

# **Interpretation and Trail Management**

## **Session Objectives**

- Identify what interpretation is and how it differs from other forms of communication
- Identify some of the various methods of interpretation that can be used to communicate your message
- Discuss how interpretation can be used to achieve your trail management goals and objectives

# What is Interpretation?

- Communication
- Information
- Education
- Provocation
- Making connections



# Why do we Interpret?

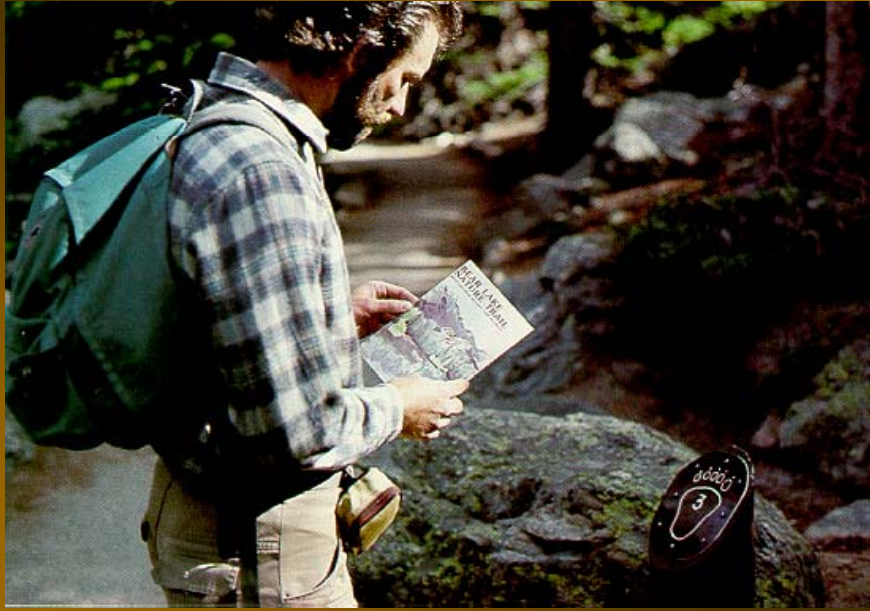
- Enrich the visitor experience
- Help people develop a connection with the resource
- Support management's Goals of Land protection and utilization
- Encourage stewardship behaviors

**Enrich the visitor experience and  
make a connection with the resource**

**Interpretive panels**



## Trail guides



## Interpreter led walk





## Trail design



## Resource protection and land stewardship

## Meeting resource management goals



### Don't Help a Good Bird Go Bad!



You can help save the threatened marbled murrelet by not leaving trash at the trailhead or at your camp. Ravens, jays, and crows (corvids), following trails of trash, fly deep into the old-growth forests. Once these corvids arrive, they stay, eventually finding the murrelet's nest high up on old-growth tree limbs, and eat the eggs and chicks of a declining species. Thank you for giving this robin-sized seabird the chance to survive in the ancient forest.



### Trail hazards and warnings



Hold on to Children

"The Drop"  
Go Slow . . .  
No Bikes.  
No Horses.  
Seriously!

## Trail Closures

### WHY CLOSE TRAILS?

OPEN SPACE WILL BE CLOSING TRAILS AT MT. FALCON AND WHITE RANCH PARKS.

**PROBLEM:** Use of muddy trails greatly increases erosion.

Bypassing or shortcutting muddy trails destroys surrounding vegetation.

**SOLUTION:** To lessen environmental damage during muddy conditions, Open Space will temporarily close trails.

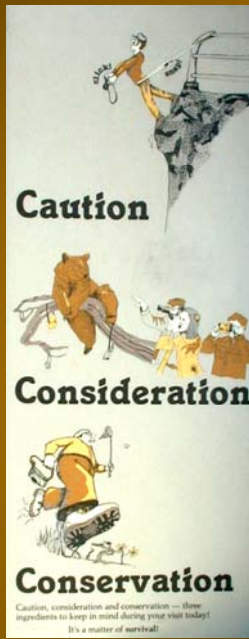
Please avoid using any park when the ground is muddy. If you do encounter muddy trails please stay on the trail.

For general trail information and current closures call the Trails Hotline at 271-5975



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE

## Trail Etiquette





# The impacts of new trail projects



# Interpretive panels that identify the need and value of the project

**Road Reconstruction and Re-engineering**

Many backcountry roads were constructed prior to park creation and their design and construction did not focus on longevity. Compromised roads are major problems causing environmental degradation. To resolve these problems, park roads are being reconstructed and re-engineered.

**Old Roads on a New Path**

**Problems:** Erosion, sedimentation, and soil compaction are major concerns. Old roads are often poorly designed and built, and their maintenance is often neglected. They are often built on steep slopes and are prone to washouts and landslides.

**Solutions:** Re-engineering roads to improve drainage, stabilize slopes, and reduce erosion. This includes techniques like water bars, check dams, and re-grading.

**Benefits:** Improved road safety, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced trail quality.

*Trails may threaten park resources if not properly designed, constructed and maintained.*

Many early California State Park trails were constructed following the path of least resistance. Minimal site design planning and ecological considerations. These trails have reduced soil structure, making them susceptible to erosion and environmental degradation.

**On The Path to Better Trails**

**Considerations:**

- Site Assessment
- Design
- Construction
- Maintenance

**Steps To Take:**

- Plan
- Design
- Construct
- Maintain

**Key Points:**

- Minimize soil disturbance
- Use native plants and materials
- Avoid sensitive areas
- Monitor trail conditions

You can help the environment by staying on designated trails.

**Roads from the past threaten the future of our watershed.**

California State Parks is implementing a watershed rehabilitation program. This program addresses problems caused by poorly constructed roads built before the state acquired the land. Re-engineering and better location of roads can reduce erosion, sedimentation, and soil compaction. This helps to restore the watershed and the plants and animals that depend on it.

**Watershed Rehabilitation**

**Problems:**

- Cultural, historic, and scenic resources
- Watershed degradation
- Sediment and siltation of riparian habitats
- Erosion and stream bank instability

**Solutions:**

- Road re-engineering
- Riparian zone revegetation
- Bank stabilization
- Stream bank revegetation
- Stream bank stabilization

**Benefits:**

- Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Improve water quality
- Enhance riparian habitat
- Increase stream bank stability

**Follow the flow of stream restoration**

Our north coast streams are suffering from decades of abuse. Stream restoration helps restore stream to a healthy condition. This process repairs salmon habitat, decreases erosion and improves water quality. Look below to follow the flow of stream restoration from left to right.

**Save the stream before we restore.**

**What does the restoration team do?**

**A restored riparian is a healthy stream.**

To learn more about a stream restoration project in your area, go to [www.california.com](http://www.california.com) or call 1-800-451-7267.



*Trails may threaten park resources if not properly designed, constructed and maintained.*

Many early California State Park trails were constructed following the path of least resistance, without long range planning and ecological sensitivities. These trails have fallen into disrepair, making them unsuitably rough and environmentally degrading.

**On The Path to Better Trails**

**Problems**

Poor design and construction of trails may result in the following problems.

- Steep grades
- Poor drainage
- Erosion
- Entrenched trails
- Falling structures
- Poor sustainability

Trail reconstruction can look devastating at first glance

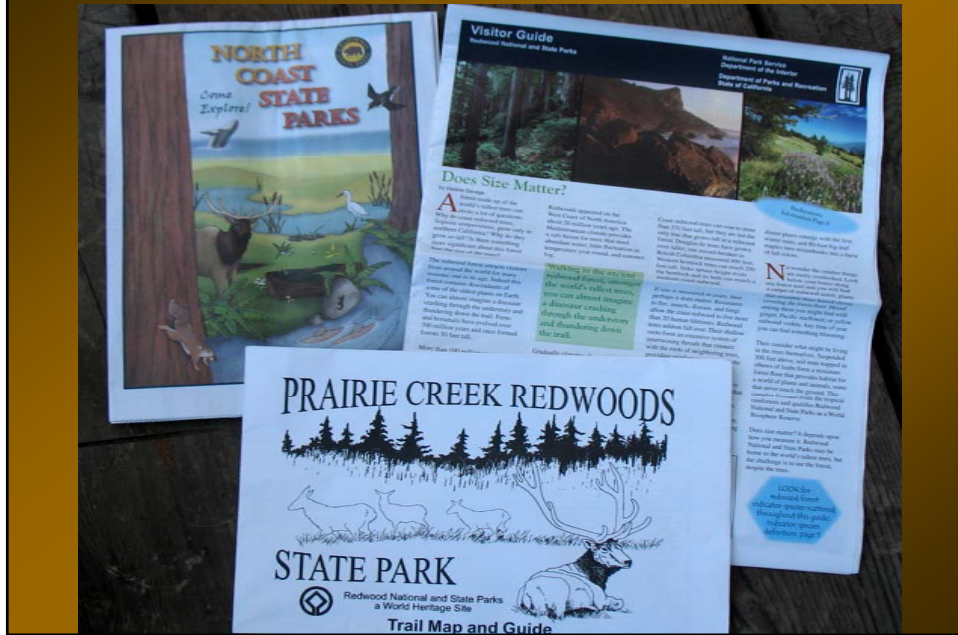
Please bear with us while we create better trails

**Solutions and Benefits**

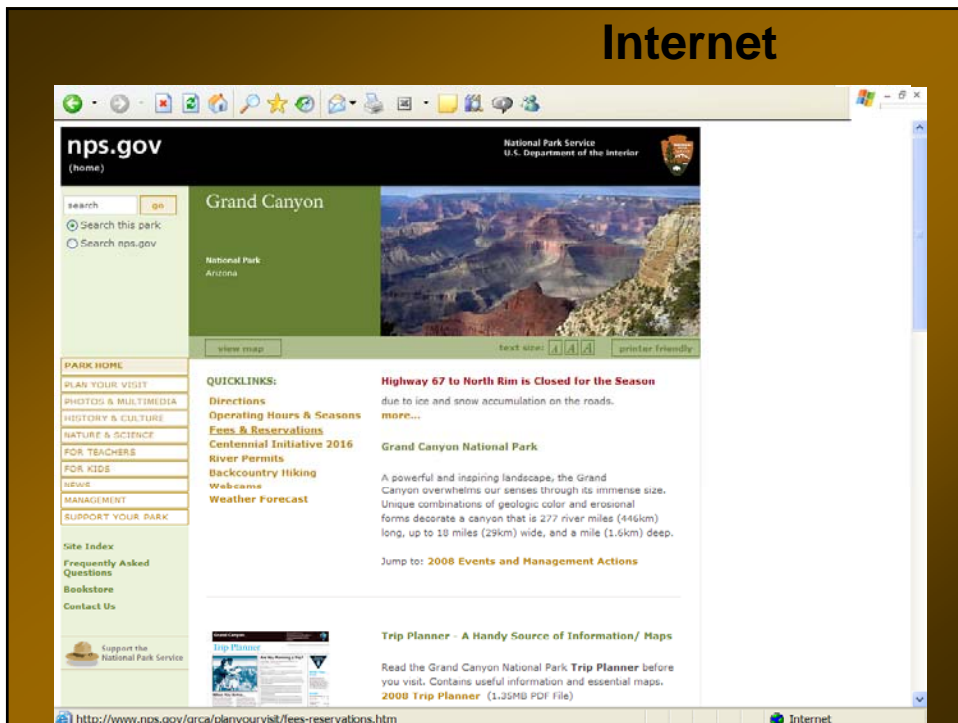
Using improved methods and materials new trails and structures are being built and old trails are being reconstructed and rerouted. Impact on park resources is reduced, maintenance and replacement costs decrease and visitor access, safety and enjoyment increases.

*You can help the environment by staying on designated trails.*

# Print media trail maps and visitor guides



# Internet



## Meeting with stakeholders or user groups and teaching trail design



## Holding user conflict resolution & trail etiquette workshops



## Developing user assistance units



**Consider  
your  
message  
at each  
stage  
of the  
process**



**“through interpretation -  
understanding,  
through understanding  
- appreciation,  
through appreciation  
- protection.”**