



Great Basin Bicycles

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**Half Moon Bay Area
30 Minutes South of San Francisco California
Skeggs Point – El Corte De Madera Creek
&
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserves**



Focus on You Photography
Mt. Lola Summit

The El Corte De Madera and Purisima Creek Open Space Reserve have tons of trails. Some are jeep roads, and the areas are just covered in trails. Most of the trails look just like the picture above, while very few are much more technical like the pictures below. Some people call this a “Credit Card” ride, where you get all of the down hill fun right up front, then have to pay for it later when you climb out. The hard part about this write up is that there are so many trails, it becomes almost impossible to do a write up. So, I am going to put up 2 of the rides that I did, so that you have an idea of what is available. But remember, the options are endless. Here are the

two maps provided by the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District. For the El Corte De Madera – Skeggs Point (which is the better of the two with tons of singletrack) goto:

http://openspace.org/preserves/maps/pr_ecdm.pdf

For the Purisima Creek Redwoods map (some singletrack, but mainly jeep road. The best trail in this area is the Whittemore Gulch Trail which is a great downhill) go to:

http://openspace.org/preserves/maps/pr_purisima.pdf

To get to the start of the ride area, depends on where you are coming from San Francisco, you can go down Highway 1 to Half Moon Bay, and take Higgins Canyon Road, or you can drop down Highway 101 on the other side of the mountain range and head west on Highway 92 then take a south on Highway 35 also called Skyline Blvd. So, I recommend getting up to Highway 35, and park at Skeggs Point Parking Area. I called Passion Trail Bikes at Passiontrailbikes.com and one of the owners (Patty) offered to take me on a loop. So she took me up to the locals starting point at Skeggs Point.

El Corte De Madera Creek Open Space Preserve – Skeggs Point - Just east of Half Moon Bay (Red Trail) Intermediate to Strong Intermediate



Now here is where I have a problem. I rode a huge trail loop that started at Skeggs Point, and rode in to the El Corte De Madera (ECDM) Open Space, then I cut across into the Purisima Creek Open Space, then rode down to Half Moon Bay where my lovely wife and child met me for lunch. My ride was 33 miles, and 5903 feet of climbing. So, get to the Skeggs Parking area and start and finish there, or get dropped off on top at Skeggs Point, and meet the rest of your group in or around Half Moon Bay. From the Skeggs Point parking area, you have to head north out of the parking area for about 100 yards, and the trail system will start on the west side of the road. Head through the gate (Gate # CM01 on the PDF Map), and from there have fun. Most of the trail system is singletrack or old jeep road. The Open Space Dist. is letting the roads revert back into singletrack, and some roads are almost there. So, you will be on and off singletrack.



Again, if you want to know which trails are the best to ride, get a hold of Passion Trail Bikes. They helped build many of the trails that currently exist. You can reach them at Passiontrailbikes.com or:

Address: 415 Old County Rd, Belmont

Phone: 650-620-9798

If you down load the PDF above for Skeggs, I took Sierra Morena to gate CM04, then took the pavement to gate CM05, then dropped down Spring Board and took a right and dropped down Gordon Mill Trail and up Timberview Trail. Then took Crosscut up around Steam Donkey, and back down to Manzanita

Trail. Then I climbed Manzanita trail, and dropped down Fir Trail, and continued down El Corte De Madera Creek Trail. Then cut left on North Leaf Trail, and continued along South Leaf Trail to gate CM10. Then I took the pavement to the right on Star Hill Road, and turned left down Tunitas Creek Road. I then crossed into Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space, and took a right at gate PC04. I followed Borden Hatch Mill Trail, a jeep road, down to Harkins Ridge Trail. I took Harkins to the right and climbed a ridiculously steep jeep road climb up to Whittemore Gulch Trail singletrack downhill. The entire loop was a ton of fun. I then followed Higgins Canyon Road into Half Moon Bay for a total of 33 miles and 5600 ft of climbing. So the options are endless, and confusing, but every intersection is marked with a post and trail names. So, it is easy to figure out where you are. Because of the regularity of fog, it is also very easy to get turned around. I highly recommend printing the PDF above and take a copy with you. The map I have below does not have all of the trails on it, only the trails that I rode that one day. But there are Lat's and Lon's on the map for your GPS viewing pleasure, and a little more area to get your bearings. Many of the entry points into ECDM SHOULD have maps available, but you never know, so print one out first. Remember, that you start at about 2200 ft, and can drop as low as 900ft, and then you have to climb back out. There are tons of short up's and down's with some very long sustained climbs.

