



ETRAC TRAIL SURVEY

Mike Bushue

July 7, 2009

On the trail



General information

- ▶ 450 respondents
- ▶ 42% ride trails over 20 hrs/month
- ▶ 50% of riders use a trailer 25% of the time to access riding areas

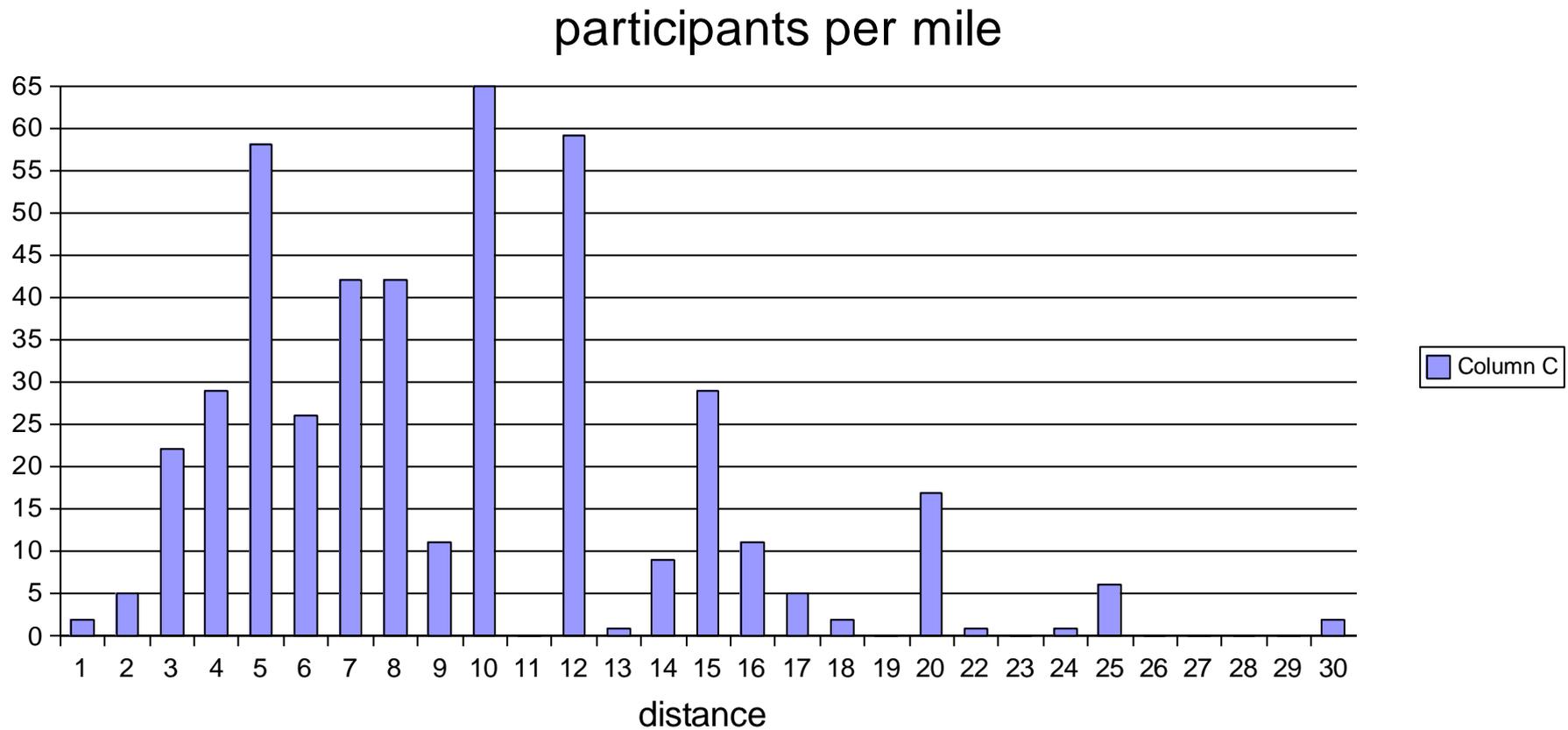


Trail distances and times

- ▶ Distance to ride in a single outing is an average of 9.5 miles or over 2 hours of riding time.
- ▶ High mileage over 20 miles and low was typically 4 to 5 miles
- ▶ 50% of rides are less than 8 miles and 90% were 15 miles or less
- ▶ Loops are preferred



Average of recommended trail distances



Use of MROSD parks (# riders)

- ▶ Top 4 preserves
 - Skyline ridge (126)
 - Windy hill (116)
 - Rancho San Antonio (82)
 - Purissima (71)
- ▶ Parks for reference:
 - Huddart /Wunderlich (226)
 - Sam McDonald (179)



Trail usage–road

- ▶ Where fire road (8+ ft. wide) type trails allow adequate site distance and passing space do you feel equestrians and bikes should be allowed on the same trails?

73% **agree** this is acceptable



Trail usage single track

- ▶ Should equestrians and mountain bikes be allowed on the same single track trail (2–3 ft. wide) if lines of sight are safe and adequate?

66%% are **against** this and
95% would list **safety**
concerns



Summary

- ▶ Equestrians are concerned about our access to trails
- ▶ Safety is major concern
- ▶ New trails that are to be multi use should be designed to slow bikes to a reasonable speed and be wide enough to allow other users safe passage.
- ▶ New use single track trails should be restricted and limit bike access.



Comments from respondents

over 200 were made, these are selected as examples

- ▶ One size does NOT fit all! What may work well on some trails may not work at all at others for diverse reasons. Each trail must be evaluated on its own merit.
- ▶ Line of sight is most crucial, width of trail must be wide enough to accommodate trail areas where Line Of Sight is less than ideal. Signage is crucial for bikers to understand that horses are easily startled and often fearful of bikes.
- ▶ As an equestrian I realize I am a minority on the trail & I feel it's important to be considerate of other users on the trails or I fear horses could lose trail access in the future. Luckily, in San Mateo County & especially on the coast I have found hikers & bikers to be very considerate. Unfortunately, this is not always true of dog walkers. Especially professional walkers w/ large numbers of dogs.



Comments (con)

- ▶ I think it's important that the equestrian community try and understand the need for bikers to have access to trails (and vice versus of course) All too often I see horseback riders ratcheting up the rhetoric (along with cyclist) and it doesn't do anyone any good. We need to work together or all our trails and parks will be closed for good. Also, equestrians who have horses that spook or can't handle bikes should not be on the trail. There's no reason bikes and horse can't coexist on most trails so long as the trail will accommodate and the bikers and riders are acting appropriately. I've gotten my horse desensitized to bicycles for the most part, but I really value the places that are currently bicycle-free. Parks where bikes are allowed tend to have a lot of bikes and therefore the small percentage of non-horse-sensitive bikers end up being a problem. Even when they're fine, it's nice to get away from them at times. I appreciate that mountain bikers want to enjoy their outdoor sport, but it's so much harder to trailer a horse than attach a bike-rack so please let us keep our horse trails bike-free!
- ▶ All groups deserve to enjoy the trails so lets make this work



Comments (con)

- ▶ Safety first--because there will always be green horses and spooky horses, I feel strongly that bicyclists should be kept separate as much as possible, and not allowed to overrun traditional riding trails just because they are well organized and pushy.
- ▶ I'm a mountain biker, a runner and an equestrian. I think everyone needs access to all the trails. Both mt. bikers and equestrians need more info. on trail etiquette. Mt. bikers need to slow down. Equestrians need to stop flipping out so easily.
- ▶ We need more trails, trailer parking for access at trailheads



Another Issue

Rancho San Antonio:

- ▶ May we have additional equestrian parking at this beautiful preserve.
- ▶ One rig spot is basically what is available.
- ▶ Possibility for more parking at volunteer parking area?
- ▶ Best for all year riding.
- ▶ Many Equestrians will not trailer there due to potential of no parking space available.



Why we love Skyline Open Space



Please keep us on the trails and off the roads!!

