

2007 Land & Water Summit
Trail Design & Maintenance Clinic
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10:20 Welcome & Introductions

10:30 Bibliography of Resources & Expertise

10:35 Ten Trail Design & Maintenance Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Keep your new trail project a secret.**
 - a. Don't ask for permission to cross private property, or stumble into a landowner meeting poorly prepared.
 - b. Keep your steering committee limited to your pals and insiders.
 - c. Set no expectations in the community about trail benefits nor how the trail might be used.

2. **Expect to design and build (or upgrade) your trail quickly and then relax for a few years.**
 - a. Expect your trail to proceed in a linear fashion, just the way you planned it.
 - b. Ignore what you've heard about permits being needed for work around wetlands and watercourses.

3. **When you lay out a trail route, ignore desire lines and sensitive landscape features.**
 - a. When you close a bootleg trail, be subtle.
 - b. When you want to avoid vernal pools, threatened species habitat and erosive slopes, send mixed messages.

4. **When it comes to handicapped accessibility, assume that:**
 - a. No disabled people will want to use your trail.
 - b. An accessible trail is not worth the trouble and expense.
 - c. **You** will never need accessible features!

5. **Ignore your neighbors.**
 - a. Don't bother to tell them about upcoming events.
 - b. When you hear rumors about problems on private (or public) land, let the landowners work it out themselves.
 - c. Assume that they know how much you appreciate their support and cooperation - don't say thank you very often.

6. ***Build a path to Grandmother's house.***
 - a. Buy a boatload of wood chips and spread them on the trail.
 - b. Lay down logs for edging.
 - c. Accessorize your trail with lightweight benches from your local garden center.

7. **Make cheap, lightweight signs, and lots of 'em.**
 - a. Expect them to last 10 years or more.
 - b. Make a separate sign for every rule and begin each one with either **Don't** or **No**.
 - c. Maximize the type and minimize the images on your interpretive signs (known as a "book on a stick").

8. **Let volunteer trail work crews supervise themselves and hope for the best.**
 - a. Assume people with power tools know how to use them.
 - b. Trust common sense to guide what volunteers do and their standards of quality.
 - c. Schedule day-long trail work events.

9. **Accept the attitude that *I know The Right Way to all this stuff.***
 - a. During trail work days, let the man (and yes, I mean **man**) with the biggest ego take over.
 - b. Ignore trail books and trail workshop announcements.
 - c. Pay no attention to trail details during your travels.

10. **In your meetings, just wing it.**
 - a. Don't waste your time with agendas, work plans and keeping track of commitments.

11. **BONUS MISTAKE: Cross your fingers and hope that trail user conflict will work itself out.**

11:05 Trail Clinic Roundtable

11:30 Adjourn