



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
Sooky Goldman Nature Center  
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive  
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Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 29, 2009  
**TO:** Tom Odom, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
**FROM:** Jewel Johnson, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
**RE:** Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve Ranger Services

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The City of Rancho Palos Verdes contracted the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Rangers to provide Ranger Services. The initial focus is the burn area in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. Since December 15, 2009 three Rangers have patrolled an estimated 60 hours in the preserve. The patrol times varied during the initial 2 weeks between mid-mornings and from early afternoon until an hour after the park closes. The weekend patrol were from the morning until late afternoon. These were foot patrols with the exception of the tour with Lomita Station C.O.R.E. Team, a wrong turn off Burma Road and the installation of vandalized signage. We made contact with 100 – 150 park visitors. The compliance from the four user groups (hikers, dog walkers, mountain bikers and equestrians) during our patrol in the preserve is good. We replaced nine vandalized signs at the Ishibashi Trail, Peacock Flats Trail, Eagle's Nest Trail and Ailor Trail.

There was very little litter (i.e. water bottles, snack wrappers) on or off trail with the notable exception of 10 crushed beer cans and 2 empty cigarette packs at the first overlook and 3 beer bottles opposite the water tank underneath a tree off the Peacock Flats Trail. The dog walkers are leaving used dog bags off the trail and they are retrieving them most of the time after their hike. There is a problem with dog owners not picking up after their dogs at the Crenshaw Blvd trailhead. We would like to hand out business cards that explain why it is important to keep dogs on the leash. We warned and advised 8 dog walkers to put their dogs on leash and 2 dog walkers for off leash and after hour violation. We observed but were not able to make contact with what appears to be a commercial dog walker with 8 dogs on leash just after noon at the entrance to Forrestal Reserve.

We observed several hikers on the closed Peacock Flats Trail and Ishibashi Trail during our morning and afternoon patrols. There were 5 hikers warned and advised. There was a group of 4 hikers on what appeared to be an unauthorized trail due to the steep descent, our location did not allow us to make contact.



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We observed 3 equestrians riding on the Ishibashi Trail but, were unable to make contact due to our location. The riders went into the community of homes within the preserve. There is evidence of equestrians riding on authorized but closed trails and unauthorized trails outside the burn area. We will try to identify and local equestrian clubs to assist us in educating the equestrian community on protecting the preserve.

There are numerous steep unauthorized trails throughout the preserve that show evidence of usage by mountain bikers and hikers (with and without dogs). We spoke to numerous mountains bikers regarding the limited to access to the trails and the perception that they are being "squeezed out" of the preserve. There were 4 citations issued to mountains bikers on the Ishibashi Trail and off the Toyon Trail which was marked "Area Closed for Restoration" and we advised them prior to their ride what areas were closed. We will be working with CORBA to educate the mountain bike community about the importance of staying on designated trails and the damage to resource caused by the creation of unauthorized trails.

The afterhours activity observed was very limited and the 5 park visitors we encountered were given verbal warnings.

The lack of signage due to vandalism continues to prompt questions from the public as to which trails are closed.

**As of December 15, 2009**

Contacts:	100 - 150 Park Visitors
Verbal Warnings:	10 Dog Off Leash 2 After Hours 5 Closed Areas
Citations Issued:	4 Mountain Bikes in closed area
Park Maintenance:	9 Installed Trail Closed Signs (Ishibashi, Peacock Flats, Eagle's Nest and Ailbor)  Pick up beer cans