

To: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore
From: Bob Cooper / Marin Horse Council / Chairperson, Stewart Horse Camp Committee
bobcooperhorse@gmail.com
Subject: Bridge Needed on Rift Zone Trail at Stewart Horse Camp
Date: 8/9/2018

Hi-

First, I'd like to thank Point Reyes National Seashore for three improvements that were made before Stewart Horse Camp [SHC] opened this year: the fence bordering the creek, the pedestrian bridge connecting the camp area to the bathroom, and the removal of the old brick and cement fire pits. The fence looks good, protects the creek, and does not overly reduce the camp area. The bridge to the bathrooms is SO much safer, especially at night. The fire pits were unusable, an eyesore, and a hazard. If you haven't personally seen these improvements, I've attached pictures. Thanks.

There is one more important improvement that I think is needed at SHC - a bridge where the Rift Zone Trail crosses the creek at the north edge of SHC. This creek crossing is heavily used by equestrians and hikers. My understanding is that both the park and the concessionaire have performed coliform counts on the creek because both are concerned about water quality.

A horse-safe bridge at this crossing will reduce any coliform contamination.

This creek crossing is one of the few places in Point Reyes National Seashore where high levels of horse or foot traffic cross a stream, so having a bridge here seems like an important improvement.

The site for the bridge is easily accessible for construction and the land features allow for a bridge to be built. Or even simpler, a culvert and fill crossing is possible (if the design allows the meadow to continue to drain into the creek.) In either case, please make the crossing wide for safety.

Thank you for reading this. I try to keep my letters short. If I can be of any assistance on this issue, horse related questions, or something else, please email me.

-Bob Cooper

CC:

Kevin McKay, Shawn Mahoney, Amanda Stewart, Phil Straub, PRNSA



Rift Zone Trail Creek Crossing on North Side of Stewart Horse Camp



New Pedestrian Bridge Connecting Camp Area to Bathroom



Part of New Fence Protecting Creek



Removed Fire Pit / BBQ