

PETITION for Non-motorized Trail along Main Stem Eel River Instead of NCRA Railway

We, the residents of California, do hereby call on ALL levels of government and interested non-profit organizations to cooperate and facilitate

- 1) the preservation of the NCRA corridor from Willits to Humboldt Bay for public non-motorized uses ("Railbanking") and
- 2) conversion of the defunct old NCRA railway into a trail for equestrians (horseback riders), pedestrians (walkers/hikers), bicyclists and other non-motorized users.

Whereas the NCRA trains only operated sporadically until the storms of 1997/1998 and thereafter have been non-operational between Willits and Eureka;

Whereas the population and industrial base of the North Coast cannot be expected to support and sustain the extremely high cost of repairs and maintenance for a railroad in our area of rugged natural beauty (i.e. the "Lost Coast") and that will not change;

Whereas the NCRA corridor along the Main Stem of the Eel River is geologically unstable, seismically active and generally inappropriate for heavy equipment like trains and the government subsidies for a permanent loss-making railroad in this era of structural fiscal deficits is unrealistic;

Whereas more years of inaction would allow the valuable infrastructure of the NCRA corridor to degrade further and make the eventual trail conversion much more costly and difficult; also, additional delays could result in loss of all public use of the corridor;

Whereas the North Coast needs more healthy activities for youth and families alike and there is a chronic shortage of non-motorized equestrian and bicycle trails in the North Coast and such a trail would promote healthy lifestyles and non-polluting, sustainable transportation and recreation practices;

Whereas the optimum public use of the NCRA corridor as a non-motorized trail is obvious, since all able-body North Coast residents have legs to hike, most have bicycles and many have horses;

Whereas the proposed Willits-Humboldt Bay Equestrian, Pedestrian & Bicycle Trail would become world-renown for its natural beauty and an eco-tourism magnet for horse riders, hikers and bicyclists alike, promoting sustainable eco-tourism locally;

Whereas creative solutions exist to all issues related to conversion of the NCRA corridor to non-motorized trail and public support for such conversion remains very high:

- Volunteers would keep the trail clean (responsible names on signs, like for roads);
- Official motorized vehicles would be allowed only for life threatening situations;
- Grants and other funding could pay for the conversion expenses;
- An appropriate agency to be found to accept and manage the railbanked corridor.

So, therefore, let it be known that we urge all elected and appointed officials and all others to support conversion of the NCRA railway to a non-motorized trail as soon as practical.

Anyone Who Agrees Can Sign



Convert the NCRA Railway on the Main Stem Eel River from Willits to Humboldt Bay into a
Non-motorized Trail for Equestrians, Pedestrians & Bicyclists

Please return completed Petitions to Eel River Trail Association (ERTA), P.O. Box 185, Phillipsville, CA 95559 or call 707-223-2226. Pls. return by 3/1/2011
Comments (How can you help ERTA?, etc)

Signature _____ Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____
11 _____
12 _____
13 _____
14 _____
15 _____
16 _____
17 _____
18 _____
19 _____
20 _____