



## **TAYLOR MOUNTAIN Interim Public Access Permit Program**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***What is the Interim Public Access Permit Program?***

It is a program that will allow the public to access Taylor Mountain in an environmentally-sensitive manner. The program involves distributing up to 2,500 permits over time to people who go through an orientation to become better informed about the land and its resources.

Each permit allows the permit-holder and three additional people, per visit, to access designated areas on the property. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) is contracting with LandPaths, a local non-profit organization, to provide the orientation training and permits.

The program will be in effect for an interim period (two to three years) while Sonoma County Regional Parks and the District plan for a new regional park.

#### ***Why is there a permit program?***

With a permit, you can hike, bike, or horseback ride this property during the park planning process. Without these types of programs, publically-owned properties can wait years before budgets and planning allow public uses to be developed. This program will allow public access during the master planning process period which will eventually result in the opening of a public park with broader public access.

#### ***When can I get a permit?***

A permit can be obtained once the CEQA process is complete (approximately October 2009) and once the individual has attended an orientation through LandPaths.

#### ***Where can I get a permit?***

To get information on orientation dates, go to [www.landpaths.org](http://www.landpaths.org) or call LandPaths at 707.544.7284.

#### ***Where will I be able to go on Taylor Mountain?***

Hikers will be able to access mowed pedestrian paths (both a western trail and an eastern trail) this fall. It will be possible to reach the top of the mountain as well as create a loop route.

People on horses and bicycles will be able to use an existing ranch road on the eastern side of the property this fall until the wet season. This road reaches the top of the mountain. An additional ranch road (the western route) will be available for horses and bicycles after the District obtains necessary environmental permits for and constructs necessary improvements.

There will be parking for cars and horse trailers at the interim staging area next to the water tanks that is currently used by the Volunteer Patrol and LandPaths.

#### ***How can I provide additional input into the planning process?***

You will be able to provide comments during the CEQA process, when the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is recirculated later this summer. Check the District's website [www.sonomaopenspace.org](http://www.sonomaopenspace.org) in August for a link to the document and instructions for submitting comments.

You will also be able to participate in a broad public input process that Sonoma County Regional Parks will lead as part of a park and open space master planning process for Taylor Mountain. We anticipate this process to begin in the fall.