



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION BOWMAN CANYON HABITAT PROTECTION AND PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mount Burdell Open Space Preserve, Novato, California

June 15th, 2026

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing a project to protect and enhance sensitive habitats and species while providing recreation opportunities on a sustainable network of fire roads and trails at Mount Burdell Open Space Preserve and has prepared an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Declaration (IS/MND) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (NOI): The purpose of the NOI is to initiate the 30-day public review and comment period on the IS/MND. The document and the online comment form is available for review on the Marin County Parks website at Bowman Canyon Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvement Project.

COMMENT PERIOD AND HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: The comment period on the IS/MND is **June 15 – July 17, 2026 at 5:00pm**. Comments can be submitted online using the online comment form at <https://parks.marincounty.gov/projectsplans/bowman-canyon>, by email, or USPS as follows:

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PROJECT TITLE: Bowman Canyon Habitat Protection and Public Access Improvement Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Mount Burdell Open Space Preserve, Novato, CA

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The purpose of the proposed project is to implement the MCOSD Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) to provide the public with a system of trails and fire roads that enhances visitor experience, reduce environmental impacts on sensitive resources, and establish a sustainable system of 9.7 miles of roads and trails that meet MCOSD's design and management standards. The proposed project includes the following elements, which are summarized below and fully described in the Project Description section of the IS/MND:

Sensitive Habitat Protection: Remove selected ranch roads and trails within serpentine grassland and northern bay forest to protect rare vegetation, plant populations, and sensitive wildlife; design new trail segments to avoid sensitive resources; incorporate Early Detection and Rapid Response surveys into all project activities; and restore decommissioned corridors through passive and active revegetation, decompaction, recontouring, and invasive species management.

Road and Trail Improvements: Upgrade and adopt approximately 2.5 miles of existing ranch roads into the designated fire road network to improve drainage, reduce erosion, protect sensitive habitats, and enhance maintenance and emergency access. Approximately 0.5 miles would meet MCOSD's Inclusive Access Plan standards. Improve and adopt approximately 0.21 miles of existing social trails.

Decommission Road and Trail Segments: Decommission approximately 3.0 miles of ranch roads and 3.1 miles of social trails by decompacting soils, recontouring where feasible, hydrologically disconnecting alignments, and mulching and revegetating former corridors to restore natural drainage and habitat conditions.

Road-to-Trail Conversion: Convert approximately 1.2 miles of existing ranch roads to sustainable trails by narrowing the footprint, decompacting and recontouring previously disturbed areas, and revegetating surplus road width to create a more resilient trail prism.

Development of New Sustainable Trails: Construct approximately 5.8 miles of new purpose-built sustainable trails to create logical loops and connections for multiple user groups. Trails would be machine- or hand-built depending on designation and site conditions.

Drainage and Watercourse Improvements: Install drainage features such as rolling dips, grade reversals, cross drains, and inslope/outslope adjustments to reduce erosion, disperse runoff, and improve long-term sustainability. Upgrade watercourse crossings to reduce sediment delivery to Bowman Creek and downstream steelhead habitat.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES: The IS/MND identified potentially significant environmental impacts in the area of Biological Resources. Mitigation measures to reduce the significance of these impacts to a less-than-significant level are included in the IS/MND. The IS/MND concludes that, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project would not result in significant environmental impacts.

CONTACT: Please contact Jason Hoorn at Jason.Hoorn@MarinCounty.gov for additional information.