

## Agriculture and Trails Questionnaire

Research and outreach performed by the Santa Barbara Trails Council indicates that grazing is compatible with appropriate public access and trails. Numerous organizations and land management groups throughout California that currently have ongoing public access through grazing lands were contacted. To date, all organizations contacted have reported negligible issues between the public and grazing operations.

<b>Land Management</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Miles of Trails</b>	<b>Type of Agriculture</b>	<b>Years of Coexistence</b>	<b>Incident Frequency</b>
City of San Luis Obispo	1,669 total	9 miles	Cow/calf, stocker	15	0 – human interaction; 5x year dogs harass livestock <sup>a</sup>
East Bay Municipal Utilities District	112,000 acres	1,200 miles	Cow/calf	30+	>1 per year <sup>b</sup>
Point Reyes National Seashore	71,000	150 miles	Cow/calf, dairy	50+	>1 per year <sup>c</sup>
Los Padres National Forest	5,000 with grazing, 1.7 mil total	1,200 miles	Cow/calf, stocker, horses	100+	>1 per year <sup>d</sup>
East Bay Regional Parks Department	21,945 with year-round grazing	1,200 miles	Cow/calf (~5,000 annually)	40+	>1 per year <sup>e</sup>
Midland School			Cow/calf	4	> 1 per year

- a) *Doug Carscaden, Supervising Park Ranger, City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, 2013.*
- b) *Mike Silva, Watershed Naturalist, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, 2013.*
- c) *Dylan Voeller, Rangeland Technician, Point Reyes National Seashore, 2013.*
- d) *Gary Montgomery, Forest and Rangeland Specialist, Los Padres National Forest, 2013.*
- e) *David Amme, Vegetation Program Manager, East Bay Regional Parks Department*

City of San Luis Obispo

1. **Name:** Doug Carscaden
2. **Position:** Supervising Park Ranger
3. **Contact:** dcarscad@slocity.org or 805-781-7302
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Livestock and trails have co-existed ever since SLO acquired these properties, Bishop Peak has had livestock since they got the land 15 years ago, there are 4 open spaces with cows that each have different cattle leases, 2 of the spaces don't have cattle in the winter so the trails don't become trampled, other properties were acquired in 2000 and 2006 and have had cattle since then, the next door neighbor to Reservoir Canyon has water rights for their cattle for the past 60-70 years, kept the ranch on the Johnson Ranch property
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Both, some places have stockers if they are there for a short intense amount of time, some places request cattle ranchers to provide older cows so they are used to people more, roping steers in for a month sometimes if they are not going to use them, never had a bull in the breeding season but have had everything else.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** 10-25 for each open space depending on the size and amount of vegetation
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?**
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** About 9.1 miles, trail is fenced, some of the open spaces have multiple pastures in them and are rotationally grazed
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** The only problem is when people let their dogs off leash and harass the livestock, cows usually hang out where there aren't trails so there are no reports of people being hurt, reports of dog harassment 5-10 times a year
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?**  
N/A
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Fences to keep cows out of riparian areas, cattle guards, spring gates, drive through gates, signs that cows will be in the area
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Two of the open spaces are multi-use for hiking and biking, one is mostly hiking with a short horse segment, one is solely hiking

**East Bay Municipal Utilities District**

1. **Name:** Mark Silva
2. **Position:** Watershed Naturalist
3. **Contact:** [msilva@ebmud.com](mailto:msilva@ebmud.com) or 510-287-2035.
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Since the start of the trails system and at least as long as he's been working there, at least 30 years.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Number of cattle changes by leases, anywhere from 250-300 head down to 30 at any given time.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Approximately 50 miles total – area is both fenced and open range. There are cross fences but there are some areas with big gaps.
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** About 9.1 miles, trail is fenced, some of the open spaces have multiple pastures in them and are rotationally grazed
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Approximately zero annually. Approximately 8-10 years ago there was a person concerned about getting charged, but nothing happened and that was the only complaint.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** 1 in the last 10 years
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Signs are posted on the trail saying that it is a grazing area and to keep the gates closed, although the gates have springs to self close. Cattle are rotated between pastures to the location of grazing and trails shift.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Hikers and horses

### Point Reyes National Seashore

1. **Name:** Dylan Voeller
2. **Position:** Rangeland Technician
3. **Contact:** 415-464-5216 or Daisy Arao at 415-464-5127
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Since the National Seashore was created probably since the 1960s.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf and dairy.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Unknown.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Unknown
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** There are very few. There was one issue with an off-leash dog harassing a calf. That's the only incident.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** 1 in the last 10 years
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** There are gates and signs. Gates on pedestrian trails are spring loaded to close automatically. We're installing equestrian gates so they don't have to get off their horses. We have some fencing to keep cattle off of steep slopes and environmentally sensitive areas.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use.

**United States Forest Service – Los Padres National Forest**

1. **Name:** Gary Montgomery
2. **Position:** Forest and Rangeland Specialist
3. **Contact:** gdmontgomery@fs.fed.us. 805-925-9538 ext. 215
4. **How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Likely for generations; however, grazing allotments were established in 1906.
5. **What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf and horses.
6. **~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** Approximately 5,000; however, the amount of cattle depends on the size and location of the allotment.
7. **Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Most allotments have trails in them.
8. **Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
9. **Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Very few. We have not had any reports of dogs harassing cattle in the last few years.
10. **What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
11. **How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** N/A
12. **What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** Most places are just open land. Some areas have a sign up saying that cattle are grazing but that's mostly for vehicle travel like on Figueroa Mountain. Usually the hiking trails don't have signs/fences/gates.
13. **Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use. Some are hiking only, most are hiking/equestrian; however some are OHV only.

**East Bay Regional Parks Department**

<http://www.ebparks.org/stewardship/grazing>

- 14.Name:** David Amme
- 15.Position:** Vegetation Program Manager
- 16.Contact:** 888-327-2757 ext. 2344 or [damme@ebparks.org](mailto:damme@ebparks.org)
- 17.How long have livestock and trails coexisted?** Over 20 years
- 18.What type of grazing operation (cow/calf or stocker)?** Cow/Calf that are rotated seasonal.
- 19.~How many cattle are grazed in the vicinity of the trail(s)?** We graze/manage thousands of acres, so that’s hard to estimate. The East Bay Regional Parks Department is one of the largest grazing organizations in California.
- 20.Approx. length of trails across grazing lands?** Some allotments have 15-20 miles of trails. Total length is unknown.
- 21.Is the trail: fenced or open range?** Open Range
- 22.Have major issues occurred between trail users and livestock? If yes, the how often/many? Annually?** Very few. Two-three times per year there will be issues with people having their dogs off leash and the dog will take off after the cow.
- 23.What do incidents usually consist of? Injuries?** N/A
- 24.How many incidents have occurred in the last 10 years? In the last year?** N/A
- 25.What trail management methods are implemented related to ag (fences, gates, signs)?** There are gates to keep the cattle in. There are laso signes posted at trailheads stating that cattle are grazing on the land and give people and idea of what to do and how to react to cattle if something’s going on. The signs tell people not to approach the cattle, don’t get between a cow and a calf, and to keep dogs under control or on a leash.
- 26.Are the trails multiple use (bike, hike, horse, etc.)?** Most are multiple use.

**EBRPD – Parks that have Grazing**

Park	Acreage	Miles of Trails
Briones	6,117	
Garin/Dry Creek	1,200	20
Las Trampas	5,342	
Sunol	6,859	
Wildcat	2,427	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

\*\*List can be expanded with parks that have seasonal grazing, but I think those are more goats and sheep (<http://www.ebparks.org/stewardship/grazing/parks>).