

Paula Walkins

From: barbagehr@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 4:54 PM
To: Don Daniel; JoMarie Moore; Teri Tatom; Ed and Teena Park Reynolds; Alice Mason; Jim Bridegum; Marv Davis; Joel Cote; Lois Maley; Gen Metro-Corbin; Brad Corbin; Ann Ettinger; Brad Corbin; Susan Cooper and Nancy Frank; Patti and Ken Heinbaugh; Darlene McGarr; Paula Lenz; Darryl Huff; Paula Walkins; Truddie Arkell; Karen Dickerson; Jack Reid; Kathy Galles
Subject: FW: [ERIDERS] Point Reyes
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To all the horse campers out there. The Stewart Horse Camp in Olema Ca. is in trouble.

I spoke with Amanda from the Stewart Horse Ranch this morning and was dismayed to find out that she is not sure when or if the horse camp will open this year. Let me start out with a little bit of history surrounding this favorite horse camping site of mine. The property was owned by the Stewart Ranch for a very long time. They were not looking to sell but in 1964 the Federal Government came in and said they were condemning this part of the ranch and that they would pay fair market value for it or they could go to court about it... So it was now federal park land. But as far as I can tell the government allowed the Stewart Ranch to oversee the horse camp there. Sometime in the 1970's the Park Service started being a part of it with the Stewart Ranch still having the concession to run it. That concession lease was up in 1997 but has been working year to year since then. As I understand the arrangement--other entities, plus the Stewart Ranch has applied for the concession lease this time around. There is some sort of problem the park service says about the watershed being contaminated. According to Amanda--this is not true. She has had the water tested. There were high counts in September only--due to high use. The park service wants to put fences up in the camping area to keep campers away from the creeks. They have talked about opening an area for campers across the highway which in my mind and Amanda's would be a safety hazard for both horses and people. Amanda is concerned also about the fences in the camp area.

There also was talk about needing to put a \$300,000.00 bathroom set up there which according to Amanda is not needed as the proper authorities come and check the facilities through out the year. Apparently, this camp was at one time slated to close because the Seirra Club felt it was not good for the land. The California State Horsemen's association campaigned to keep it open and won.

What's needed:

1. Write letters to Park Service and Boxer and Feinstein about the importance of this great camp and the want to see it remain open.
2. Organize groups to lobby legislators.

Those are the two things Amanda felt needed to be done. I am not sure what else to do myself and am reaching out to others to see if there are any other ideas.

The information I stated in this letter may have some small mis-information. Meaning I am doing this from memory talking with Amanda this am. If I have some dates wrong--please know my intentions are for the best.

Cathie~