

**File Code:** 1920**Date:** May 27, 2015**Route To:****Subject:** Zephyr Cove Resort Access Path **Letter to file for Access Trail Modification in the Zephyr Cove Stables Upgrade Project**

This letter documents the changes made to the alignment and design of the access trail from the Zephyr Cove Resort camping area to the Zephyr Cove Stables, as well as its extension north of the stables to Warrior Way. This trail was originally analyzed and approved in the Zephyr Cove Stables Upgrade Decision Memo of June 9th, 2011. A more detailed review by resource specialists and engineers was completed and changes are proposed in order to improve constructability and pedestrian safety, as well as minimize the impact to the stream, marsh, and wet meadow system.

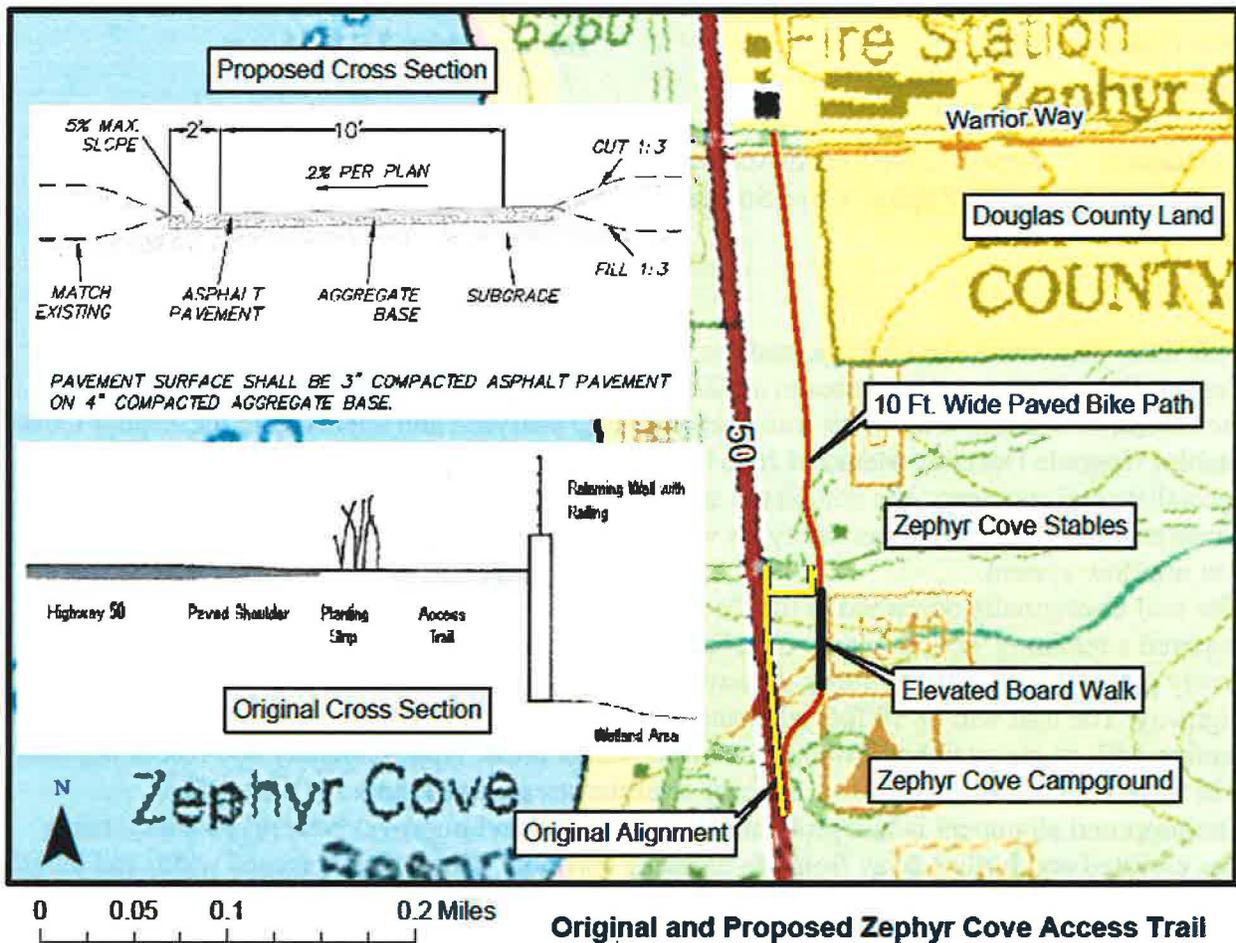
The trail as originally described in the Decision Memo was located along Highway 50 and required a retaining wall, in places over five feet high, as well as a large crossing structure. The newly proposed alignment follows the natural contours of the land about 150 feet east of the highway. The trail will be 10 feet wide and will utilize a standard asphalt and aggregate cross section with an elevated boardwalk structure in wetter areas. Approximately 300 feet of the trail will be boardwalk, elevated 10 – 18 inches over the stream and marsh.

The proposed alignment is less problematic to construct and improves pedestrian safety, being less elevated and further away from the highway corridor. Due to the increased width and length of the proposed alignment, the permanent disturbance in dry areas will be greater than that of the original access trail. However, the permanent disturbance within wet areas will be significantly decreased when compared to the original alignment. Within the wet meadow system, the original route would have created approximately 3000 square feet of permanent disturbance between the edge of Highway 50 and the retaining wall. The proposed alignment will create less than 200 square feet of permanent disturbance within the wet meadow system in the form of boardwalk support piles and will allow for unimpeded flow and wildlife passage. The temporary construction disturbance within the wet meadow system is approximately the same for the proposed alignment and the alignment along the highway.

This modification has been reviewed by engineering, ecosystems, recreation, heritage, and planning staffs. Concerns and needs for future coordination are as follows:

- Invasive plant treatment and a botanical survey of the new trail alignment will be completed before implementation.
- Known cheat-grass infestations will be flagged and avoided to the extent feasible.
- All actions for this project will follow the specifications outlined in Biological Opinion FFO8ESMFOO-2014-F-0557; December 19, 2014.





Conclusion

Upon my review, the above changes to the alignment and design of the access trail meet the intent of the Zephyr Cove Stables Upgrade Project and the overall goals for safe pedestrian access between the larger resort and the Zephyr Cove Stables while minimizing the impact to the stream, marsh, and wet meadow system. These modifications are not significant and do not change the effects analysis or conclusions presented in the Decision Memo for Implementation of the Zephyr Cove Stables Upgrade of June 9th, 2011 or the project record (FSH 1909.15, Ch. 10, sec. 18.1). Implementation of this project may proceed accordingly.

for 
JEFF MARSOLAIS
Forest Supervisor