

## **When will the SDRP 55 mile trail be completed?**

Currently the 55 mile trail from the San Dieguito Lagoon at Del Mar to Volcan Mt. near Julian has 34 miles completed. There is one section with 23 contiguous miles . It runs from the Bandy Canyon trailhead at the east end of San Pasqual Valley to the west end of the Santa Fe trail adjacent to the Crosby development and passes through the Del Dios Gorge.

There is no date for completion as this depends on several factors.

1. Funding primarily comes from successful grant applications to sources such as State Bond Funds. These funds vary in their availability each year and are always very competitive.
2. Availability of property in the desired locations. The river park acquires only freely offered property from willing sellers.
3. Environmental constraints are important factors. The least environmentally harmful alternative must be selected. This involves environmental analysis and securing permits from the regulatory agencies.
4. Geographical impediments may make a trail very expensive to construct..
5. Possibility of access across Indian lands.

Additionally, there has been a delay since much of the constructed trail, including bridges and fencing ,was destroyed in the 2007 Witch Creek fire and had to be replaced using FEMA funds.

The trails must be managed properly so that they do not deteriorate. Grant funds usually are restricted to actual trail building and do not pay for subsequent maintenance The difficult SDRP financial situation caused by the refusal of the City of San Diego to pay its committed assessment to the park, means that the number of rangers, who provide maintenance of the trails, is severely limited.

In spite of these obstacles the small JPA staff is moving forward to complete the original goal of a “Coast to Crest Trail” within the San Dieguito Watershed.