

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, July 9, 2026 — 6:00 p.m.

## I. ROLL CALL

*Chair Jones (arrived at 6:15 p.m.), Alternate Chair Warren, and Members Ball, Browning, Webber, Schoeck, and Stout were present.*

## II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

*No comments were received from the public.*

## III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee Member requests to pull a specific item.

### A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 9, 2026 MEETING

*Motion: Member Ball*

*2nd: Member Browning*

*Approved 6–0 (Chair Jones was absent for the vote)*

## IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (ITEM(S) A–C)

### A. TRAIL SIGNAGE AND MESSAGING DISCUSSION

Staff will present trail signage examples from other agencies that were previously shared by Subcommittee members for discussion and feedback.

*Antonio Valdes, OC Parks Trails and Mapping Administrator, presented the item.*

*James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.*

*Mike Wilson, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.*

*Jennifer Naegele, OC Parks Natural Resources and Trails Manager, answered the Members' questions.*

*Craig Dicht, Laguna Canyon Foundation Trails Project Manager, provided perspective on trail signage design and messaging.*

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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The Trails Subcommittee recommends that OC Parks consider Subcommittee feedback to inform future trail signage projects.

*Motion: Member Schoeck*

*2nd: Member Browning*

*Approved 7–0*

### **B. CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS TRAIL TRAINING OVERVIEW**

Staff will present a brief overview of key takeaways from the 2026 Basic Trails Program: Maintenance and Management.

*Antonio Valdes, OC Parks Trails and Mapping Administrator, presented the item and answered the Members' questions.*

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive and file.

*Motion: Member Browning*

*2nd: Member Warren*

*Approved 7–0*

### **C. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR MEMBER WEBBER**

Staff will recognize Member Webber for her years of dedicated service and meaningful contributions to the Trails Subcommittee.

*Jennifer Naegele, OC Parks Natural Resources and Trails Manager, presented the item.*

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Recognize Member Virginia Webber for her service on the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee and authorize the Chair to present a Certificate of Recognition.

*Motion: Member Browning*

*2nd: Member Schoeck*

*Approved 7–0*

## **V. SUBCOMMITTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

*Jennifer Naegele, OC Parks Natural Resources and Trails Manager, provided updates.*

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### **VI. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT**

At this time, Subcommittee Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:15 *p.m.***

A person wearing a green t-shirt with the "LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION" logo on the back, a black cap, and dark pants stands on a rocky ridge, looking out over a vast, hazy valley. The t-shirt logo features a stylized mountain and river graphic. The background shows rolling hills and a distant horizon under a cloudy sky. A black backpack sits on the rocks in the foreground.

# Unauthorized Trail Decommissioning in Practice

An Example from Laguna Coast Wilderness Park  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee | October 8, 2026

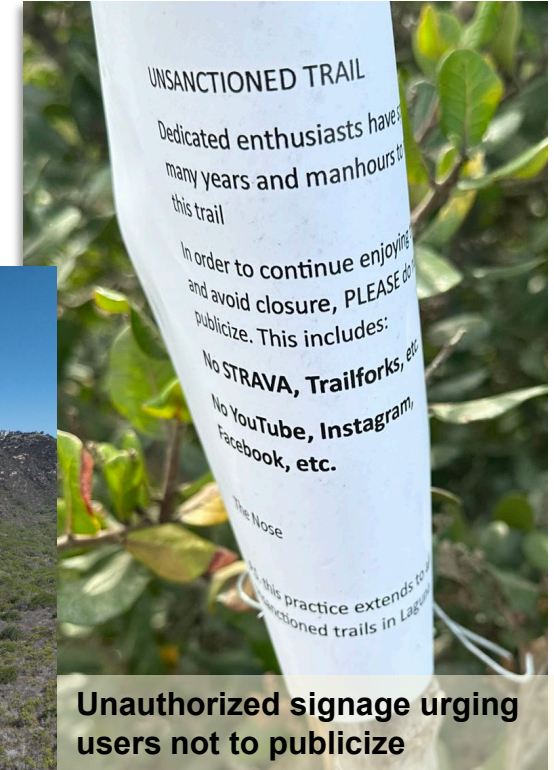


# The Nose: Why Close It?

- New unauthorized trail
- Otherwise large unfragmented habitat
- Close before the trail becomes established



Landscape surrounding the Nose



Unauthorized signage urging users not to publicize

# Partnership With Laguna Canyon Foundation

- Longtime OC Parks partner
- Restoration and trail stewardship
- Experience closing unauthorized trails
- One-time contract to decommission the Nose





# Putting the Approach Into Practice

- Applying emerging unauthorized trail guidance
- Closure from January to June 2026
- Decommissioning entire length of trail, with strategic focal points
- Closure breached and rapidly repaired



LCF trail techs installing straw wattles

# Beyond the Initial Closure

- Monitor
- Respond quickly
- Learn and adapt
- Potential application systemwide

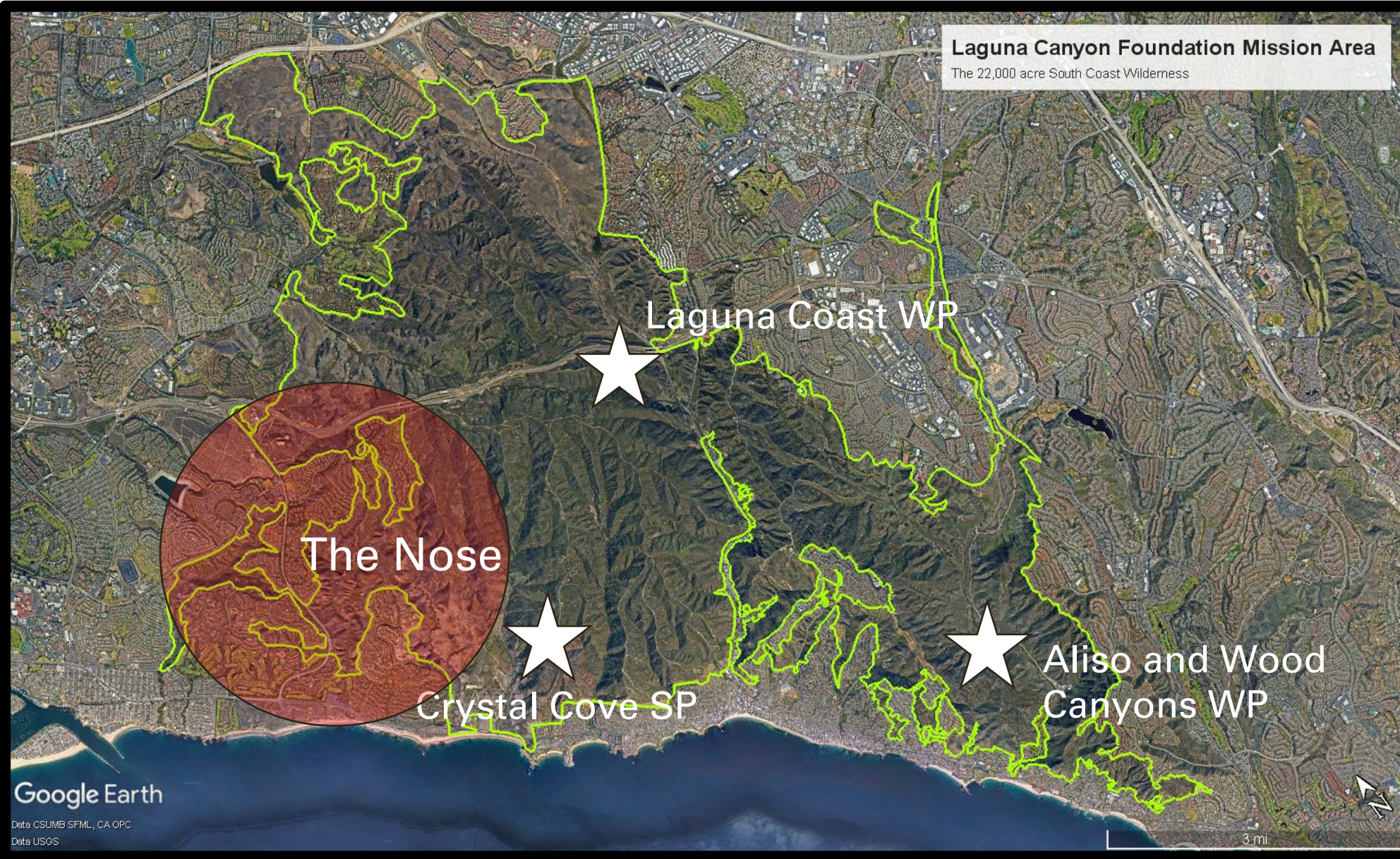




# Mission Area:

*The 22,000-acre South Coast Wilderness & surrounding communities*

*On the shared homelands of the Acjachemen & Tongva Peoples*



Unauthorized Trail Decommissioning in Practice

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee  
October 8, 2026







## “The Nose” Decommissioning Rationale

- New trail
- 1.14 miles long
- 20,000 square feet disturbed habitat (0.46 acres)
- Passes through multiple habitat types
- Observed CDFW & NCCP/HCP species of concern
- Vector for invasive species spread
- Potential for new disturbance



Why pick  
"The Nose?"



# Habitat



Why pick  
"The Nose"?



# Wildlife





# “The Nose” Timeline

## January – March 2026

- Perform initial closure of trail entrance + first 0.9 miles
- 16 workdays

## April 2026

- Monitoring finds no damage

## May – June 2026

- Monitoring finds new damage
- Repair and reinforce damaged sections
- Close trail exit and last 0.24 miles
- 4 workdays

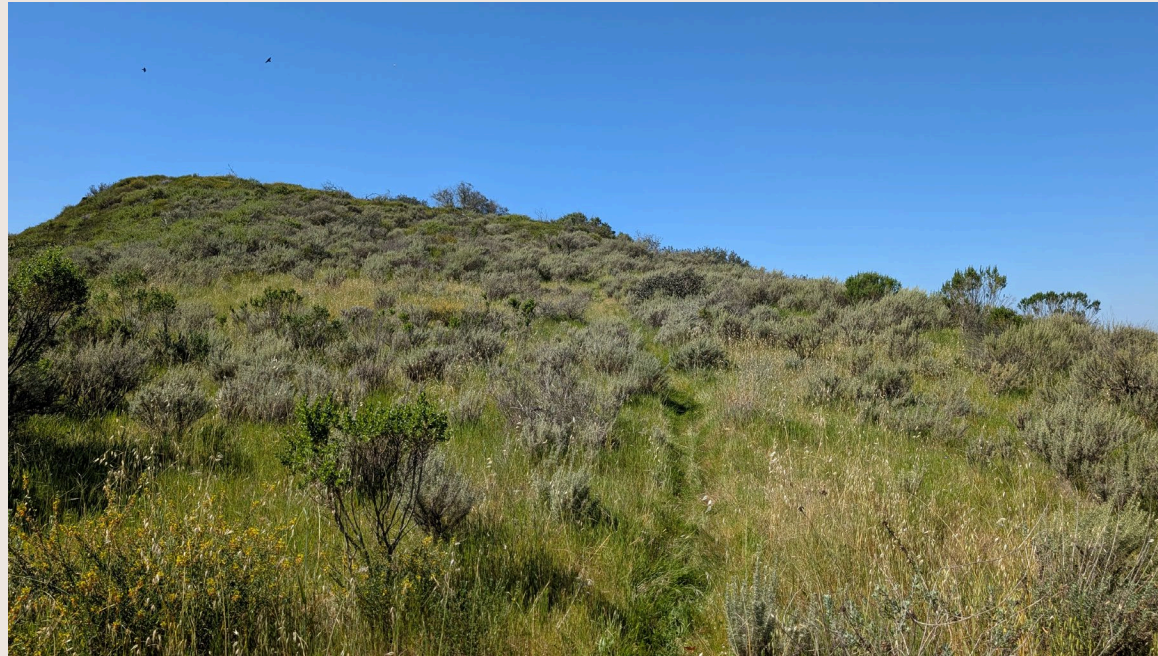
## June 2026 – May 2027

- Ongoing closure monitoring





# Less is More: Not every foot of trail needs intervention





# Multifaceted Methods



|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Total trail length</b>       | <b>6,000 linear feet</b>       |
| <b>Total trail area</b>         | <b>20,000 square feet</b>      |
|                                 |                                |
| <b>Tread length obliterated</b> | 2,275 linear feet              |
| <b>Seeded area</b>              | 5,000 square feet              |
| <b>Cactus pads planted</b>      | 300                            |
| <b>Wattles installed</b>        | 56 locations/600 feet          |
| <b>Brushing chokepoints</b>     | 12 locations/1,800 square feet |
| <b>Visual brushing</b>          | 560 linear feet                |
| <b>Checkmark ditches</b>        | 35 locations                   |



# Methods: Brushing Chokepoints



Crew harvesting dead branches



Truckload of slash



# Methods: Brushing Chokepoints



Before



After



# Methods: Tread Decompaction and Seeding





# ✓ Methods: Checkmark Ditches





# Methods: Wattles and Cactus Pads



Before



After



# Methods: Visual Brushing



Before



After



# Closure Damage and Repair



Before



After



Before



After





Thank you for your time! Questions?



# Unauthorized Trail Decommissioning Prioritization Decision Tool

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee | October 8, 2026



# Unauthorized Trail Decommissioning Prioritization Decision Tool

- Consistent evaluation
- Closure need + feasibility
- Supports staff decision-making





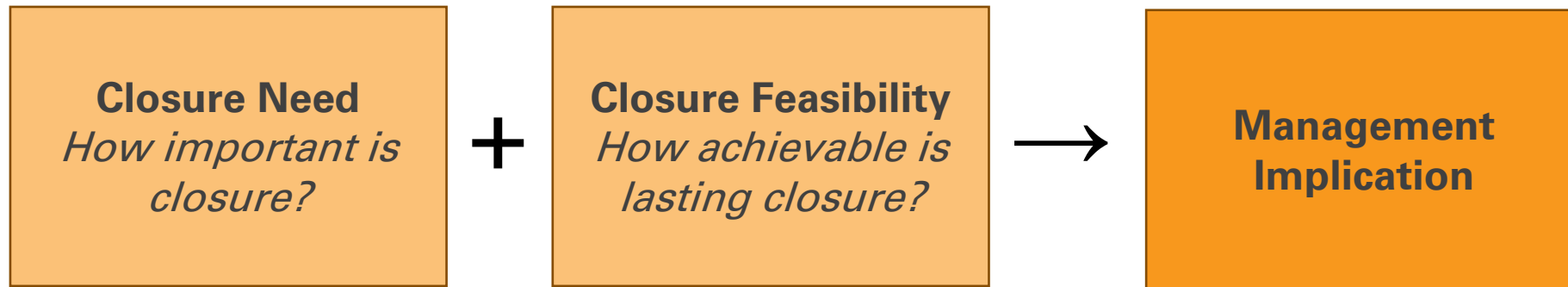
# Why Prioritize

- Many unauthorized trails
- Limited resources
- Different impacts
- Different closure challenges





# Two Questions





# Closure Need

## Components:

- Public safety
- Sensitive resources
- Habitat integrity
- Network expansion
- Cultural resources
- Erosion / impacts





# Closure Feasibility

## Components:

- Trail establishment
- Reopening pressure
- Bypass resistance
- Attraction neutralization
- Closure materials
- Implementation ease

**Low feasibility does not preclude closure**



Trails with chokepoints are more conducive to successful closures



An example of a challenging closure: intertwining unauthorized trails in open habitat



# What the Tool Looks Like

- Survey123 field form
- Guided questions
- Standard answer choices
- Notes / observations
- Questions weighted differently
- Scoring happens in the background

**Unauthorized Trail Closure Prioritization Assessment**  
Use the best information reasonably available at the time of assessment. This matrix structures professional judgment; it does not require a new study solely to complete the assessment.

**Trail Name\***

The Nose

**Park / Unit**

LACO

**Assessor**

Antonio

**Initial Assessment Date\***

Initial question

**Habitat Integrity Impact\***

**Low** – The trail is mostly within or immediately beside existing disturbed or substantially altered habitat.  
*Field cue:* Follows roads, development edges, authorized trail corridors, old disturbance, or large areas dominated by mustard, non-native annual grasses, or similarly altered vegetation.

**Moderate** – The trail passes through a mixture of altered and intact native habitat.  
*Field cue:* Moves between mustard/non-native grass-dominated areas and intact native vegetation, or penetrates native habitat only for limited portions of the route.

**High** – The trail creates a meaningful new recreational corridor through predominantly intact native habitat.  
*Field cue:* Much of the route leaves existing disturbed areas and passes through intact coastal sage scrub, chaparral, woodland, or other native habitat that otherwise has limited recreational disturbance.

**Very High** – The trail extensively penetrates or bisects a large, otherwise intact native habitat block.  
*Field cue:* Extends well into the interior of conserved native habitat or creates a major recreational corridor through an area that otherwise remains largely separated from authorized recreation.

**Key distinction:** Score where the trail introduces recreational disturbance, not whether sensitive species are documented there. Areas dominated by mustard, non-native annual grassland, or other non-native vegetation may be treated as disturbed habitat for this criterion.

☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☒ High ☐ Very High

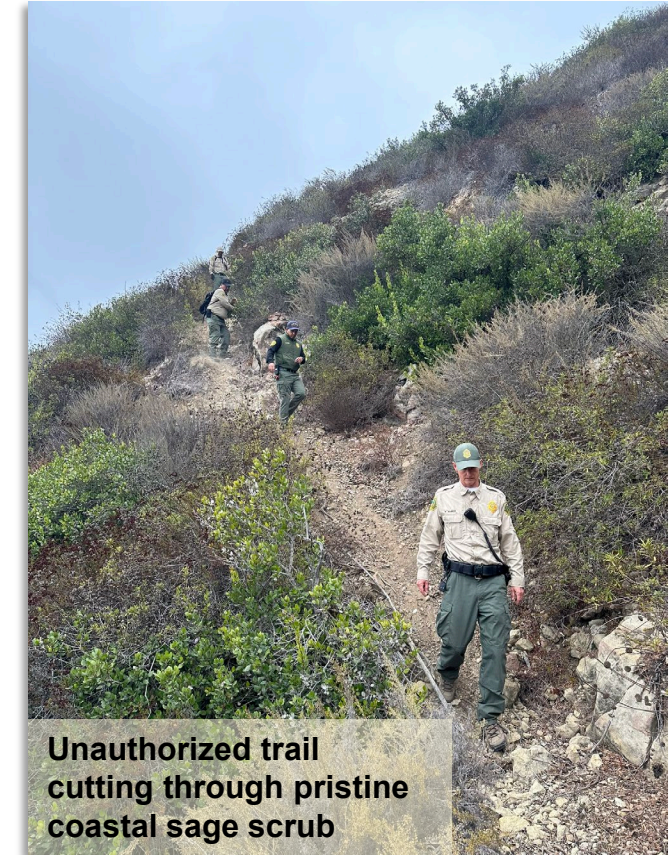
**Example question**



# Example: Closure Need

## Habitat Integrity Impact:

- **Low**  
Mostly disturbed or altered habitat
- **Moderate**  
Mix of disturbed and intact habitat
- **High**  
New corridor through mostly intact native habitat
- **Very High**  
Extensively bisects a large intact habitat block





# Example: Closure Feasibility

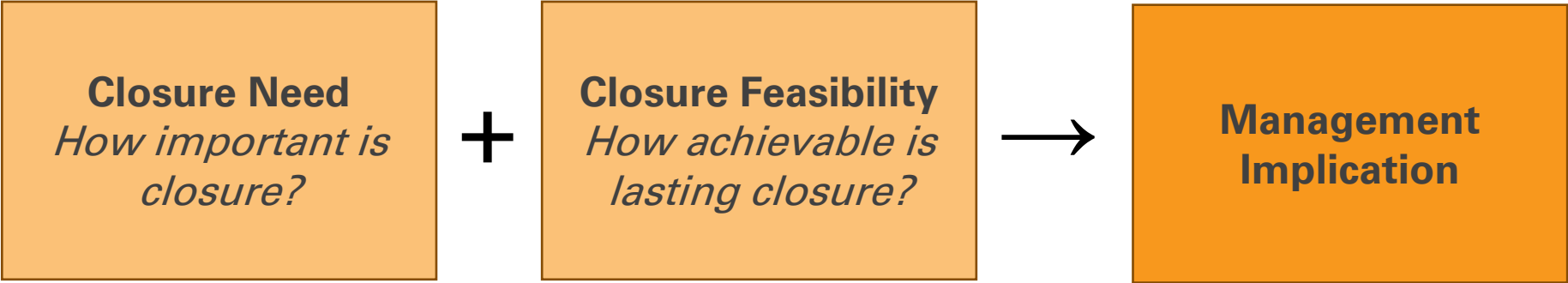
## Reopening Pressure:

- **Low**  
Little evidence users would defend route
- **Moderate**  
Some incentive, little active investment
- **High**  
Strong incentive / valued connection or destination
- **Very High**  
Documented reopening or sustained maintenance





# Management Implication



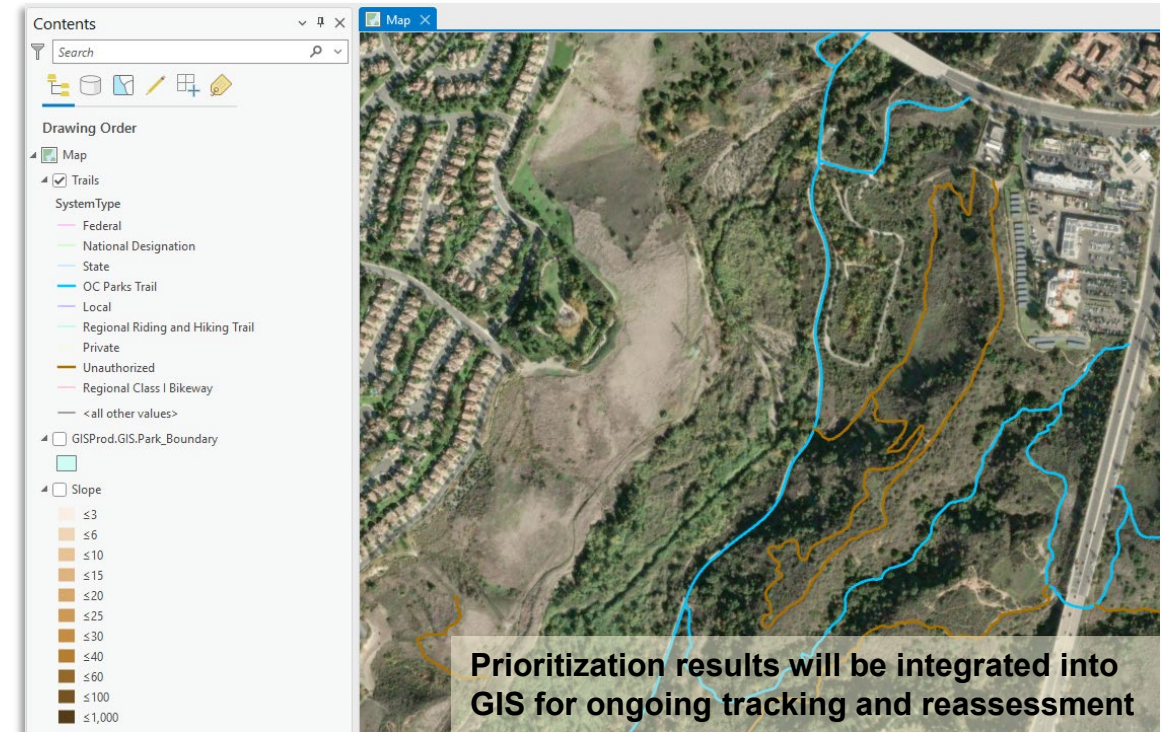
| Closure Need  | Closure Feasibility | Management Implication             |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| High–Very Hih | High–Very High      | <b>Strong near-term candidate</b>  |
| Moderate      | High–Very High      | <b>Opportunistic candidate</b>     |
| High–Very Hih | Low–Moderate        | <b>Strategic closure challenge</b> |
| Low           | Low–Moderate        | <b>Lower immediate priority</b>    |

*Illustrative examples — not all combinations shown*



# How the Tool Will Be Used

- Compare trails consistently
- Document prioritization
- Identify closure challenges
- Maintain a project backlog
- Reassess as conditions change
- Inform staff review and planning



**Decision support — not a replacement for professional judgment**



# Questions



**OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**STAFF REPORT**

**FROM:** Jeaniene Casiello, Executive Officer

**DATE:** October 8, 2026

**SUBJECT:** OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Proposed 2027 Meeting Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2027 meeting dates is provided below for the Subcommittee's review and approval.

**First Quarter**

Thursday, January 21, 2027      Regular Meeting

**Second Quarter**

Thursday, April 15, 2027      Regular Meeting

**Third Quarter**

Thursday, July 15, 2027      Regular Meeting

**Fourth Quarter**

Thursday, October 21, 2027      Regular Meeting

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee's 2027 Meeting Schedule.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeaniene Casiello