

✓ Shooting ban sought for Grey Whale

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SANTA CRUZ — Third District Supervisor Gary Patton has asked the Board of Supervisors to ban shooting on the 2,300-acre Grey Whale Ranch near UC Santa Cruz.

Patton, whose proposal will be considered by supervisors Tuesday, said in a letter to the board that the shooting ban was needed because the property is adjacent to an area designated by the university as a natural preserve, and because hikers, horseback riders and

cyclists frequent the Grey Whale Ranch.

Patton said university officials had "expressed concern about the safety of those who use (the) area."

The Grey Whale Ranch is owned by Ron and Linda Yanke, who have allowed hunting on the land. The Yankes have also sought to log 310 acres of the property, and their logging plans have been opposed by county supervisors, the Sierra Club and a neighborhood group called Save the Grey Whale Parklands.

The shooting issue was first raised by Ray Gwyn Smith, a logging opponent who often rides her horse on the property. Smith wrote to Patton last month that the mix of hikers, cyclists, equestrians and hunters at the ranch was "potentially hazardous."

Environmentalists are hopeful that part of the Grey Whale land will be acquired for a park.

Earlier this year, Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Monterey, and state Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville,

pushed a \$2.2-million appropriation for the Grey Whale purchase through the Legislature. But that money was blue-penciled out of the state budget by Gov. Deukmejian.

More recently, at the urging of Farr and Mello, the Legislature earmarked \$300,000 from state tobacco tax "environmental set-aside" funds for the Grey Whale property. The bill containing that appropriation is currently on Deukmejian's desk. The governor has until Oct. 1 to sign it.