. A few minutes later, they rode back up the road toward Highland.

At noon two more bikers (in their early 30's) came down from the ridge. They were doing the loop from FNM. I asked if there were still maps up at the ridge. They said the map was hard to interpret. They said that the trail was steep and rough in places, but that was okay. One said that he hoped that this wouldn't be closed to bikers "like every place else". They rode off down toward Amaya.

At 12:15 pm a family of four (children about 7 and 10 years old) came walking in. They wanted to take the questionnaire home rather than fill it out here, so I gave them one. The father said he'd been coming here for about 30 years as a hiker. I said I've seen mostly bikers. He says he doesn't mind trail bikes, but please, no motorized bikes. They went straight down to the creek, the kids played in it.

It started out cool and grayish here, but it has warmed up considerably.

Thom came by and chatted.

The family came up from the creek, two of them used the chemical toilet, and they followed the father up the creek. They are hanging out in the creek, kids playing, and parents talking and looking around. They have a picnic and are eating by the stream.

A party of nine bikers (3 female, 6 male) came down. They had ridden Highland to Buzzard Lagoon Road, to the ridge, then down here. One of them said she collects mushrooms here - finds chanterelles. They are college kids. Thom followed them out to make sure they stayed out of the quarry.

At 2:00 pm the family is still up the creek (where the road is just next to the creek) with their picnic. I can hear the kids yelling and playing. I went up to note the date and location on the questionnaire I had given them, and the mother returned it to me, completed.

At 2:10 pm, as I am about to leave, the father came walking up from the creek. He said they were going to start back out (pointed in the Amaya Creek direction), that it would take about two hours with the kids. He

asked if there was still all that shooting up there (pointing toward Highland). He said that he had been up there when there were war games (I guess he meant over at Buzzard Lagoon Road), and that it was terrifying to be in the area. He wandered down the road. The mother and kids were still in the creek.

At 2:30 pm I arrived at Pelican. It is quiet, no shooting. Lots of birds, wild berries. It's warm, but with a nice breeze.

At 2:50 pm a couple drove in to see what was here. They said they just saw the sign. They had been hiking at FNM today, first time there, too. They might come back another day. They live near Coe, but it gets too hot there in the summer. They filled out questionnaires and left.

There is some shooting now. It is minimal today.

At 3:30 pm a couple on a big motorcycle rode in, around the lot, and left. They did not look like they had any intention of getting off the motorcycle. I did not get them to stop for the questionnaire. On to the ridge.

I arrived at the ridge. Even driving slowly, I stirred up a huge dust cloud on the way up. Unfortunately, I dusted four male and one female bikers at the place where Buzzard Lagoon Road forks to the left. There was one truck parked near the gate, and a VW van farther down the road. I didn't see the occupants.

The view out is a little hazy, but you can see the bay. There is a nice big bush with pink flowers up here, just starting to bloom. It is hot in the sun, but starting to get windy. The wind makes a wonderful sound through the trees.

At 4:30 pm three bikers came up from the Buzzard Lagoon direction. They are very interested in more single track trails for bikes. They will try SDSF next time.

At 5:00 pm a pleasant and chatty biker came up from FNM. He had his heavily panting husky dog with him. I guess I looked worried about the dog, because he reassured me that the dog often came with him and had even done a marathon with him. He had come in from Buzzard, down into FNM, and was on his way back. He lives near Loma Prieta. He said that the bugs will be bad this year because there was lots of water and no freeze.

At 5:15 pm two male and one female bikers from the Buzzard Lagoon direction, on their way home, downwards.

Most people have been happy to have their opinions asked. I get the impression that the regular users would like to see it stay as is (not developed) but with more trails cleared. Most seem to appreciate that no one else is around. The opinions on trail conditions seem to vary widely - some say that they are fine, others say that they are really bad in spots.

At 5:30 pm it is cooling off. Fog/clouds are forming and it is getting breezy. One more biker up from the Buzzard Lagoon side. He wondered if

the trail here connected to where he saw the sign on Highland. I showed him the map. He doesn't care about more development, but wishes that there was better signage. He doesn't want to get lost.

When the wind blows a certain way, you can hear the Rattlesnake Gulch people shooting.

At 6:10 pm I left the ridge.

6/20/92 Sunday MM

I decided to take a look at some of the access issues. My strategy was to look at it from the neighbor point of view first, ie from outside the Forest boundary. So I spent the day driving all of the roads and in a few cases walking around.

The first areas I looked at were the neighborhood streets off Soquel/San Jose Road. I can't figure out how Amaya Ridge and Rocky Road are an issue for the State Forest -- will have to ask Thom. Both of these streets and Hester Creek Road are very forbidding-looking, with posted keep out-type signs and street signs that say private road.

Next I headed over to the Longridge area via Stetson. I saw a horse trailer/truck parked at a pullout across from an orchard -- possibly this equestrian was in the Forest? I arrived at a confusing intersection but was helped by neighbor Brook Kraeger who told me which was Longridge and which was the east end of Comstock Mill. Apparently after this point Longridge becomes a private road (very steep, heavily wooded, a subdivision) but it is where the trail starts that leads to the State Forest.

I thought I'd walk down to the end of Comstock Mill and take a look. Two and a half hours later I surfaced off a stub that hits Stetson about a half a mile from the intersection with Skyland and Longridge (address is 14830 Stetson Road). It is beautiful down in this area but obviously hard to tell which is private property and which is the Forest. I crossed a creek which I assume was Amaya Creek. There are some property owners in this area who have a pile of OHV's -- so it's not just outsiders who use them on the State Forest. I walked back along Stetson -- neighbors must walk on this road because there were lost cat signs posted on the trees that would be impossible to see from a car.

I spent a good deal of time looking at the Comstock Mill area (west end) since it seems to be such a problem. This road is not posted nor signed as private -- what is the story? CDF has done a good job signing to discourage trespassing in the section of the road that passes through State property. I was surprised to see a Nature Conservancy boundary marker. But I was even more surprised to see a trailhead marker at the top of the Amaya Creek Trail. How does this work if it's not on the map? For whom was it intended? It has maps in the box.

The Robinwood Lane area has a very tight physical relationship with the State Forest. I can't quite imagine users coming up the steep slope to reach this road, however, because the designated trail is much easier.

I ran into an older couple on this road -- they had firewood in the back of their truck:

"I heard motor bikes and am worried about backfire."

"This is why I don't want it to be open to the public."

(I smile and start to say something.)

"Fat chance. They don't give a damn about the people who live here." They sped off in their truck.

I talked to another neighbor, at the end of Robinridge Lane -- he told me there is a petition circulating complaining about the State Forest (he signed it but was very nice to me).

I wonder where the bikers and hikers park if they are going to enter the State Forest from Comstock Mill. There was one driveway posted with a threat to tow.

For the rest of the day I looked at the Adams Road and Radonich Road areas. I will look at Spanish Ranch when Randy is with me.

There are definitely access issues to address when preparing the recreation plan. While beautifully tree-lined in places, these neighboring roads can be very narrow and steep. It would be tough in an emergency. It is surprising, however, that so many people have rebuilt since the earthquake and that the development pattern is as treacherous as it was pre-earthquake. I guess it's the same as the Oakland/Berkeley Hills.

7/4 July 4th Saturday MM

Randy and I went to look at Spanish Ranch. It would be a wonderful place for a Forest Education Center but it doesn't look like anyone is planning to sell. We also drove down Adams Road to look at the Adams Ranch but it is inhabited and we didn't go on the property.

The main point of the trip was to look at the access issues on the west side of the Forest from the user point of view ie from the inside. We drove to the creek and parked, and then walked to the quarry. It is clearly posted and signed -- we didn't see one cyclist but Hihn's Mill Road was signed as closed due to the work CDF is doing on Amaya Creek Road.

We walked back to the intersection and started out on Amaya Creek Trail/Road. Shortly after we stopped for lunch -- there was no place to sit but the middle of the road.

This is sort of a boring trail, particularly now that it has become a wide road. There aren't any views or sights (and you definitely aren't aware of the creek since you are so far above it), just a lot of up one direction, and a lot of down the other direction. It did become clear to me, however, why mountain bikers want to go through the quarry. I also figured out where the Amaya Ridge properties abut the State Forest.

When we got back to the creek we witnessed a near-collision between two mountain bikers and two equestrians -- the horses were spooked. They took turns crossing the creek.

We stopped at Badger Springs on the way out to look for newts. Rich came down and we had a snack while he ate lunch. He filled us in on recent events and the new road.