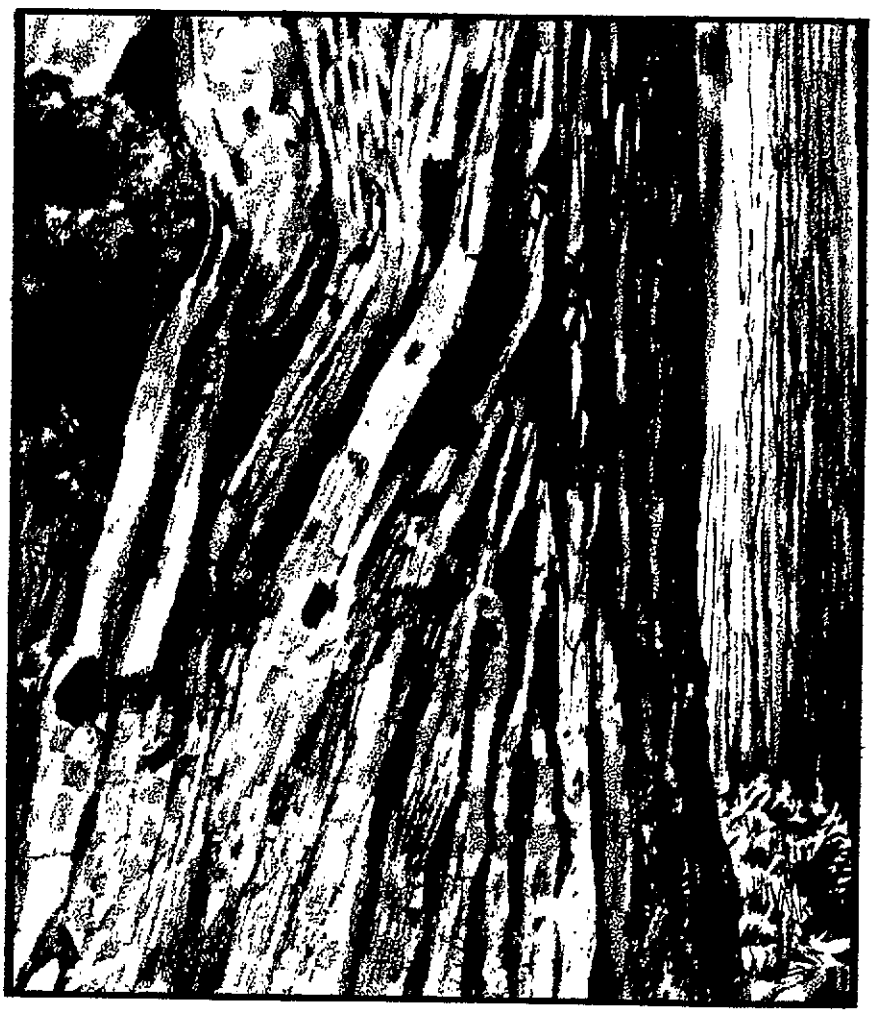
UNIT 102

JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN (*)

January 1985

(*) Note: this unit's General Plan is contained within the joint general plan document for Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP, Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP and Prairie Creek Redwoods SP



STATE REDWOODS PARKS

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

GENERAL PLAN

November 1985

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY George Deukmejian, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811

Resolution 1-85
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Crescent City on
January 11, 1985

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed State Redwoods Parks General Plan for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; and

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plans as to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of this unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's State Redwoods Parks General Plan for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, preliminary dated November 1984, with the following amendments:

A. Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

1. The Department shall further investigate the feasibility of the proposal to remove 8 family campsites from the archeological area at Jedediah Smith Area.

2. Page 59, last paragraph, amend to read . . . and it is a major objective of the Department to facilitate the removal of major highway traffic impacts from the center of the park. It is the intent of this plan to keep existing Highway 199 open for public use.

3. Page 104, under Scenic Roads, delete "pave or" with reference to Howland Hill Road and Walker Road.

4. Page 5, change "add 67 family campsites" to "add up to 150 family campsites".

B. Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

1. Develop trail head on Highway 101 with parking, interpretive facilities and connector trail to mid-point of Last Chance Trail.

C. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

1. The Department shall further study the feasibility of developing one additional beach access point just south of Fern Canyon Area (for day use only).

2. The Department shall further investigate the feasibility of the proposal to remove 15 family campsites from Elk Prairie.

3. If the Department relocates Old Highway 101 to the west, the Department shall relocate 15 family campsites from Elk Prairie to another location.

4. Page 112, Elk Prairie Area: Change "Remove 15 family campsites . . ." to "Retain 15 family campsites . . ."

5. Page 89, paragraph 4, amend to read as follows:

   POLICY: The department shall maintain the unique recreational opportunities cultural, historical, and natural resource values of Gold Bluffs Beach by managing recreational activities and vehicular access. Commercial fisherpersons and Native Americans have had traditional vehicular access to the beach, and these uses will continue without jeopardizing the very special park values. A resource management plan shall be prepared for the purpose of providing guidance in the long-term protection and enhancement of the recreational, cultural, historical, and ecological values at Gold Bluffs Beach. The plan shall include provisions for the long-term monitoring of impacts and year around 24 hour a day access for the traditional user groups. The plan would also include consideration of providing at least 2 accesses from Gold Bluffs Beach Road down to the wave slope of the sandy beach.

6. Page 116 under East Ridge Area, and Page 117 under Scenic Roads, delete "pave or" with reference to Cal-Barrel Scenic Road and An Pah Road.

7. Page 6, change "add 35 family campsites" to "add up to 100 family campsites".

D. General

1. Delete paragraph 7, page 65: "Policy: New buildings should . . ." add in its place: "Policy: All structures shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code (Title 24)."

2. Change all references to fishermen to fisherpersons.

3. The Department shall identify joint or single use horse trails and staging areas.

Subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan.

STATE REDWOODS PARKS

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

GENERAL PLAN

November 1985

George Deukmejian
Governor

Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources

Wm. S. Briner
Director

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Note: This General Plan was made ***obsolete*** on 17 Nov 1999 when a new "Final General Management Plan / General Plan" was approved by the California Park and Recreation Commission. That plan, by the National Park Service, is in two large volumes. It covers "Redwood National and State Parks, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties." It includes four parks: Redwood National Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP, Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP, and Prairie Creek Redwoods SP.

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Summary of General Plan Proposals

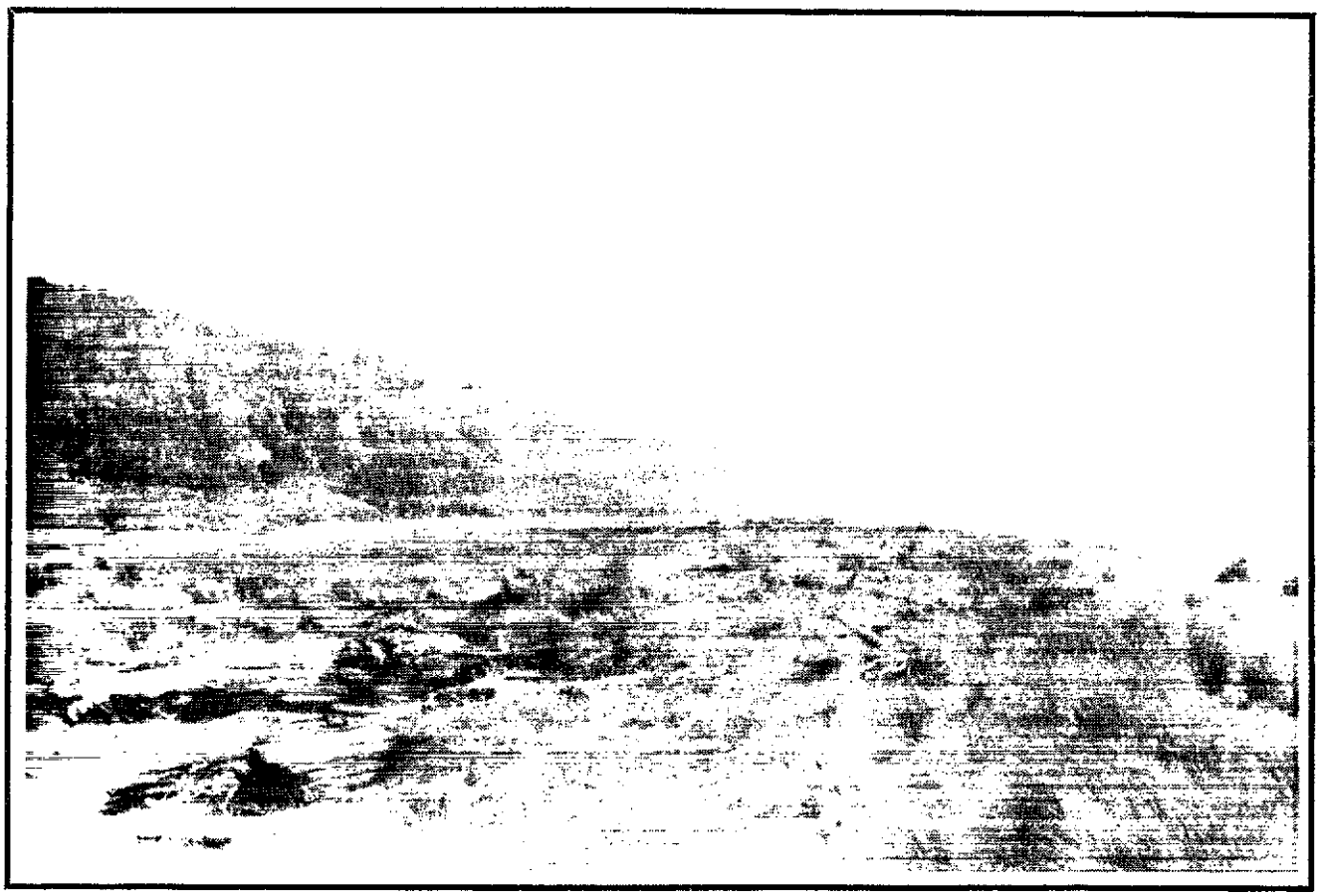


Table 1
Facilities Summary
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Facilities	Existing on DPR Property	After Implementation
Contact Stations	4	4
Visitor Center/Unit Office	2	2
Day-Use Parking Spaces	2,828	2,864
Family Campsites	352	469-617
Bike-In Campsites	55	75
Hike-In Campsites	5	25
Sanitation Station	1	2
Maintenance Area	3	2
Employee Residences	13	7
Miles of Trail	99.3	146.5*
Family Picnic Sites	75	130
Boat Launch Ramps	1	1
Trailheads	6	26

*Includes 12.8 miles of trail proposed for development on lands not owned by the State of California.
Note: "After Implementation" figures include existing facilities.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL PLAN PROPOSALS

JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK
DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

Long-range goals for these three redwoods state parks in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties are presented in this General Plan prepared by the state Department of Parks and Recreation.

This summary provides a quick reference to all proposals. The reader should refer to the separate sections of the plan for details of individual unit proposals. Discussions about land not now owned by the department have been included. These lands represent potential acquisition opportunities based on available data. However, the discussions are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and do not represent a desire, intention, or commitment for acquisition.

The General Plan establishes the department's management objectives for the three units' natural and cultural resources, visitor use, facility development, interpretation, general operation, and coordination with other public and private entities.

When fully effective, the plan's proposals will improve visitor services, further protect resources, and help offset additional expenses.

Table 1 indicates existing and proposed improvements in all three units.

To equip readers with an easy reference to the plan, this summary is organized as follows: general resource management policies, general interpretive policies, and specific unit proposals.

General Resource Management Policies

Many of the proposed resource management policies relate generally to all or most of the units. They are intended to protect natural and cultural resources, and to provide direction for future development efforts. To provide the necessary foundation for these policies, this plan establishes revised declarations of purpose for the three units, to clarify the following objectives:

-- Monitor and protect the quality and quantity of hydrologic resources in the parks.

-- Monitor unnatural erosion or sedimentation caused by construction, mining, timber harvesting, or visitor activities to ensure adequate protection of park resources.

-- Pursue non-structural methods of flood management.

-- Apply general earthquake safety criteria for construction of all new buildings.

-- Ensure that any development at beach level shall be either expendable or movable.

-- Ensure that all activities or developments which will disturb the soil surface or generate dust will include measures to restore the natural integrity of the area.

-- Protect and manage existing vegetation toward a natural condition.

-- Adopt and carry out programs for fire protection and prescribed burning to ensure perpetuation of the redwood forests and their supporting ecosystems.

-- Prohibit all new development, except trails, in primeval forests.

-- Manage existing grasslands toward a natural prairie condition.

-- Remove non-native plants.

-- Restore altered natural wildlife habitats.

-- Allow stocking of streams with native cutthroat trout only.

-- Monitor and control all stream clearance projects to ensure habitat preservation.

-- Protect wetlands in accordance with Resources Agency policy.

-- Prohibit development in red alder communities.

-- Identify, record, monitor, and protect all Native American sites.

-- Develop and carry out a program to reduce visual impairment caused by conspicuous memorial grove signs.

-- Develop a program to eliminate the generation of dust on park roads in an environmentally safe and appealing way.

-- Recommend designation of specific areas in the units to be reclassified as wilderness areas.

General Interpretive Policies

These proposals will improve the educational and informational opportunities available at the units so the public's recreational experiences can be enhanced.

-- Provide additional outdoor displays at present and future campgrounds, day-use areas, trailheads, and places of special natural and cultural resource interest.

-- Create more self-guiding trails, including a trail or trails for disabled persons.

-- Create more radio-transmitted interpretive messages for motorists driving through the parks, or on adjacent highways such as the new Highway 101 bypass.

-- Develop a redwoods slide show for use at all of the coast redwoods state parks.

Specific Unit Proposals

These proposals are provided to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources, to create or enhance recreation opportunities, and to improve operations.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

-- Monitor and make efforts to ensure preservation of the high water quality of the Smith River.

-- Survey the serpentine belt for rare, endangered, and endemic plants and their associations. Manage for their perpetuation.

-- Relocate the ranger station.

-- Add one contact station.

-- Remove 12 day-use parking spaces.

-- Add up to 150 family campsites.

-- Add three group camps.

-- Add 20 bike-in campsites.

-- Rehabilitate one campfire center, and add one campfire center.

-- Add 10 hike-in campsites.

-- Add six day-use areas.

-- Add one sanitation station.

-- Relocate the maintenance area.

-- Add 16.7 miles of new trail.

-- Develop nine trailheads.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

-- Establish a setback zone from bluff edges, equal to their projected vertical height, in which new development should be movable or expendable.

-- Add 20 day-use parking spaces.

-- Add three group camp areas.

-- Develop a campfire center.

-- Develop a permanent electric power source for unit facilities.

-- Relocate the maintenance area.

-- Develop one trailhead, and rehabilitate two others.

-- Add 12.6 miles of trail.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

-- Establish a setback zone from bluff edges, equal to their projected vertical height, in which new development should be movable or expendable.

-- Monitor bluff and beach erosion.

-- Manage vital elk habitat to give priority to its value for wildlife.

-- Allow stocking of streams and Espa Lagoon with native cutthroat trout only.

-- Adopt management plans for special attraction areas such as Elk Prairie and Fern Canyon to ensure their continued viability.

-- Establish a use policy to protect the natural resources of Gold Bluffs Beach. This will include elimination of recreational vehicle access to the beach, except for certain prescribed uses under controlled conditions.

-- Support the Highway 101 bypass proposal around the unit.

-- Develop one campfire center at the new Gold Bluffs Beach Campground, and rehabilitate one existing facility.

-- Rehabilitate the visitor center building.

-- Relocate the entry road to Gold Bluffs Beach.

-- Relocate the Elk Prairie Area contact station, and eliminate the Espa Area contact station.

-- Remove two day-use parking spaces.

-- Add up to 100 family campsites.

-- Add 10 hike-in campsites.

-- Add one sanitation station.

-- Remove six employee residences.

-- Relocate the maintenance area.

-- Add 17.9 miles of trail.

-- Develop nine trailheads.

Department of Parks and Recreation
General Plan for State Redwoods Units

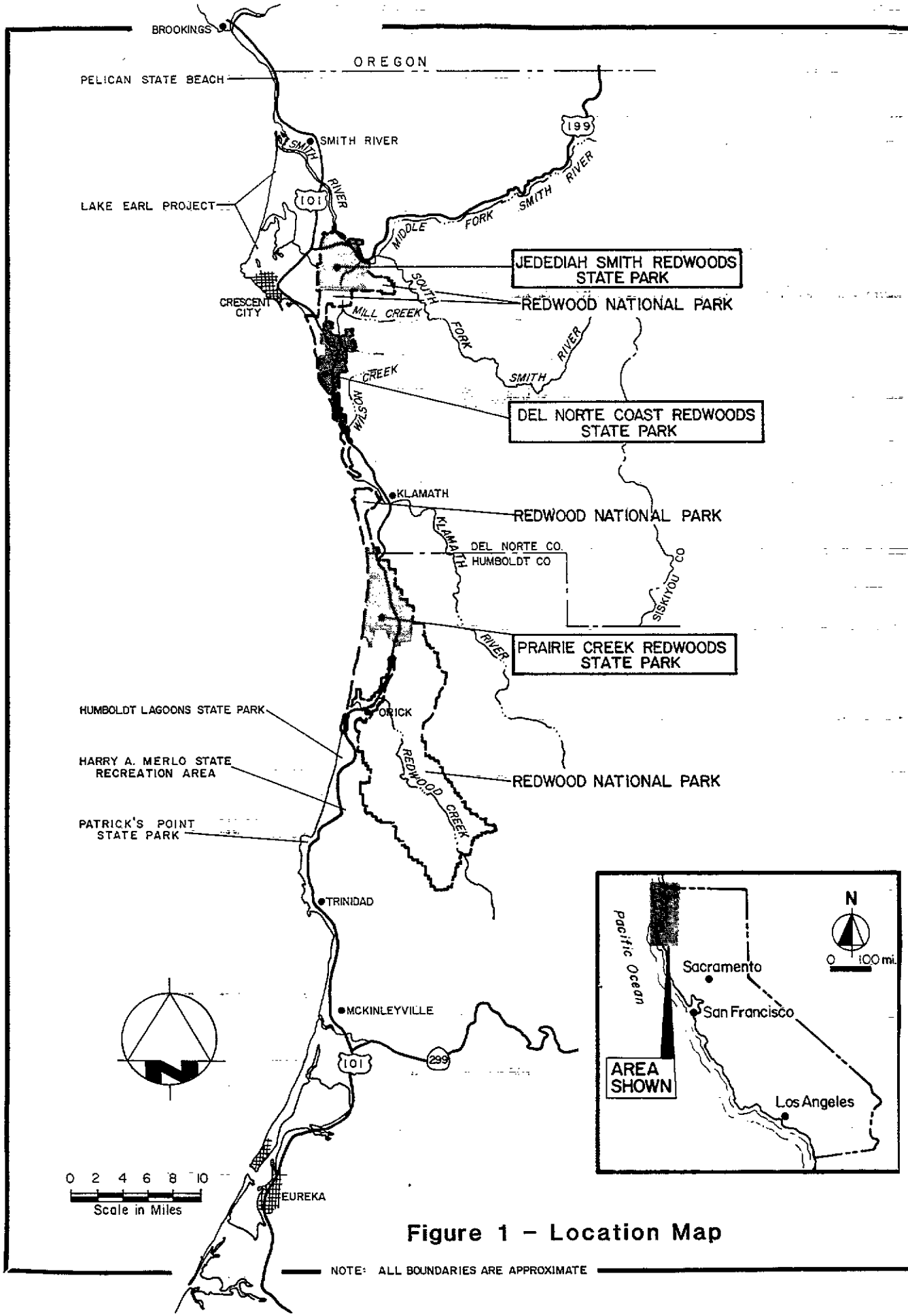


Figure 1 – Location Map

NOTE: ALL BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE

INTRODUCTION

This General Plan, prepared by the state Department of Parks and Recreation in accordance with Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code, contains individual plans for three State Park System units in the northwest redwood country of California -- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

The three state park units included in this plan, Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks, lie within the legislated boundary of Redwood National Park. They are located a few miles apart in the coastal region of Del Norte and northern Humboldt Counties, and are connected, for the most part, by corridors of federal land (see Location Map, Figure 1).

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the most northerly of the three units, is 8 kilometers (5 miles) east of Crescent City, and lies astride the last free-flowing stream in the state, the Smith River. Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park lies a few miles south of Jedediah Smith Redwoods, where it occupies the coastal ridge for a distance of 14.5 kilometers (9 miles). Between the southerly end of this unit and the northerly portion of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park are the mouth and headlands of the Klamath River. Prairie Creek Redwoods is located 74 kilometers (46 miles) north of Eureka.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to establish the department's long-term management objectives with respect to natural and cultural resources, visitor use, facility development, interpretation, and general operation. Approval of the General Plan by the state Park and Recreation Commission is required by law before budgeting any facility development that would constitute a long-term or permanent commitment of natural or cultural resources.

This plan provides sufficient information to explain the planning process, and to document relevant data used in determining specific proposals. The plan will guide future department actions until changed conditions make revisions necessary.

Unit Descriptions

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

This park is located in northwest-central Del Norte County, about 8 kilometers (5 miles) east and slightly north of the coastal town of Crescent City, the county seat. The western part of the park embraces the coastal ridge of low mountains. The park extends eastward to include the lower basin of Mill Creek and portions of the Smith River valley, both occupied by dense primeval forests of coast redwood which the park was established primarily to preserve. The Smith River forms a portion of the northern boundary of the unit.

The total area of the park is 3,869.12 hectares (9,568.46 acres).

U.S. Highway 101 passes close outside the northern half of the unit's western boundary, and U.S. Highway 199 crosses east-west through the park.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

This coastal unit embraces some 2,579.89 hectares (6,375.02 acres), and lies on the coast of Del Norte County, approximately midway between the Humboldt County line on the south and the Oregon border on the north. At its closest point, it is 4 kilometers (2-1/2 miles) south of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, with some of the land between the two included in Redwood National Park. The park is triangular in general outline, widest near the north end and tapering nearly to a point at the south. It is approximately 5 kilometers (3 miles) wide at the widest point, where it extends eastward across the coastal ridge, down into the basin of the West Branch of Mill Creek, and up into the low mountains on the east side of that stream.

Southward of the head of the West Branch, the boundary draws much closer to the ocean, and barely crosses the divide of the coastal ridge onto the watershed of Wilson Creek, which flows into the ocean about 1 kilometer (2/3 mile) north of the southerly end of the park. Redwood National Park lands exist in that area, including a narrow strip of land along the coast southward to the Klamath River and beyond.

U.S. Highway 101 traverses the park in a north-south direction throughout its length, following the crest of the coastal ridge.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Prairie Creek is the northernmost tributary of Redwood Creek, a major stream which enters the ocean near the town of Orick. The unit is located in the extreme northwest corner of Humboldt County, its northernmost extent being 0.8 kilometer (1/2 mile) into the southern portion of Del Norte County, with a little over 80 hectares (200 acres) located in that county. From there, it extends southward a total distance of 13.68 kilometers (8.5 miles), including 12.87 kilometers (8 miles) of coastline. The park's width is 6.4 kilometers (4 miles) near its south end and 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) at the north end, making it roughly triangular in shape.

The total unit area is 5,076.52 hectares (12,544.30 acres). The lands northward and southward along the coast and to the southeast into the Redwood Creek basin are all part of Redwood National Park. U.S. Highway 101 traverses the park in a north-south direction, lying close to the thread of Prairie Creek itself. Prairie Creek flows south and joins Redwood Creek at the town of Orick about 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) south of the state park boundary.

Objectives of the Plan

The General Plan will help meet all of the following specific objectives:

1. Provide for preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources.

2. Develop, as practical, the facilities needed to meet present and future recreation demands in this region, and to provide for efficient management of the area by both state and federal agencies.

3. Supply to the public appropriate interpretive services for educational and recreational purposes.

4. Equip the Department of Parks and Recreation, other agencies, and individuals with a tool for coordinating their efforts to meet these objectives.

The Planning Process

The planning process included a comprehensive evaluation of the roles various agencies are playing in providing recreational opportunities and in preserving significant natural and cultural values in this area. Current recreational patterns of the many varied segments of the state's population were also examined in order to identify specific needs to be met by these units. This information, coupled with detailed resource inventories and public comments, provided the foundation for the various development and management proposals contained in this document. The comprehensive perspective made possible by simultaneously planning all three units permitted a broad range of possible solutions to emerge, and resulted in a plan that can effectively meet the needs of California's citizens.

Outline of the General Plan

RESOURCE ELEMENT

- Summarizes the parks' natural and cultural resources.
- Establishes guidelines for restoration and protection of natural and cultural resources.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENTS

- Determines land use and visitor facilities consistent with the units' resources and visitor needs.
- Describes ways to enhance the public's recreational experience and provide for new recreational opportunities, where appropriate.
- Establishes a sequence of development for each unit.

OPERATIONS ELEMENTS

- Outlines an operational program to satisfy the unique management requirements of these units.

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

- Summarizes concession opportunities for existing and proposed park facilities.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

- Establishes themes and methods for interpretation of these units.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

- Determines potential cultural and environmental impacts of land use and facility proposals.

In its entirety, the plan acts as an informative document for the public, the legislature, department personnel, and other governmental agencies, while providing direction for operational activities and management decision making.

The General Plan Process

The process of creating a plan involves considering many public and governmental concerns and the units' existing resources and land uses, as well as any legal constraints. The following factors have guided preparation of this plan:

Natural Resources -- Before completion of this plan, an Inventory of Features was developed for these three state parks. It discusses factors relating to the parks' natural resources, including climate, topography, hydrology, geology, soils, plant life, animal life, marine life, and esthetic resources.

Through the inventory, significant resource concerns were identified for planning purposes. The plan's Resource Element summarizes the units' natural resources, and establishes resource management guidelines. (Please refer to the Resource Element for information on how natural resources have specifically shaped this plan. The inventory for these units is on file with the state Department of Parks and Recreation.)

Cultural Resources -- The Inventory of Features includes information on cultural resource survey methodology, areas covered, specific site locations, and full site descriptions. This information is summarized in the Resource Element. Problems and policies related to management of cultural resources are presented separately in the Resource Element.

Park Operation -- Consideration has been given to how the units are now being operated, and what alterations may be needed. Issues addressed in this plan include operational responsibilities, interpretive programs, and maintenance. (The Operations Element has a discussion of proposals relating to specific park operation. Also refer to the Interpretive Element for a summary of proposed interpretive programs that relate to park operation.)

Public Involvement

The public played a major role in developing this plan. Staff planners held public workshops at three critical stages of the plan's evolution. The first meetings were held May 19 and 20, 1982, in Orick and Crescent City, respectively, to identify issues the public felt should be considered. The results of those meetings are contained in Newsletter 2, which was distributed to a mailing list of some 350 recipients.

The second set of meetings, held August 2, 3, and 4, 1983, in Eureka, Orick, and Crescent City, respectively, examined various acquisition and development alternatives for each unit. The results of those meetings and comments from various public agencies are indicated in Newsletter 4, which was also distributed to the mailing list.

The third set of meetings, held December 6, 7, and 8, 1983, in Crescent City, Orick, and Eureka, respectively, allowed staff to review the preliminary plan with the public before putting it through the California Environmental Quality Act review process and taking it to the state Park and Recreation Commission for approval.

The public was notified of these workshops through press releases, which resulted in numerous newspaper articles and radio announcements, and by newsletters, announcing the meetings and their results. The mailing list was initially compiled by the National Park Service for Redwood National Park, and was added to as the planning process proceeded. Although attendance at the meetings was moderate, participation was enthusiastic and particularly helpful.

Agency Coordination

Many contacts were made with the following agencies that have, or might have, an interest in the General Plan:

Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
National Forest Service
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Rehabilitation
California Department of Transportation
State Lands Commission
California Coastal Commission
County of Del Norte
County of Humboldt

The following four government agencies have their own unique concerns, which the plan has considered:

- Del Norte and Humboldt Counties Planning Departments -- The planning departments are in charge of preparing the counties' local coastal plans (LCPs). The LCPs include policy statements which, to a certain extent, guide future development in the coastal zones of Prairie Creek Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks. The section on LCP Conformance in the Land Use and Facilities Element discusses how this plan relates to the LCPs.

- State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) -- With Highway 101 passing through Prairie Creek Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks, and Highway 199 passing through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, interaction with Caltrans becomes necessary for future development and management plans (see Land Use and Facilities Element).

- National Park Service -- These three state park units lie within the Redwood National Park boundary.

  The general plan study for these three state units has relied heavily on the large body of planning data accumulated by the National Park Service, as well as the day-to-day cooperation between state and federal operations staffs.

Del Norte and Humboldt Counties Overview

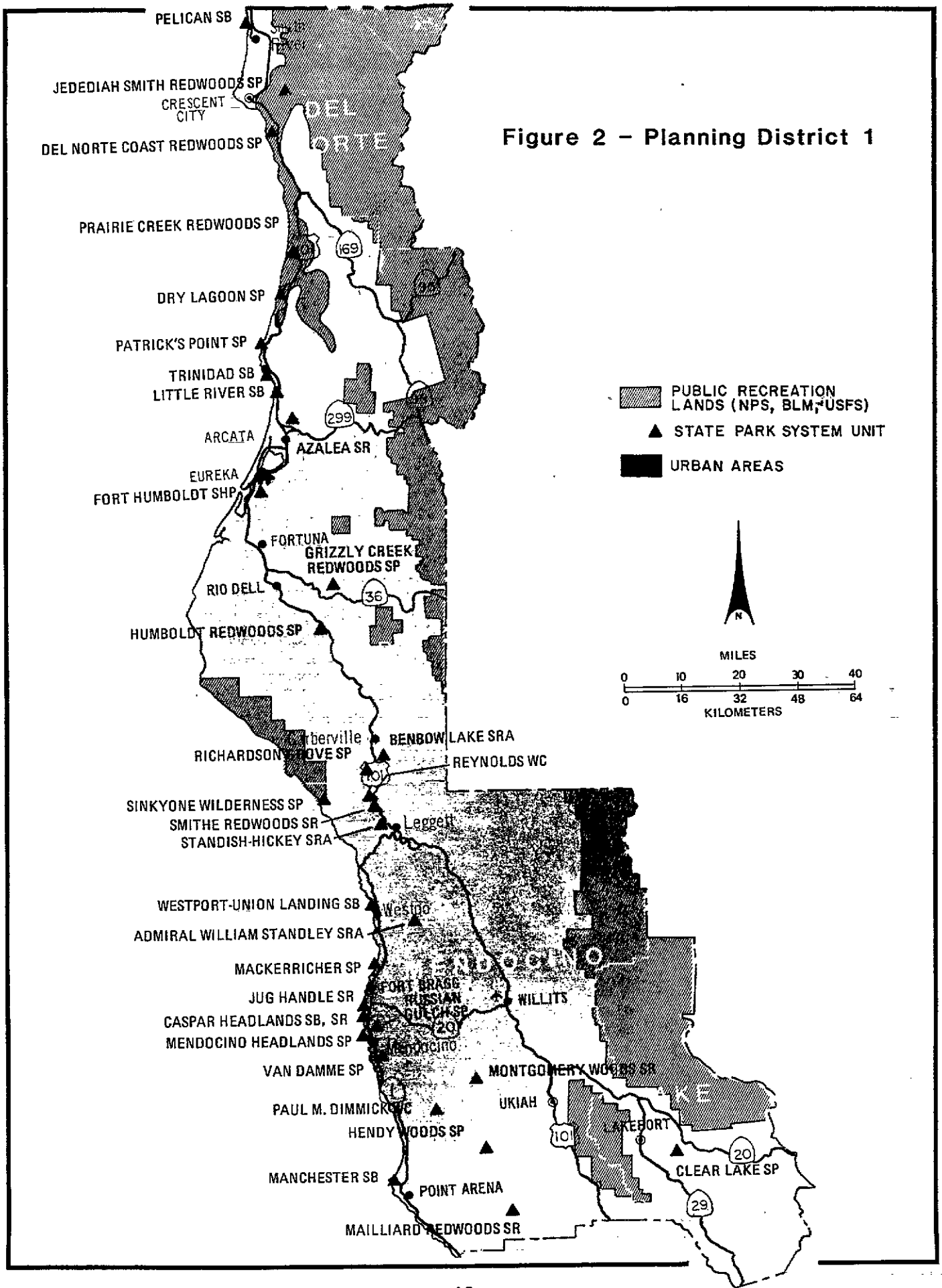


Figure 2 – Planning District 1

DEL NORTE AND HUMBOLDT COUNTIES OVERVIEW

The following section gives a brief overview of the counties so factors which affect the three units can be understood.

Physical Environment

The three state park units included in this plan are situated in the northwestern corner of the department's Planning District 1 (see Figure 2) (Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Lake Counties), in the Coastal Strip and Coast Redwoods Landscape Provinces. The Smith and Klamath Rivers and Prairie Creek have carved steep canyons through the predominant Klamath Mountains to the steep, rocky coast.

The densely forested Coast Ranges (primarily redwood and Douglas fir) receive the heaviest rainfall of any area in California, with portions receiving 250 centimeters (100 inches) of precipitation a year.

The climate along the coastal area is cool and moist, with only minor variations in temperature. Heavy fogs are nearly a daily occurrence during the summer on the coast, in contrast to the hotter and drier inland area.

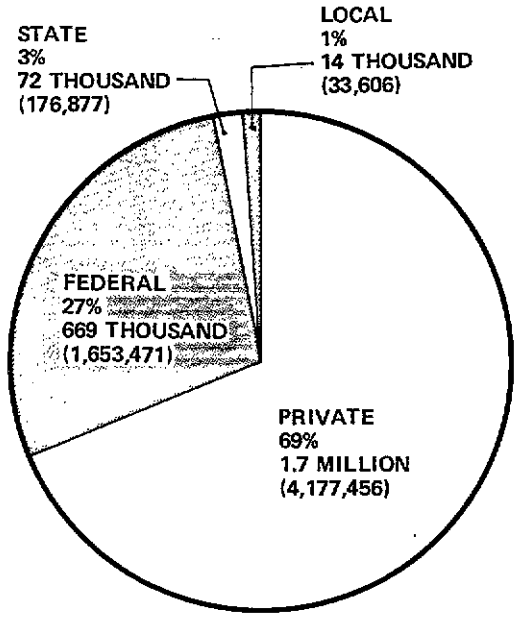
This region is a popular recreation area, with most visitors coming from outside the region. The scenic beauty of the region's resources, including the coastline, rivers, and redwood forests, as well as activities including hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking, give visitors an abundant choice of attractions. Prime destinations in the region are the many state parks, the Redwood National Park, the national forests, the rivers, the many privately owned attractions, and the historic features of quaint little towns.

Land Ownership

The department's Planning District 1 covers 2,444,880 hectares (6,041,410 acres), with public agencies managing less than one-third of the total lands in the district. Federal agencies control 27 percent, state agencies manage 3 percent, and local agencies control 1 percent of the total (see Figure 3).

The U.S. Forest Service, the largest provider of recreation acreage in primarily natural-environment areas, has small developed recreation facilities scattered over four national forests. The national forest lands receive seasonal use in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, and light year-round use in Lake and Mendocino Counties, due to their distance from major metropolitan populations. The federal Bureau of Land Management is the second largest manager of public recreation land, with 120,676 hectares (298,196 acres) classified for multiple use, which is largely undeveloped. The California Department of Parks and Recreation, through the State Park System, is the third largest public land holder, with 36,566 hectares (90,356 acres) in Planning District 1. State park lands provide a variety of recreation environments, from a natural resource orientation to developed recreation areas.

Figure 3 — Land Ownership In Planning District 1 — hectares (acres)



Source: State of California — State Lands Commission
Public Land Ownership in California, 1977

Total area — 2,444,880 (6,041,410)

Table 2 — Demand/Deficiencies — 1990

	DEMAND (millions of participation days)		DEFICIENCIES (facilities needed)			
	TOTAL DEMAND (all activities)	COMPOSITE DEMAND (picnicking, camping hiking, boating)	CAMP-SITES	PICNIC SITES	BOAT ACCESS	TRAIL MILES
Planning District 1	91.2	15.7	1,152*	6,389	4,129	482*
Statewide Total	5,017.2	428.1	109,635	149,441	101,662	28,098
% of Statewide Total	1.8%	3.7%	—	4.3%	4.1%	—

*Indicates surplus

Sociocultural Character

As of July 1978, Planning District 1 had a population of 220,100. This amounts to about 1 percent of the state's population. The population is generally concentrated along the seacoast, and in a few interior valleys. The incorporated cities are small, with Eureka and Arcata the largest at 25,000 and 13,000 persons respectively (1978). Almost two-thirds of the district's population lives in unincorporated and rural areas. All counties have experienced an increase in population from 1970 through 1978; Lake County underwent the largest change of 62 percent; at the other extreme, Humboldt County experienced only a 7 percent increase. The California Department of Finance projects that the region's population will exceed 260,000 persons by 1990.

The recreation and tourist industry is largely seasonal (summer months), as are the other economic mainstays -- the timber and wood products industry and the commercial fishing industry. A large unemployment base occurs because of the seasonal fluctuation in employment, but in recent years, the trend has been shifting toward more year-round employment.

Timber production is almost two billion board feet per year, 40 percent of total state output. Manufacturing, retail trade, and service industries (including the tourist industry) are relatively smaller in the employment base, but they are growing in importance, and give stability to a typically seasonal economy.

Regional Recreational Demand and Facility Deficiencies

The Park and Recreation Information System (PARIS) estimates that the total annual demand for recreation in Planning District 1 in 1990 will be more than 91 million participation days (see Table 2). This represents 1.8 percent of the total statewide demand for the twenty recreation activities identified by PARIS. An analysis of the demand for the activities most commonly provided by the State Park System (camping, picnicking, boating, and hiking with pack) shows 15.7 million participation days in 1990 for the planning district (or 3.7 percent of total statewide demand for these activities).

The district has not been dramatically affected by population growth and the attendant demand for recreation, but visitor use is primarily from outside the region, and who drive along Highway 101. Sightseeing and driving for pleasure are ranked high in recreation activity participation, and correlate strongly with the desire to travel to this scenic and pleasurable vacation area. Recreation activities traditional to the State Park System (picnicking, camping, hiking, boating) will apparently continue to generate a higher demand than other recreation activities in the planning district. A considerable deficiency of camping and boat access facilities is expected in 1990.

Other Park and Recreation Concerns

Through discussions with the general public, interest groups, and park and recreation administrators, as well as analyses of various plans and other studies, the following concerns emerged as key park and recreation issues in the region. While the State Park System, as a supplier, cannot take full responsibility for resolving many of these issues, it is important to identify and consider these problems when evaluating future State Park System acquisition, development, and operations programs.

Recreation Services, Management, and Access

The recreation opportunities provided in Planning District 1 by major recreation suppliers are predominantly oriented to the rich natural resources present throughout the region. The rugged, primitive coastline, large stands of forest (particularly the redwoods), bays and lagoons, and other natural features provide unique experiences for visitors.

Access to these areas is limited by the heavy seasonal travel on State Highway 1, a scenic highway, and the lack of interconnecting public roads with U.S. Highway 101 (the Redwood Highway) in the interior of the region. Facilities are overtaxed and often full during the summer.

A conflict exists between the lumber industry and the large influx of tourists, as recreational vehicles and lumber trucks compete for road space. Insufficient recreation lands have been developed to satisfy the recreation demand.

A potential exists for federal and state recreation suppliers, individually and in concert, to expand recreation facilities and visitor services, and to increase public access. There is a need to increase operational cooperation between federal and state park agencies in the area of visitor services, interpretation, and law enforcement.

Coastal Resources

The north coast is a unique part of the California coastline. The shoreline is primarily high bluffs and cliffs eroded by pounding surf, with coves, inlets, lagoons, headlands, rock outcroppings, and an occasional sandy beach. The unobstructed ocean views, with expanses of forest as a backdrop, provide outstanding scenic values. Rich marine life thrives in the cold offshore reefs and waters. As much of this coastline as possible should be preserved and left for the millions of future visitors to enjoy. Underwater habitats, as well as terrestrial areas, should be preserved. Nature observation facilities and expanded interpretation of natural values would increase visitor appreciation.

Park Acquisition and Economy

Since much of the area is rural in character, and many residents work and play out-of-doors, the "environmental ethic" is not as much of an issue among residents as in other planning districts. Furthermore, many residents are reluctant to have public agencies acquire or convert additional lands for public recreation purposes. They feel that there is already abundant land in public ownership, and that further public land acquisition will lower the tax base and eliminate job opportunities, particularly with the logging industry. In the acquisition of Redwood National Park, Public Law 95-250 provided for extensive systems for retraining those engaged in the logging industry; this law is being carried out. The success of such ventures is mixed.

Public land management agencies must address this sensitive situation in their recreation and preservation programs for the region. A dichotomy exists between local resentment of the large intrusion of tourists into the area and

the positive impact on the local economy these same tourists provide. The employment base is already depressed and largely seasonal, so a meaningful balance between jobs and protection or enhancement of natural resources is a legitimate objective.

Existing State Park System Resources

Planning District 1 was one of the early target areas for acquisition and development of the State Park System, primarily motivated by public desire to preserve stands of coast redwoods. The greatest period of growth for the State Park System in the region occurred before World War II.

In July 1978, State Park System lands in Planning District 1 consisted of 36,566 hectares (90,356 acres) (see Table 3). This represents slightly over 9 percent of the lands in the entire State Park System. Approximately one-third of this area is made up of state park units in predominantly coastal redwood areas. The largest units in the region preserve stands of redwoods: Humboldt Redwoods State Park -- 18,951 hectares (46,828 acres); Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park -- 5,077 hectares (12,554 acres); and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park -- 3,718 hectares (9,188 acres).

The State Park System in Planning District 1 controls more than 73 kilometers (45.6 miles) of ocean frontage. In addition, there is substantial river frontage -- 62 kilometers (35.5 miles).

In all, Planning District 1 has 34 State Park System units, almost half of which (16) are state parks. The state parks attract a substantial majority of the visitors to the region. State reserves show the second largest amount of visitor use (Figure 4).

Existing Federal Resources

The thrust of federal recreation suppliers in Planning District 1 is toward providing natural resource-based opportunities. The U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, the three major federal suppliers of recreation, provide 797,403 acres of land for recreation. National Park Service facilities are primarily geared to interpretive functions at Redwood National Park.

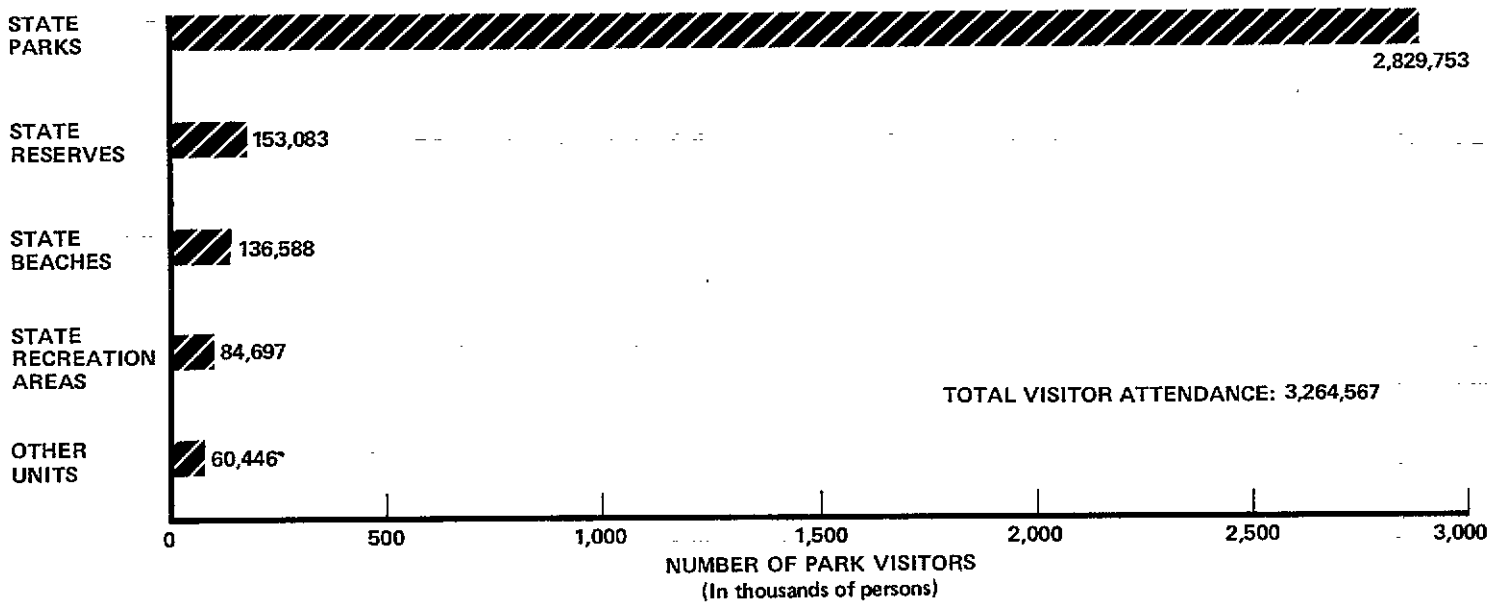
National Park Service facilities provide a wide variety of functions, including local, regional, and state information, interpretation, trails, backcountry camping, maintenance, research, watershed rehabilitation, and resources management.

Table 3 — Existing State Park System Resources In Planning District 1 July 1978

UNIT	*LAND AREA Hectares	(acres)	WATERFRONT Meters	(ft) O,L,R**	CAMP UNITS	PICNIC UNITS	TRAIL MILES	VISITOR (1977-78) ATTENDANCE
Clear Lake SP	228.62	(564.94)	3,475	(11,400)L	82	31	3.50	129,338
Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP	2,579.89	(6,375.02)	11,668	(38,280)O	145	7	12.00	87,654
Dry Lagoon SP	419.44	(1,036.45)	723	(31,900)O	30	4		99,019
Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP	94.80	(234.25)	2,957	(9,700)R	30	34	2.53	24,352
Hendy Woods SP	248.08	(613.02)	4,968	(16,300)R	92	10	5.00	60,071
Humboldt Redwoods SP	18,950.86	(46,828.29)	33,561	(110,108)R	260	88	132.00	734,586
Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP	3,718.26	(9,188.00)	10,455	(34,300)R	108	55	13.50	233,565
MacKerricher SP	610.10	(1,507.53)	12,737	(41,787)O	143	7	7.00	417,230
Mendocino Headlands SP	140.31	(346.71)	3,048	(10,000)O			3.00	80,857
Patrick's Point SP	255.81	(632.11)	5,368	(17,610)O	123	43	6.00	132,927
Prairie Creek Redwoods SP	5,076.52	(12,544.30)	9,717	(31,880)O	125	23	90.50	355,799
			122	(400)R				
Richardson Grove SP	352.90	(872.02)	1,829	(6,000)R	169	20	8.30	295,981
Robert L. Stevenson SP (see PD4)	80.33	(198.50)						
Russian Gulch SP	526.24	(1,300.37)	3,331	(10,930)O	30	14	12.00	74,135
Sinkyone Wilderness SP	35.97	(88.89)	642	(2,105)O				5,470
Van Damme SP	875.34	(2,163.00)	518	(1,700)O	74	10	4.50	98,769
Caspar Headlands SB	1.19	(2.95)	122	(400)O				1,712
Little River SB	45.47	(112.36)	1,219	(4,000)O				
Manchester SB	393.21	(971.65)	4,968	(16,298)O	46			85,378
Pelican SB	2.08	(5.15)	297	(975)O				
Trinidad SB	64.21	(158.67)	3,298	(10,820)O		10	1.30	49,498
Westport-Union Landing SB	16.57	(40.95)	5,276	(17,310)O				
Azalea SR	12.14	(30.00)				5	2.00	29,066
Caspar Headlands SR	1.09	(2.70)	732	(2,400)O				
Jug Handle Creek SR	257.19	(635.53)	792	(2,600)O			2.50	38,698
Mailliard Redwoods SR	97.93	(242.00)						
Montgomery Woods SR	462.30	(1,142.36)						
Smithe Redwoods SR	251.80	(622.22)	1,292	(4,240)R				85,319
Admiral William Standley SRA	18.29	(45.22)	975	(3,200)R				
Benbow Lake SRA	217.11	(536.48)	8,885	(29,150)L	76	30	2.50	33,561
Standish-Hickey SRA	370.46	(915.43)	2,807	(9,210)R	162	8	6.40	51,136
Fort Humboldt SHP	4.77	(11.78)				6	.40	31,833
Paul M. Dimmick WC	4.78	(11.81)	716	(2,350)R	28	6		28,613
Reynolds WC	151.76	(375.00)	2,743	(9,000)R				
TOTAL	36,565.68	(90,355.46)	73,456	(240,995)O	1,723	411	314.93	3,264,567
			12,360	(40,550)L				
			62,425	(204,808)R				

*Included Leased Areas
**O-Ocean, L-Lake, R-River

Figure 4 — Visitor Attendance For State Park System In Planning District 1 (by classification) FY 1977-78



Source: DPR Comparative Visitor Attendance Report 1977-78

Table 4
USFS, BLM, and NPS Facilities

	No. of Areas	Camp Sites	Picnic Tables	Picnic Acres	Trails (miles)	Total Acreage
Del Norte	26	128	20	166	96	429,620
Humboldt	47	304	24	450	896	367,783

Existing City and County Resources

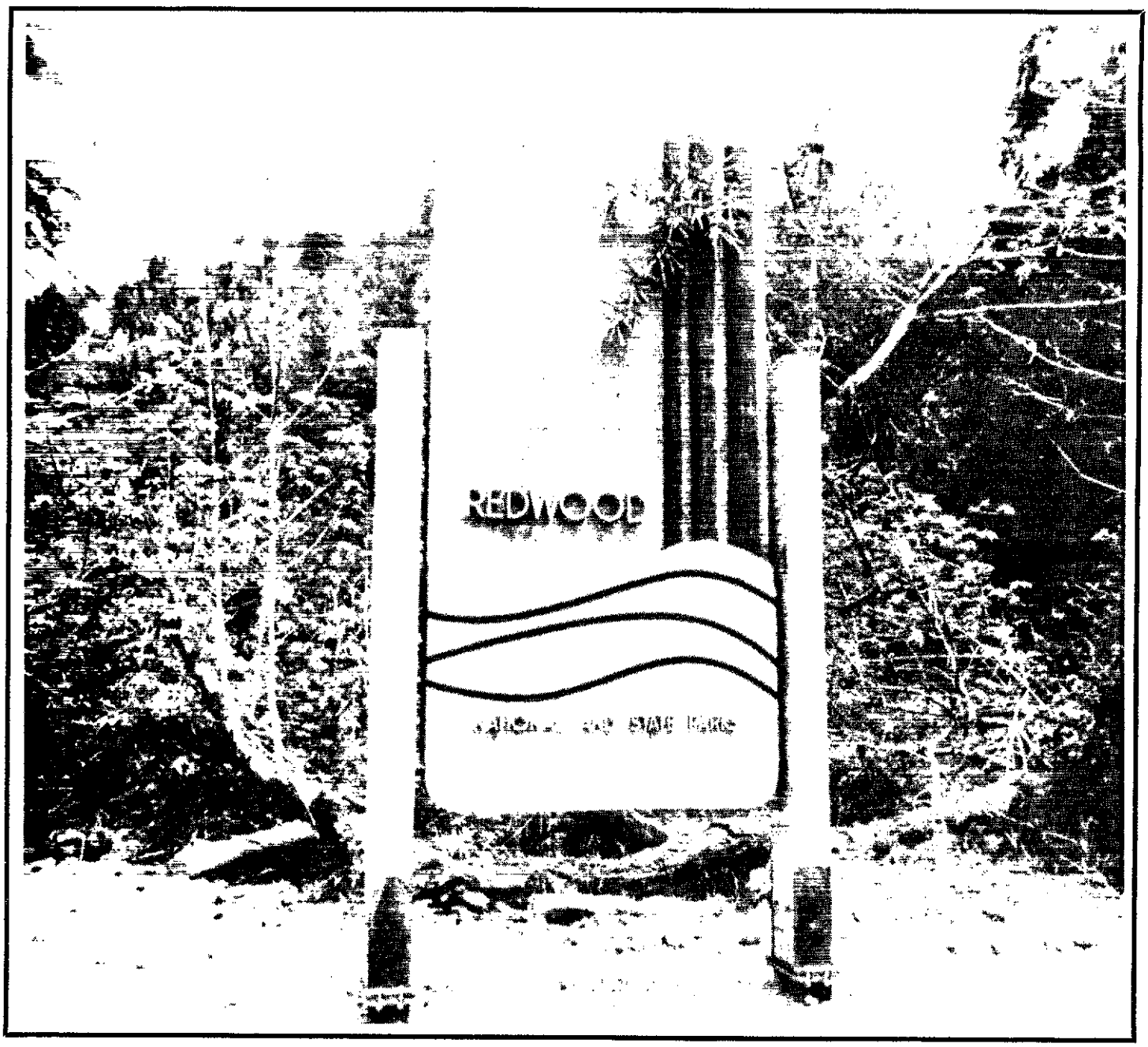
Local agencies in Planning District 1 meet the day-to-day needs of their clientele through regional parks, local parks, and special use areas.

Table 5
Locally Managed Recreation Areas

	Regional		Local		Special Use	
County	No. of Areas	Acreage	No. of Areas	Acreage	No. of Areas	Acreage
Del Norte	1	52	7	86	4	7
Humboldt	10	2,045	18	97	12	156

County	Campsites	Picnic Tables	Trails (miles)
Del Norte	109	91	42
Humboldt	69	255	8

National Park Service General Management Plan for Redwood National Parks



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

An Overview

Redwood National Park was established by Congress in 1968 to preserve some 58,000 acres of northern California coastal redwood forest for public inspiration, enjoyment, and study (Public Law 90-545). However, the original park boundary did not include enough land to ensure the degree of preservation for Redwood Creek that had been envisioned. Therefore, this act was amended in 1978 by Public Law 95-250, which states in part. . .

> ". . .to protect existing irreplaceable Redwood National Park resources from damaging upslope and upstream land uses, to provide a land base sufficient to ensure preservation of significant examples of the coastal redwood in accordance with the original intent of Congress, and to establish a more meaningful Redwood National Park for the use and enjoyment of visitors."

Among other things, the 1978 legislation expanded the park by 48,000 acres in the Redwood Creek watershed; provided for rehabilitation of that watershed; authorized acquisition of lands for a traffic bypass of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; provided for reduction of local economic impacts resulting from park expansion, including impacts on local employment; and required preparation of a general management plan.

The National Park Service's General Management Plan for Redwood National Park was completed in August 1980, and is intended to guide management of the park for a ten-year period. It outlines specific actions for visitor use and facilities development, cultural resources management, and natural resources management (including the broad objectives of rehabilitation of the Redwood Creek watershed).

Most of the superlative redwood groves, except for those in the Redwood Creek unit, lie within three magnificent redwood state parks, which are tied together by corridors of federal park land. Of the national park's total authorized 106,000 acres of land area, 27,470 acres are in state parks.

The 1980 General Management Plan outlines the proposed facility development to occur on the 78,530 acres outside the State Park System units. These proposals include, by management units, the following:

Table 6
Redwood National Park -- General Management Plan

Proposed Facilities	Park Planning/Management Units						
	Jed. Smith	Del Norte	Kla-math	Prairie Creek	Orick	Redwood Creek	Totals
Activity Center (Visitor Center)	1		1		1		3
Activity Site (Interpretive Display)		3	1				4
Picnic Sites	25	25		20	10		80
Day-Use Parking Spaces	150	45	30	140		50	415
Family Campsites (Vehicle)	43			50			93
Walk-In Campsites		12	10	75			97
Primitive Campsites (Backpack)	10		10			25	45
Miles of Trail	6	4	3	4		40	57

In addition to these proposals, existing public accommodation facilities in the three State Park System units include, by park:

Table 7

Facilities (Existing)	Jedediah Smith RSP	Del Norte Coast RSP	Prairie Creek RSP	Totals
Family Campsites	108	142	102	352
Hike-In Campsites	---	---	35	35
Bike-In Campsites	15	---	20	35
Family Picnic Sites	50	---	25	75
Day-Use Parking Spaces	933	531	1,364	2,828
Trailheads	1	2	3	6
Visitor Centers	1	---	1	2
Campfire Centers	1	1	1	3
Trailer Sanitation Stations	---	1	---	1
Trail Miles	19.7	14.9	64.7	99.3
Boat Launch Ramp	1	---	---	1

This plan proposes to add to these existing developments the following visitor accommodation facilities, by park:

Table 8

Facilities (Proposed)	Jedediah Smith RSP	Del Norte Coast RSP	Prairie Creek RSP	Totals
Family Campsites	112	---	50	160
Hike-In Campsites	10	---	30	40
Bike-In Campsites	20	---	---	20
Family Picnic Sites	35	---	20	55
Day-Use Parking Spaces	-12	20	28	36
Trailheads	9	1	9	19
Visitor Centers	---	1	---	1
Campfire Centers	1	---	1	2
Trailer Sanitation Stations	---	---	1	1
Trail Miles	16.7	12.6	17.9	47.2
Boat Launch Ramp	---	---	---	---
Group Campsites	3	3	---	6

These new facilities represent the maximum development feasible without adversely affecting the natural and cultural values present in these units.

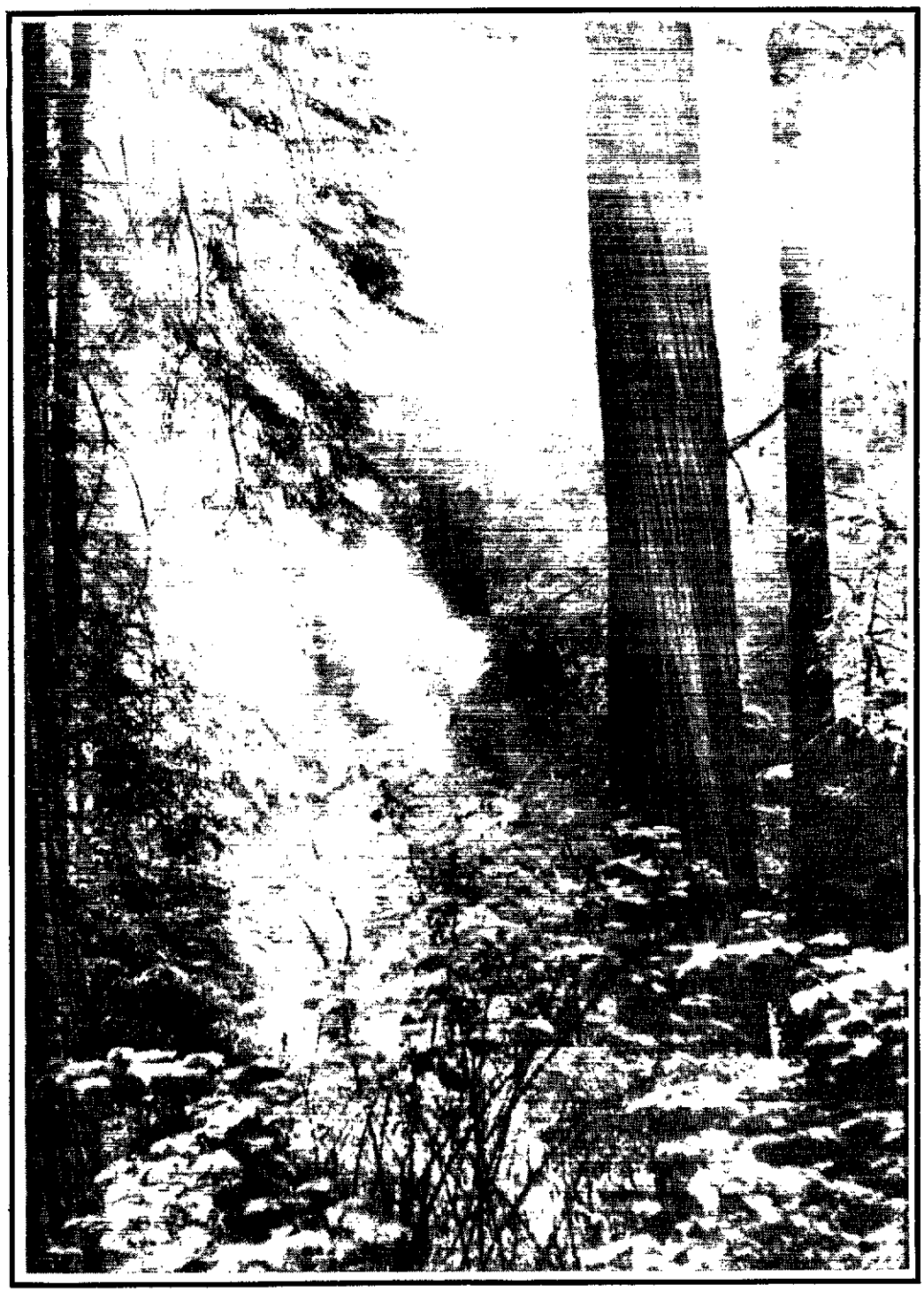
The Role and Relationship of the State Department of Parks and Recreation

Planning for Redwood National Park presupposed that the state and county parks would be donated to the federal government for national park purposes. Two county parks (one each in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties) and 8.3 miles of county roads have been donated to the National Park Service.

In the interim, harmonious working relations among the involved agencies have been established at the operating level. A joint project to construct a portion of the coastal trail from Last Chance Road in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park through Redwood National Park land to Wilson Creek has been completed. National Park Service interpretive displays have been installed in a number of sites on state park land, and various interpretive programs have been conducted by NPS staff at state park campfire centers.

While it is the assumption of this plan that the California Department of Parks and Recreation will continue to manage these three parks separately but cooperatively with Redwood National Park, the plan provides a system of facilities which will complement the federal proposals, and which will allow the state operational staff the flexibility to share activities and responsibilities with their federal counterparts. As this need for additional recreational facilities to accommodate the public increases, it is felt that the less spectacular lands included in the national park should be considered for more development potential than is currently identified in the National Park Service General Management Plan. Only in this way can the most outstanding resources be protected while serving the public's desire to experience them.

Resource Element



RESOURCE ELEMENT

Legal Basis of the Resource Element

The Resource Element as a key portion of the general plan is required by the Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b). This section provides that the Resource Element shall contain, among other things, a declaration of purpose for the unit and a declaration of resource management policy.

Inasmuch as these are controlling documents which necessarily must influence the remainder of the general plan, the state Park and Recreation Commission and the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation adopted a measure which states, in part, as follows:

"The general plan shall consist of a resource element, a land use element, a facilities element, and an operations element. In order that it shall act as a guide and constraint, the resource element will be prepared, made available for public comment, and approved by the director before substantial work is done on any other elements of the plan."

This measure became Section 4332 of Title 14, Division 3, of the California Administrative Code, and has the force and effect of law.

Scope and Content of This Document

In order that the Resource Element can be used as an independent document, without requiring frequent reference to the Inventory of Features, the following section contains a summary of the inventory, with brief statements on the extent and nature of each kind of park resource present, and evaluations of their significance, as appropriate. The various sections of the Inventory of Features are available through the Resource Protection Division of the department. Each section of the inventory contains an extensive list of references. A briefer list of references will be found in this Resource Element; citations in the text of the summary are to this list.

Following that is the policy portion of the Resource Element, with sections on classification of the unit, declarations of purpose that have been adopted, together with proposed changes, and declaration of resource management policy, containing specific management directives for each of the kinds of resources that are perpetuated and managed in these state parks. Each of these sections represents an element that is required by law, in one or more sections of the Public Resources Code, each of which is referred to at the appropriate place in the text. The section on Allowable Use Intensity is included pursuant to the code requirement for an analysis of carrying capacity (Section 5019.5).

Inventory Summary

This section is a summary of the factual data contained in the Inventory of Features for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. For more complete or detailed information, please refer to the inventory. An abridged list of references, applicable to this summary, will be found at the end of this section. More complete lists of references are contained in the Inventory of Features.

Summary of Resources, with Evaluations

Natural Resources -- Physical

TOPOGRAPHY

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

The coastal plain in the vicinity of Crescent City is from 5 to 8 kilometers (3 to 5 miles) wide, quite flat, and originally was densely forested, for the most part. A range of low mountains separates this plain from the watershed of the Smith River in the interior, the ridge tapering off to the north where the Smith River breaks through it and flows across the plain into the ocean. Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park has as its western boundary the western base or lower slope of this coastal ridge, and from there it extends inland approximately 6-1/2 kilometers (4 miles) to and just beyond the Smith River itself, embracing also the lower or north part of the basin of Mill Creek, a major tributary of the Smith River. The south boundary of the park is on an east-west line in the same latitude as Crescent City, and from there the park extends northward approximately 8 kilometers (5 miles), where it reaches its narrowest point along the Smith River. The park thus embraces about 8 kilometers (5 miles) of the north-south length of the coastal ridge, on the west; the gentler basin of Mill Creek, in the central portion; and an irregular and somewhat higher mountain mass to the southeast. Maximum elevation of the coastal ridge, where the park boundary crosses it near the southwest corner of the park, is slightly over 180 meters (600 feet); whereas the highest elevation in the park is near the southeast corner at a little over 400 meters (1,300 feet). The park lies entirely within the Coast Redwood Landscape Province.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

The most prominent topographic feature in this park is the coastal ridge, which dominates the park for its full length and most of its width, and which drops off into the ocean along the west side in a long and very abrupt series of bluffs. The highest elevation in the park is in the north central part, along the coastal ridge, at approximately 400 meters (1,300 feet). U.S. 101, the Redwood Highway, ascends the coastal slope northerly from sea level at the mouth of Wilson Creek, then adheres closely to the crest of the coastal ridge, crossing a saddle at 375 meters (1,225 feet) near the highest point of the park, from which point it descends again along the western slope toward the coastal plain and Crescent City. The maximum elevation in the inland part of the park (east of Mill Creek) is about 340 meters (1,120 feet). The extreme seaward part of this park lies in the Coastal Strip Landscape Province, while the balance is in the Coast Redwood Province.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Along the west side of the Prairie Creek watershed is a ridge of low mountains locally known as West Ridge, which terminates near the ocean in a series of bluffs, from 30 to 120 meters (100 to 400 feet) in height and nearly vertical. These are the Gold Bluffs, and the magnificent beach that lies at their foot is referred to as Gold Bluffs Beach. The corresponding ridge on the east side of the Prairie Creek watershed is locally known as East Ridge, and it divides

that watershed (and that of Redwood Creek) from the basin of the Klamath River. The eastern boundary of the park lies approximately along the crest of East Ridge, but a few parcels of land in the Prairie Creek drainage are not included in the park. The highest point of West Ridge reaches 300 meters (1,000 feet) in elevation, in the central part of the park. The highest elevations in the park are along East Ridge, however, where an altitude of around 450 meters (1,500 feet) is attained. A narrow zone along the coast lies in the Coastal Strip Landscape Province; the rest of the park is in the Coast Redwood Province.

CLIMATE

The coast of extreme northwestern California enjoys what might be called a modified or coastal Mediterranean climate. This region, like most of the rest of California, receives practically all of its precipitation in the winter months, in this case from November through April. The summers are long and largely dry, but not necessarily hot in this particular region, because of its proximity to the ocean. The Pacific has a moderating influence not only on the temperature of the air masses, making both summers and winters quite mild, but also on the humidity. Cold ocean currents relatively close to the shore give rise to a great deal of low cloudiness (fog) in the summertime. The fog can blow in against the coastal hills and through the passes, or sometimes will overtop the coastal hills when it is thicker or more abundant. During extremely foggy periods, the fog may persist not only all day but sometimes for several days at a time, and the maximum and minimum temperatures on such days will be only a few degrees apart. The fog frequently condenses on the tree leaves and branches and drips to the ground, thus not only freshening the vegetation but providing measurable precipitation in some instances.

Figures developed by the National Park Service indicate that the mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures at Crescent City are 15.8° and 7.1°C (60.4° and 44.8°F); while at Orick, the corresponding figures are 16.2° and 6°C (61.1° and 42.8°F).

Precipitation is relatively heavy in this forested coastal region. Precipitation, nearly all in the form of rain, ranges from 150 to 300 centimeters (60 to more than 100 inches) per year, with the highest figures applying to areas somewhat inland from the immediate coast. Crescent City and Orick both have an average precipitation of around 175 centimeters (70 inches); the town of Klamath, although located between the others, receives around 220 centimeters (87 inches) annually.

Because most of the rainfall comes in the winter and the early spring season, it provides very little inconvenience to visitors, most of whom come in the summer. Winter snowfall is not common, but occasionally does occur. The fog, however, can be a mixed blessing. While it offers a pleasantly cool environment for people coming from the hot portions of the interior of California or other western states, the weather is sometimes almost too cold by contrast; it is certainly not conducive to the best vista photography.

WATER FEATURES AND HYDROLOGY

Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks are all located in the North Coastal Area hydrologic basin, which extends along the coast from the California-Oregon border to just north of San Francisco. Within the basin, three major river networks encompass the parks -- the Smith River, the Klamath River, and the Mad River - Redwood Creek drainages. The river basins have been broken down further in terms of the parks and their respective tributary watersheds. The Inventory of Features discusses the characteristics of approximately 23 minor tributary watersheds in the three parks.

The hydrologic characteristics of the area are heavily influenced by topography, meteorology, and geology. The rugged, forested terrain consists of narrow valleys and steep ridges that generally run parallel to the coast in a northwest-southeast direction. Many small streams flow directly to the ocean, while the larger rivers have tributary systems that extend far inland from the coast. The area experiences some of the highest seasonal rainfall in the United States, with little or none stored as snow. Heavy surface runoff between November and April occurs in direct response to the high rainfall amounts experienced, with correspondingly low amounts of runoff during the dry season. Geologic formations are relatively weak, and soils are somewhat impermeable, resulting in a high erosion potential for the area. The combination of these factors -- steep topography with a lack of large valleys; weak rock; relatively impermeable soil; and high seasonal rainfall -- results in not only rapid, heavy runoff, but high sediment loads in area streams. Human activity has intensified the already high rates of natural erosion. At the present time, no structures exist that regulate and/or divert the flow through the parks, although, historically, minor amounts of water have been used for domestic, agricultural, mining, and industrial purposes.

Groundwater aquifers are few in number and small in supply throughout the north coast area. Major groundwater basins are located near the mouths of rivers at the coast in alluvial deposits, marine terrace deposits, and dune sands. The Smith River groundwater basin is located in the central lowland surrounding the river mouth and Lakes Earl and Talawa, where a high water table exists. Another minor groundwater basin is located in the alluvial deposits along the lower floodplain of Redwood Creek. The quantity of minerals in solution in these two basins is generally low, although potential localized problems could exist for seawater intrusion and trace minerals. The parks themselves are located in the mountainous uplands which are underlain by bedrock materials and, therefore, are areas of minor groundwater supply.

The rivers of the region flood periodically, due to the heavy amounts and seasonal concentration of rain between November and April. The floodplain areas experience damage to human settlements, agriculture, transportation networks, and, often, life. Human activity increases runoff and sediment transport by removal of vegetation for timber harvesting, agriculture, grazing, and mining. The additional sediment is deposited in stream channels, reducing capacity and gradient, obstructing flow, and changing the form and dynamics of the channel bottom. Flooding in the lower reaches is also commonly caused by high tides in conjunction with heavy runoff, and is often augmented by wind. Localized flooding is common in small watersheds, as described in the Inventory of Features. They often receive heavy rainfall

throughout the watershed, in contrast with larger networks that may experience a diffusion of runoff through an extensive tributary system. The Smith River represents the greatest flood potential at these parks; it is the largest stream within unit boundaries.

Water quality in the region is generally good, exhibiting consistent characteristics from year to year and during seasonal trends. Major problems to be faced are of a nonpoint source nature which are geographically widespread, difficult to define, and the result of long-held land use practices. Activities that commonly affect water quality include logging, grazing, mining, construction, sand and gravel operations, and wastewater effluent disposal. Excessive concentrations of mercury are found throughout the region, as well as higher levels of aluminum, iron, manganese, and nickel (Jones and Stokes, 1981).

Sedimentation, turbidity, and debris are the Smith River basin's most serious water quality problems, about 40 percent of which can be attributed to human activity such as logging, road construction, and maintenance. Mining activity has a high potential for causing water quality problems in the Smith River watershed. The Smith River is one of the purest rivers in California. The water is hard, however, and occasionally reaches temperatures harmful to fish. It also appears to exhibit a slight cadmium pollution problem (Jones and Stokes, 1981).

Similar human activities affect water quality in the Mad River - Redwood Creek basin, resulting in problems for oyster rearing, fish spawning, and domestic water supply. In addition, heavy siltation occurs naturally due to high rainfall, steep slopes, and unstable soil. Stream waters are typically soft and of a calcium-bicarbonate classification, with low levels of dissolved minerals and sodium. Redwood Creek exhibits problems with dissolved oxygen, temperature, heavy metals, and pesticides (Jones and Stokes, 1981).

GEOLOGY

Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks all lie in the Northern Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province. The coast ranges extend from Santa Barbara County northward, well into Oregon. The northern coast ranges are bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east by the Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province. The coast ranges province has a northwest structural grain, in contrast to the generally north-trending coastline. Mountain ranges and drainages approximately parallel the northwest structural fabric of the province. Geologic research has been relatively limited in this remote area of complex geologic relationships, few outcrops, and dense forest cover. Unpublished reconnaissance mapping by Rice has recently been augmented by Kelsey (1981), Davenport (1983), and Aalto and Harper (1982). Beck (1957) studied the geology and groundwater of the Smith River plain, and Blake and Jones (1981) summarized the regional tectonics and developed a model that would explain local features which do not follow classic or simplistic plate tectonic relationships. Irwin (1960) studied the northern coast ranges and Klamath Mountains on a reconnaissance level; this work has proved extremely useful in evaluating the regional geologic relationships. Smith (1978) mapped relative slope stability for Prairie Creek Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks as part of a study prepared for Redwood National Park.

Regional Geology

All three park units contain rocks ranging in age from Jurassic-Cretaceous to Recent. Rocks of the Franciscan Complex (the oldest exposed rocks in the parks) make up the basement of the area. The Franciscan represents ancient sea floor material which has been scraped off of the sea floor and accreted to the edge of the North American continent. This complex and diverse collection of rocks contains blocks of graywacke ("dirty" sandstone with rock fragments), shale, altered volcanic rocks (greenstone), and ultramafic metamorphic rocks (blueschist, peridotite, and serpentine). The Franciscan Complex has been divided into three categories along the north coast -- Broken Formation, meta-graywacke, and melange. The Broken Formation consists primarily of massive graywacke sandstone and interbedded sandstones and mudstone, fragmented into either bedded or massive blocks in a shaly matrix. Small blocks of greenstone (altered volcanic rock) and bedded chert, which occur along the fault zones, are included in this formation. The meta-graywacke consists of foliated metamorphosed graywacke units. The schists and semi-schists generally show textural zone II metamorphism (Blake and others, 1967). Blocks of meta-chert and meta-greenstone are also found in this unit. The Franciscan melange is a tectonically disrupted collection of boulder- to slab-sized fragments of conglomerate, graywacke, shale, chert, meta-graywacke, greenstone, and serpentinized ultramafic rock in a sheared, shaly matrix.

Young marine terrace and alluvial deposits of sand, gravel, conglomerate, silt, and clay are unconformably situated on top of the Franciscan.

The north coast area is tectonically very active. Substantial faulting and folding are responsible for the disrupted and sheared nature of the basement. Offsets along small-scale faults show evidence of very recent tectonism. Ocean-level fluctuations, combined with regional compression and subsequent uplift, have resulted in the definition of multiple marine and river terrace levels. As uplift continues, accelerated downcutting and oversteepening occurs along streams and sea cliffs, resulting in landslides and severe erosion. Timber harvest practices have greatly increased erosion and sedimentation in the region, as have grazing, road construction, mining, and land development.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

The rocks of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park are primarily weathered and fractured graywackes of the Franciscan Complex, Broken Formation. The rocks are mostly obscured by vegetation; however, roadcuts and steep walls of river and stream banks often reveal the rocks' nature. The Broken Formation rocks are frequently sheared and faulted, with interbedded shales marking zones particularly prone to landslides.

Broad, gentle river terraces, cut and deposited during Quaternary time, are distributed extensively throughout the park, marking former paths of the ancestral Smith River. The river terraces are deposited directly on top of the much older Broken Formation. Knobs and blocks of the Broken Formation protrude through the gentle terrain of the Quaternary river terrace deposits. These isolated "islands" of rock are relatively harder than the pre-existing surrounding rock matrix, which has been eroded away.

The South Fork thrust fault skims along the eastern boundary of the park, marking the boundary between the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province to the west and the Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province to the east. The fault is evident from an abrupt change in rock character, from schists and phyllites from the Broken Formation to serpentine and serpentinized peridotite in the fault zone itself.

Landslides have been mapped in the uplands of the park, where the Broken Formation forms steep slopes. Most of the mapped landslides are inactive rotational slides of large proportions, with steep head scarps. These slides probably occurred during periods of even wetter climates, and as the ancestral Smith River was cutting a more direct route to the sea. Several areas of active slides occur in and adjacent to the northwestern part of the park -- probably the result of clearcutting and associated road building, which disturbed the surface layers and contributed to slope instability. Small, active landslides occur along U.S. Highway 199 east of the Weber Grove, and along the inner gorge of the Smith River. A large debris slide has occurred on a serpentinized rock slope just west of Sheep Pen Creek, on Douglas Park Road. Walker Road (a dirt road in the northern part of the park) is jeopardized by a small, active landslide along the inner gorge of the Smith River.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is underlain by rocks of the Franciscan Complex, with small pocket beaches and a few isolated areas along the coast having Quaternary marine terrace deposits, and with Quaternary alluvium inland along the West Branch of Mill Creek. The rocks in the southern "tail" of the park west of Highway 101 are Franciscan melange. About a mile north of Footsteps Rocks, the melange grades into the relatively coherent Broken Formation of the Franciscan Complex.

The melange is a mixed-up collection of disrupted blocks of markedly different origins, including graywacke, conglomerate, shale, chert, greenstone, and ultramafic metamorphic rocks. The melange matrix is sheared sandstone and siltstone, which alter to clay. The melange is predominantly sheared matrix, with isolated blocks and slabs which exhibit smooth rounded outlines. The blocks have undergone terrific grinding and shearing, associated with the melange genesis. The melange terrain tends to be hummocky, due to the weathering of the matrix and the differential hardness of the inherent blocks. The seacliffs tend to get steeper northward, as the bedrock grades into the more competent (stable) Broken Formation.

The Broken Formation makes up more than 90 percent of the park. The formation is composed of massive graywacke sandstone with interbedded siltstone. The graywacke is extensively fractured, faulted, and sheared. The bedding tends to dip steeply oceanward, leading to a preponderance of landslides as the cliffs are undercut and oversteepened by wave action. The seacliffs are excessively steep, with gradients that sometimes exceed 100 percent and average 75 to 85 percent. The steepness results in excellent rock exposures since the cliffs are too steep to support vegetation; however, access is problematical, and can be very dangerous. Blockfalls, debris slides, and debris avalanches are common along the coast from Footsteps Rocks to just north of Endert's Beach.

The road to the Mill Creek campgrounds shows signs of slope failure on several roadcuts, which are heavily vegetated with alders and stay saturated with water throughout the year.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Two significant faults cut north-northwest through Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park -- the Grogan fault, just south of Squashan Creek, and the Lost Man fault, a subparallel fault to the north and east. These faults displace Plio-Pleistocene sediments of the Prairie Creek group (informal designation of Kelsey, 1982). The Prairie Creek group sediments lie unconformably on top of the Cretaceous-Jurassic rocks of the Franciscan Complex. The young sediments are primarily fluvial deposits of the ancestral Klamath River. The Gold Bluffs unit, the most extensive member of the Prairie Creek group, is well exposed along the Gold Bluffs Beach from Butler Creek to the southern park boundary, south of Espa Lagoon. The young sediments are gently folded into a syncline whose axis trends roughly north 30° west. Carbonized bits of fossil wood are contained in some of the finer-grained siltstone and sandstone layers near the top of the formation.

The Lost Man fault separates the Broken Formation on the east from the Gold Bluffs unit on the west. North of Butler Creek, the Franciscan melange crops out, with its isolated blocks of chert and volcanic material along the shore. The Pleistocene-aged Ah Pah and Tarup Creek units of the Prairie Creek group cap both the Franciscan Complex rocks and the Gold Bluffs unit on both sides of the Lost Man fault. These units are composed of continental gravels and interfingering marine and continental sediments.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and the area immediately eastward is one of the only areas in coastal northern California to contain a record of Plio-Pleistocene terrestrial sedimentation and post-depositional tectonic activity. For this reason, the area is particularly significant, from a historical geology standpoint. The record of folds and faults in youthful sediments, as revealed in seacliffs, along steep stream banks, and roadcuts, suggests intriguing and complex tectonic relationships which probably continue to the present time. Geologists have theorized that the Grogan - Lost Man fault zone may be connected with the San Andreas transform system. If this theory proves to be correct, substantial future fault activity can be expected.

Gold Bluffs Beach and the Gold Bluffs unit of Prairie Creek are named for the detrital gold which was mined in the area during the mid-1800s. The fine-grained gold was concentrated in black sands, which eroded from the seacliffs. The origin of the gold is probably from the Klamath Mountains to the east, which were eroded by the ancestral Klamath River 2 to 12 million years ago. During the 1850s, there was little, if any, beach at Gold Bluffs. During high tides, the waves broke directly at the toe of the seacliffs; according to wave size and angle, the wave action separated the black gold-rich sands.

SOILS

General

Sandstone and shale are the parent materials for most of the soils at Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. These marine sediments exhibit varying degrees of consolidation, and are sometimes metamorphosed. The parent material and climate of the area are highly conducive to the formation of primary clay minerals. This explains the strong profile development and clayey subsoils found in these units. The surface pH of these soils is moderately to strongly acidic. Soil drainage, depth, and erosion hazard vary with slope -- level soils are deep, somewhat poorly drained with a slight erosion hazard; and soils on steep slopes range from shallow to deep, well drained, and have a severe erosion hazard. The erosion hazard is greatly increased when the forest litter has been removed. The litter provides protection against the impact of raindrops, stores or detains a significant amount of water, and is an important source of nutrients required for plant growth.

The Soil-Vegetation Survey, a cooperative effort between the University of California, the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the USDA Forest Service, and the California Department of Forestry, has mapped all three parks to a 40-acre minimum mapping unit. Soils classified by the survey as pasture or agricultural land (mapping symbol 100), lower alluvial terraces and bottom land (mapping symbol 200), and higher alluvial terraces (mapping symbol 400) should be surveyed more accurately when funds are available or development is proposed. Soils mapped as 100, 200, and 400 can be further classified under the U.S. Comprehensive Soil Classification System, but land units mapped as 700 are not considered to be soil areas. These areas are usually beaches, dunes, rockland, colluvium, or riverwash.

Four of the ten established soil orders are represented at each of the three parks (inceptisols, alfisols, ultisols, and mollisols). In addition to the 15 individual soil series that have been mapped (Soil-Vegetation Survey) in the four orders, there are numerous variants, phases, associations, and complexes that have been delineated. Associations and complexes are two or more soil series that are so intermingled that field separation is not practical for the purposes of the Soil-Vegetation Survey. Dynamic geologic and geographic events best explain the wide variability of the soils in the Redwood region. Tectonic processes such as crustal downwarping, shearing, and thrusting have occurred for thousands of years in this area. Global climatic changes have resulted in a fluctuation of the sea level as a result of melting and freezing of the polar ice caps. These processes have resulted in localized differentiation of the soil formation factors (parent material, biotic factors, topography, time, and climate). Thus, the soils have been subjected, individually and collectively, to unequal morphological influences (poly-genetic formation).

The clay subsoils of these units serve as reservoirs for the tremendous amount of nutrients made soluble by the microfloral and faunal decomposition of detritus in the organic horizon and the topsoil. Without these soil reservoirs, the ecosystem would be much more dependent on the standing biomass as a nutrient reservoir, because the high rainfall, acidic soils, and mild temperatures present a tremendous leaching potential. Thus, the clay performs

a vital buffering role in the nutrient biocycling process. This process is necessary for maintaining the fertility level of the soils of the redwood forest ecosystem; ultimately, it is a key factor in the perpetuation of the redwood forest.

The constant availability of nutrients from the clay subsoils, and the mild summer temperatures, allow the redwoods to transpire, and thus to take up nutrients, throughout the year. When the days are hot and dry, the tree "borrows" moisture from its massive conducting tissues so it can continue transpiring. This debt is repaid at night from the water held by the clayey subsoils. This adaptive mechanism enables the redwoods to transpire and hence to photosynthesize all year, whereas deciduous hardwoods lack leaves in winter, and therefore cannot photosynthesize when water is most available (Waring, 1982, p. 56).

Logging activity and other surface disturbances on adjacent and upstream lands have significantly affected all three parks. Unnaturally high amounts of siltaceous alluvium, generated by such activities, have been deposited at the mouths and along the sides of most streams. This sediment alters natural plant communities, and has a deleterious effect on aquatic life. Numerous areas recently acquired by the department have been logged in the past. Reclamation efforts, including recontouring, restoring natural drainages, and revegetating exposed areas, are very effective, and are much needed on some of these acquired lands. The soil which supports the redwood forest ecosystem is very erodible once it is disturbed. It took hundreds of thousands of years for some of these soils to form, yet poor land use practices can destroy the results in a matter of months.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

The classified residual soils on slopes of less than 30 percent in this park are mostly of the Empire series. They were formed from poorly consolidated, soft sedimentary rocks and weakly consolidated conglomerates. The classified residual soils of the steeper uplands (50-70 percent) are predominantly of the Melbourne series. Where surface disturbance has occurred (grazing, logging), these soils are highly erodible. The soils in the vicinity of Douglas Park, Hiouchi, and North Bank Road are derived from partially serpentinized ultramafic black peridotite. This rock basement is a metal-rich (iron, magnesium) material from deep beneath the earth's surface, from which the Cornutt and Dubakella series were formed. The Dubakella is formed from the serpentine, and therefore is higher in magnesium than most soils. The South Fork thrust fault, located along the eastern edge of the park, marks the location of the serpentine. The Dubakella soils are shallow, skeletal, and clayey. This combination makes them extremely susceptible to earthflows and debris slides.

The soils on the low, north-south trending mountain range separating the coastal plain from the higher mountains of the Smith River watershed contain at least 20 percent coarse fragments (gravels, cobbles, stones) in the soil profile. Because they are situated on the western ridge, closest to the ocean, these soils are exposed to climatic activity of a more erosive nature. Also, the parent material upslope is often a weakly consolidated conglomerate. The cobbles of this conglomerate move downslope once the cemented matrix weathers. These occurrences explain the high percentage of coarse fragments in this area.

The Atwell series covers approximately 120 hectares (300 acres) of the park. This soil is formed from sedimentary rocks sheared by fault activity. They are extremely unstable because of the tectonic activity and the steep slopes (50-70 percent).

Del Norte Coast Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks

The soils immediately adjacent to the coast in these two units are made up of colluvium that has eroded from the bluffs, alluvium from creeks draining into the ocean, and beach deposits. This material has been sifted by wave action and subjected to dynamic meteorological forces which preclude the development of soil profiles. In essence, the coastline beaches are undifferentiated sands, or, when located adjacent to the mouths of creeks, sands covered with a coating of siltaceous alluvium.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

The predominant soil type in Del Norte Coast Redwoods is the Melbourne series. This upland soil is formed from sandstone/shale, and is deep, well drained, and has a moderate permeability. There is a 65-hectare (160-acre) section of severe erosion in the Melbourne soil, located along the Damnation Creek Trail. The soil is highly erodible when disturbed, as is demonstrated at that site.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Most soils at Prairie Creek Redwoods are classified in the Empire series. The typical Empire soil is formed from sandstone and shale, but most of the Prairie Creek Redwoods soils are formed from conglomerate. The poorly sorted nature of this parent material is indicative of a high-energy, turbulent depositional phase. Because this conglomerate is weakly consolidated, it is less resistant to weathering, and less stable than sandstone and shale. Therefore, the soils formed from this conglomerate will be more erodible, more skeletal, more permeable, deeper, and will have a lower water-holding capacity than the typical finer-grained Empire soils.

Natural Resources -- Biological

PLANT LIFE

Nearly 300 species of club mosses, ferns, conifers, and flowering plants occur in Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. These species represent 69 families and 199 genera. Based on field observations thus far, Prairie Creek Redwoods shows the most diversity. Eighty-four percent of the species found in the three parks are represented at Prairie Creek Redwoods, compared to 38 percent for Del Norte Coast Redwoods and 56 percent for Jedediah Smith Redwoods.

Plant species of special interest are numerous in the three parks; however, most important is the coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*. The grandeur and impressiveness of the redwood forests provided the initial impetus for establishment of all three of these parks. The many other species of interest include western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Port-Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*), and western azalea

(Rhododendron occidentale). The coast redwood is of special interest because of its limited distribution, immense esthetic value, and the unique ecosystem that has coevolved with the long-lived giant. Western red cedar and Port-Orford-cedar (USDA Forest Service, 1981) are of interest due to their very limited distribution in California. Rhododendron and western azalea produce beautiful, showy blossoms between April and July, which attract the attention of many appreciative park visitors.

Eleven California Native Plant Society (CNPS)-designated rare, endangered, and/or threatened species have been recorded as occurring in the three state parks (California Natural Diversity Data Base, 1983; Smith, et al., 1980). Additionally, two species being considered for CNPS listing have recently been encountered at Prairie Creek. A number of other rare, endangered, and/or threatened plant species potentially occur in the three units. A search for such species would undoubtedly result in more sightings. Other areas of particular interest are some newly acquired parcels of property containing serpentine, in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. One of these areas supports knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata), and Jeffrey pine (P. jeffreyi) is found in another; both are typically inland species, here occurring relatively close to the coastline.

Vegetation in the three parks varies considerably due to the diversity in topography, aspect, and the strong maritime influence near the coast. Twenty-one vegetation types are represented at Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods. (Refer to the Inventory of Features for the names and descriptions of these vegetation types.) Those of special interest include coast redwood, knobcone pine, and five-finger fern (Adiantum pedatum) vegetation types.

The coast redwood vegetation type is of special interest because it is endemic to the California Floristic Province (Raven, 1977). The forests are breathtakingly beautiful, and the associated flora is unique. The knobcone pine vegetation type is of interest because it occurs on serpentine. Serpentine supports numerous endemic plant species, many of which are rare, endangered, and/or threatened. The best representation of the five-finger fern vegetation type occurs in Fern Canyon at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This exceptionally beautiful canyon of steep fern-covered walls attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Human activities, such as fire suppression, logging, introduction of alien species, and livestock grazing, have greatly affected the vegetation of Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks. (Logging and grazing, while almost never permitted in state parks, were conducted on some lands now in the parks before their acquisition by the state.) Fire suppression has resulted in the invasion of woody natives and herbaceous and woody alien species into native grasslands. It has also resulted in changes in species composition in forested areas. Logging has increased the acreage of mixed conifer and hardwood forests, and has reduced the acreage of virgin redwood forests. The introduction of alien species has resulted in establishment of the European beachgrass (Ammophila arenaria) vegetation type, which has caused significant dune stabilization in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (Barbour and Johnson, 1977). Before about 1900, the dunes were not stabilized by vegetation, and at high-tide, waves would actually wash against the bluffs. Livestock grazing results in species composition changes, particularly in grasslands.

ANIMAL LIFE

Animal life along California's northwest coast is both diverse and unique in this setting. Many of these animals are described in The Pacific Coastal Wildlife Region (Yocom and Dasmann, 1965).

Ten biotic communities, each with its characteristic plant and animal life associations, are found in one or more of the three redwood state parks. The communities are: coastal strand, freshwater marsh and lagoons, coastal scrub, coastal spruce forest, coastal prairie, riparian forest, broad-leaved deciduous forest, broad-leaved evergreen forest, redwood forest, and knobcone pine woodland. The coastal strand and coastal scrub communities are not found at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Del Norte Coast Redwoods does not have freshwater marsh and lagoons or knobcone pine woodland communities. Nine of the communities are represented at Prairie Creek Redwoods; only the knobcone pine woodland community is absent.

Most of these communities support a rich assortment of wildlife. The freshwater marsh and lagoons and the riparian forest communities, with their aquatic environments, are the most diverse and productive communities, and support both aquatic and terrestrial forms of life.

The coastal strand community harbors animals not found in the other biotic communities at these units. Most notable are the numerous shorebirds inhabiting this community. They search for the abundance of insects and other invertebrates that make up part of their diet. Some also nest in this community. Occasionally, large marine mammals, such as sea lions and harbor seals, stop to rest on Gold Bluffs Beach at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The vegetated dunes and piles of driftwood also differentiate this biotic community from the others by some of the animal species that are attracted here.

A study conducted at Crescent Beach (Boyd and DeMartini, 1977) showed significant mortality to intertidal invertebrates caused by beach sand compaction from vehicles being driven on the beach. Such impacts are expected at Gold Bluffs Beach as well. In addition, confirmed losses of beach nesting birds can be attributed to this traffic on Gold Bluffs Beach.

The coastal prairie is a community made significant by its openness. This feature and the vegetation types combine to attract many birds, rodents, rabbits, and the largest of California's terrestrial animals, the Roosevelt elk, noted at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This impressive animal adds a rare and special experience for visitors to this region.

The redwood community is botanically significant and esthetically beautiful, but in relation to the other biotic communities discussed here, it is much less diverse. Its uniformity limits interfaces with other communities, thereby attracting fewer animals, both in number and kind. Forage values in the redwood forest are low, but cover and microclimatic conditions are attractions to various forms of animal life. Even so, most of these animals use the adjacent communities more frequently.

Historically, many of the species inhabiting the redwood biome were more widespread and abundant. This is especially true of the larger mammals that were hunted either for food or because they competed with people, and were considered a hazard or nuisance. The California grizzly, now extinct, once roamed throughout most of California.

Fishes and other aquatic animals have also suffered a drastic reduction in numbers due to heavy siltation, debris accumulation, and other stream changes resulting from logging, mining, and road building.

Four animal species occurring in, or adjacent to, these redwood state parks are endangered. Appearing on both the state and federal endangered species lists are the bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, and California brown pelican. A state-listed endangered species, the great gray owl, was recently sighted (1981) at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

A number of other animals are of special interest at these units, either because of concern for their well being or because they should be actively monitored and managed. These special-interest animals are: Roosevelt elk, black bear, muskrat, beaver, northern flying squirrel, marbled murrelet, snowy plover, osprey, spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, coast cutthroat trout, red-legged frog, and bullfrog. The muskrat, beaver, and bullfrog are not indigenous to these parks, and in some instances have an adverse impact on native species.

MARINE LIFE

Two primary habitats exist off the coasts of Del Norte Coast Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. Del Norte Coast is primarily a coast of rocky intertidal and subtidal habitats, whereas Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park's coastline is primarily composed of sandy intertidal and subtidal habitats. Both parks are encompassed in the Redwood National Park Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). This designation is made by the State Water Resources Control Board for: ". . .California marine waters requiring protection of species or biological communities to the extent that alteration of natural water quality is undesirable."

The following summary of this unique area was taken from Water Quality Monitoring Report No. 81-5:

> The Redwood National Park Area of Special Biological Significance is located in northern Humboldt County and southern Del Norte County. Thirty-four miles of coastline are within the ASBS and a variety of intertidal and subtidal habitats occur. The most common habitat is sand beaches or sand bottoms immediately seaward of the beaches. Rocky intertidal or subtidal habitats are found in the northern part of the ASBS.
>
> Wave impact and materials discharged from creeks or rivers significantly affect marine habitats within the ASBS; except in the lee of Point St. George to the north, the coast is fully exposed to waves generated in the north Pacific. Particularly during winter months, algae and animals may be torn from rock surfaces by wave impact.

Sand scour around intertidal rocks is severe. The Klamath River and Redwood Creek discharge fresh water and silt or larger particles into the nearshore zone of the ASBS. Water turbidity in nearshore waters is frequently high during winter months because of this bedload discharge. Many smaller creeks drain the coastal bluffs along the shore and may also contribute to erosion and turbidity.

Water quality in the streams, rivers, and coastal waters of the ASBS is generally high. The only chemical contaminant of significance in fresh water is iron, probably a result of its presence in native soils. There are no industrial activities within the ASBS which have a potential for degrading water quality in the near future. Past logging practices have contributed to erosion within watersheds adjacent to the ASBS, but forest rehabilitation and slope stabilization should result in decreased erosion. Coastal lands within the ASBS are federal or state parklands and there is little likelihood that development of these areas will occur. Recreational activities are currently consistent with the maintenance of high water quality standards.

The intertidal biota are dominated by species that settle and grow each year or regenerate from perennial holdfasts. Populations of algae on subtidal rocks are sparse, probably reflecting the high turbidity of coastal waters for much of the year. Offshore rocks have abundant populations of suspension-feeding invertebrates covering essentially all available surfaces. Sand scouring around the bases of subtidal rocks has an important influence on the survival of sessile species. Animal populations were most dense above an obvious scour line. Sand habitats were dominated by populations of motile animals. Wave action prevents the establishment of animals which occupy permanent burrows except at depths greater than 45 feet.

The biological character of the marine habitat is apparently transitional between the biota of central California and the biota of the boreal eastern Pacific basin in the north. A number of species approach the limits of their distribution in northern California. The high turbidity of coastal waters has also resulted in the development of an unusual assemblage of plants and animals that is unique to this area of the California coast.

Not only are Del Norte Coast and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks included in the ASBS, but they are also representative of the two primary habitats found in the ASBS. The rocky coastline of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park typifies habitats in the northern section of the ASBS, while the coastline associated with Gold Bluffs Beach at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park typifies the sandy habitats of the southern section of the ASBS.

ECOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Several systems of classification have been devised for dealing with the extreme complexity of ecological and biological values on the earth's surface. The details of some of these, and their application to the geographical region where the parks are located, are discussed in the Inventory of Features. The system most useful for our ecological approach separates the biosphere or ecosphere into realms, provinces, biomes, and ecosystems, in descending order of size and complexity.

In a less technical approach that is useful for different purposes, the State Legislature has divided California into nine ecological regions (Section 5019.53, PRC) which are synonymous with the landscape provinces of the department (Mason, 1970). The provinces have been expanded in the "Underwater Parks Master Plan" of 1979 by dividing the nearshore marine environment into four "seascape provinces." The three redwood park units fall mainly into the Redwood Ecological Region; however, the Coastal Strip Ecological Region and Oregonian Seascape Province are also represented at both Prairie Creek Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks.

The various ecosystems and biotic communities represented in these parks are all closely interrelated, and have evolved through millenia under environmental conditions which have broad similarities but many striking local differences. Management of park resources will take into account this strong ecological interdependency.

Whereas the various biological communities and ecological entities of the region have been evolving through geologic time and are relatively stable, some abrupt changes have been brought about by the activities of Euroamerican people in historic times. The most conspicuous and dramatic of such changes are those associated with logging operations, and particularly clearcutting. Cutover areas have been acquired in all three of the state parks under consideration: at Jedediah Smith Redwoods, in the northern portion; at Del Norte Coast Redwoods, much of the West Branch of Mill Creek, and a parcel in the west-central part; and at Prairie Creek Redwoods, certain portions of the West Ridge and Gold Bluffs regions. More recent logging has taken place on nearby lands now in Redwood National Park. But in the moist climate of northwestern California, the long process of restoration begins very rapidly, and thickets of new vegetation soon cover the ground. An opportunity is available for study of the recovery sequence, and to learn more about the various communities and ecosystems that will successively appear, before anything approaching the stage that preceded logging is once again evident.

Other areas of modern human activity have involved the present grassland areas. Prairie Creek, and indirectly the state park located there, take their name from such features. We do not yet have complete information as to how much of Elk Prairie was natural and how much resulted from early clearing of the land for agricultural purposes. The same is true of Lincoln Prairie near Fern Canyon, and of the grasslands near Ossagon Creek. Where grasslands are being rapidly invaded by forest regrowth, this constitutes evidence that the grasslands may have resulted from forest clearing in historic times.

Still other ecosystems heavily affected in some places by human activity are the riparian, specifically in and below cutover areas; and the coastal strand and coastal dune ecosystems, affected in places by both commercial and recreational activities. The latter are discussed more fully under specific headings.

Cultural Resources

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks are located in the northwestern culture area of California. The people of this culture area are today known as the Tolowa, Yurok, Wiyot, Karok, Hupa, Chilula, and Whilkut. These people shared a similar material culture, as well as subsistence practices. This is in contrast to their very different language backgrounds. The Yurok and Wiyot spoke an Algic language related to Algonquian. The Tolowa, Hupa, Chilula, and Whilkut spoke Athapaskan. The Karok spoke an isolate language related to Hokan (Whistler, 1979:15).

A tentative archeological sequence has been established for the area. Phase One is the Point St. George phase. This phase has been dated at 310 B.C. (Whistler, 1979:23). This phase can be correlated with the ancestral Karok occupation.

The second phase is the Gunther Island phase. This phase probably goes back to 900 A.D. or earlier. The Gunther Island phase included both the ancestral Wiyot (circa 900 A.D.) and the ancestral Yurok (circa 1100 A.D.) occupations. The ancestral Wiyot settled along the coast from south of the Eel River north to Little River (Bickel, 1979:5). The ancestral Yurok settled along the Klamath River from the ocean upstream to Bluff Creek, and along the coast from Wilson Creek south to Little River. Athapaskan groups began moving into the area about 1300 A.D. (Whistler, 1979:23). These groups included the Tolowa, Hupa, Chilula, and Whilkut. The Tolowa settled in western Del Norte County, the Hupa along the lower Trinity River, and the Chilula and Whilkut along the upper Redwood Creek and upper Mad River drainages. The Karok, historically located along the Klamath River from Bluff Creek upstream to Seiad Creek, probably occupied the entire northwestern area before 900 A.D.

The third phase is the Trinidad phase, which is dated from circa 1542 A.D. This is the historic phase.

The people we call the Tolowa occupied the region that includes all of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and all but the southernmost part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. The Yurok occupied the region that includes the southernmost part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and all of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The Tolowa depended primarily on marine resources, and their major villages were situated along the coast. The Yurok were primarily a riverine people, but they also occupied the coastline.

For these Native Americans, the village was the principal socio-political entity (Gould, 1978:128). Neither the Tolowa nor Yurok had a tribal identity as such. Each village was basically an autonomous unit, although among the Yurok, several villages would occasionally band together for a ceremonial event.

Each village claimed various portions of land for fishing, hunting, and gathering purposes. In this way, the coastline, as well as the rivers and streams, were divided among the various villages. The families living in the villages used the resources of these parcels as part of their subsistence pattern. Acorns were a staple food. Freshwater and saltwater fisheries provided protein. Upland game and birds provided food, as well as hides and feathers for clothing.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

The Tolowa occupied at least two habitation sites within the park boundaries. Sitragitum was a small village consisting of one house and a sweathouse (Drucker, 1937:227). The exact location of this ethnographic site is unknown. It was probably located somewhere between the Hiouchi Bridge and Peacock Creek. Tcunsultun was a small village reported to have been a satellite of Tatatum, a coastal village near Crescent City (Drucker, 1937:227). The remains of this village have been recorded as CA-DNo-26. In addition to these known habitation sites (the recorded flake scatters, bedrock milling station, and projectile point sites within the park boundaries), other sites, such as fishing weirs and hunting and gathering locations, were probably located along Mill Creek and the Smith River. There are no permanent physical remains of these sites; they have been obscured by periodic flooding and the accumulation of forest vegetation and duff.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

The Tolowa occupied several sites along the coast in and directly adjacent to the park. The two southernmost Tolowa villages, Sxme or Ltrucme (CA-DNo-15), situated on Cushing Creek, and Tsiniyate (CA-DNo-14), situated on Nickel Creek, and CA-DNo-246, a small midden just south of Endert's Beach, are located just west of the state park boundary. Two camping/fishing sites (CA-DNo-31 and CA-DNo-32) and a prehistoric trail (CA-DNo-30) are found in the park. Omenhipur (CA-DNo-2), the northernmost Yurok village, is situated at the mouth of Wilson Creek, inside the park boundary.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

The Yurok occupied two ethnographic villages, Osegan and Espa, and several smaller sites in the park. Both villages were situated along the coast, and had a marine orientation. The village site of Osegan (CA-Hum-136) is situated just above Ossagon Creek, at the north end of Gold Bluffs Beach. The village site of Espa (CA-Hum-133) is situated 9.6 kilometers (6 miles) south of Osegan, at Espa Lagoon. The other sites within the park boundaries include a possible chert quarry, camp sites, and flake scatters.

EUROAMERICAN HISTORY

The Spaniards Bartolome Ferrelo (1543) and Sebastian Vizcaino (1602), and the English sea captain Sir Francis Drake (1579), were the first explorers to skirt the Humboldt-Del Norte coast. However, it was not until 1775 that the first landfall and exploration was carried out by Bruno Hezeta and Juan Bodega, in the vicinity of Trinidad Head.

Jedediah Smith and his party of trappers in 1828 were the first Euroamericans to travel inland through the northern redwood belt. Smith and his party travelled north through present-day Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park from Wilson Creek along the coast, to Endert's Beach. They spent several days in Elk Valley before turning eastward and crossing the Smith River somewhere between Peacock and Clarks Creeks. This portion of their journey brought them through the northern part of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park (Sullivan, 1934).

It was not until 1849-50, when gold was discovered in the Trinity Mountains and along the Klamath River, that Euroamericans became interested in settling the north coast. Settlement first occurred along the coastline at Trinidad, Union (Arcata), Eureka, and Crescent City. All of these early towns served as ports and pack-trade centers, supplying the inland mining camps.

One of the earliest "rushes" occurred within the present-day boundaries of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. In May 1850, a group of prospectors travelling north along the coast (probably at low tide) found flecks of gold in the sand at the base of what is now called Gold Bluffs. Word spread quickly, setting off a "rush" to the area. However, the gold proved very difficult to separate from the sand, and the early placer miners soon became discouraged, moving on to more promising diggings (Elliot, 1882). It was not until the 1870s that the Union Gold Bluffs Mining Company (headquartered at Major Creek) and the Pioneer Placer Mine (headquartered at Upper Bluffs) were established. These companies successfully mined the auriferous sands along the Gold Bluffs, into the early 20th century.

The rush of miners and settlers into the north coast in the 1850s resulted in the decline of the Native American population. While direct conflict accounted for some Native American deaths, Euroamerican diseases, to which the Native Americans had no resistance, accounted for a much larger proportion of the population decline. The radical modifications of the natural environment caused by mining, lumbering, and agriculture severely depleted the subsistence resources on which the native population depended, and indirectly increased mortality rates. Forced internment on reservations disrupted traditional social organization and lifeways (Cook, 1976).

Native American and White conflict resulted in the deployment of U.S. Army troops and the establishment of several military outposts on the north coast in the 1850s and '60s. Camp Lincoln, a portion of the site of which is now in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, was the northernmost outpost, built to provide a buffer between Crescent City and the Tolowa settlements along the Smith River. Another was Fort Humboldt in Eureka, now a state historic park.

The end of Native American - Euroamerican hostilities opened the way for inland expansion of agricultural settlement, trade, and transportation. A number of important early transportation routes crossed land now in the redwood state parks. Gold Bluffs Beach was used by pack trains between Trinidad and the Klamath River. This pack trail then continued along the coastal edge of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, connecting Crescent City with the Klamath River settlements. This portion of the trail, from Wilson Creek north, was later developed into a road.

Trails and roads eastward to the Trinity mines ran from Crescent City through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. The earliest of these was the Crescent City - Jacksonville Turnpike (the Crescent City Plank Road), which crossed the Smith River at Peacock's Ferry. The Crescent City - Sailor's Diggings pack trail (also known as the Cold Spring Mountain trail) crossed through the park from the 1850s until the 1880s, when it was replaced by the Howland Hill Road. These routes opened access to the upper Smith River and southern Oregon.

The first lumber mills in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties were founded in the early 1850s, and lumbering rapidly became the major industry of the two northern counties. Until the 1870s, lumbering was largely confined to river basins, where water routes permitted transport of logs from forest to mill. In the 1880s and '90s, technological improvements, including the development of short-line railroads to haul timber, expanded the scope of logging operations.

Land in the more remote areas of the coastal redwood belt, including the present-day state parks, was settled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some natural prairies and open coastal areas were taken up for agricultural purposes, primarily dairy farming. Much of the timberland was initially purchased by small land speculators. By World War I, most of this land had been conveyed to large lumber and land investment firms, many of which were centered on the east coast. Inadvertently, this eastern land and timber speculation helped preserve important tracts of virgin redwood, since many of these distant investment companies were less interested in cutting timber than they were in holding land for future speculation.

In addition to the logging activity, there was a development of farms, ranches, and dairies in the fertile river valleys and prairies during and after the latter part of the 19th century. Northwestern California proved to be ideal for dairies, cattle, and sheep ranching. Elk Prairie in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, the mouth of Wilson Creek in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Elk Valley, now directly adjacent to the western boundary of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, were important dairying sites. Dairying has continued to have an important place in the north coast economy, down to the present time.

By the 1880s, groups of conservationists were voicing their concerns over the rapid clearing of California's redwood forests, and a serious campaign to preserve this unique natural resource was begun. Increased cutting in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties following World War I focused conservationists' attention on the north coast. This led to the establishment in 1918 of the Save-the-Redwoods League. The league worked closely with the State of California to secure matching funds for the purchase of north coast redwood groves. This program led to creation of the California State Park System in 1928, and establishment of the first redwood state parks (Drury, 1972). The first acquisitions for all three northern parks were made during the 1920s, as discussed later under Declarations of Purpose. A major acquisition program to expand Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park was begun in 1939.

During the depression of the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp at Prairie Creek Redwoods, at the north end of Elk Prairie. The CCC crews built the rustic headquarters building at Prairie Creek, and developed trails, campgrounds, and picnic facilities in all three redwood parks.

In 1968, the Redwood National Park Act created a 58,000-acre national park in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The national park encompasses a large area of land in the lower Redwood Creek basin, which contains the Tall Trees Grove. The park also includes lands adjacent to the mouth of the Klamath River, and in the Mill Creek basin in Del Norte County. The enabling legislation permits the transfer of state lands to the National Park Service only by donation, and it was hoped that eventually the national park would incorporate the three northern redwood state parks (Schrepfer, 1971). However, this merger has not taken place, and at the present time, the state and federal lands continue to be managed separately, although for similar objectives.

In 1978, the size of the national park was nearly doubled by the addition of 48,000 acres, largely in the central Redwood Creek drainage.

Esthetic Resources

SCENIC RESOURCES

The three redwood state parks covered by this General Plan have one great common denominator -- the groves and forests of coast redwood, which constitute the prime resource of each park, and which formed the initial purpose, impetus, and justification for their acquisition. Since long before early settlement of the California coast by Europeans and Euroamericans, these great trees have been a source of wonder and inspiration to many of those who came in contact with them. This is not to say that there were not some who saw primarily the economic potential of the redwoods, and sought means to convert them to commercial uses. But these unusual forests have inspired for more than a century a feeling that here is something exceptional in the way of a natural phenomenon, something that must receive special consideration of a kind that guarantees to future generations the opportunity to see and experience these wonders for themselves.

Apart from the world-renowned majesty of the trees themselves, the redwoods are endemic to a region that is exceptionally beautiful even without their presence, but even more so where enhanced by forest growth. The generally rugged coastline, dominated by impressive, jagged cliffs that enclose or alternate with beaches of varying size and extent, cannot fail to impress even the most casual visitor. The several streams, major and minor, that cut through the coastal ridges on their way to the ocean provide additional variety to the landscape, not only through topographic modification, but also through the never-failing appeal of moving water in the landscape. The finest redwood groves are usually on flats or benches bordering the streams, a fact of significance both ecologically and esthetically to a very important degree.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park possesses no ocean shoreline, but contains the largest stream of the three parks. The Smith River forms essentially the north and east boundary of the park for several miles, but for some very significant and scenic stretches, it is wholly within the park.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks, on the other hand, have no river frontage, but both do have several miles of very scenic ocean shoreline. The Del Norte Coast shoreline is characterized primarily by steep and rugged cliffs enclosing a few small pocket beaches, while the

shoreline of Prairie Creek Redwoods includes a couple of miles of bluffs at the north end, and more than 6 miles of magnificent, uninterrupted, wild beach, backed by the Gold Bluffs, which are up to 120 meters (400 feet) high. Each park has its own special scenic character, apart from the redwood forests which all share.

In addition to these major features, there are the innumerable visual attractions of wildflowers of many kinds, other lesser plant life, meadow or prairie vistas (often with elk grazing), and many other scenic elements, large and small.

A visitor to the region of these redwood parks will see not only impressive trees of gigantic proportions, but also many other scenic features of spectacular beauty which blend together into a truly magnificent whole.

The visual resources of these parks contain several negative elements. Roads and highways, while often providing essential access for visitor enjoyment, and while in some instances not constituting serious intrusions, are nevertheless incompatible with any truly natural scene. In a few cases, they are severely out of place in the landscape. Vehicles on these roads and associated parking areas constitute a detraction from the natural scene that can seem as intrusive as the roadways themselves.

Power lines which serve park facilities or nearby communities are serious visual intrusions in a park environment. One such line passes along the bluffs at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, where not only the poles and wires but also the access facilities for line maintenance are highly intrusive in an otherwise wild and magnificent landscape.

Elk Prairie at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park provides illustrations of several visual intrusions. These include U.S. 101 and its heavy vehicular traffic, local traffic routes, park residences and service facilities, and power lines.

Features or operations which are outside of a park can be distracting to visitors in the park. A former director of the National Park Service once observed that "when you are in a park, everything that you see is in the park." Residences along the Smith River near Hiouchi are in this category; in a few places, lands modified by logging or other industrial activity are evident.

AUDITORY RESOURCES

There are few pleasures associated with being in the out-of-doors that exceed those occasioned by the songs of birds, the wind in the trees, the murmur or the roar of streams, and the crashing of the surf. All these natural sounds can be experienced at their best in various parts of the three subject parks.

Another category of sounds here, however, has a negative affect. This is the throbbing din of heavy commercial traffic on the through highways that traverse each of the parks. The commercial traffic is heaviest in the summer season, at the very time when there are more visitors to be disturbed by it. The noise factor is probably loudest at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, where U.S. 101 ascends long grades in both directions to a 1,200-foot summit; in the other parks, there are larger numbers of visitors close to the highway

route. There are adopted highway route bypasses at both Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks, and the Prairie Creek bypass is funded for construction. These new routes will take the commercial traffic and its noise quite far from the vicinity of park visitors -- indeed, that was the primary reason for the bypasses. No bypass plan has been acted on at Del Norte Coast Redwoods, although a potential route for such exists, and was proposed in the 1960s by the department.

Recreational Resources

Where does one draw the line between recreational resources and esthetic resources? Some informed people have maintained that the commonest type of recreational activity, at least in the California State Park System, is driving for pleasure. When applied to the world-famous Redwood Highway, or other scenic roads in this region of the northern redwood state parks, this activity surely involves an important element of enjoyment of the widespread esthetic resources described above.

A similar comparison can be made in the case of the coastal regions of these parks, or perhaps especially the beaches. The ocean itself in this region is generally too cold for enjoyable swimming, except for the hardiest souls among us. Also, sunbathing is not an important activity in a region where so many summer days are foggy, or at least buffeted by a chilly wind. But the coastal features of these parks are magnificent, and are visited by large numbers of people simply to enjoy the majestic scenery and bird life, and to watch and listen to the crashing of the breakers.

There are several more active recreational pursuits that may be enjoyed in these parks. There are many miles of hiking trails, with a limited number of hike-in campsites, enabling active visitors to enjoy both exercise and the best of scenery. In middle and late summer, the Smith River has numerous deep holes, separated by riffles, providing attractions for swimmers, rafters, snorkelers, and anglers. At Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, surf fishing is enjoyed by some visitors; surfing is excellent for those with the proper equipment and the endurance. While not yet in the parks and not yet well known, some offshore areas contain interesting underwater features that can be enjoyed by visitors having proper equipment. There are several bicycle routes through and/or in the parks.

Activities of a more passive nature include nature study, use of interpretive displays and special events, and quiet contemplation. The parks include several extensive roadless areas, already identified; some of these will be recommended for classification as wildernesses or natural preserves.

Attendance figures and facilities provided for visitors are summarized in the Inventory of Features. Almost all visitors to these parks participate in some type of important recreational experiences. Recreational activities which involve enhancement of visitor experience of the park features are generally acceptable and are encouraged, as long as they do not degrade the resources or unreasonably disturb other visitors.

Classification

BACKGROUND AND LEGAL BASIS

In the early years of the State Park System, the various units were named as either state parks, beach state parks, or state historical monuments. This was not a true classification system, since there were no laws or policies setting forth different purposes or management objectives for the various categories. The beach units were segregated by name because they were purchased from funds different from those used for the inland units.

The first park classification law in California was adopted in 1961, following recommendations made by the National Conference on State Parks. The law established five different categories or classes, set forth the purpose of each, and required the state Park and Recreation Commission to classify all units then in the State Park System or acquired in the future, according to the categories set forth in the law.

The classification section of the Public Resources Code, established by that 1961 Act, has been amended several times in more recent years, sometimes merely with the addition of a further category, but in major instances revising, expanding, and clarifying the definitions and objectives of each classification. This material now makes up Section 5019.50 et seq., Public Resources Code.

HISTORY OF CLASSIFICATION FOR THESE PARKS

Each of the three northern redwood parks is among the oldest units of the State Park System; the first lands in those parks were acquired before establishment of any state agency to administer them. Initial purchases were made by the Save-the-Redwoods League, and the lands were in the custody of the State Board of Forestry before formation in 1928 of the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Parks.

Clearly, each of the parks was acquired for the purpose of preserving and perpetuating outstanding natural features, in this instance redwood forests, and to provide for public appreciation and enjoyment of such features. Classification of each park took place in 1962.

SUBCLASSIFICATIONS

The Classification Act (Section 5019.50 et seq., Public Resources Code) establishes several categories of units that can be included within the boundaries of another unit of the State Park System. The natural preserve category and the state wilderness category are applicable to one or more of these three state parks.

Under the terms of the California Wilderness Act of 1974, as amended (Chapter 1.3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, beginning with Section 5093.30), each of the three state parks has been studied to identify roadless areas within it, and to determine which of those areas should be recommended for establishment as state wildernesses.

Accompanying this section are maps of the three units, showing graphically the areas previously identified as roadless, and those to be recommended for wilderness and/or natural preserve classification by separate action of the commission. Specific inventory documents are being submitted for each such area, as required by law, at the appropriate time.

Declaration of Purpose

BACKGROUND AND LEGAL BASIS

In the early 1960s, the need began to be more widely recognized within the Division of Beaches and Parks for more effective protection and management of park system resources, and for a coordinated effort toward long-range planning. One result of this was the preparation of formal (but not detailed) declarations of purpose for 75 different units of the State Park System, and subsequent adoption of those declarations by the state Park and Recreation Commission. The Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2, now requires that the Resource Element of the General Plan for every unit of the State Park System shall contain a Declaration of Purpose, "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the unit consistent with the unit's classification pursuant to Article 1.7. . ."

EARLY DECLARATIONS

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

The first lands in the present Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park were acquired on June 3, 1929, with the initial parcels in the vicinity of the present park entrance and picnic ground. The first name for the unit was the local Indian name, Hiouchi, which is still applied to the nearby bridge on U.S. Highway 199 and to the community a mile or so to the east. After the major redwood forest in the lower basin of Mill Creek was acquired, the park was called Mill Creek Redwoods State Park. It was later decided to rename the park after the early explorer, Jedediah Smith, for whom the Smith River had been named much earlier.

At the time of classification, in August 1962, the following was recognized as the purpose of the park: "To set aside an outstanding coast redwood forest area for preservation in the State Park System, including a cross-sectional example of forest from the coastal plain to the drier interior mountains. Recommended in 1928 by Frederick Law Olmsted."

A few years later, in July 1965, the state Park and Recreation Commission adopted a formal Declaration of Purpose for this park. It reads as follows:

> "The purpose of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is to make available to people forever, for their inspiration and enjoyment, in a condition of unimpaired ecological integrity, the great forests of lower Mill Creek and of the Smith River, together with all related scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational values and resources of the area.
>
> The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is so to manage the resources of the park as to perpetuate them for the unending benefit of the public in accordance with

the declared purpose of the park; to interpret them effectively to the public for greatest appreciation and understanding; and to provide such facilities and services consistent with the purpose of the park as are necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by visitors."

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

The first parcel of land acquired at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park was purchased October 26, 1925. At the time of classification, in August 1962, the purpose of acquisition was recognized as follows: "To set aside, for preservation and public enjoyment within the State Park System, a fine example of coast redwood forest, unusual in its proximity to the ocean."

The Declaration of Purpose adopted by the state Park and Recreation Commission in November 1964 reads as follows:

> "Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is established to make available to the people, for their inspiration and enjoyment forever, the scenic grandeur of the coast of Del Norte County from False Klamath Cove northward to Crescent Beach, where the coast redwood forest uniquely clothes the slopes directly facing the ocean; embracing also the important inland forests within the drainage of Mill Creek, adjoining Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; together with all scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational values of this impressive region.
>
> The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is so to manage all the varied interdependent resources of the park as to perpetuate them for the unending benefit of the public in accordance with the declared purpose of the park; to interpret them fully and effectively; to bring about the effectuation of a management program for the watershed of Mill Creek that will safeguard and perpetuate the park values of Lower Mill Creek and the National Tribute Grove in the adjoining Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; and to provide such facilities and services, consistent with the purpose of the unit, as are necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by visitors."

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

The first acquisition of land at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park took place earlier than in either of the other units under consideration here; the first parcel at this park was acquired August 13, 1923. The purpose was recognized, at the time of classification in August 1962, as follows:

> "To set aside within the State Park System, for public use and enjoyment for all time, the outstanding coast redwood forest of the Prairie Creek basin, together with included meadows and adjacent coastal lands. Recommended in 1928 by Frederick Law Olmsted as an expansion from earlier small beginnings."

The Declaration of Purpose for this park was adopted by the state Park and Recreation Commission in July 1963. It reads as follows:

"The purpose of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is to make available to people forever, for their inspiration and enjoyment, in a condition of unimpaired ecological integrity, the great forests of Prairie Creek Basin and adjacent areas west to the sea, including the wide ocean beach; together with all related scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational values and resources of the area.

The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is so to manage the varied interdependent resources of the park as to perpetuate them for the unending benefit of the public in accordance with the declared purpose of the park; to interpret them effectively to the public; and to provide such facilities and services, consistent with the purpose of the park, as are necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by visitors."

Revised Declarations of Purpose

The preparation of resource inventories for these three state parks, and of this Resource Element of the General Plan, have made it desirable to revise, update, and make more specific the previously adopted declarations for each park. Accordingly, new declarations are set forth below for each of the parks.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is to protect, perpetuate, and make available for public enjoyment and inspiration the magnificent forest area of lower Mill Creek and the Smith River in its natural setting (this being the most northerly of the notable coast redwood forests). This park embraces a cross-section of the redwood belt, from the edge of the coastal plain to the inland margin, where the redwoods give way to interior species; no other state park protects this feature so perfectly. Owing to a combination of climatic, pedologic, and other ecological factors, a number of species from inland regions and higher elevations mingle here with the coastal forms; protection of this unusual phenomenon is a major objective of the park. Native American sites and historic remains of regional significance are also recognized features for park protection.

As the largest remaining free-flowing river in California, and one of the purest, the Smith River constitutes a park feature of exceptional significance for the six miles that it flows in or along the park. The department shall use its full influence in appropriate ways to protect the purity of the river, and to bring about full protection of the upper watershed of Mill Creek, which flows through the park's primary redwood forest.

U.S. Highway 199 presently passes through the heart of the park, carrying not only tourists but heavy commercial traffic as well, with numerous undesirable impacts on the experience of park visitors. A bypass route for this highway has already been adopted; and it is a major objective of the Department to facilitate the removal of major highway traffic impacts from the center of the park. It is the intent of this plan to keep the existing Highway 199 open for public use.

Facilities in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park shall be of types and designs appropriate to the state park classification and to the regional environment. Their capacity and extent shall be determined by the needs of visitors enjoying the park's features, and by their compatibility with its natural and cultural resources.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Declaration of Purpose

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is established to extend park system protection to the rugged coastline of Del Norte County between Endert's Beach and Wilson Creek, together with the region extending inland to the valley of the West Branch of Mill Creek. The primary feature of this parkland is its forest of coast redwood and associated species, which is not only magnificent but most unusual in that it clothes the slopes and bluffs directly facing the ocean. The old route of the Redwood Highway, now a trail, is in this forest tract; and there are several known Native American sites. The natural and cultural features of this area are to be managed for public enjoyment.

The present route of U.S. Highway 101, with its heavy commercial and tourist traffic and with ascending grades in both directions, is a danger and an annoyance to its users, and it transmits the roar of its heavy traffic to all but the most remote parts of the park. It shall be a major objective of the Department to achieve the rerouting of this highway to an identified route via Wilson Creek and the upper slopes of the West Branch of Mill Creek, avoiding all memorial groves.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Declaration of Purpose

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park embraces the uppermost six miles of the watershed of Prairie Creek, and extends westward to the ocean. It was acquired and established to protect the magnificent forest of coast redwood in the Prairie Creek basin, and was enlarged to include Gold Bluffs and the broad beach along its base, one of the few wilderness beaches remaining in California. Several meadows or prairies, of scenic and ecologic importance, occur in the forest area; there are some structures and remains of regional historical interest, and several Native American sites. All the natural and cultural features of the park are to be protected and managed for the esthetic and educational benefit of the people.

U.S. Highway 101 traverses the center of the park and provides a major means of access to the memorial groves and forests; but its heavy commercial traffic makes recreational travel hazardous, and creates a throbbing din that pervades the entire valley of Prairie Creek. The Department shall do everything reasonably possible to assist in the present construction of the alternate highway on the adopted route lying east of the park boundary.

Visitor uses and facilities shall include those appropriate to the state park classification, and in such location and extent as to encourage understanding and enjoyment of the prime resources of the park without adversely affecting either the resources or the appreciation of them.

Zones of Primary Interest

It is the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation to protect the integrity of the resources of the State Park System, and at least by implication the quality of the experience of visitors to the State Park System.

To fulfill these responsibilities, the department has an undeniable interest in all lands where land uses or management practices could have a physical impact on any lands in the State Park System. This includes, most obviously, all lands which are upstream from State Park System lands, or on watersheds of streams which enter or flow through State Park System properties. In addition, certain other lands which are conspicuously visible from State Park System lands, and particularly from places frequented by visitors, are within the interest zone of the department.

In the case of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the entire basin of Mill Creek is in the category of a zone of primary interest of the Department of Parks and Recreation, because of the great significance of lower Mill Creek as an ecological and esthetic resource in the park. The upper West Branch of Mill Creek bears this same relationship to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, in addition to its significance for Jedediah Smith Redwoods.

Although Wilson Creek crosses a narrow strip of State Park System land (Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park) at the beach west of U.S. Highway 101, it would be disproportionate to claim its relatively large watershed as a zone of departmental interest for this reason alone. It is therefore not included in such zone.

At Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, the major concern of the department is for the entire watershed of Prairie Creek, upstream from the south boundary of the park. Most of this watershed lies in the park, except for the headwaters of some of the east side tributaries, which are lands of critical importance. In addition, and contiguous to these lands, the strip between the crest of East Ridge and the adopted route for U.S. Highway 101, now under construction, is of great concern to the department, since access to it will be primarily through the park after completion of the freeway.

Besides the terrestrial zones discussed above, the department has an interest in all offshore submerged lands that adjoin upland areas controlled by the department. This interest extends outward a minimum distance of 300 meters (1,000 feet) offshore, and includes all marine life and submerged features and resources in this zone. When the underwater features become better known, it may be possible and desirable to establish a more precise offshore boundary.

Declaration of Resource Management Policy

BACKGROUND AND LEGAL BASIS

The body of policies in this section of the Resource Element is included pursuant to Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code. That section provides that there shall be included a Declaration of Resource Management Policy, "setting forth the precise actions and limitations required for the achievement of the objectives established in the declaration of purpose."

GENERAL RESOURCE POLICIES

In the early 1970s, the director adopted a series of Resource Management Directives designed to assist in perpetuation, enhancement, and management of most of the categories of resources in the State Park System. The directives were subsequently modified and expanded. Those policies have statewide application, and are intended to control resource activities in all units of the system.

The policies which follow are intended to be consistent with the Resource Management Directives, but they are more detailed and more specific in their application to Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks.

POLICIES BY RESOURCE CATEGORIES

The policies in this section are grouped in the same sequence, and under the same major headings, as the resources discussed in the Summary of Resources, above.

It has been pointed out earlier in several contexts that the prime resource of each of these state parks, and the reason for their establishment, is the primeval redwood forest embraced within them. All management policies for park resources in each of these units must be consistent with, and supportive of, perpetuation of the redwood forests and their optimum appreciation by park visitors. Specific policies governing management of primeval forests will be found below, in the section on Plant Life.

NATURAL RESOURCES -- PHYSICAL

Topography

Climate and Meteorology

(There are no specific policies dealing primarily with these subjects.)

Water Features and Hydrology

Human Impact on Hydrology

Visitor use has affected the hydrologic resources of the parks over time, and may continue to do so as park visitation and demand for facilities increase in the future. Pressure will continue to exist for water to be diverted for consumption, degraded through waste disposal, and otherwise affected by human activities.

> Policy: The department shall avoid internal use patterns, specifically development of facilities, that are damaging to the quality, quantity, or biological integrity of hydrologic resources or their relationships with other park values. The department shall undertake investigations to clearly identify and evaluate waste disposal systems currently in use in the parks. In addition, the current methods of supplying water to the parks and the amounts being diverted shall be evaluated.

The department shall further undertake to maintain areas in, and/or restore them to, their natural and historic hydrologic condition, as determined by specific research. This shall specifically include study of the historic channel of Boyes Creek through Boyes Prairie (Elk Prairie) at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

Sedimentation and Erosion

Past, present, and future human disturbances (e.g., logging, construction, mining, grazing, recreational uses), whether inside or outside the parks, will continue to affect the sediment load and siltation rates in the parks. If these situations are not identified, monitored, and corrected or prevented by watershed treatment methods, stream channels will be affected to the point where major park values will be lost.

Policy: The department shall be actively involved in land use decisions to develop or change the current use of all lands adjacent to the parks that may affect hydrologic resources. This specifically includes actions that may be hazardous to park areas such as timber harvesting, mining, grazing, or road and building construction (e.g., Gasquet Mountain mine project, U.S. Highway 101 bypass development, etc.). Measures to maintain natural water quality, channel flow, and sediment rates shall be vigorously recommended and supported. In addition, the department shall make every effort to remain informed of all external ownership changes and planned activities for parcels within the watershed that affects the parks. Internal disturbances (department-controlled activities) shall be designed and carried out so they do not cause or intensify sedimentation or erosion.

Water Quality

Deterioration of water quality in regional streams could seriously threaten the prime natural resources of the parks. Knowledge of water quality characteristics, particularly chemical composition, aquatic biota, and sediment load, is critical in detecting any changes in the quality of surface runoff. Monitoring has been conducted outside the parks on a continuous basis in some locations, but has been done only rarely for special-purpose studies in the parks. In addition, little information exists on the depth, quality, and extent of groundwater in the parks.

Policy: The department shall request additional monitoring of surface water quality by responsible agencies as it deems appropriate, for runoff originating in or entering the parks. Specifically, this shall include gathering additional information to determine the magnitude, extent, and causes of a potential coliform bacteria problem in Prairie Creek. Monitoring is also particularly important for maintenance and protection of the Smith River in its current pristine state as a part of the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Studies shall also be undertaken to determine the depth, quality, and extent of groundwater in the parks. Data from such studies shall be applied to the evaluation of potential adverse impacts on hydrologic and biotic resources, as well as on other park values. Surface water shall be protected from degradation and from excess sedimentation resulting from human disturbances both inside and outside the parks (e.g., chemical spraying, construction, logging, grazing, mining, and inappropriate forms of recreation).

Flood-Prone Areas

Flood potential is high in the North Coast Hydrologic Basin, and floods have been a primary factor in the development of its natural features. Human settlements, agriculture, and transportation networks are generally located on floodplain areas, which are most apt to experience high-water conditions. In many portions of the region, the flood risks and accurate delineation of flood-hazard areas are not clearly identified.

> Policy: The department shall pursue nonstructural methods of flood management for all existing and future development in flood zones of the parks. These methods shall allow only those uses compatible with periodic inundation, such as recreation, fish and wildlife preservation, and general open space activities consistent with the parks' classification and values. Methods shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, those that ensure compatible land uses by limiting development in flood-hazard areas, and those that minimize damage potential to existing facilities by flood-proofing (i.e., changes in design or materials).
>
> The department shall also seek information and support efforts to further delineate flood-hazard areas in the parks.

General Hydrologic Resource Information

The hydrologic resources of the three parks and their watersheds are extensive, and constitute a central force shaping the ecosystems in the parks. Information is lacking in many areas on the amount of runoff, seasonal fluctuation, and the general characteristics of the streams.

> Policy: The department shall pursue the gathering of hydrologic information for those areas lacking adequate description. This shall include small watersheds, as discussed in the Inventory of Features, that may be included in fire management plans or other management and planning efforts. It shall also include specific monitoring and research to better understand the hydrologic conditions of the redwood forests, and to further define and solve suspected problems.

Smith River

The Smith River is a prime attraction at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. It is the last free-flowing river in California, and has been designated a Wild and Scenic River. Its water quality is higher than that of other rivers in the area, and perhaps in the entire state, and it supports a significant anadromous fishery. With its clean, clear, deep, slow-moving water, the Smith is probably the best example of moving fresh water in the State Park System. It is now used by some visitors for snorkeling and scuba diving. The quality of the water appears to be endangered only by certain upstream mining proposals.

> Policy: All development and operational activities shall be examined carefully for potential impacts on the Smith River. If adverse impacts are identified, they shall be mitigated. Any new facility development within 30 meters (100 feet) of the river banks shall consist only of minor access facilities.

The department shall protect, perpetuate, and make available to visitors the exceptional underwater values of the Smith River.

Geology

General

The seacliffs at Prairie Creek Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks are subject to wave erosion, block falls, debris avalanches, landslides, and gully erosion from runoff. Design and placement of facilities near cliff edges should consider that seacliff retreat is an ongoing process. To assure public safety, and to provide for protection of facilities, bluff setback zones should be established. Two zones are needed: 1) a zone of exclusion, in which facility development is precluded; and 2) a zone of demonstration, in which facility development is allowed if stability and geologic suitability can be demonstrated.

> Policy: A zone of exclusion shall be established which includes the base, face, and top of all seacliffs, extending inland to a plane formed by a 45-degree angle from the horizontal at the toe of the seacliff. No new structures shall be constructed in this zone unless they are either movable or expendable. A zone of demonstration shall be established which extends inland from the zone of exclusion to the intersection of the ground surface, with the plane inclined 20 degrees from the horizontal from the toe of the cliff.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks are subject to landslides and groundshaking associated with earthquakes and fault rupture. Landslides and block falls may be triggered by earthquakes, ocean wave undercutting, severe storms which saturate permeable formations, or human alterations to the natural system.

> Policy: Geologically hazardous areas shall be identified and noted whenever observed during field work, and a regular monitoring program shall be initiated to document landslide, block fall, and seacliff retreat activities. Areas exhibiting symptoms of instability, particularly if subject to landslides, shall not be developed.

Facilities built in the units may experience shaking associated with earthquake activity generated either onshore or offshore. The area has a potential for large-scale earthquakes and possible surface rupture.

> Policy: All structures shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code (Title 24).

Beach-Level Development and Beach Access

Constant attack from waves, tidal surge, and high tides results in cutting back of the seacliffs, beach erosion, and periodic beach deposition. Tsunamis have occurred here, as in March 1964 after the Alaska earthquake. The near-shore processes are constantly shifting, resulting in alteration of beach profiles and coastline configuration.

Policy: No permanent facilities shall be constructed on the strip of land along the coast which is subject to direct wave attack during storms, high tides, or tsunamis. All facilities on the beach level shall be either expendable or movable.

The area around Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park has been extensively explored for mineral deposits. Mining for cobalt, nickel, and other commodities has resulted in surface disturbance, construction of roads, and (thus far) minor environmental impacts. Proposals to develop and operate a strip mine and minerals processing facility in the adjacent Six Rivers National Forest may result in major environmental impacts, however.

Policy: The department shall acquire baseline information on the biologic and physical environment of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, and shall rigorously monitor key environmental factors over time, to determine the effects of nearby mining and processing activities.

Soils and Erosion Control

Accelerated, unnatural erosion, including dust generation, poses a significant threat to the biotic and scenic resources of the park. Particulates settling on leaves interfere with processes vital to photosynthesis, such as gas exchange, transpiration, and absorption of sunlight. Perpetuation of the redwood community depends on the maintenance of healthy soil.

Policy: All activities or developments which will disturb the soil surface shall include measures to minimize impacts. Areas of unnatural water or wind erosion shall be treated, using techniques which are harmonious with park resources and the objectives of the department. The source and/or cause of such areas of erosion shall be identified and corrected. All new developments shall be designed so dust generation is minimized.

Road construction, facility development, and past grazing, mining, and timber harvesting have caused substantial erosion and soil loss in the watersheds above Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. Recreational use of trails and campgrounds has also led to excessive erosion in isolated areas in the units.

Policy: Erosion attributable to development and use shall be treated until returned to natural levels. Revegetation, reshaping, and redirecting of runoff into nonerosive drainages should be considered as part of accomplishing this objective.

Abandoned roads and trails shall be treated to halt accelerated erosion, and to return the areas to a natural state.

Parking areas shall be designed to minimize erosion. Permeable surfaces should be considered more desirable for parking areas, to encourage percolation and reduce surface runoff.

Plant Life

General Vegetation Management

It is a goal of the department to preserve and perpetuate representative examples of natural plant communities common to the parks and the region. Plant communities such as the primeval coast redwood forest were once significantly more widespread in California. It is estimated that about 90 percent of the original redwood forests have now been logged, cleared for pasture, built on, paved over for highways or parking lots, or lost to wildfires or tree farms. The goal of perpetuation applies not only to such forests, but generally to other plant communities as well.

> Policy: On lands other than those supporting existing facilities, vegetation shall generally be managed toward a natural condition; that is, toward plant communities that result from normal successional activities. In areas previously modified, ongoing efforts shall be made to encourage natural restoration. The natural state of the vegetation shall be determined through scientific analysis, by means and techniques approved and adopted by the department. Specific vegetation management programs shall be devised and adopted. Under special circumstances and for specific and compelling reasons, the department may adopt vegetation management programs for limited areas that direct growth and development toward other than a successional climax condition.

Primeval Forests

No single feature of these parks is of greater significance or importance than the redwood forests they were established to protect. The primary responsibility of the department here is to perpetuate these forests and their supporting ecosystems in essentially a natural condition. Rather than to identify the status or appearance of the forest at a specific time period in the past and to restore the vegetation to such a condition, the objective will be to perpetuate the ongoing trend of natural succession without the effects of modern disruptive influences and modifications.

It is very important to identify and to evaluate all of the natural elements and natural factors that influenced the evolution and growth of these forests in prehistoric times. This will include the cultural practices and lifestyle of Native American peoples living in and around these forests, and a determination as to whether, and to what extent (if any), these factors will need to be restored in current management programs.

Fire in redwood forests is a factor of great significance in park management. The effects of holocausts which occurred five or six decades ago are still clearly visible in several parts of the redwood region -- notably in the forest between Patrick's Point State Park and Big Lagoon, and in and around Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area in northern Mendocino County. It may require a century or more for all the effects to be obliterated.

Policy: The department shall undertake an ongoing program to identify and evaluate all the factors affecting the growth of forests and associated biological communities in prehistoric times, and to identify and evaluate human interferences with these natural processes which are in effect today (including the recent policy of total fire exclusion). The department shall adopt management programs for these redwood forests and associated plant communities that will, to the greatest possible extent, perpetuate ongoing natural influences, overcome or counteract the effects of past and present human interferences with the natural factors, and eliminate or prevent such interference in the future.

In cooperation with appropriate local fire control agencies, the department shall adopt an effective program of protection against accidental or unplanned fires, and shall reduce the possibility of accidental fires through a program of prescribed burning, where appropriate.

The Save-the-Redwoods League, incorporated in 1919, antedates both the State Park System and the predecessors of the present department responsible for custody of the earliest state park lands. From its inception, the league has been receiving gifts of private funds for purchase of park-quality lands to be turned over to the state. Tens of million of dollars have been raised and donated; the work still goes on, with undiminished pace. Had it not been for this organization and the donors it attracted, the redwood units of the State Park System could not exist as we know them today.

The present leadership of the league is well informed concerning the department's prescribed burning program, and of the ecological necessity of fire restoration in redwood forests to perpetuate natural values. Representatives of the league have visited the department's burn projects and observed the results, with understanding and general approval. They firmly believe, however, that if prescriptions are used that allow scorching of tree trunks or creation of other fire scars, prospective league donors will be displeased, and may withhold donations or seek other beneficiaries. The department, the State Park System, and all citizens would be adversely affected by such a turn of events.

Policy: Any program of prescribed burning in the redwood parks shall avoid the destructiveness and adverse visual effects caused by severe burning. Fire prescription in primeval forests shall be in accordance with the most restrictive prescribed fire management policies of the department, applicable to memorial groves, and thus designed to hold scorching of trunks to an absolute minimum, to keep the effects reasonably acceptable from an esthetic standpoint. The prescribed burning program as a whole, and the timing of its implementation, shall be developed in consultation with the league, which shall be kept currently informed of the status and progress of the prescribed burning program.

Development of facilities in primeval forests is not good park management policy, for ecological reasons. In addition, occupancy of facilities in dense forests can subject visitors to serious tree hazards. Esthetically these forests are generally recognized as constituting a primeval natural spectacle of world-wide significance -- indeed, they have been dedicated as a World

Heritage Site -- where facilities would constitute serious and unacceptable intrusions on an otherwise natural scene. Most of the primeval forests in the parks are embraced in memorial groves established by the Save-the-Redwoods League, and the league supports the department's unwritten policy of recent years that facilities will not be constructed in primeval groves.

> Policy: No new developments, other than trails, small roadside parking areas, and exhibits, will be constructed in the primeval forests in any of these three redwood state parks.

A special instance of facility development is that of roads and highways. It is recognized that there are, in the primeval forests in these parks, several major road developments that would not be countenanced if they were proposed for construction today. This includes the so-called Cal Barrel Road at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; the Howland Hill Road at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; and, indeed, many substantial segments of U.S. Highways 101, 199, and other state highways. These facilities, which are in place today, afford esthetic experiences of tremendous importance which we would not want to discontinue. However, the contribution which these existing facilities make to a greater visitor experience is sufficient, and additional intrusions of the same type are unjustifiable and unacceptable.

> Policy: No new public roads or highways shall be constructed on primeval forest land in these state parks. (This policy is not intended to preclude the relocation of existing road or highway segments which now degrade or detract from visitor experiences, even though such relocation might necessarily involve short stretches or connections in forest areas.)

Ecological Burning

Natural fire is recognized as one of the ecological factors contributing to perpetuation of plant and animal habitats, including some species that may be rare or endangered, in many of the communities found at Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks. The importance of fire in perpetuating forest land was discussed above, but the same considerations also apply to some other vegetation.

> Policy: To the maximum extent possible, fire shall be restored to its natural role in all vegetative types where it has been found to be an ecologically significant factor. Fire management programs that detail ongoing programs of fire use shall be prepared and carried out by the department.

Protection From Wildfires

Wildfire is a severe hazard during some weather conditions on the north coast. Not only can it severely damage natural resources, but it can threaten human life and property as well.

> Policy: A wildfire management plan which addresses wildfire prevention, presuppression, and suppression shall be developed by the department, in cooperation with the responsible wildfire control agencies in the respective parks. This plan shall include prevention measures; criteria,

standards, and location of fire access roads, fuelbreaks, and other fire protection facilities; visitor evacuation and safety; and acceptable fire-fighting procedures. Because fire control facilities and procedures can and often do cause longer-lasting damage to park resources than does fire itself, development of special standards and procedures applicable to park environments is of the utmost importance. It cannot be assumed that conventional standards, criteria, and specifications employed by non-park fire protection agencies are acceptable in state parks. All parts of the wildfire management plan must be fully consistent with primary park resource values and major park objectives. Department standards require that there be a minimum disturbance of soil and primary emphasis on esthetic impacts in location, construction, and maintenance of fire roads and fuelbreaks.

The fact that prescribed burning may be used for fuel reduction or vegetation management purposes does not reduce the necessity for prevention and control of wildfires, and for installation (according to park system standards) of presuppression facilities such as fire access roads and fuelbreaks. However, the wildfire protection plan must take into account the existence of the prescribed burning program, and be fully coordinated with it.

Cutover Areas and Young Forests

In each of the three parks, there are major areas which were logged to various degrees of intensity (from clearcutting to careful selection or "highgrading") before the land was acquired for state park purposes. Additional cutover lands may be acquired in the future. The present condition of these lands ranges from very young regenerating forests to mature forests, only slightly modified from the primeval condition. The department's function and mission do not include either timber harvesting (commercial forest management) or commodity production; it is the intent and objective that cutover lands will, in general, be managed to reattain the status of natural, mature forests. In the meantime, however, some areas of young forests are available and appropriate for the location of facilities and developments that are not allowable in primeval forests or certain other natural areas in the parks.

Policy: The department shall develop specific and detailed long-term management programs for cutover lands and young forests which will control and direct their growth toward maturity in ways that will best fulfill the objectives of the department and the declared purposes of the parks.

In selecting sites for development of facilities in young forests, the factors taken into account shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: the forest type involved, and the species composition expected or intended at maturity; the ecological resilience or fragility of the site; the occurrence of rare or endangered plant or animal species; the existence of present or potential tree hazards; the existence of cultural resources; and possible effects of the development on surrounding and/or downstream lands and resources.

Restoration and Management of Grasslands

Before the lands were acquired by the state, grazing of domestic livestock caused considerable alteration of the natural grasslands at several sites in these parks. Elk Prairie, at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Lincoln and Ossagon Prairies at the same park, and probably several other grassland areas are now grazed by native elk (there are about 30 animals currently in the herd at Elk Prairie). About 20 percent of Elk Prairie is dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.), while the remaining vegetation is dominated by alien and native species, with low forage value for the animals. Elk Prairie is also being encroached upon from all sides by various species of woody plants, including trees. The same situation exists to a somewhat lesser extent at some of the other grasslands in the parks. Where investigation shows that all or portions of some meadow areas were created by clearing in historic times, it may be desirable to encourage some such areas to revert to forest.

> Policy: Grazing of domestic livestock shall not be permitted in Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, or Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks. Management programs shall be adopted that have, as their objective, the return of all grasslands to as nearly a natural prairie condition as possible, except where it has been determined that specific areas are to revert to forest. Where water has been diverted from the grasslands, an effort shall be made to return the water flow to its natural regimen. The use of prescribed fire shall be considered and evaluated to return the species composition toward a natural condition. Physical removal of encroaching species, by appropriate methods, may be desirable, and should be considered.

Alien Plant Species Control

Alien or non-native plants often compete successfully with natural vegetation, altering natural ecosystems and changing the natural scenery.

> Policy: Alien species capable of naturalizing in the parks shall be removed in accordance with policies set forth in the department's Resource Management Directives (1831.1(34)). The department shall gather and document information on alien species established in the parks or threatening to become so, and shall revise and update the data as necessary. Investigations shall be conducted to determine whether alien plants will be encouraged or discouraged by ecological burning activities, and the resulting information shall be taken into account in preparing fire management plans. Specific programs shall be prepared for the control of troublesome alien species, giving highest priority to those that are most aggressive, most conspicuous, and/or have greatest ecological impact.

European Beachgrass

This introduced species (*Ammophila arenaria*) is widespread on Gold Bluffs Beach, and probably occurs to a lesser extent on other beaches in the area. This alien species has been partially responsible for establishment and stabilization of the dunes, but at the expense of the natural ecosystem in the area. The species occurs not as an invasive weed, but rather as a species that was introduced deliberately in many parts of coastal California in an effort to stabilize dunes.

Policy: The department shall conduct investigations to determine the character of a natural dune ecosystem in this area. After this information is available, an effort shall be made to replace the European beachgrass with native species that will reestablish and perpetuate a natural ecosystem in the dunes.

Rare and Endangered Plant Protection

Rare and endangered plants can be inadvertently destroyed by development of facilities, maintenance programs, visitor use, or other activities, especially when their exact locations, habitat requirements, and tolerances are not known.

Policy: State and federal rare, endangered, and threatened plants found in the parks shall be made a matter of official record, and shall be protected from interference and managed for their perpetuation. Before any site-specific development, and before preparation of fire management plans, the affected area shall be surveyed by professionals for endemic, rare, or endangered plants. It must be recognized with respect to fire that some of the plants in these categories require fire for their perpetuation, whereas others may be discouraged by fire or eliminated, if fire is not required in their successional pattern. Preparation of all management plans shall take this into account.

Flora of Serpentine Areas

Outcroppings of peridotite and serpentine occur along the eastern boundary of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, and possibly elsewhere in this or the other parks. Soils derived from these rocks support unusual flora, which are high in endemism and in rare and endangered plant species. These areas possess a high degree of both scientific value and esthetic appeal.

Policy: Areas along the serpentine belt shall be carefully surveyed for rare, endangered, and endemic plants and their associations. Where found, these shall be protected, recorded, monitored, and managed for their perpetuation. There shall be no developments other than trails in serpentine areas, or in other areas exhibiting endemism or otherwise having ecological sensitivity.

Management and Protection of Port-Orford-Cedar

Port-Orford-cedar is of special interest because of its limited distribution. It is threatened in its natural range by an introduced European root-rot fungus (*Phytophthora lateralis*), which attacks and kills the trees. Specimens in the Smith River drainage at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park are already infected.

Policy: Areas containing Port-Orford-cedar shall be identified and mapped in the parks. The spread of *Phytophthora lateralis* shall be closely monitored. An ecological study of the root-rot fungus has been made by the U.S. Forest Service (Adams and Kliejunas, November 1980); recommendations in the report should be followed insofar as they apply to State Park System lands.

Recreational Impact on Vegetation

There have been many observations of the detrimental effect of soil compaction at recreational sites on the growth and vigor of mature redwoods, and a reduction in tree vigor associated with soil compaction may generally be expected.

> Policy: Sites of heavy recreational use, such as campgrounds, parking areas, and heavily traveled trails, shall be monitored for degradation of natural resources. When such degradation becomes evident, the department shall act promptly to alleviate the situation, and, if necessary, shall relocate the facilities and associated recreational use. Restoration shall then be undertaken.

Animal Life

General Wildlife Management

Animal life in a natural setting adds a great deal of interest and variety to visitor experiences. Animal communities are also an environmental factor of the ecosystem, interrelating with and affecting other elements. Protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations is one of the major management objectives for each park.

> Policy: Wherever possible, the department shall restore altered natural habitats as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in had natural ecological processes not been disrupted. Whether or not restoration of natural conditions is possible, it shall be the policy of the department to avoid significant imbalances caused by human influences on the natural wildlife populations. If it is necessary to regulate the populations by something other than natural means, the methods used shall be based on sound principles of ecosystem management, shall be consistent with the general policies of the department, and shall avoid disturbance to other natural values of the parks.

Management of Rare and Endangered Species

Four endangered species occur in these parks, or in the nearshore zone immediately adjacent to them. These are: the bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, and California brown pelican (each listed by both state and federal agencies), and the great gray owl, recently (1981) sighted at Prairie Creek Redwoods, listed by the state. The great gray owl sighting is considered "accidental" (fewer than five sightings). The other three birds are more commonly seen, in suitable habitat. Concern for their management must consider perpetuation and maintenance of suitable habitat, to assure a place for these species.

> Policy: State and federal rare, endangered, and threatened animals shall be given a high management priority. Necessary and suitable habitat, where it exists, shall be perpetuated.

Management of Special Animal Species

Several wildlife species have been identified in the Inventory of Features as being of special interest or concern, and as requiring special monitoring and management. Some of these animals require management for protection and habitat enhancement, and to minimize human - wildlife conflicts or hazardous encounters. Others require monitoring and management aimed at controlling and reducing the impacts of non-indigenous species on native species.

> Policy: The special-interest animals identified in the Summary of Resources shall be given a high management priority. Programs or projects undertaken at these parks shall be planned and designed so habitat for native special-interest animals will be perpetuated. Natural resource management objectives will focus on natural processes, rather than on individual species, and on natural processes that are mutually beneficial to all important resources.

Management of Roosevelt Elk

The Roosevelt elk is a natural resource which attracts considerable attention and visitor enjoyment. While most often seen near U.S. Highway 101 at Elk Prairie, and at Gold Bluffs Beach, there are numerous other locations in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park that these magnificent animals use and depend upon for forage, seclusion, resting, mating, rearing young, and corridors for travel. The integrity and full protection of such areas are of vital importance to the health and continuance of the species at this park.

> Policy: Vital elk habitat shall be managed to give priority to its value for wildlife over any other values it may possess. The zones delineated on the Vital Elk Habitat Map, which include those areas needed for forage, seclusion, resting, mating, rearing young, and travel corridors, shall receive special care so their conditions are not altered by human activities. Where such infringements now exist, they shall be carefully evaluated and monitored to prevent additional interruptions and to reduce their impacts, when possible. Infringements which are found to constitute an unnecessary and unacceptable interruption shall be considered for removal. Since natural processes and forces will change these habitats and others over time, a shifting of designated protection zones and management actions may be required.
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> The department shall maintain a coordinated elk management program with other responsible agencies, including the state Department of Fish and Game, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and Humboldt State University.

Gold Bluffs Beach Habitat

Gold Bluffs Beach is a primary feature of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Until recently, the beach itself, below mean high tide line, was outside the control of the department. Vehicles have access to the beach at the extreme southern end, and are driven along it for recreational purposes and for commercial fishing. The study conducted at Crescent Beach by Boyd and DeMartini (refer to Summary of Resources -- Animal Life) showed that vehicles

cause a significant mortality of beach animals by compaction of the sand. The eggs and hatchlings of beach-nesting birds, such as snowy plovers and killdeer, are also affected by this activity. In addition, the presence of vehicles on Gold Bluffs Beach disrupts the feeling of wildness that this beach offers to visitors.

Policies designed to manage this and other related problems will be found under "Recreational Resources -- Gold Bluffs Beach."

Aquatic Life

California's northern coastal streams and their tributaries, and certain other freshwater features in the region, provide important habitat for anadromous and resident species of salmon and other species of freshwater fish. These watercourses historically have been affected as a result of logging, road construction, mining operations, and other human activities which have altered the natural hydrology and sediment flow in the watersheds. The water quality of some of these streams has been affected by inadequately designed waste disposal systems close to the streams.

Espa Lagoon, located near the southern end of Gold Bluffs Beach at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, is a freshwater pond unique to this section of the coast, providing habitat for newts, salamanders, frogs, and waterfowl.

A general decline in the concern for maintaining healthy freshwater ecosystems can often be associated with an ability to "compensate" for reduced native stocks by planting fish. The stocking of catchable-sized rainbow trout in these streams and in Espa Lagoon has resulted in dilution of the native coast cutthroat trout gene pool, and has provided an unneeded competitor for the native species.

> Policy: The department shall take steps to terminate the planting of hatchery-reared rainbow trout in all streams in these redwood state parks, and in Espa Lagoon; and shall consider, if necessary, stocking of native coast cutthroat trout for the purpose of reestablishing natural populations. The department shall inventory the habitat of all streams, and of Espa Lagoon, and shall develop a priority system based on the rehabilitation needs of these water bodies. These activities shall be undertaken in cooperation with the state Department of Fish and Game.

Stream clearance programs can be overzealous in their efforts to remove log jams that block migratory fish from gaining access to spawning areas. Recent investigations are providing information as to the value of large, organic debris in stream channels as a substrate for aquatic invertebrates, or as habitat structures for fish. Removal of all logs or log jams from streams may not necessarily be the most beneficial practice.

> Policy: Log jams will be selected for removal based on criteria that will weigh their contribution as habitat or habitat-creating material, and not solely on their existence as migration impediments or barriers. Such programs will be coordinated with the state Department of Fish and Game.

Ecological Values

This section is concerned not so much with individual resources as with ecosystems, habitats, and the relationships between organisms.

Wetland Ecosystems, General

The wetlands of California have long suffered environmental degradation from human activities in and around them. As a result, these ecosystems have been significantly reduced. This damage has been recognized and corrective action taken, as outlined in the following policy of the Resources Agency:

> "It is the basic policy of the Resources Agency that this agency and its departments, boards, and commissions will not authorize or approve projects that fill or otherwise harm or destroy coastal, estuarine, or inland wetlands."

For the purposes of this policy, wetlands are defined in Section 5812(a), Public Resources Code, as follows:

> "Wetlands means streams, channels, lakes, reservoirs, bays, estuaries, lagoons, marshes, and the lands underlying and adjoining such waters, whether permanently or intermittently submerged, to the extent that such waters and lands support and contain significant fish, wildlife, recreational, esthetic, or scientific resources."

> Policy: The department shall not undertake projects or conduct other activities that would adversely affect wetlands.

> The department shall establish a defined zone of influence around each wetland where restrictions will be placed on disturbing activities.

Espa Lagoon

At Espa Lagoon in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, the present housing complex affects the integrity and quality of this wetland. In addition, the water level has been altered by road construction, and this has affected both the natural and cultural resources of the area. Present unit operations require the use of these housing facilities to protect other park resources.

> Policy: It is the objective of the department to gain control over access to the coastal region at Gold Bluffs, now reached by a county road. When control of access no longer requires housing and other facilities at Espa Lagoon, those facilities shall be removed, when feasible.

> The department shall prepare and carry out a management plan with the objective of restoring, maintaining, and perpetuating Espa Lagoon, its ecologically best achievable water impoundment, and its native plant and animal life.

Terrestrial Ecosystems, Riparian

Riparian vegetation provides an environment that is diverse, and enhances watercourses with the capability of sustaining numerous aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Other watercourses without riparian vegetation do not support the same variety or multitude of organisms. These important ecosystems provide a basic link in a complex food chain.

> Policy: The department shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, all riparian ecosystems in these parks.

Red Alder Groves

Red alder (*Alnus oregona*) communities constitute a special instance of riparian ecosystems. They are located in moist areas along stream banks, surrounding marshes, and on slopes with active seepage. The species is intolerant of shade, and is usually the first to become established in areas of past disturbance. The species has a relatively short life span of about 100 years, and the trees quickly die when the canopy above is closed by the growth of other trees.

> Policy: Owing to the early senescence of red alder and its susceptibility to windfall and bole failure, constituting serious tree hazards, and because it usually occurs in sensitive riparian areas, development of facilities in red alder communities should be avoided.

Elk Prairie

This important natural feature in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is an area of significant biological and esthetic importance. It has been discussed above under Grasslands, but requires further consideration here because of its significance as a prime biotic community. Prairie Creek and one of its tributaries, Boyes Creek, each flows along a perimeter of the prairie. These streams support native resident and migratory fish populations.

These streams and the prairie have been highly developed and affected, both before and since park acquisition. Before acquisition, the prairie was developed as a farm, and support structures were built, including a house and a barn. An apple orchard was planted near the house. These features still exist. Runoff to Boyes Creek was channeled, changing the water regimen across the prairie.

In the 1930s, a site on the prairie was developed as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Most of the structures built there by the corps have since been removed. Others, including the park office/visitor center and restrooms, still remain.

U.S. Highway 101 bisects the prairie in a north-south direction. This is the major coastal route, with heavy traffic, especially during summer. Elk attempting to cross the highway are sometimes hit by passing vehicles. (The subject is treated more fully under the heading of Esthetic Resources, below.)

Since park acquisition, employee residences, maintenance buildings, the contact station, power lines, fences, campsites and related facilities, and water and septic systems have been added in or adjacent to the prairie.

These facilities have made intrusions that have impaired natural ecosystem balances.

> Policy: The department shall act to secure a suitable location, away from Elk Prairie and other prime resource areas, to provide employee housing, maintenance and operation facilities, campsites, and the necessary utilities and systems. The visitor center, which is historic, attractive, and well located, should remain, however.
>
> When planning relocation of facilities, the department shall consider the regional nature of these parks, and shall, when possible, cooperate with the National Park Service to plan and share facilities and programs that would complement each entity and prevent duplication.
>
> Cutover areas shall receive first consideration over prime resource areas for needed facility development, irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries.
>
> Although political, legal, or economic realities may prevent immediate removal of the many intrusions on these environmentally and esthetically significant resources, it is the ultimate goal of the department to eliminate from these parks any human-installed features which are poorly located, are unnecessary, or are irrelevant to the parks' purposes.
>
> When such facilities have been eliminated, the department shall act to restore these environments to as natural of a condition as possible.

Fern Canyon

This renowned scenic attraction draws thousands of visitors each year. Like many such places, overuse may pose challenges for proper resource management, and future threats to the resource. Already, Fern Canyon's features have been degraded by existing use patterns. Such degradation is relatively inconspicuous at this time, but impacts on vegetation, stream gradients, and soil erosion and compaction, especially near the mouth and on the rim of the canyon, are occurring as a result of visitor use patterns. Trees that fall into the canyon, owing to collapse of the banks or from other causes, are occasionally being removed to prevent undercutting of the banks caused by diversion of the stream.

Maintaining the parking area near the mouth of the canyon has altered the lower course of Home Creek, which may be affecting hydrological processes. The vehicles also create a visual intrusion on the natural surroundings. However, as long as vehicle access to Fern Canyon is permitted, parking in the current location causes less impact than any alternative sites in the area.

> Policy: A management plan for Fern Canyon shall be developed and carried out, taking into consideration processes which will perpetuate the canyon's prime features. Guidelines for removal of downed trees shall be prepared and adopted, to aid in making sound decisions as to which fallen trees need to be removed for bank protection, and which can be left to illustrate natural processes.
>
> Visitor use patterns shall be monitored to foresee threatening impacts on the canyon. If use levels unduly threaten the resource, the department shall take measures necessary to protect it.

General Ecological Values

Several kinds of ecosystems occur in or embrace the various plant and animal communities at these parks. Terrestrial examples include forest ecosystems, shrub ecosystems, grassland ecosystems, and riparian ecosystems. Wetlands examples include beach and dune ecosystems, marshes and bogs, and aquatic ecosystems (freshwater and marine).

> Policy: For the purposes of resource perpetuation, management, and interpretation, the department shall identify and describe the various ecosystems present in these state parks, and shall develop additional inventory data on the ecosystems. Further, the department shall determine and set forth the kinds of information necessary for such description and identification; for management, and for monitoring natural processes; and for evaluating necessary investigations as they are conducted. Detailed management policies, standards, criteria, and principles shall be founded on ecological understanding. These shall be prepared by the department as appropriate, and submitted to the director for approval and adoption.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Native American Resources

The sensitivity of Native American sites is determined by the type of site, the current condition of the site, and its location and potential for destruction or damage. In Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, there are seven recorded Native American sites; in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, there are five; and in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, there are six. Several of the recorded sites have not had their exact boundaries established, and in some cases, even the precise locations are uncertain.

> Policy: For each site lacking this information, the department shall determine the precise location, extent, and definite boundaries, so appropriate protection for the site can be provided.

Owing to very dense vegetation and thick accumulations of litter and duff, extensive areas in each of the state parks remain unsurveyed for archeological purposes; any of these unsurveyed areas may contain Native American resources.

> Policy: Unsurveyed areas in all of the parks shall be considered culturally sensitive. Any project or undertaking that would disturb the surface or subsurface of the ground shall require monitoring or survey by a State Archeologist.
>
> All Native American sites which are close to roads, trails, public use areas, or other developments shall have appropriate steps taken by the department to protect them from damage. Where appropriate, steps shall be taken to confine visitors to trails, roadways, or other facilities. In some instances, to be determined by the department, it will be desirable to establish Native American sites as limited use areas.

There are several specific sites for which special protective measures need to be taken:

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Site CA-DNo-26 is the Tolowa village of Tcunsultun. It is located in the southern portion of the present campground, in the Hiouchi area of the park. Installation and maintenance of utility systems have already damaged the integrity of this site.

> Policy: The portion of the campground that affects site CA-DNo-26 shall be abandoned, and campsite furniture removed. Paving and utility lines shall remain, and no further subsurface disturbance shall take place.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Site CA-DNo-30 is a prehistoric and historic trail, which has been used as a park facility. It is now called the Damnation Creek Trail. This trail bisects another designated site, CA-DNo-31, which consists of a midden.

> Policy: All repair and maintenance work on the Damnation Creek Trail shall not further damage sites CA-DNo-30 and CA-DNo-31.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

The site of the Yurok village of Osegan is designated as CA-Hum-136. It lies along the old Ossagon Road, in the northwest part of the park.

> Policy: Site CA-Hum-136, the Yurok village of Osegan, shall be protected from surface or subsurface disturbance. The site of Osegan village should be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Site CA-Hum-133 is the designation for the Yurok village of Espa, located in the southwest part of the park, near the pond which has been named after the village. In recent years, a visitor overlook has been graded on top of a low ridge, with an approach road up the east side of the ridge. These facilities cut through and damage the site, which is still a place of cultural significance to present-day Yurok people.

> Policy: The road to the overlook shall be maintained as a trail only, with vehicular use prohibited. The limits of the Espa site shall be more completely determined. No obliteration or regrading of the present road or the overlook shall be undertaken; any work performed there shall be planned in concert with the local Native American community. This site should also be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical Resources

There are several interesting and important historic sites and structures in the three parks, and they are of considerable diversity in age and origin.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Camp Lincoln

Near the northwest corner of the park is the site of Camp Lincoln, dating to the time of the Civil War. Only one building associated with that period remains, and it underwent significant alteration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A modern structure used as park headquarters by the department also occupies the site. Although this is an important historic site, the integrity of the historic structure and of the site has been greatly compromised by a long series of modifications, and by numerous modern intrusions.

> Policy: The department shall protect the site and the remaining structure associated with Camp Lincoln. The department shall also continue to seek and receive additional information on the history of this particular site; when sufficient information is at hand, the department shall prepare a detailed policy concerning historical reconstruction, modification, and/or removal of structures.

Huffman Ranch

The Huffman Ranch structures, while not specifically historic in themselves, nevertheless constitute a fine example of farm house architecture and construction of around 1920. They have been slightly modified, although without significantly altering the basic integrity of the buildings. Their present use as a ranger residence does not adversely affect the structures or the site.

> Policy: The Huffman Ranch structures shall be preserved essentially in their original condition. No further alterations shall be made in the exterior of the house or the garage. The non-historic corrugated metal garage doors shall be replaced with wooden doors, consistent with the period of the buildings. Any maintenance or repair work on the two buildings shall use construction materials similar in type, quality, and appearance to those of the 1920s.

Pacamo Camp

Pacamo Camp, on the recently acquired Tracy property, is in an extremely dilapidated and hazardous condition. It has been completely recorded by documentation and photography. The state of deterioration in these structures appears to outweigh their relatively minor historic significance.

> Policy: The Pacamo Camp structures shall be removed because they detract from the esthetic and scenic quality of the location, and constitute a public hazard.

Little Bald Hills Road

Little Bald Hills Road, like Howland Hill Road, was once surfaced in places with wooden puncheons. One wooden puncheon is being exposed by erosion.

Policy: Any work on Little Bald Hills Road shall be preceded by a survey to locate possible puncheons that are buried. Exposed puncheons shall be filled around to reduce the possibility of their becoming dislodged or broken.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Remains of Logging Operations

In the west fork of Mill Creek are the remains of a historic railroad trestle, together with various types of logging remains and debris, and wooden planks or puncheons -- road surfacing from the logging period. The trestle is the only substantial remaining physical feature of the Del Norte Southern Railroad, once a common carrier intended to connect Crescent City with Eureka; it therefore has considerable historical significance.

Policy: The department shall prepare a structural engineering report on the railroad trestle, including recommendations as to the best way to preserve the structure. Future management policies shall be based on this report. Logging operations debris, including metal cogwheels, steel cables, and the wooden puncheons or road surfacing, shall be left in place. No new construction or development shall take place where the puncheon remains exist. Warning signs shall be placed to indicate that all debris must remain in place. Such signs should be located so they do not intrude on historical aspects of the scene.

Old Redwood Highway

The original route of the Redwood Highway extends along the bluffs at this park, having been abandoned as a highway because of the occurrence and further danger of massive landslides and seacliff retreat. Much of the old roadway, rapidly becoming overgrown with vegetation, is now used as a trail, under the name Last Chance Trail; this name appears to have been applied from a nearby feature, and not to have historical significance itself.

Policy: The Last Chance Trail shall continue to be maintained only as a trail. Removal of the remaining pavement would cause unnecessary disruption, and shall not be attempted.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Old Headquarters Buildings

The headquarters building at this park, and the nearby comfort station, were built during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The buildings retain their sense of time and place, and fit beautifully into the forest environment at the edge of Elk Prairie. A nearby bridge from the same period was recently rebuilt in the same type of architecture.

Policy: The old headquarters building and nearby comfort station built by the Civilian Conservation Corps shall not be further altered. In any repair or maintenance work on either building, materials of the same type, quality, and appearance shall be used; these shall be hand-crafted materials, wherever possible. These important structures shall not be removed in connection with restoration of the prairie.

Boyes Farm Buildings

Structures associated with the Boyes Farm remain on the northeast side of Elk Prairie in the park, and are now in use by the department. The features include the house, a good example of the California Bungalow style of the period; an adjacent garage dating from the same period; and the remnants of a fruit orchard, now heavily browsed by the elk herd. These features retain a strong sense of time and place. The integrity of the site has been compromised by the addition of four modern maintenance buildings by the department, and by the park residences built about 1950. It is recognized that, at this park, the integrity of the natural features takes precedence over that of the historical resources, which are, for the most part, of local interest only.

> Policy: Until the Boyes Prairie is returned to its natural condition, the structures at the Boyes Farm shall remain as they are, with no further alteration to the exterior of the structures. The house may continue to be used as a ranger residence. Removal of any structures should be preceded by a complete recording and documentation, with photographs, of the buildings and the surrounding site.

Gold Bluffs Mining Camp

The Gold Bluffs Mining Camp was located in Alexander Lincoln Prairie, just north of Fern Canyon, along Gold Bluffs Beach. A large-scale and long-term occupation of this site has been documented; while there are no surface remains existing, there are probably extensive subsurface remains in the area, and the site has a high degree of sensitivity.

> Policy: The general policy governing sites with no surface remains shall apply to the Gold Bluffs Mining Camp area located in Alexander Lincoln Prairie. If the area is subject to prescribed burning, an examination shall be conducted first, and an intensive historic archeological survey shall be conducted following the burn, when more remains may be visible. Any loose or portable discovered remains shall be transported to a safe place, and protected.

Coast Guard Structures

The former U.S. Coast Guard structures at Espa Lagoon are now used as a ranger station. The exact dates of construction and the original uses of these structures are not yet documented.

> Policy: The department shall research U.S. Coast Guard records to assess the authenticity and significance of the coast guard structures at Espa Lagoon. Before their removal, a complete documentation and photographic record of the buildings and the site shall be made. Monitoring for 19th-century mining remains or Native American artifacts shall be made during removal. Until the removal of these structures is undertaken, no major alterations shall be made to the exterior of the buildings.

General Policies

There are numerous historic sites in these three redwood state parks which consist only of minimal surface or subsurface remains. Such sites include Walker Ranch, the Lincoln School and Hampson property, the Nickerson Ranch site, and the Hickock house site, in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; railroad and logging debris in various parts of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park; and the Gold Bluffs Mining Camp, mining debris at Espa Lagoon, the Huggins home site, and the Carruthers Cove cabin site, in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Jedediah Smith Redwoods also contains an anonymous cabin, the historical significance of which has not been assessed.

> Policy: Historical sites that contain minimal surface remains and/or subsurface remains and artifacts shall not be disturbed. Natural vegetation shall be allowed to re-occupy the sites. Any resource management or maintenance work that would disturb these sites shall be preceded by an archeological investigation. Anonymous cabins shall be surveyed and assessed, so recommendations can be made for their retention, modification, or removal.

ESTHETIC RESOURCES

Memorial Groves

The commission and the department recognize and deeply appreciate the contributions that the Save-the-Redwoods League has made to the State Park System, and the active conservation role it has played over the years. Indeed, a good case can be made for a claim that the league is a parent of the State Park System. The league's memorial grove program has been instrumental in providing valuable parklands, while giving recognition to donors or to the persons whom they chose to honor. The commission and the department enthusiastically support and encourage this vital program.

As the emphasis on the value of these lands is heightened, programs to strengthen an appreciation of their natural values need to be emphasized, and efforts to reduce visual intrusions initiated. One such impairment of the visual quality of many of the superlative groves in these parks is the many large and brightly lettered memorial grove signs which pay tribute to civic-minded and generous persons. Alternative programs for identifying these groves might recognize the donors in a visitor center or other central location, with field identification of the individual groves by number or symbol, indexed by a map folder. This concept has been discussed in preliminary fashion with league personnel.

> Policy: Contingent on the full cooperation and support of the Save-the-Redwoods League, the department shall develop and carry out a program to reduce visual impairment caused by conspicuous memorial grove signs. An alternative program of designation, commensurate with resource values and agreeable to the league and to the Office of Interpretive Services, shall be sought and pursued.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Howland Hill Road

Howland Hill Road is used by tourists as a scenic drive, and as access to the superlative Stout Grove. Local residents use the road as a transportation route between Crescent City and communities east of the park. Historically, this was a dirt or gravel-surface road. Excessive dust generation and use by local people as a thoroughfare conflict with the purposes of the road as a pleasurable experience for park visitors, and as an access to prime park features. Originally, some sections of the old route were surfaced with puncheons or road planks; some of these are found on the spur, which is now used as a trail only. These historic wooden sections are not being endangered by present trail traffic, and surfacing of the main road is unlikely to disturb them.

> Policy: An environmentally sensitive dust abatement plan shall be developed, taking into consideration the scenic resources and the historical significance of the route. The plan shall be carried out without widening or straightening the roadbed, increasing its superelevation, or taking any other measures that would encourage greater driving speeds. Consideration shall be given to regulating the flow of traffic in a one-way direction, to promote visitor appreciation and to relieve user conflicts.

Walker Road

Walker Road, leading from U.S. Highway 199 (west of the Hiouchi bridge) north to the bank of the Smith River, is a low-standard, dead-end county road, with virtually no provisions for parking or turning around. It serves only park and river access purposes. It branches from U.S. 199 at one of the most scenic points in the memorial groves, where many visitors slow down or stop to observe the impressive trees; there is very poor sight distance for traffic at the intersection.

> Policy: The department shall coordinate with the County of Del Norte to permit the state to control dust and provide for adequate circulation.

Jordan Creek Corridor

The department has a major acquisition project encompassing Lakes Earl and Talawa, on the coast north of Crescent City. This project extends to within about two miles of the northwest part of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Some of the intervening land is attractively forested with dense young-growth forest and a scattering of older trees along the major feeder stream, Jordan Creek. Acquisition of a corridor joining the two major units would be very desirable.

> Policy: The department shall investigate the practicability of acquiring an appropriate degree of interest in a corridor of land joining Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park with the Lake Earl project, and shall proceed with such implementation, if feasible.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

U.S. Highway 101 Relocation

U.S. 101 passes through the center of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, traversing many memorial groves and bisecting Elk Prairie near park headquarters. Heavy summer traffic on this important route includes not only tourists but also large numbers of log and lumber trucks, other heavy vehicles, and many other kinds of commercial traffic. Trucks and tourist vehicles are frequently in conflict, owing to their different reasons for using the highway. Traffic congestion makes driving and sightseeing hazardous for park visitors, both in the forest area and in the meadow, especially when elk are present. The issue here is the very considerable and continuous disruption of visitor experience and enjoyment caused by the presence of a large volume of noisy non-park traffic in the center of the park, the sounds of which reach throughout the entire valley of Prairie Creek. The only possible mitigation of this situation is removal of the commercial traffic to another route.

In the early 1960s, this traffic conflict, combined with a steadily increasing vehicle count, was already an issue; the then Division of Highways planned on building a four-lane highway to alleviate the traffic congestion. The Division of Highways studied freeway routes along the present highway, along Gold Bluffs Beach, and, at the request of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the route along East Ridge, which was ultimately adopted by the Highway Commission. The department strongly opposed both the present and the coastal routes because of very severe degradation of park values. Although slightly longer, the adopted East Ridge route is the only one where damage to park resources and to visitor experiences will be reduced. For the other possible routes, these damages would, in fact, be greatly intensified. Federal funds, supported by the National Park Service, have now been made available for the adopted (East Ridge) route, and construction has now begun.

Opening the bypass for non-park traffic will leave the present route to serve a purpose comparable to that filled by the Avenue of the Giants at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. This will be highly satisfactory for the forest and its memorial groves, but it would also be ecologically desirable to reroute the tourist highway to relieve adverse impacts to the prairie, with its elk herd. A possible location exists for rerouting park traffic around the west side of Elk Prairie, incorporating in part roadbeds formerly used by logging trucks, and making possible the total removal of vehicles from the present prairie location.

> Policy: The department strongly supports completion of the bypass highway, currently under construction along the preferred East Ridge route, to bring about the removal of commercial traffic from Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The department shall monitor construction work on the bypass route, and shall work to achieve mitigation of any possible adverse effects from that portion of the route within the park watershed.
>
> The department shall also take an active role in the plans for freeway interchange design and relocation of use areas and park traffic control.

When the bypass is completed and in use, the department shall give further study to construction of a local bypass around the west side of Elk Prairie, to remove visitor traffic from this meadow and to facilitate its restoration.

Cal Barrel Road Surfacing

Cal Barrel Road is used as a scenic drive by visitors to this park, and it affords an outstanding experience. The road is unpaved, and is maintained only by grading. As the road surface dries, dust is generated by vehicle traffic. This dust settles on vegetation bordering the road, and on the windshields of visitors' cars, and causes both physiological and visual degradation.

The rather incongruous name of this road refers to the name of the lumber company for which the road was built in the 1930s. The name is not considered to have historical significance.

> Policy: The department shall eliminate the generation of dust on Cal Barrel Road by surfacing it, in an environmentally safe and appealing way, without either widening or straightening the roadbed, increasing its superelevation, or taking any other measures that would encourage greater driving speeds.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

General

A redwood biome is one of the most unique and interesting areas on earth. Its limited distribution makes it even more valuable and worthy of protection. As a World Heritage Site, these redwood state parks, in conjunction with Redwood National Park, are managed toward preservation of resource values, rather than in consideration of their closeness to or distance from population centers, or their degree of use.

> Policy: Recreational activities which are permitted shall be those which are based on the enjoyment of the park's prime resource values. Recreational facilities which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, cultural, scenic, and scientific values of the park, or which are attractions in themselves, are inappropriate, and shall not be permitted.

Roadless Areas

In each park, roadless areas have been identified, under a mandate of the California Legislature to study potential wilderness sites and to create a state wilderness system. Roadless areas at these units include pristine old-growth forests and other areas of magnificent visual and natural qualities. Maps to be submitted with the classification inventories show the roadless areas previously identified, together with those being recommended as wildernesses or natural preserves. These areas will be submitted to the commission at an appropriate time, for separate classification actions.

Policy: The department shall manage roadless areas for their intrinsic values. Roadless areas shall remain unchanged pending classification action.

At Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, the area west of U.S. Highway 101 contains a high proportion of virgin forest, with wilderness characteristics. The coastal bluffs and rugged shoreline are among the most beautiful coastal vistas in California, and are noted for the closeness of the redwood forest to the ocean.

A few intrusions encroach on this otherwise pristine part of the park. They include noise generated by traffic along U.S. 101, heard in some parts of this primeval area; regenerating logged areas; the old route of the Redwood Highway; a high-voltage transmission line and associated right-of-way route; and a park residence, near the south end of the bluffs. Some of these intrusions limit the extent to which a single wilderness can be achieved. Some sections, including these intrusions, are designated roadless areas.

Policy: It is a goal of the department to bring about the relocation and elimination of the existing high-voltage transmission line and the associated right-of-way route through Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

Last Chance Road shall be closed to vehicular traffic, except for the requirement of legal permit access, or for emergencies. The roadbed shall be allowed to deteriorate so that the pavement becomes obscured. The route shall then be maintained as a trail only.

When a new route for the power transmission line is in service, the existing conductors, poles, and access facilities shall be removed, and the area allowed to revert to a natural appearance, assisted by restoration efforts if necessary.

Gold Bluffs Beach

Gold Bluffs Beach is one of the most natural and scenic stretches of oceanfront remaining along the California coast. Highways and towns are beyond view, and the forces of nature predominate. This beautiful and wild place is further enhanced by a rich variety of animal life, including the very visible native Roosevelt elk.

Convenient public vehicular access to the beach and along the base of the bluffs increases the significance of recreational opportunities that can be provided here.

North of Fern Canyon, and at the road's end, the remaining three-mile stretch of beach provides a completely wild beach experience not easily accessible elsewhere in the redwood region.

Many visitors to this beach enjoy recreation such as picnicking, camping, backpacking, sport fishing, walking, nature study, photography, relaxation, and contemplation.

Vehicular access through the dunes to the wave slope is now allowed at a specified location. Vehicular travel on the beach has created some problems, including conflicts with other recreationists, poaching of elk, and vehicle damage to sensitive dune ecosystems.

Poaching of elk, which is done more often along Gold Bluffs Beach than elsewhere in the park, occurs in conjunction with vehicle access gained along the beach. Poachers can drive to the remote northern end of the beach, where detection of the illegal activity is very difficult.

Some four-wheel-drive and other vehicle operators have not remained below the mean high tide line. Instead, they have driven into the dune complex, and disrupted ground-nesting animals and dune vegetation.

> Policy: The department shall maintain the unique recreational opportunities and cultural, historical, and natural resource values of Gold Bluffs Beach by managing recreational activities and vehicular access. Commercial fishers and Native Americans have had traditional vehicular access to the beach, and these uses will continue without jeopardizing the very special park values. A resource management plan shall be prepared for the purpose of providing guidance in the long-term protection and enhancement of the recreational, cultural, historical, and ecological values at Gold Bluffs Beach. The plan shall include provisions for long-term monitoring of impacts and year-round 24-hour-a-day access for traditional user groups. The plan would also include consideration of providing at least two accesses from Gold Bluffs Beach Road down to the wave slope of the sandy beach.

Access to Redwood National Park lands along the beach to the south should be maintained.

Visitors reach the Gold Bluffs Beach area from U.S. Highway 101 via Davison Road, which traverses private, national park, and state park lands. Such access is uncontrolled at this time. An alternate route crossing only national park land could be used with only minor improvements. Such a route would offer park control and regulation.

> Policy: The department shall cooperate with Humboldt County and the National Park Service to provide an alternate route from U.S. 101 to Gold Bluffs Beach which allows 24-hour-per-day access over lands managed by the department and/or the National Park Service.

ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

The California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made before preparation of a development plan for any park or recreation area. Section 5001.96 further requires that attendance be held within limits so established. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the carrying capacity concept, and is prepared in fulfillment of the above code section. This evaluation serves as a guide indicating areas in which the sensitivity of natural or cultural resources will affect development planning and acceptable visitor use levels.

Allowable use intensity is determined by analysis of three components: 1) management objectives; 2) visitor perceptions and attitudes; and 3) the impact of any development and use on natural and cultural resources.

First are the broad management objectives for Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks, which are set forth in the classification statute defining a state park.

The second component, visitor perceptions and attitudes, involves assessing the social objectives of the department, what visitors perceive as an acceptable park environment, what degree of crowding or isolation is acceptable, and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to the quality of visitor experiences. The degree of proximity that is considered acceptable varies widely between different kinds of environments -- such as a highly developed area, as compared with one having some wilderness characteristics. Although these factors are very difficult to quantify, the influence of this component is extremely important.

The third and most important component in determining allowable use intensity involves an analysis of the natural, cultural, and esthetic resources to determine the area's physical limitations for use and development of facilities, including the ability of the ecosystems to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity), not only in the short term but also over a more extended time span. This analysis is based on a number of considerations, including: the sensitivity of cultural and esthetic resources; the erodibility and compaction potential of soils; geologic factors, such as geologic hazards, slope stability, and relief; hydrologic considerations, including the potential for pollution of surface waters and for flooding; vegetation characteristics, such as durability, fragility, wildfire hazard, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations, such as tolerance to human activity, wildlife population levels, and stability. The recovery rate of an area after use is terminated is also an important factor related to physical capacity. Additional considerations in determining ecological sensitivity are: rare and/or endangered plants and animals; unique botanic features or ecosystems; and examples of ecosystems of regional or statewide significance.

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensity for these three redwood state parks was determined as shown on the Allowable Use Intensity maps. Since many years have elapsed without a resource management plan or a general plan for these parks, developments of various kinds have been installed without due regard for their implications and effects on the resources. Therefore, it is now necessary to correct past mistakes by planning the conversion and/or elimination of certain uses and facilities. This can best be accomplished through a planned phase-out of inappropriate or incompatible activities and facilities.

Two Allowable Use Intensity maps for each park are being used, to illustrate the phase-out. The Interim maps (maps 1, 5, and 9) depict present conditions and uses, modified by certain immediate changes, with this situation to be continued only until elimination is feasible. The Planned Allowable Use Intensity maps (maps 2, 6, and 10) show the desirable conditions the department shall strive to achieve to carry out the required degree of resource protection for these state parks.

Four use intensity categories were established, ranging from very low to high. Representative examples of appropriate activities and facilities for each category are listed in the legends of the appropriate maps. The following are general descriptions of the allowable use intensity classes which have been mapped.

Category I -- Includes areas having sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources which could be significantly affected by concentrated use or development. Includes primitive, scenic landscape which offers outstanding opportunities for unstructured and unconfined forms of recreation, particularly sightseeing, hiking, and primitive camping. Includes significant old-growth forests and other native vegetative types, and regenerating forests that have regained a pristine appearance or are in secluded locations where they present no visual impairments. Areas mapped include lands with established memorial groves and those withheld for that purpose, and lands designated roadless areas to be classified as state wilderness, natural preserves, or otherwise to remain roadless. Motorized management access is not allowed except in emergency situations.

Category I lands are open for public access by foot; however, use should occur only on designated trails and campsites.

Category II -- Includes areas of disturbance to natural features. Such lands are unsuitable, at this time, for inclusion in Category I due to the extent of their disturbance and negative visual appearance. Also includes lands of steep topography and soil instability that severely limit the potential for public vehicle access and site development. Areas mapped also include scenic corridors along travel routes where turnouts have been provided for stops or for access to trails, and for other informal uses. Lands in Category II also include sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resource areas.

Category II lands are open to public access by foot, and by vehicle at turnouts and certain unpaved lots, and river bars for fishing access.

Category III -- Includes areas with gentle topography, relatively stable soils, and/or good vehicle access that are appropriate for low- to moderate-intensity site development. Also includes lands accessible by foot only, but that can withstand moderate to high concentrations of such use. Lands in Category III are limited in size by topography, soil stability, and sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources.

Lands that are mapped in Category III include areas of established, low- to moderate-intensity recreational use, disturbed sites with good access, and existing or potential public vehicle access corridors.

Category IV -- Includes areas suitable for moderate- to high-intensity site development, with good access. Lands mapped in this category include existing moderate- to high-intensity use sites, and some lands potentially developable to this standard which are not limited by topography, geologic hazards, soils, or sensitive biological, cultural, or esthetic resources.

Category III and IV lands must receive special consideration and careful site planning due to potential hazard from flooding or tsunami.

I-2083L(84L)

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Land Use and Facilities Element

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

This element of the General Plan provides information on current land uses occurring outside the three units, and explains current and proposed land uses and development for each unit.

Factors that affect proposed land use and development activities are: the Resource Element, which establishes policies guiding implementation of the plan; recreational needs, which are identified through the department's Park and Recreation Information System and public involvement; and the practical adjustment of management practices necessitated by the needs of other agencies and individuals who are affected by the plan's proposals.

It is the intent of this section to carry out the proposed resource policies, and to accommodate public needs and wishes. It is necessary that this plan complement the activities of the National Park Service, which shares common goals and objectives with the department.

Most of the areas suitable for facility development in these parks have been developed in the past. Suitability in this sense refers to actions that can be taken without damage to, or loss of, important natural and cultural resources. In some cases, development that has occurred is inappropriate, and needs to be removed or relocated. Proposals contained here reflect that fact. Inasmuch as there is clearly a need to make these resources more available to the public, there are also proposals to provide for that need.

Aspects of this plan were objected to by local agencies who have concerns for the local economy, and whose goals and objectives may be in conflict with this department's statewide objectives.

These conflicts are understandable and, based on past experience, predictable. Nevertheless, the goals and objectives of the department, and indeed the legislative mandate, are to preserve and protect the natural and cultural values contained in these magnificent units of the State Park System. If errors in judgment occur in the planning process, they should be made in favor of the natural environment.

It is the intent and hope of the planning staff that this plan provides the correct balance between statewide and local needs.

What follows is a description of proposed alterations to these magnificent parks.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Land Use Patterns of the Surrounding Area

This state park unit is bounded on the south by Redwood National Park lands, on the southeast by Redwood National Park and national forest lands, on the east by the hamlet of Hiouchi, on the northeast by Highway 197, the Smith River, and residential development, on the northwest by timber production lands, and on the west by a mixture of residential, agricultural, industrial, and timber production lands.

U.S. Highway 199 passes east-west through the northern portion of the unit, providing access from the west via U.S. Highway 101 to California and Oregon, and from the northeast through Grants Pass from central Oregon.

The National Park Service's General Management Plan for Redwood National Park does not include any proposals for major visitor facility development in this area.

Businesses in nearby Hiouchi, and Crescent City just 5 miles west of the park, offer services which meet all of park users' needs.

Existing Unit Conditions

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is a natural preservation-oriented unit, which is lightly developed. There are both day-use and overnight facilities available for local and statewide visitors, as well as magnificent redwood groves and the heavily used fishing resources of the Smith River.

The existing facilities (see map 3) are described by area below:

Jedediah Smith Area -- contact station with four parking spaces; visitor center/unit office with 11 parking spaces; day-use area with 50 picnic units, 53 paved parking spaces and 50 unpaved parking spaces, and sanitary facility; campground with 108 family sites, 15 bike-in campsites (one person each), campfire center with six parking spaces, sanitary facilities, boat launching ramp with 94 unpaved parking spaces, and a sanitation station; maintenance area; and two employee residences.

Stout Grove Area -- 18 paved parking spaces, 32 unpaved parking spaces, and sanitary facilities.

Cedar Creek Area (Pacamo Camp) -- one employee residence and additional, non-historic structures.

Simpson-Reed Day-Use Area -- 30 parking spaces and sanitary facility.

Camp Lincoln Area -- historic structure; ranger station with 10 parking spaces.

Huffman Ranch Area -- employee residence in historic structure.

Day-Use Parking -- a total of 638 unpaved parking spaces at various locations along Howland Hill Road, Walker Road, Highway 199, Highway 197, and adjacent to the Smith River.

Trails -- 31.8 kilometers (19.7 miles) of trails, ranging in difficulty from easy to moderately strenuous.

Scenic Roads -- Howland Hill Road (5 miles); Walker Road (1.7 miles).

Adjacent Redwood National Park facilities include: the Hiouchi Visitor Center, Howland Hill Outdoor School, and a proposed 43-unit campground at Hiouchi Flat.

The following problems require attention:

- -- Through traffic on U.S. Highway 199 provides a safety hazard to park visitors, and creates significant air pollution and noise intrusion in the park environment.
- -- The entry road contact station at the Jedediah Smith Area offers inadequate access and space for waiting vehicles during peak use periods.
- -- A portion of the existing campground at the Jedediah Smith Area adversely affects cultural resources (approximately eight family campsites).
- -- Camping opportunities in the area are inadequate.
- -- Horse trail riding opportunities in the area are inadequate.
- -- Trailhead development relative to parking, orientation, and interpretation is inadequate.
- -- Some trails require rehabilitation.

Facility Recommendations

The following is a listing of recommended actions for development of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. The recommendations are organized by area, as identified on the Land Use and Facilities Map (see map 4).

Commission approval of the General Plan will apply only to those recommendations specifically involving DPR property at the time of the commission's action. Recommendations involving land not owned or controlled by DPR are provided to coordinate DPR efforts with the appropriate owner or agency, and do not constitute a commitment on the part of DPR to unilaterally carry out the proposals or pursue acquisition of property.

The proposed facilities are described by area below:

Jedediah Smith Area

- -- Relocate contact station and entry road south onto Redwood National Park land, to permit adequate site distance and vehicle waiting space.
- -- Further investigate the feasibility of the proposal to remove eight family campsites from the archeological area at the Jedediah Smith Area (see resource policy, page 80).
- -- Relocate maintenance activity to Elk Valley Area; use existing facility for storage and seasonal housing.

Stout Grove Area

- -- Develop trailhead with interpretive facilities.

Cedar Creek Area (Pacamo Camp)

-- Retain employee residence. Demolish remaining structures (see resource policy, page 81).

-- Develop trailhead with 10 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities. This is a serpentine area, and is subject to resource policy (page 72).

Smith Forks Area

-- Develop day-use area with 30 parking spaces, picnicking, fishing access, sanitary, and interpretive facilities, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Mill Creek Area

-- Develop two trailheads with a total of 14 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

-- Develop five hike-in campsites (three people each) with a sanitary facility.

Howland Hill Area

-- Develop trailhead with 10 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Huffman Ranch Area

-- Retain employee residence in historic structure.

Lake Earl Area

-- Develop trailhead with 20 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities, in cooperation with the state Department of Fish and Game.

Elk Valley Area

-- Develop regional maintenance facility to serve Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, Pelican State Beach, and the Lake Earl project.

-- Develop ranger station and trailhead with 20 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Camp Lincoln Area

-- Relocate ranger station to Elk Valley Area and remove non-historic structures. Rehabilitate historic structures and interpret (see resource policy, page 83).

-- Develop trailhead with 10 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Deer Meadow Area

-- Develop trailhead with 10 parking spaces and interpretive facilities.

-- Develop five hike-in campsites (three people each) with a sanitary facility.

South Bank Area

-- Develop two day-use fishing access areas with a total of 50 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Simpson-Reed Day-Use Area

-- Develop trailhead with 15 picnic sites, 30 parking spaces, and interpretive facilities.

North Bank Area

-- Develop contact station.

-- Develop three day-use and fishing access areas with a total of 60 parking spaces, 20 picnic sites, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

-- Develop campground with up to 150 family campsites, 20 bike-in campsites (one person each), a campfire center, sanitation station, and sanitary facilities.

-- Develop three group campground sites with capacity for 50 people each, with a total of 60 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Trails

-- Little Bald Hills Trail: Convert existing road to trail use only (see resource policy, page 82).

-- Serpentine Trail: Develop trail from Cedar Creek Trailhead through serpentine area to Little Bald Hills Trail (see resource policy, page 72).

-- Jordan Creek Trail Corridor: Determine feasibility of a horse and hiking trail from Howland Hill Trailhead to Lake Earl Trailhead; rehabilitate wetlands habitat (see resource policy, page 72).

-- Elk Valley Trail: Develop trail connection from Elk Valley Trailhead to West Rim Trail.

-- Deer Meadow Trail: Develop trail from Deer Meadow Trailhead to Camp Lincoln.

-- North Bank Trail: Develop multi-use trail connecting all existing and proposed facilities on the north side of the Smith River.

-- Rehabilitate existing trails (see resource policy, page 66).

-- Identify joint- or single-use horse trails and staging areas.

Scenic Roads

-- Howland Hill Road: Maintain two-way traffic circulation; treat for dust control (see resource policy, page 85).

-- Walker Road: Maintain two-way traffic circulation; treat for dust control (see resource policy, page 85).

Adjacent Redwood National Park Facilities Proposals:

The Redwood National Park General Management Plan proposes 43 family campsites at Hiouchi Flat.

Implementation of these proposals will provide additional recreational opportunities and resource protection at this unit.

Table 9 summarizes key recreational facilities before and after implementation.

Table 9
Facilities Summary
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Facilities	Existing on DPR Property	After Implementation
Family Picnic Sites	50	85
Ranger Station	1	1
Contact Station	1	2
Visitor Center/Unit Office	1	1
Day-Use Parking Spaces	933	921*
Family Campsites	108	175-258
Bike-In Campsites	15	35
Hike-In Campsites	0	10
Group Camps	0	3 (150 people)
Sanitation Station	1	2
Maintenance Area	1	1
Employee Residences	4	4
Miles of Trail	19.7	36.4**

* Figure reflects addition of 150 new spaces and removal of 162 spaces, with the conversion of the existing Simpson Park to group camp use.
**Includes 6.1 miles of trail proposed for development on lands not owned by the State of California.
Note: "After Implementation" figures include existing facilities.

Proposals in this General Plan involve the potential acquisition of approximately 226 acres of inholdings, and a potential less-than-fee implementation of a trail corridor connecting Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park with the Lake Earl project.

Special Considerations

State law requires that projects be designed to be accessible to physically disabled persons. Most of the facilities in the park are now accessible. All new structures and parking areas will be designed to accommodate wheelchairs and, where appropriate, will incorporate braille signing.

Unresolved Issues

Issue No. 1 -- Acquisition Proposals: This plan proposes consolidating the boundaries of the state park on the east and north. The parcels in question are privately owned (±226 acres).

These parcels are needed to protect state-owned watersheds and viewsheds, and to alleviate traffic conflicts between private owners' vehicles and trail users.

At this time, no determination has been made about:

- The willingness of private owners to sell their land.
- The availability of funds for acquisition.

Proposals shown are for long-range planning purposes, and do not constitute a commitment to acquire.

Issue No. 2 -- Jordan Creek Trail Corridor: This plan proposes establishing a trail corridor between the state park and the Lake Earl project. The parcels in question are privately owned, and the feasibility of the corridor has not been determined.

This trail corridor would provide a valuable inland link in the Coastal Trail System, and would provide an opportunity to improve the fishery habitat of the major feeder stream into Lake Earl.

At this time, no determination has been made about:

- The willingness of private owners to provide trail or conservation easements through or at the edge of their lands.
- The availability of funds for acquisition of such easements.

Issue No. 3 -- Bypass Route: A bypass route for Highway 199 was adopted by the state Transportation Commission in two actions taken in 1963 and 1971. The route adopted would take a major traffic load out of the park and carry it to the north, essentially around the unit.

Significant environmental impacts would result from this construction effort, and no funds have been provided for implementation. The department supports removal of major highway traffic impacts from the center of the park. However, it is the intent of this plan to keep the existing Highway 199 open for public use.

Sequence of Action

The sequence of carrying out the General Plan should be based on both the benefit to existing resources and the improvement of recreation resources.

The following general development priorities are listed in order of importance, from highest to lowest:

- -- Development of Simpson-Reed Day-Use Area.
- -- Relocation of contact station and entry road at Jedediah Smith Area.
- -- Development of existing trailheads.
- -- Development of family campground.
- -- Development of group camp area.
- -- Development of Smith Forks Day-Use Area.
- -- Relocation of maintenance area and ranger station.
- -- Development of North and South Bank Day-Use Areas.
- -- Rehabilitation of existing trails.
- -- Development of new trails and trailheads.

The sequence of implementation may be modified depending on such factors as: visitor needs, resource protection, funding, and development of facilities in adjacent national park areas.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Land Use Patterns of the Surrounding Area

This state park unit is bounded on the south and northwest by Redwood National Park lands, on the east by private timber production lands, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

U.S. Highway 101 passes through the center of this unit, from north to south.

Redwood National Park offers primitive camping opportunities immediately north and south of this unit.

Greyhound bus service is available on Highway 101 on a flag-down basis for park visitors without private vehicles.

Businesses in Crescent City, just 3 miles north of the park, offer services which meet all park users' needs.

Existing Unit Conditions

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is a natural preservation-oriented unit which is lightly developed. There are both day-use and overnight facilities available for local and statewide visitors, as well as magnificent groves of redwood and Douglas fir, precipitous cliffs, and breathtaking vistas.

The existing facilities (see map 7) are described by area below:

Mill Creek Area -- contact station/unit office with 10 parking spaces; campground with 142 family sites, sanitary facilities, campfire center, sanitation station, and 27 parking spaces; maintenance area; two employee residences.

Damnation Creek Area -- trailhead with 19 parking spaces.

Footsteps Rock Area -- one employee residence.

Wilson Creek Day-Use Area -- 20 parking spaces.

Trails -- 14.9 miles of trails, ranging in difficulty from easy to strenuous.

Adjacent Redwood National Park facilities include: day-use areas at Crescent Beach, Crescent Overlook, and Lagoon Creek; primitive campgrounds at Nickel Creek and DeMartin; and a coastal trailhead adjacent to Endert's Beach.

The following problems require attention:

- -- Through traffic on U.S. Highway 101 provides a safety hazard to park visitors, and causes significant air and noise pollution in the park environment.
- -- Continued deterioration of Highway 101 south of Last Chance Road may necessitate a re-routing through state park land.
- -- There is no permanent electric power source for this unit.
- -- Group camping opportunities in the area are inadequate.
- -- Trailhead development relative to parking, orientation, and interpretation is inadequate.
- -- Continued timber production activities in the upper West Branch of Mill Creek could affect natural resources and facilities in the park.

Facility Recommendations

The following is a listing of recommended actions for development of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. The recommendations are organized by area, as identified on the Land Use and Facilities Map (see map 8).

Commission approval of the General Plan will apply only to those recommendations specifically involving DPR property at the time of the commission's action. Recommendations involving land not owned or controlled by DPR are provided to coordinate DPR efforts with the appropriate owner or agency, and do not constitute a commitment on the part of DPR to unilaterally carry out the proposals or pursue acquisition of property.

Proposals:

Mill Creek Area

-- Develop three group camp areas for 25 people each, with sanitary facilities and 30 parking spaces.

-- Develop permanent electric power source for unit facilities.

-- Relocate maintenance activity to Elk Valley Area; use existing area for storage.

-- Develop Del Norte Coast Trailhead with 20 parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities. One possible site might be the previous Caltrans roadside rest site.

-- Develop visitor center at existing campground.

Last Chance Trail Area

-- Develop trailhead on Highway 101 with parking, interpretive facilities, and connector trail to mid-point of Last Chance Trail.

Damnation Creek Area

-- Rehabilitate trailhead, with 19 existing parking spaces and interpretive facilities.

-- Convert Last Chance Road to trail use only. This is consistent with the Redwood National Park management plan.

Footsteps Rock Area

-- Relocate trailhead with interpretive facilities to existing Caltrans vista point.

Wilson Creek Area

-- Develop sanitary and interpretive facilities.

Trails

-- Memorial Grove Trail: Upgrade existing trail, and extend to connect with Redwood National Park's Rellim Ridge Trail and the Del Norte Coast Trailhead, in cooperation with the National Park Service and private landowner.

-- Designate converted Last Chance Road as a portion of the Coastal Trail.

-- West Ridge Loop Trail: Develop trails between Del Norte Coast Trailhead and Coastal Trail.

-- Damnation Creek Trail: Develop alternate trail between Damnation Creek and Coastal Trail.

-- Footsteps Rock Trail: Re-route to new trailhead.

Implementation of these proposals will improve recreational opportunities and resource protection at this unit.

Table 10 summarizes key recreational facilities before and after implementation.

Table 10
Facilities Summary
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Facilities	Existing on DPR Property	After Implementation
Contact Station/Unit Office	1	1
Visitor Center	0	1
Day-Use Parking Spaces	531	551
Family Campsites	142	142
Group Campsites	0	3 (75 people)
Sanitation Station	1	1
Maintenance Area	1	0
Employee Residences	3	3
Miles of Trail	14.9	27.5*
Administrative Office	1	1

*Includes .5 miles of trail proposed for development on lands not owned by the State of California.
Note: "After Implementation" figures include existing facilities.

Special Considerations

State law requires that projects be designed to be accessible to physically disabled persons. Most of the existing facilities are now accessible. All new structures and parking areas will be designed to accommodate wheelchairs and, where appropriate, braille signing.

Local Coastal Plan Conformance

The development proposals for Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park presented in this General Plan are in conformance with the Del Norte County Local Coastal Plan.

Sequence of Action

The sequence of carrying out the General Plan should be based on both the benefit to existing resources and the improvement of recreation resources.

The following general development priorities are listed in order of importance, from highest to lowest:

- -- Develop permanent electric power source for unit facilities.
- -- Conversion of Last Chance Road to Coastal Trail.
- -- Development of group campground.
- -- Develop new and existing trailheads.
- -- New trails construction.
- -- Relocate maintenance activity to Elk Valley Area.

The sequence of implementation may be modified depending on such factors as: visitor needs, resource protection, and funding.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Land Use Patterns of the Surrounding Area

This state park unit is bounded on the south, southeast, and north by Redwood National Park lands, and on the northeast by private timber production lands.

U.S. Highway 101 currently passes through the heart of this unit; however, a bypass will take the major proportion of through traffic around the eastern side of the unit, well away from existing use areas in the park.

The National Park Service's General Management Plan for Redwood National Park proposes increased camping facilities immediately south of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, at Major Creek and at Skunk Cabbage Hill. However, no firm dates for carrying out those proposals have been set.

Greyhound bus service is available on Highway 101 on a flag-down basis for park visitors without private vehicles.

Businesses in Orick, just 4 miles south of the park, offer services which meet most park users' needs.

Existing Unit Conditions

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is a natural preservation-oriented unit which is lightly developed. There are both day-use and overnight facilities available for local and statewide visitors, as well as a wide variety of natural phenomena to observe -- redwood forests, wild beach, and herds of elk (see map 11).

The existing facilities are described by area below:

Elk Prairie Area -- contact station; visitor center/unit office and trailhead with sanitary facility and 24 parking spaces; day-use area with 23 picnic tables, sanitary facility, and 80 parking spaces; campground with 75 family sites, 20 bike-in campsites (one person each), campfire center, and sanitary facilities; maintenance area with shop/storage building and office building; four employee residences.

Big Tree Day-Use Area -- 74 parking spaces; sanitary facility.

Espa Area -- contact station; day-use area with two picnic tables, sanitary facilities, and 41 parking spaces; overlook with 26 parking spaces; beach access point for vehicles; two employee residences.

Gold Bluffs Beach Area -- four day-use areas with 93 parking spaces; campground with 27 family sites, 20 bike-in campsites (one person each), and sanitary facility.

Fern Canyon Area -- trailhead with 102 parking spaces and sanitary facilities.

Butler Creek Area -- five hike-in campsites (three people each) and sanitary facility.

Carruthers Cove Area -- trailhead with five parking spaces.

Parkway Area (Highway 101 corridor) -- seven trailheads; 772 parking spaces.

Trails -- 103.8 kilometers (64.7 miles) of trails ranging in difficulty from very easy to strenuous.

Scenic Roads -- 3.5-mile Cal-Barrel Scenic Road with 68 parking spaces; Ah Pah Road (.3 mile) with 11 parking spaces; Coastal Drive (1.0 mile) with 29 parking spaces; Davison Road (3.0 miles) with 39 parking spaces.

Adjacent Redwood National Park facilities include: an overlook on Coastal Drive and the Wolf Creek Outdoor School.

The following problems require attention:

- Through traffic on U.S. Highway 101 provides a safety hazard to park wildlife and visitors, and causes significant air and noise pollution in the park environment.
- Existing facilities adversely affect natural and cultural resources.
- Separate entries to the Elk Prairie Area and the Gold Bluffs Beach Area provide control problems and increased operational costs.
- Camping opportunities in the area are inadequate.
- There are no existing sanitation stations (RV dumps) in the area.

-- Trailhead development relative to parking, orientation, and interpretation is inadequate.

-- Beach ecology is being damaged by continued off-highway vehicular use.

-- Control of undesirable nighttime activities in the beach area is hampered by the location of the existing campground.

-- Trail rehabilitation is needed.

Facility Recommendations

The following is a listing of recommended actions for development of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The recommendations are organized by area, as identified on the Land Use and Facilities Map (see map 12).

Commission approval of the General Plan will apply only to those recommendations specifically involving DPR property at the time of the commission's action. Recommendations involving land not owned or controlled by DPR are provided to coordinate DPR efforts with the appropriate owner or agency, and do not constitute a commitment on the part of DPR to unilaterally carry out the proposals or pursue acquisition of property.

Facility recommendations for Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park are extensively guided by the natural and cultural values found here. They are known and appreciated nationwide. The resource policies are aimed at assuring their continued existence for generations to come.

Here, as in perhaps no other unit of the State Park System, is where the difficulty in preserving an environment that is so popular, for a multitude of reasons, is exemplified. The department, through this planning effort, has attempted to provide access to these resources, not only for the hardy who can hike even the difficult trails, but also for the elderly and infirm.

Trail opportunities have been expanded. Hike-in camping opportunities have been increased. The access road to Gold Bluffs Beach and Fern Canyon has been retained. When the bypass for Highway 101 is installed, more leisurely driving through the park will be possible without the pressure of hurried commercial and through traffic. Hopefully, this plan will provide an improved recreational experience for all who come to this special place.

Proposals for the Elk Prairie Area are guided by resource policies found on pages 73, 74, 77, 78, and 86. These are primarily intended to improve the Roosevelt elk habitat, and to provide a more natural and esthetic setting in which to view them. Facility rehabilitation and increased public service are also provided.

These proposals include:

Elk Prairie Area

-- Retain 15 family campsites in prairie area of campground.

-- Relocate 20 bike-in campsites (one person each) from prairie area to open area just north of existing picnic area, and rehabilitate natural prairie habitat.

-- Rehabilitate campfire center.

-- Rehabilitate visitor center/unit office.

-- Relocate maintenance area off-site, remove structures and paving, and rehabilitate natural habitat.

-- Relocate four employee residences off-site, remove structures, paving, and exotic vegetation, and rehabilitate natural habitat.

-- Relocate prairie section of existing U.S. Highway 101 to west side of prairie, modify park circulation, and rehabilitate natural area (in cooperation with Caltrans). If the department relocates Old Highway 101 to the west, the department shall relocate 15 family campsites from Elk Prairie to another location.

-- Develop new entry road on Redwood National Park land from point just north of May Creek to midpoint of Davison Road; maintain eastern portion of Davison Road for emergency access only (in cooperation with the National Park Service and Humboldt County). Pave or treat for dust control.

-- Develop sanitation station near new entry road (in cooperation with Caltrans and the National Park Service).

Boyes Creek Area

-- Develop five hike-in campsites (three people each) with a sanitary facility.

Big Tree Area

-- Develop 10 picnic sites with interpretive facilities.

Davison Road

Access to the beach portion of the unit is via Davison Road. This road, which meets Highway 101 on private lands, is the subject of NPS proposals to reroute traffic along an existing logging road which will meet Highway 101 near May Creek. The department concurs with this proposal. The National Park Service proposes parking for 40 cars and a shuttle bus service to Fern Canyon as well. The department does not concur with this proposal, although, if traffic to Fern Canyon should overload parking facilities, this approach may become feasible (note policy statement on pages 78 and 89). Davison Road will continue to serve as the prime beach access route in its present alignment, or as realigned, without inconveniencing the public.

Espa Area

Proposals for the Espa Lagoon Area are guided by resource policies found on pages 75, 76, 79, and 80. The effort here is aimed at protecting the natural and Native American cultural values while providing public accommodations in this sensitive location.

Here, Davison Road enters the beach environment, and provides the gateway to a spectacular beach setting.

-- Remove contact station, and modify vehicular and pedestrian circulation to avoid sensitive cultural values.

-- Relocate day-use area from lagoon to beach side of road with 10 picnic sites and sanitary facilities; remove six parking spaces and rehabilitate natural habitat; rehabilitate remaining 35 parking spaces on beach side of road.

-- Convert overlook and access road to trail use only, remove 26 parking spaces, and rehabilitate natural habitat.

-- Relocate two employee residences off-site, and remove structures.

-- Develop new campground with up to 142 family sites, 20 bike-in campsites (one person each), a campfire center, and sanitary facilities.

-- Develop a new trailhead with interpretive facilities at relocated day-use area west of road.

Gold Bluffs Beach Area

The Gold Bluffs Beach Area is one of the finest north coast wild beaches that is truly accessible. Proposals here are guided by resource policies found on pages 74 and 88, tempered by public needs and wishes.

The beach has become popular for a number of recreational pursuits. Wildlife, including the Roosevelt elk among a myriad of other species, can be observed at close hand. Camping, picnicking, hiking, beachcombing, fishing, and just relaxing are all enhanced by the setting. Historically, the beach has also provided for Native American gathering needs, commercial fishing, and, on occasion, off-highway recreational activity.

This plan proposes to accommodate these activities to the extent practicable without jeopardizing the resources the department is mandated to protect.

Motorized vehicles, when driven off the access road indiscriminantly in dune areas or to poach or harass wildlife, cannot be permitted. Other infrequent and relatively few users of off-road vehicles for purposes of wood gathering and fishing activities (commercial) have been recognized by the National Park Service and the Local Coastal Program as important economic interests, and as not causing significant damage. So this plan proposes to accommodate this use.

It is felt that access to the beach should be maintained in one location near the Espa Lagoon Area for these users to gain access to the wave slope, which is least damaged by the traffic. The entire wave slope accessible from that point will be available to them at specified times, as permitted by the regional director.

Supervision of all beach-related activity will be exercised from the contact station, which will be maintained in the Elk Prairie Area, and by normal patrol functions.

This accommodation of non-conforming off-highway vehicle use in a unit classified as a state park should not be construed as a precedent for opening other units to the activity, but rather as an effort to recognize, and flexibly deal with, the potential for imposing undue economic hardship on a relatively few number of individuals. Section 5001.8(b) of the Public Resources Code states:

> "The use of motor vehicles in State Park System units is subject to the following limitations:
>
> (b) In state parks, state reserves, state beaches, wayside campgrounds, and historical units, use is confined to paved areas and other areas specifically designated and maintained for normal ingress, egress, and parking."

The key to continued off-road beach access is avoidance of any unnecessary destruction of natural or cultural values, and the prompt reporting of unacceptable activity.

Proposals:

-- Remove campground (27 family sites, 20 bike-in sites) and rehabilitate to natural conditions.

-- Develop new day-use area with 10 parking spaces and interpretive facilities at north end of existing campground.

-- Develop interpretive facilities at four existing day-use parking areas, and a sanitary facility at day-use area just south of existing campground.

-- Develop trailhead at Squashan Creek with five parking spaces, sanitary, and interpretive facilities.

Fern Canyon Area

Fern Canyon has evolved into one of the most picturesque areas of the unit, and is understandably popular because of it. Except during the winter months when stream flows prevent it, walkways are provided to enhance pedestrian access to the canyon from the parking area. It was recommended, during public involvement meetings, that the department attempt to provide for disabled wheelchair access to the canyon. The department will pursue the feasibility of doing so.

Other facility proposals include:

-- Rehabilitate trailhead parking area, and develop interpretive facilities.

-- Further study the feasibility of developing one additional beach access point just south of the Fern Canyon Area (for day use only).

Carruthers Cove Area

-- Rehabilitate trailhead parking area, and develop interpretive facilities.

-- Develop five hike-in campsites (three people each), with a sanitary facility.

Parkway Area

-- Develop five trailheads with 30 parking spaces and interpretive facilities, and add sanitary facilities at North Prairie Creek and C.R.E.A. trailheads.

East Ridge Area

-- Cal-Barrel Scenic Road: Maintain two-way, dead-end traffic circulation as a scenic drive; treat for dust control.

-- Develop turnaround for Cal-Barrel Scenic Road and trailhead with 15 parking spaces, sanitary facility, and interpretive facilities.

Trails

-- Coastal Trail: Develop inland trail alternative from Carruthers Cove to Ossagon Trail, to provide continuity during periods of high tide.

-- Memorial Grove Trails: Develop trail west of Clintonia Trail and west of West Ridge Trail, to serve western groves.

-- Home Creek Trail: Develop connector trail between James Irvine Trail and West Ridge Trail, to provide hiking options.

-- Espa/East Creeks Loop Trail: Develop trail for interpretation of cultural resources and cutover land (in cooperation with the National Park Service).

-- Boyes Creek Loop Trail: Develop trail for interpretation of transition between virgin growth and cutover lands.

-- East Ridge Trail: Develop new sections of existing trail away from U.S. Highway 101 bypass.

-- South Fork Trail: Extend to connect with East Ridge Trail, to provide hiking options.

-- Browns Creek Trail: Extend to connect with East Ridge Trail, to provide hiking options.

-- Little Creek Trail: Extend to connect with East Ridge Trail, to provide hiking options.

-- Rehabilitate existing trails.

Scenic Roads

-- An Pah Road: With the Highway 101 bypass, this road will be converted to a two-way, scenic drive park road; treat for dust control.

Adjacent Redwood National Park Facilities Proposals:

The Redwood National Park General Management Plan proposes a 10-site hike-in campground at Major Creek.

In addition, this plan recommends: development of a trailhead with parking, sanitary, and interpretive facilities in the Wolf Creek Area; and a primary trail to Miner's Ridge Trail at Squashan Creek with connector trails to Espa/East Creeks Loop Trail and Elk Prairie Trail.

Implementation of these proposals will substantially improve recreational opportunities and resource protection at this unit.

Table 11 summarizes key recreational facilities before and after implementation.

Table 11
Facilities Summary
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Facilities	Existing on DPR Property	After Implementation
Trailheads	3	12
Contact Station	2	2
Visitor Center/Unit Office	1	1
Day-Use Parking Spaces	1,364	1,392
Family Campsites	102	152-217
Bike-In Campsites	40	40
Hike-In Campsites	5	15
Sanitation Station	0	1
Maintenance Area	1	0
Employee Residences	6	0
Miles of Trail	64.7	82.6*
Family Picnic Sites	25	45
Campfire Centers	1	2

*Includes 6.2 miles of trail proposed for development on Redwood National Park lands.
Note: "After Implementation" figures include existing facilities.

Special Considerations

State law requires that projects be designed to be accessible to physically disabled persons. Most of the facilities in the Elk Prairie Area (visitor center, day-use area, Revelation Trail, campground) are now accessible. All new structures and parking areas will be designed to accommodate wheelchairs and, where appropriate, braille signing.

Local Coastal Plan Conformance

Humboldt County's certified North Coast Area Plan limits new development in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to projects consistent with the previously completed Redwood National Park General Management Plan. The following proposals in this General Plan will require amendment of the county's LCP:

- -- Development of a new Gold Bluffs Beach Campground.
- -- Development of new day-use parking area at the existing campground site on Gold Bluffs Beach.
- -- Development of hike-in campsites at Carruthers Cove.

Unresolved Issues

Issue No. 1 -- Boundary Problem: A 1979 Bureau of Land Management resurvey of the park's eastern boundary, in connection with the U.S. Highway 101 bypass, has raised questions about the basis and location of this boundary, to the detriment of the state park's interests.

The lines of ownership and occupation have existed between the department and our adjoiner for 40 years or more. These lines were established by the adjacent owner's predecessor in interest, and the department has accepted them. The boundary has never been contested by either party to date.

However, Caltrans is preparing legal descriptions of acquisition parcels for the bypass, and the federal government is preparing to conduct negotiations for purchase, based on the 1977 BLM resurvey.

DPR has done its own resurvey, and filed a Record of Survey which shows the boundary in its historical location. If the historical boundary is not agreed to by all parties, a large area of old-growth redwoods (previously thought to have been bought by the state) could either be lost to timber interests, or repurchased with the rest of the right-of-way. The timber loss would have a devastating effect on adjacent resources, and repurchase would involve a large amount of taxpayers' money.

At this time, no determination has been made about:

- -- All parties' (BLM, NPS, Caltrans, DPR, and Simpson Timber Co.) willingness to accept the historical boundary.
- -- Simpson Timber Company's intent to claim title through litigation, and to harvest the old-growth redwoods, if the litigation is successful.

Sequence of Action

The sequence of implementing the General Plan should be based on both the benefit to existing resources and the improvement of recreation opportunities.

The following general development priorities are listed in order of importance, from highest to lowest:

-- Rehabilitation of existing trails.

-- Development of existing trailheads.

-- Development of new entry road connecting to Davison Road, and ultimately to Gold Bluffs Beach; relocation of existing contact station to this new entry road, just north of May Creek.

-- Development of new Gold Bluffs Beach Campground, and relocation of Espa Day-Use Area and residence.

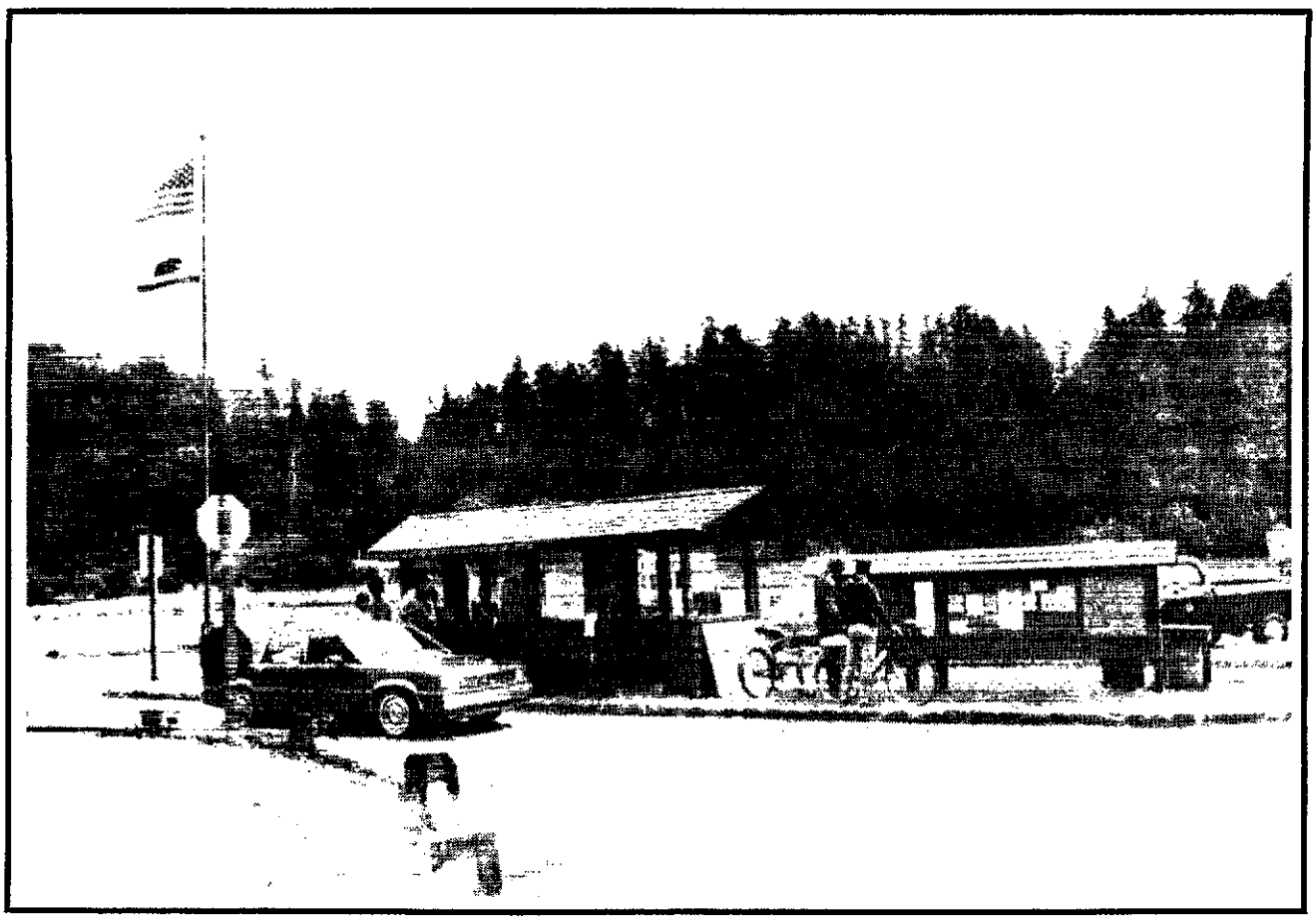
-- Elk Prairie Area adjustments, including relocation of U.S. Highway 101, relocation of bike-in campsites, removal of prairie campsites, and rehabilitation of habitat.

-- Removal of maintenance area and employee residences in the Elk Prairie Area, and rehabilitation of habitat.

-- New trails and trailhead construction.

The sequence of implementation may be modified depending on such factors as: visitor needs, resource protection, funding, and development of facilities in adjacent national park areas.

Operations Element



OPERATIONS ELEMENT

Current Conditions

Jedediah Smith, Del Norte Coast, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks are supervised by the Klamath management area, in the department's Region 1. Other units in this area are Azalea State Reserve, Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area, Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, Humboldt Lagoons State Park, the Lake Earl Project, Little River State Beach, Patrick's Point State Park, Pelican State Beach, and Trinidad State Beach.

At Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, staff currently:

- Manages and protects natural and cultural resources.
- Provides interpretive and law enforcement services.
- Maintains one contact station, a visitor center/unit office, a picnic area, a 108-unit campground, a maintenance area, a ranger station, several undeveloped day-use areas, 19.7 miles of trails, and 5.0 miles of scenic roads.

At Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, staff currently:

- Manages and protects natural and cultural resources.
- Provides interpretive and law enforcement services.
- Maintains one contact station/unit office, a 142-unit campground, a maintenance area, one day-use area, and 14.9 miles of trail.

At Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, staff currently:

- Manages and protects natural and cultural resources.
- Provides interpretive and law enforcement services.
- Maintains two contact stations, a visitor center/unit office, two campgrounds with 102 units, several day-use areas, a maintenance area, 64.7 miles of trails, and 3.5 miles of scenic roads.

Future Conditions

Implementation of general plan proposals will substantially increase the staff workload by adding the following responsibilities:

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

- Operation of one new contact station, one new campground, one new group campground, two new hike-in camps, and six new day-use areas.
- Maintenance of an additional 16.7 miles of trails and 1.75 miles of scenic roads.

-- Implementation of resource management programs.

Note: Consolidation of maintenance activities at the Elk Valley site should result in some staff and equipment savings for both Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

-- Operation of a new group campground.

-- Maintenance of an additional 12.6 miles of trails.

-- Implementation of resource management programs.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

-- Operation of 77 new family campsites, two new hike-in campgrounds, and one new sanitation station.

-- Maintenance of an additional 11.7 miles of trails and 8.5 miles of scenic roads.

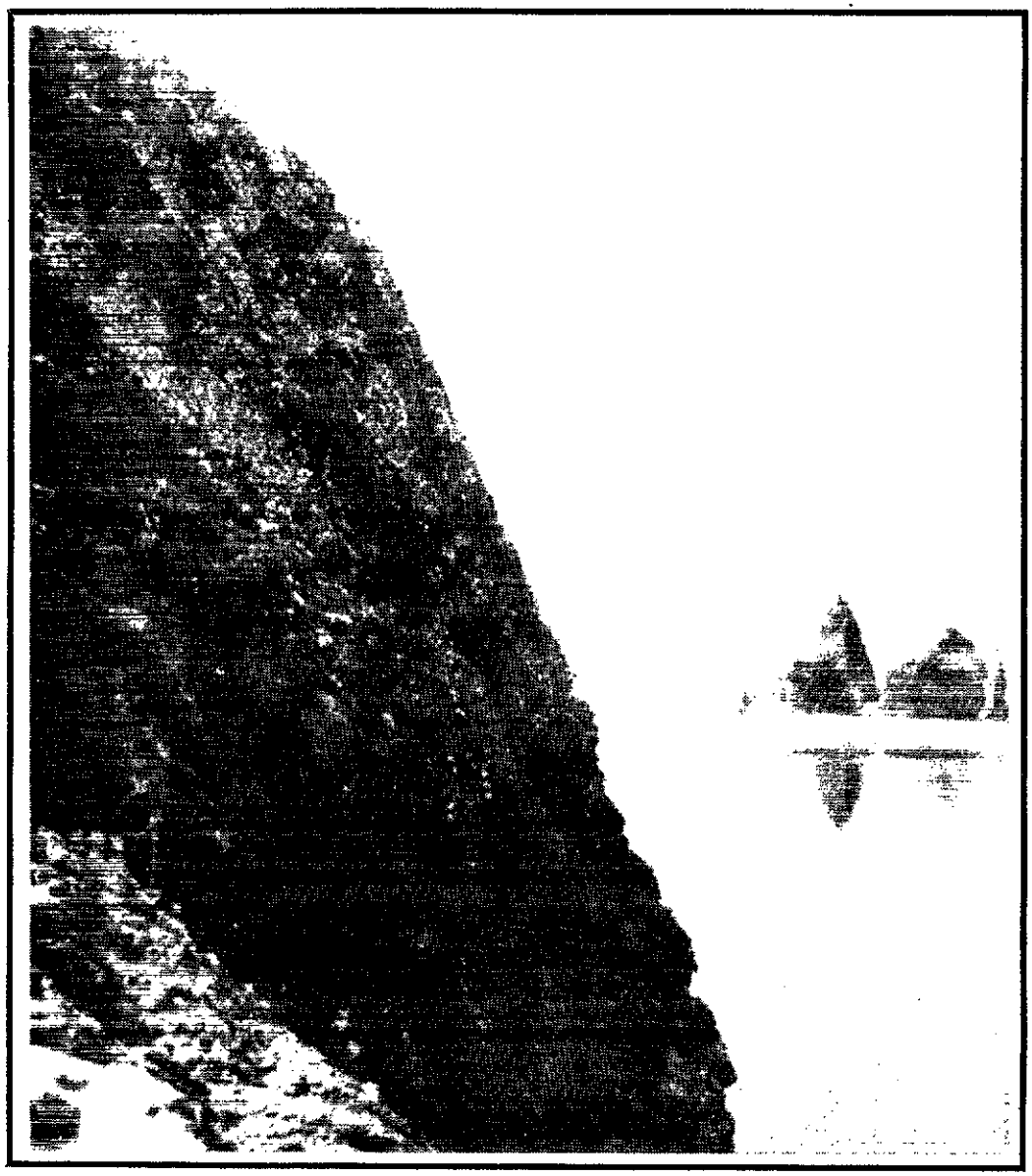
-- Implementation of resource management programs.

Note: Reduction of the number of contact stations from two to one, and the proposed sharing of responsibilities at that station with the National Park Service, should result in some staff savings.

In addition, several unique operational responsibilities exist at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

This plan proposes to provide continued access to the wave slope of the beach for commercial fishing activities, wood gathering (non-commercial), and certain other Native American related activities. At the same time, general recreation-oriented off-highway vehicle use on the beach will continue to be prohibited. The Operations Division will provide detailed procedures for carrying out the intent of the General Plan, and will make these procedures known to the public. Interim procedures based on current operational patterns will be provided, followed by long-term procedures based on ultimate implementation of the plan's provisions.

Concessions Element

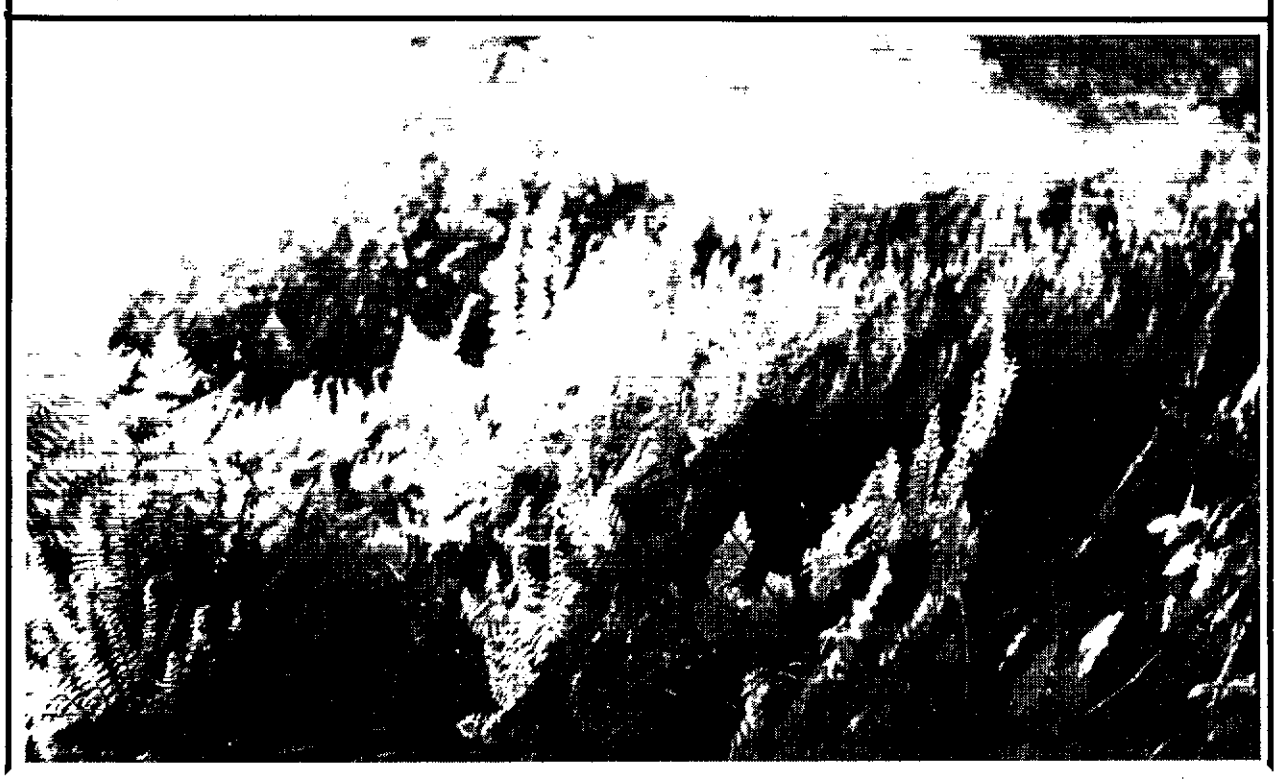


CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

At this time, there are no concessions at any of these units, due to the existence of adequate commercial development in adjacent communities and the lack of recreational activities that might generate a need for commercial facilities in the parks.

Because of the above situation, and because of the lack of available sites for commercial facilities, no new concession facilities are being proposed in this General Plan. It is felt that this approach will encourage private efforts when and where they are needed, in a manner that is most advantageous to the public without adversely affecting park values.

Interpretive Element



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

For more detail, see the approved interpretive prospectus for each park, on file with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Interpretive Period

A flow of history should be interpreted at these parks, including the period from before European contact up to the present.

Interpretive Themes

A note to future interpretive planners:

> The primary themes "Redwood Trees and the Redwood Forest" and "The Redwood Forest and People" cover a broad spectrum of general information. To interpret these themes completely at each redwood state park could be repetitious to visitors seeing more than one park. We caution future interpretive planners to survey carefully the interpretation of these and similar themes at other redwood state parks, and to strive for a balance between general information and information specific to each park when planning interpretive development.

Primary Theme 1: Redwood Trees and the Redwood Forest

Subtheme 1: The Coast Redwood: A Remarkable Tree

Interpretation for this subtheme will cover all three surviving redwood species (the coast redwood, the giant sequoia, and the dawn redwood), but will focus on the coast redwood. Important topics include the tree's great size and longevity, resistance to fire and pests, and adaptability to changing conditions, as well as its vulnerability to impacts such as foot traffic, and will be interpreted in the parks where trees exist that best illustrate each topic. At Jedediah Smith Redwoods, this subtheme could be interpreted briefly in the visitor center, by outdoor exhibits at the campground, or in the parking lot at the Stout Grove. At Del Norte Coast Redwoods, this interpretation could occur at the campground, while the future redwoods exhibit at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center should be the primary place to interpret this subtheme at that park, though some interpretation could also occur at the Big Tree.

Subtheme 2: The Forest as a Portal to the Past

The redwood forest community has existed for more than one hundred million years. Over the millennia, the entire forest, plants and animals, has evolved and migrated together. With interpretive encouragement, visitors can mentally step out of time while experiencing the sights, sounds, smells, sensations, and moods of the forest, and can try to comprehend the vast span of time these trees have existed. This subtheme should be interpreted along trails in the parks, where no modern intrusions, including sounds, can affect the visitors' experience.

Subtheme 3: The Green Desert

The reasons why there is a relative lack of wildlife in the redwood forest should be interpreted to visitors. Interpretation can draw parallels where they exist between the redwood forest and the arid desert: the paucity of available foodstuffs, the lack of many large animals, and the great number of small animals that have specialized to take advantage of the environment. Interpretation of this subtheme should occur in the same isolated kinds of locations as the previous subtheme.

Subtheme 4: Different Redwood Forests

This subtheme will interpret how topography and other factors influence the composition of the redwood forest -- where and why the trees grow largest and in the purest stands, and where and why they grow intermixed with other tree species. An excellent location to interpret this subtheme at Jedediah Smith Redwoods is the Stout Grove, a pure redwood stand on an alluvial flat. However, better contrasts between the different kinds of redwood forests are available at the other two parks, where the topography is more pronounced. The subtheme could be interpreted along the road descending to Mill Creek at Del Norte Coast Redwoods, but the best location in all three parks would be along Cal Barrel Road at Prairie Creek Redwoods.

Subtheme 5: The Disturbed Forest

The beautiful red alder forest in the Mill Creek drainage should be interpreted to visitors to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park as a successional stage in the recovery of the redwood forest. This will help them to comprehend the concept of plant succession, and the enormous time span necessary for reestablishment of a climax forest association after a disturbance such as clearcut logging.

Subtheme 6: Forest Edges

Interpretation of this subtheme will cover climatic, geographic, and various other factors restricting the range of the redwood forest, and will also interpret plant-animal communities bordering the forest. At Jedediah Smith Redwoods, the eastern reaches of the park exhibit a different kind of vegetation because of climate and substrate differences. This can be interpreted along the proposed interpretive trail in the eastern part of this park. Both Del Norte Coast Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods have coastal trails that traverse areas where the inhibiting effect of the ocean on the redwoods can be interpreted.

Primary Theme 2: The Redwood Forest and People

Subtheme 1: California Indians and the Forest

Interpretation of this subtheme will cover the lifestyles and social structures of the Tolowa and Yurok peoples, whose territories included lands now in these parks. A large flat like Peacock Hole on the Smith River is the best location for Tolowa interpretation at Jedediah Smith Redwoods; it would somewhat resemble the estuarine lands these people favored downstream. The Yurok people's coastal villages should be interpreted at Gold Bluffs Beach. The story of the subsequent fate of both these peoples can be told at Camp Lincoln.

Subtheme 2: Exploring the Redwoods

This subtheme will interpret the early European sea and land expeditions that opened up this region of the California coast, as well as the later, ill-fated expeditions of Jedediah Smith and Josiah Gregg. The living history presentation of Jedediah Smith as a person should continue at the Jedediah Smith Redwoods campfire center, and his diary of this expedition should be available to visitors to the park. The point where Smith's route intersects trails at Del Norte Coast Redwoods should be indicated to hikers via self-guiding literature. Gregg's expedition should be interpreted at Prairie Creek Redwoods.

Subtheme 3: Moving In On the Redwoods

This subtheme will interpret the many kinds of settlers who came to the redwood region -- miners, packers, merchants, loggers, and farmers -- covering their lifestyles, routes of travel, use of the redwood trees, and changes they brought about in the landscape. At Jedediah Smith Redwoods, outdoor exhibits could interpret the historic significance of Peacock's and Catching's ferries, and the section of plank road near Howland Hill Road. At Del Norte Coast Redwoods, packers' use of the beach and the logging camp at Mill Creek should be interpreted, while important sites exist at Prairie Creek Redwoods to interpret miners and packers (Gold Bluffs Beach), loggers (areas once logged), and farmers (Elk Prairie).

Subtheme 4: The Red Wood

The straight, knot-free grain, workability, resistance to rot, beautiful color, and enormous yield per acre which have made redwood so popular as a building material should be interpreted to visitors to the region. Because this subtheme can be interpreted at the nearby Rellim Redwoods Company demonstration forest, none of these parks need address it, though visitors should be referred to the demonstration forest.

Subtheme 5: Saving Our Redwoods

The historic and ongoing efforts of the Save-the-Redwoods League, the State Park System, the National Park Service, the logging industry, and others to preserve the primeval redwood groves should be interpreted at all three parks. The Save-the-Redwoods League memorial grove program should receive particular attention; it has been highly successful, and recognizes the farsighted generosity of many individuals. The method of interpretation has yet to be determined. The department will have to replace the signs now in the groves with an equally clear method of designating donors.

Primary Theme 3: The Smith River: Light and Sound and Motion

Interpretation of the Smith River will contrast its openness and movement with the stillness of the redwood forest, and will emphasize the river's habitat value to many species of birds and fish (including anadromous fish). The Smith's uniqueness as California' longest free-flowing and one of its cleanest rivers, the present danger of its degradation through upstream disturbances, and its long history of usefulness to people will also be interpreted for visitors to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.

Primary Theme 4: The Del Norte Coast

The rugged and beautiful coast at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and its associated flora and fauna, should be interpreted. The steep and landslide-prone cliffs above the ocean can be interpreted to illustrate the geology of the area, in contrast with the gentler coastlines both to the north and south. The spectrum of plant-animal associations, from the redwood forest clinging to the slopes above the sea down to the Sitka spruce and other habitat types below, can provide visitors with a graphic example of maritime influence on terrestrial life forms.

Primary Theme 5: Elk

This theme should be interpreted at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, because the elk are much more numerous and visible there than at the other two parks. Interpretation should deal with the elks' use of the prairies and the forest for habitat, their various behaviors during the yearly cycle, and the potential danger to people approaching them too closely. The excellent interpretation through exhibits at the visitor center, the radio broadcast at Elk Prairie, and the slide show at the campfire center at Elk Prairie should continue. The slide show should also be presented at the Gold Bluffs Beach campground when possible, and an interpretive panel addressing the elk should be installed at the beach.

Primary Theme 6: The Prairies: Windows in the Forest (Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park Theme)

Subtheme 1: The Natural History of the Prairies

This subtheme will interpret the various reasons why scientists believe the prairies were formed: soil associations, burning by the Indian people, and clearing for farms. Interpretation will also deal with the plant-animal communities existing in a healthy prairie, the ways in which the prairie environment can be degraded, and efforts now being undertaken to restore a healthy prairie ecosystem at Elk Prairie.

Subtheme 2: The Cultural History of the Prairies

This subtheme will interpret how people have made use of the prairies through time, contrasting their use of this landscape type with their use of the redwood forest. Interpretation will cover the Yurok Indians, explorers, early settlers, and present-day state and national parks.

Primary Theme 7: The Golden Coast (Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park Theme)

Subtheme 1: The Natural History of Gold Bluffs Beach

This subtheme will interpret the geology and plant and animal communities at this beach. Interpretation will cover why and how the beach has accreted over the last dozen decades, why there is gold mixed with the beach sands, and the formation of Fern Canyon.

Subtheme 2: The Cultural History of Gold Bluffs Beach

This subtheme will interpret the importance of this beach to people through time. Interpretation will show how it was used for living sites and a resource base by the Yurok people, a transportation route by early packers, and a possible source of riches by nineteenth-century gold miners. Interpretation should indicate where (approximately) former village and town sites were, and what these might have looked like when they were inhabited. Interpretive panels in the parking lot/staging area at Fern Canyon should deal especially with the Indians' use of the beach as a north-south trade route, the packers' use of the same route, and with the beach mining camps.

Secondary Theme 1: Unusual Landscapes

Areas of unusual or endangered landscapes in the parks, and their associated plant and animal communities, should be interpreted. These landscapes include Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park's serpentine area with its growth of Jeffrey pine, the Port Orford cedar community, and all three parks' marshy and riparian areas.

Secondary Theme 2: The State Park System Story

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is the farthest north of California's state parks to have developed visitor facilities. This park's visitor center should have literature available to visitors explaining the history and scope of the State Park System, especially for those arriving from the north.

Interpretive Services

Visitor Facilities

The prime interpretive resources at these state parks are the coast redwood trees and the groves, and interpretation will focus mainly on these elements. There is a major redwoods museum proposed for construction at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, which will interpret the redwood story for all of the redwood state parks. In the meantime, exhibits for Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks should not try to rival this future facility, but rather, to complement it. Exhibits in these three parks will, therefore, emphasize local phenomena in the areas of the parks.

Visitor Centers

The single most popular interpretive facility in these three parks is the rustic redwood visitor center at Elk Prairie in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. The exhibits in this building have long needed refurbishing. This work is now underway, through the combined efforts of the park staff and the North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association. Exhibits now being installed use a variety of media, are both two- and three-dimensional, and also allow visitors to touch a number of objects, such as elk antlers, that they might find in the park. Topics covered include resident ferns, the elk, birds found in the park, the Save-the-Redwoods League, and others. Park staff members plan soon to add an exhibit room to interpret the redwood trees. To bring the

visitor center into a condition to best present the new exhibits and better serve the public, the building will require repair of the leaky roof and work on the electrical system, which is hazardous, as well as better lighting. This work should be accomplished out of the first capital outlay funds that are made available for work at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

A visitor center was recently constructed at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, through the joint efforts of the department, which donated materials, and the North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association, which furnished funding and volunteer labor. This center now functions mainly as an association outlet for interpretive literature, but it also contains some interpretive displays. At some time in the future, park staff would like to enlarge this facility to make space for more exhibits.

Department staff at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park have also expressed interest in having a small interpretive center, similar to the one at Jedediah Smith Redwoods.

The visitor centers at the state parks are part of a network of interpretive facilities operated in the region by the department and the National Park Service. These include the future Lagoons Visitor Center at Humboldt Lagoons State Park, the National Park Service information center at Hiouchi Flat, and the future NPS center at Freshwater Lagoon, which will replace their facility at Orick. All of these visitor centers help provide necessary visitor orientation, explaining the complex intermingling of state and federal parks in the region, and the facilities available at each. The visitor centers should also be outlets for a wide variety of resource-related literature focusing on the local area, to avoid duplication whenever possible.

Outdoor Exhibits

Public demand for more interpretation has been expressed through surveys conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service in the area during the late 1970s. To help meet this demand, all three parks require capital outlay funding to provide more outdoor displays in connection with park facilities. Exhibits need not be elaborate to be effective. On the contrary, they ought to be simple, to allow visitors to focus their attention on the park resources. Interpretive exhibits at campgrounds can be larger than those in other locations, containing several displays or cases with objects of interest to visitors, such as redwood cones, seeds, elk antlers, seashells, etc. Exhibits in day-use areas or associated with trailheads can be smaller. All exhibit shelters should be constructed of materials that blend with the landscape around them.

Outdoor displays can also be placed at selected locations throughout the parks. However, planning for such displays must take into account the probable classification of most of the parks' lands into wilderness, which will preclude construction of any kind. Locations where more interpretation is needed include Fern Canyon and the Gold Bluffs mining camp at Prairie Creek Redwoods, the logging camp and railroad trestle remains near the Mill Creek campground at Del Norte Coast Redwoods, Peacock's and Catching's ferries, the segment of plank road still existing near Howland Hill Road, and especially Camp Lincoln at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.

In order to have consistency throughout the region, interpretive panels produced for these parks by the department should be compatible with the National Park Service wayside exhibits already in place in the parks, along Highway 101, and in Redwood National Park. These panels address a wide variety of themes, and encourage visitors to listen to, smell, and feel the environment around them. They serve to unify the interpretation now available to people travelling through the area by automobile, and they set a high standard for the department to emulate.

Trailheads and Trails

The three parks contain many miles of hiking trails which are extremely popular with people who know the parks well. However, very little of the tremendous interpretive potential these trails afford has yet been tapped by the department.

Many of the trailheads in the parks need further development, to provide better staging areas and to make them more visible to passing motorists. There should be room for parking, and for groups to assemble. Interpretive panels here can introduce visitors to what they might see on the trail, but they should also note the route, length, altitude gain and/or loss, and relative difficulty of the trail.

Some trails might benefit from rerouting, to maximize visitors' sense of entry when coming into a grove. Sensitive trail construction accomplished through collaboration of field staff and a department landscape architect and interpreter could make the most of visitors' moods and expectations. Interpretation could aid this effort.

More of the parks' trails ought to be self-guiding. Plans exist to create a Jedediah Smith trail that would trace the explorer's route. This trail would pass through Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and would offer an excellent opportunity for a self-guiding experience in conjunction with the National Park Service, using journal entries written by Smith himself. Other park self-guiding trail literature might also use firsthand historical accounts to help visitor obtain a fresh point of view. Not all of the parks' trails need to be self-guiding, however. The decision as to which should and which should not be self-guiding can be that of field staff, with the advice of the Resource Protection Division and the Office of Interpretive Services.

An excellent example of a self-guiding experience for disabled persons can be found at Prairie Creek Redwoods. This is the Revelation Trail, which begins behind the Elk Prairie Visitor Center. More trails of this kind should be provided for people who, for one reason or another, cannot use the parks' extensive trail systems. The Mill Creek campground-logging camp area would provide a possible site for a "revelation trail" for cultural resources.

Campfire Centers

There are now campfire centers at all of these parks' campgrounds, though these range from formal to extremely primitive.

The campfire center at the Elk Prairie campground at Prairie Creek Redwoods has been the main gathering place for large groups at that park for many years.

Though it continues to serve the public well, this facility needs to be rehabilitated. Also at Prairie Creek Redwoods, the new Gold Bluffs campground should have a campfire center included in the initial phase of development.

The other formally developed campfire center in these parks is at the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park campground. This facility also needs rehabilitation. It should have a new concrete floor, and the benches need to be repaired. The department should also replace the audio-visual equipment used here; it is on loan from the National Park Service, and could conceivably be taken back by that agency. If a new campground is developed at Jedediah Smith Redwoods in the future, a new campfire center should be a part of that project.

The campfire center at the Mill Creek campground in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is the most primitive in these three parks. It has no electricity, and consists merely of some logs pushed together. It is not possible to make audio-visual presentations there, and there is also a hazard for visitors coming and leaving in the dark. Capital outlay funds should be budgeted to upgrade this facility, and electricity should be provided. Programs now given there with no technological aids are more like the traditional ranger-led campfire programs than are those in many parts of the State Park System. However, providing electricity will allow more flexibility to park staff, and will afford visitor safety.

Redwoods Slide Show

Audio-visual programs are very popular at the parks' campfire centers. An audio-visual presentation could help to explain the resources of the redwood forest, particularly to first-time visitors who are unfamiliar with redwood trees and their environment, and could show the forest as it appears during the off-season to summer visitors. At this time, no such slide show exists. The department should develop a redwoods slide show to be used in all of the coast redwood state parks.

Interpretive Radio Broadcasts

The taped radio broadcast from Elk Prairie about the elk is a popular and useful form of interpretation that could be used to greater advantage to attract visitors to these parks. When the Highway 101 bypass is constructed to divert through traffic from Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, information about the park's resources and facilities should be broadcast for motorists on the bypass. On this wide, open highway, with carefully spaced broadcasting devices, a program of considerable length and covering many topics might be made available. The excellent transmission devices now available might also make it possible to broadcast interpretive messages to motorists on the twisty, wooded roadways through the three parks.

Raising the Profiles of the Parks

It is not surprising that many motorists are unaware of the existence of these three parks as they speed along the highways. Some people think that the entire area is in Redwood National Park, and others believe that the entrance to the Elk Prairie campground is the entrance to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. To remedy this situation, the department should make certain that the signs marking the entrances to the parks are more visible to high-speed traffic on the highways. The department should also develop contacts with

local chambers of commerce, motel owners' associations, etc., to make visitors to the region aware of the existence of the parks, and to identify the very popular destinations in the parks, such as Fern Canyon and the Stout Grove, with the State Park System.

Visitor Activities

Excellent interpretive programs are now conducted at the parks, though the ability of department staff to be involved directly in these programs varies considerably due to present staffing limitations.

The most complete slate of interpretive programs exists at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Here, campfire programs are presented regularly, and are very popular. There are also scheduled nature talks, guided interpretive tours, and special programs for children, such as the Junior Rangers and Litter Getters. These are all well-received, and should continue in the future. Similar programs are given at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, but less frequently than at Prairie Creek Redwoods. Informal campfire programs two nights a week are now the only visitor activities scheduled at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

National Park Service naturalists and volunteers play varying roles in providing interpretive programs in the parks, depending on the department's level of interpretive staffing. Department rangers are able to furnish a great deal of interpretation at Prairie Creek Redwoods because the North Coast Redwoods Interpretive Association pays a portion of one seasonal ranger's salary, allowing this person the freedom to devote all of his/her work time to interpretation. National Park Service people and volunteers have a relatively larger part to play at Jedediah Smith Redwoods, and are indispensable at Del Norte Coast Redwoods, where campfire programs would not occur at all without NPS support.

With completion of the NPS facility at Freshwater Lagoon, NPS staff may be diverted to that location, and thus be able to offer less assistance to the department. Should this occur, the department might have to use even more volunteer help to maintain a high level of personal services for park visitors. In this event, any docents conducting programs should do so with the training and under the supervision of department staff members.

If personnel are available and willing, the kinds of guided interpretive walks available to visitors might be expanded. Field staff might conduct "silent walks" or guided walks for very small groups when visitation is low. Other guides might want to lead "foggy walks" or "rainy walks," organized on the spur of the moment to expose visitors to the infinite moods of the forest. A guide should carry a magnifying glass and field guides, bug boxes, etc., to be prepared for any opportunity to probe the hidden life in the deep forest, the prairie, or the beach.

The National Park Service provides roving interpreters to make contact with "casual visitors" -- i.e., visitors just passing through the national park and stopping at major points of interest. These visitors are also helped by information available at the various interpretive centers. The department should attempt to make interpretive staff available for this kind of spontaneous contact with visitors on often-used trails and other places where many people are likely to congregate.

Possible future interpretive programs at the parks might include outdoor classes in connection with nearby colleges, and environmental living programs for children. An ELP could not only expose children early to the redwoods but could also help them relate to the experiences of the Indians and the pioneers in the region. Even if these ambitious projects must wait several years, popular children's programs such as Junior Rangers and Litter Getters do much to raise young people's environmental sensitivity, and should be offered in all three parks as soon as possible.

NPS and department interpreters have achieved a high level of coordination. NPS naturalists give programs in the state parks, and state park rangers share space in NPS information facilities. At this time, the NPS is performing a vital service to the state parks, as the department lacks adequate staffing. Even if the department increases its interpretive staff in the future, this cooperation should continue. In this way, the department will best be able to meet the public's active and expressed interest in interpretation at the redwood state parks.

Interpretive Development Recommendations

The following recommendations are arranged in order of their relative importance to the ongoing interpretive effort at the three parks. A separate recommendation, equally as important as this list, is for the department to provide additional interpretive staff positions at Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods. Only with a well-trained staff can the department offer the public the high-quality interpretive programs that they have come to expect at these parks.

1. Rehabilitate the visitor center building at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

2. Rehabilitate the campfire centers at the Elk Prairie and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park campgrounds.

3. Develop campfire centers at the new Gold Bluffs Beach campground, at the Mill Creek Campground, and at any new campground proposed at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.

4. Provide additional outdoor displays at present and future campgrounds, day-use areas, trailheads, and places of special natural and cultural resource interest.

5. Replace the National Park Service slide show equipment on loan to the department and being used at the Jedediah Smith Redwoods campfire center.

6. Create more self-guiding trails, including a trail or trails for disabled persons.

7. Create more radio-transmitted interpretive messages for motorists driving through the parks, or on the new Highway 101 bypass.

8. Develop a redwoods slide show for orientation to all of the coast redwoods state parks.

Environmental Impact Element

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The Environmental Impact Element serves as the environmental impact report required by the California Environmental Quality Act and the state EIR Guidelines.

The Environmental Impact Element incorporates by reference the other elements of the General Plan as the Project Description and Description of the Existing Environment. It should be recognized that the level of detail of the Environmental Impact Element is similar to that of the General Plan. As specific site development plans are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review and on-site checks, and the appropriate environmental documents will be prepared, if necessary.

This Environmental Impact Element covers development and operation for all three units. Impacts, alternatives, etc., specific to a separate unit are described under that unit's name.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

It is impractical to quantify any significant environmental effects for the General Plan. A general plan lacks the detail necessary to make any accurate projection. Given the nature of the site and the proposed development -- no immediate large urban areas, good air quality, nonintensive development generally designed within geo-biological constraints or to protect historical or pre-historical resources -- impacts may be considered significant only in the view of the quality of the environment and the goal of the department to preserve and protect the resources.

1. Increased capacity will permit increased use. The potential indirect impacts are soil erosion, vegetation loss, disruption or disturbance of wildlife, vandalism, and accidental destruction of cultural resources.

2. Direct impacts of construction of the proposed facilities are noise generation from construction equipment, fuel consumption, air pollution generation, soil erosion, soil compaction, and loss of vegetation. Noise generation and air pollution from construction are temporary impacts. There are no sensitive facilities nearby, such as schools or hospitals.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

3. Any development in the Espa Lagoon area may disturb cultural and natural resources.

4. Elk Prairie is a culturally sensitive area and vital elk habitat. Any development may have significant impacts.

5. If the road through Elk Prairie is relocated to the west side, noise levels may increase in the campground and day-use areas. This rerouting would occur only if the Prairie Creek bypass is constructed. The noise source, traffic, would be closer to sensitive receptors, the campground and day-use areas; however, the volume and speed of traffic would be reduced, and most of the traffic would occur during daylight hours.

6. If the road is relocated to the east side, the traffic may disturb an elk calving area.

7. Any development along the coastal strand may disturb dune stability.

8. Development in the Gold Bluffs Beach area may be subject to coastal erosion and unstable cliffs.

9. Any vehicle use in the surf zone will disturb wildlife due to compaction and noise.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

10. Paving Howland Hill Road will encourage additional traffic, with the attendant impacts of increased visitor use.

UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The more adverse effects of the proposed developments have been mitigated in the land use limitations or facilities' locations, or can be mitigated by site development plans.

1. Removal of vegetation and creation of impervious surface areas will accelerate soil erosion.

2. The indirect impacts of increased use are unavoidable, although they may be reduced. Monitoring of sensitive or critical resources by staff, and implementation of resource protection programs, may be adequate mitigation.

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. All excavation will be reviewed by the department's Cultural Resource Management Unit. Excavations or ground disturbances in culturally sensitive areas will be monitored by a department archeologist or historian.

2. Some existing facilities will be removed to eliminate impacts to cultural resources and natural resources. Campsites at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park will be relocated to reduce the visitor intrusion into Elk Prairie.

3. Facilities will be sited to minimize vegetation loss. The proposed maintenance area at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park will not require removal of any old-growth redwoods.

4. Trails, roads, picnic sites, campsites, and building sites will be selected, designed, and aligned to reduce erosion. Capacity will be limited in some areas by erosion.

5. Construction will generally be scheduled during the dry season, which will reduce erosion from soil disturbance. Disturbed areas will be revegetated.

6. Trails constructed parallel to the bluffs' edges should be located outside the zone of exclusion identified in the Resource Element, unless it is determined that the area of construction is geologically stable.

7. Development in the coastal strand will be monitored by field personnel. Revegetation, relocation of facilities, construction of sand fences, or restriction of use may be employed to reduce the impacts of development or adverse use.

ALTERNATIVES

The "no project" alternative would leave development at its current level. Minor development would continue to maintain or upgrade existing facilities. Certain problems would continue: inadequate parking in some areas, lack of public access to some areas, unsatisfied demand for camping and day-use facilities, and inadequate facilities for interpretation.

The alternatives of less or more development are not ruled out with adoption of the General Plan. The General Plan is only a guideline for development. Additional or more intensive development may be possible to a minor degree, within environmental constraints and general plan guidelines, to meet increased recreational demands. Conversely, in the preparation of site development plans, previously unknown environmental constraints may require less intensive development.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

1. Prohibit all vehicle access to the wave slope of the beach along Gold Bluffs. Currently, the beach is being used by commercial fishermen and OHV enthusiasts. Dune vegetation, wildlife, and stability has been adversely affected by vehicle use beyond the wave slope. Shore-nesting birds and wildlife inhabiting the wave slope have been displaced or destroyed by vehicle use.

2. Limit vehicle access to the beach by commercial fishing operations. Access to the beach area below the high tide line would be through a prescribed corridor to limit the impact to the dune region. It is believed that the vehicles associated with commercial fishing made up the smaller portion of the vehicle use in the beach and dune area before any restriction on use. The impact to the wildlife inhabiting the wave slope could be reduced.

3. Vehicles may be prohibited to parts of the beach (i.e., all the beach north of Fern Canyon), and/or vehicle use may be restricted to certain time periods. Impacts to some nesting or egg-laying species could be reduced if vehicle use is prohibited during those periods.

4. Permit all vehicles to use the beach below the high tide line only; however, restrict access to the beach through the dunes to a prescribed corridor. This would reduce the impacts to the dune habitat.

5. Maintain the Gold Bluffs campground at its present location and capacity. The current location is difficult to supervise.

6. Relocate the Gold Bluffs campground to a site north of the mouth of East Creek. Suitable land is available; however, the area is a known elk habitat.

7. Develop a loop trail at the Espa Lagoon. Any development at the Espa Lagoon could affect cultural and natural resources. Trail development could accelerate eutrophication of the lagoon.

8. Maintain existing development at Espa Lagoon. Current development, which includes residences and day-use facilities, contributes to eutrophication of Espa Lagoon through seepage of sewage. Visual intrusions would be reduced.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

1. Maintain Howland Hill Road in its present condition. A large amount of dust is spread over the vegetation adjacent to the road, caused by traffic. Paving or surface treatment would reduce the dust, and would restore the adjacent landscape to a more natural condition. Without paving, some visitor use would be reduced, and traffic speeds, volume, and noise would be lower.

2. Restrict Howland Hill Road traffic to one direction. This would probably reduce traffic volume to some extent, and would reduce the width of pavement required.

3. No acquisition or trail construction between Lake Earl and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. If only trail easements are acquired, there would be no change in the property tax base. Public trail use may have an adverse effect on the streamside vegetation. However, development could occur if the property is not acquired or controlled, which could have a greater impact on the stream resources.

4. Leave parcels on the eastern boundary in private ownership. Without acquisition, these parcels could be developed with adverse effects to the unit. The department is required to provide an easement for access if no other is reasonably available.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND MAINTENANCE OR ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The proposed long-term and short-term use is preservation and recreation. The resources will be protected. There is no intent to enhance potential productivity.

IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

No new land areas or natural resources will be irreversibly committed with implementation of the plan. Development proposals generally involve areas of previous impact, and the nature of the development is such that it could be removed, and sites returned to a predevelopment condition. Only the building materials and the energy consumed in construction, operation, and maintenance may be considered an irreversible commitment of resources.

GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

There will be a minor growth-inducing impact due to the increased recreational capacity and staffing. Increased recreational capacity may create a greater demand for support facilities such as service stations, grocery stores, restaurants, and sports equipment outlets. However, the impact is not projected to be significant. The potential increase in user capacity relative to existing regional capacity is small. The demands created by staff increases would be typical of residential needs -- schools, hospitals, etc. -- and would be so minor as to be within the capacity of existing facilities.

EFFECTS FOUND NOT SIGNIFICANT

1. Proposed development may create new impervious surface areas which will alter the rate and timing of runoff. However, in comparison to the total watershed area, the increase is insignificant.

2. Air quality and traffic impacts are not considered significant.

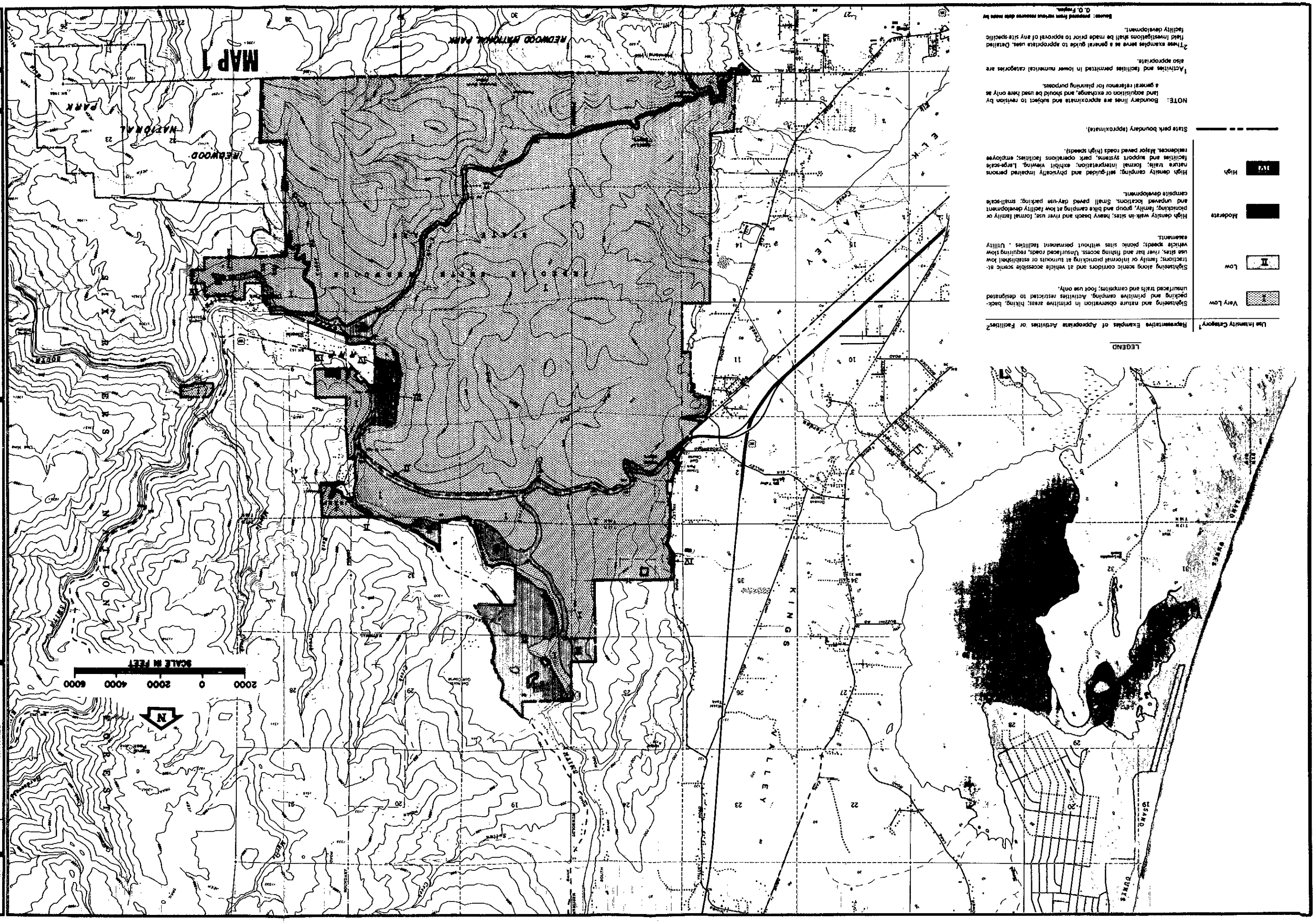
   There are no immediate sensitive facilities (schools, hospitals, residential areas) which would be affected. The capacity increase is not substantial, and therefore, will not generate substantial increases in traffic and air pollution.

3. Sewage and waste production, water consumption, and fuel consumption will rise only proportionally as use increases. Water supply and sewage treatment are provided by the units.

4. Water quality should not significantly deteriorate. Sediment from erosion may temporarily increase after construction, but will diminish with reestablishment of vegetation. The runoff-carrying contaminants from impervious surface areas (roadways, parking areas, and buildings) will increase, but will be small in comparison to total watershed runoff. Water quality impacts from development and land management activities on other properties in the watershed could be significant, and could create problems for the lagoons and the wetlands.

5. No rare or endangered plants and animals, or unusual plant associations, will be significantly affected by the proposed development.

I-2084L(83L)



JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK

INTERIM ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

RESOURCE ELEMENT

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DRAWING No.

MAP No.

APPROVED

DATE

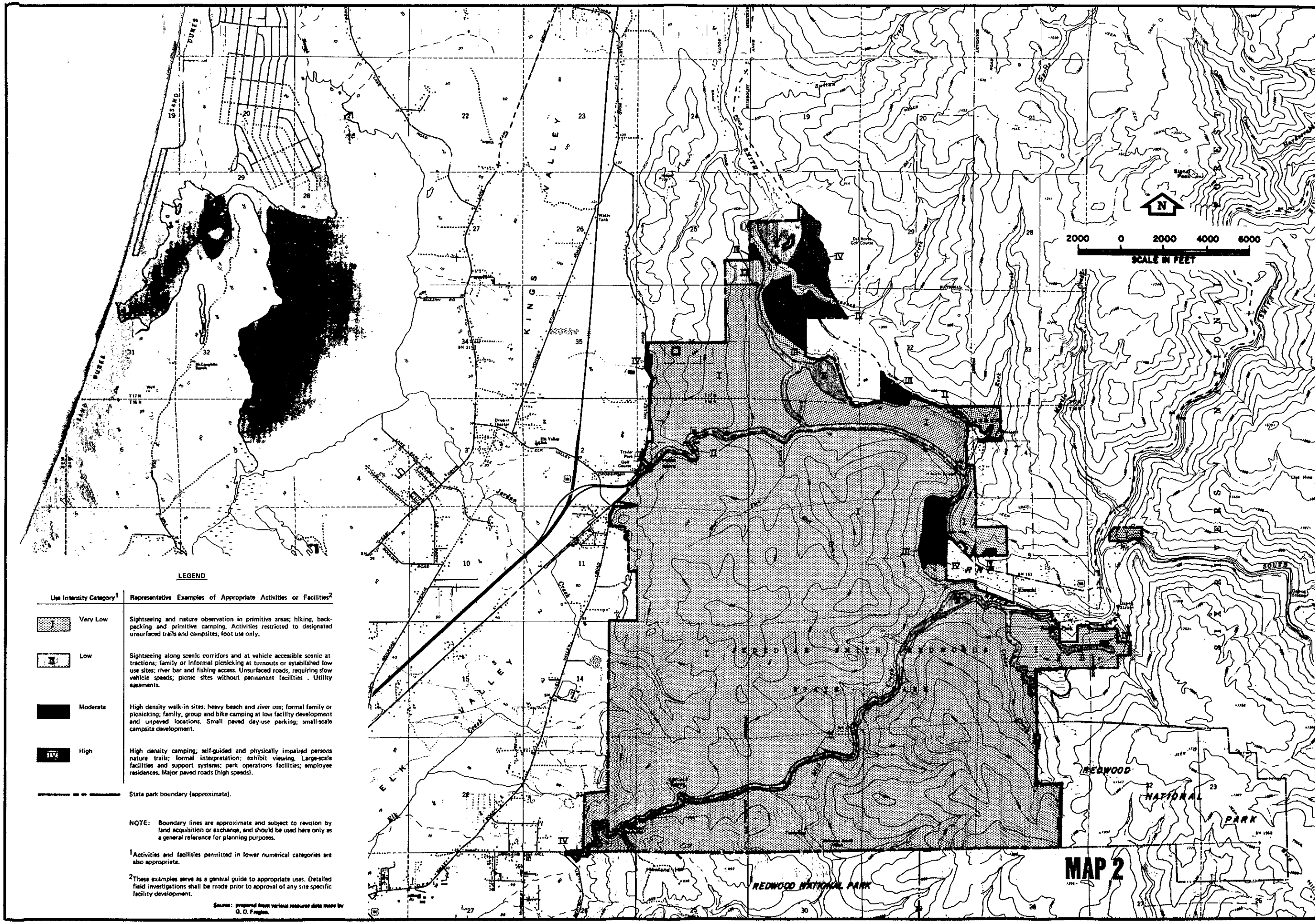
REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

DRAWN

CHECKED



LEGEND

Use Intensity Category[1]		Representative Examples of Appropriate Activities or Facilities[2]
I	Very Low	Sightseeing and nature observation in primitive areas; hiking, back-packing and primitive camping. Activities restricted to designated unsurfaced trails and campsites; foot use only.
II	Low	Sightseeing along scenic corridors and at vehicle accessible scenic attractions; family or informal picnicking at turnouts or established low use sites; river bar and fishing access. Unsurfaced roads, requiring slow vehicle speeds; picnic sites without permanent facilities . Utility easements.
	Moderate	High density walk-in sites; heavy beach and river use; formal family or picnicking; family, group and bike camping at low facility development and unpaved locations. Small paved day-use parking; small-scale campsite development.
IV	High	High density camping; self-guided and physically impaired persons nature trails; formal interpretation; exhibit viewing. Large-scale facilities and support systems; park operations facilities; employee residences. Major paved roads (high speeds).

State park boundary (approximate).

NOTE: Boundary lines are approximate and subject to revision by land acquisition or exchange, and should be used here only as a general reference for planning purposes.

[1] Activities and facilities permitted in lower numerical categories are also appropriate.

[2] These examples serve as a general guide to appropriate uses. Detailed field investigations shall be made prior to approval of any site-specific facility development.

Source: prepared from various resource data maps by G. O. Feagles.

DESIGNED	
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CHECKED	
DATE	
REVISIONS	

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

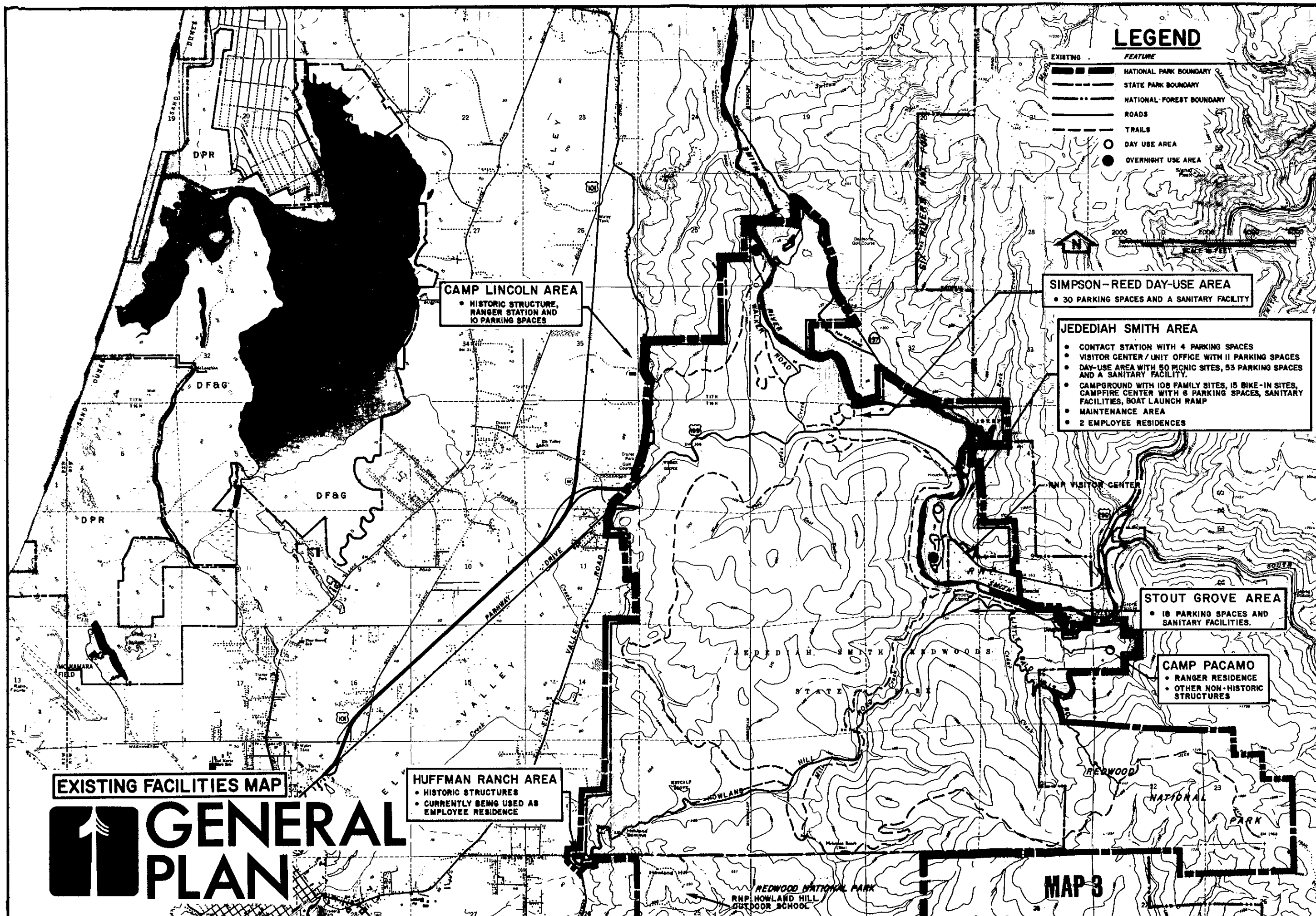
JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK

PLANNED ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING No.

MAP No.


LEGEND
EXISTING
FEATURE
NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
STATE PARK BOUNDARY
NATIONAL-FOREST BOUNDARY
ROADS
TRAILS
DAY USE AREA
OVERNIGHT USE AREA
CAMP LINCOLN AREA
• HISTORIC STRUCTURE, RANGER STATION AND 10 PARKING SPACES
SIMPSON-REED DAY-USE AREA
• 30 PARKING SPACES AND A SANITARY FACILITY
JEDEDIAH SMITH AREA
• CONTACT STATION WITH 4 PARKING SPACES
• VISITOR CENTER / UNIT OFFICE WITH 11 PARKING SPACES
• DAY-USE AREA WITH 50 PICNIC SITES, 53 PARKING SPACES AND A SANITARY FACILITY.
• CAMPGROUND WITH 108 FAMILY SITES, 15 BIKE-IN SITES, CAMPFIRE CENTER WITH 6 PARKING SPACES, SANITARY FACILITIES, BOAT LAUNCH RAMP
• MAINTENANCE AREA
• 2 EMPLOYEE RESIDENCES
STOUT GROVE AREA
• 18 PARKING SPACES AND SANITARY FACILITIES.
CAMP PACAMO
• RANGER RESIDENCE
• OTHER NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURES
HUFFMAN RANCH AREA
• HISTORIC STRUCTURES
• CURRENTLY BEING USED AS EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE
EXISTING FACILITIES MAP
GENERAL PLAN
MAP 3
DPR
DF&G
RNP VISITOR CENTER
REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK
RNP HOWLAND HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL
JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
DATE
REVISIONS
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED
DATE
JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
EXISTING FACILITIES
DRAWING NO.
20342
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OF

FACILITIES SUMMARY

FACILITIES	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TOTAL *
FAMILY CAMP SITE	108	75	175-268
HIKE IN " "	0	10	10
BIKE IN " "	15	20	35
GROUP " "	0	3	3
TRAILHEAD	1	9	10
FAMILY PICNIC SITES	50	35	85
DAY USE PARKING	933	12	921
ADMINISITRATION OFF.	2	0	2
VISITOR CENTER	1	0	1
MAINTENANCE FACIL.	1	0	1
ADMIN. RESIDENCE	4	0	4
TRAIL MILES	197	16.7	36.4
CAMP FIRE CENTER	1	1	2

* TOTAL INCLUDES EXISTING FACILITIES

ACQUISITION PROPOSALS SHOWN HERE ARE INTENDED FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT A COMMITMENT TO ACQUIRE.

NORTH BANK AREA
- DEVELOP CONTACT STATION.
- DEVELOP 3 DAY-USE AREAS WITH PARKING, PICNICKING, FISHING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES AND ACCESS TRAILS.
- DEVELOP CAMPGROUND WITH UP TO 150 FAMILY AND 20 BIKE-IN SITES, CAMPFIRE CENTER, SANITATION AND SANITARY FACILITIES.
- DEVELOP GROUP CAMPGROUND WITH 3 SITES FOR 50 PEOPLE EACH, WITH SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES.

SOUTH BANK AREA
- DEVELOP 2 DAY-USE AREAS WITH PARKING, SANITARY, FISHING, AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

DEER MEADOW AREA
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING, AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES
- DEVELOP HIKE-IN CAMP FOR 15 PEOPLE (5 SITES) WITH A SANITARY FACILITY

CAMP LINCOLN AREA
- RELOCATE RANGER STATION AND REMOVE NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURES
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

ELK VALLEY AREA
- DEVELOP MAINTENANCE AREA
- DEVELOP RANGER STATION
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

LAKE EARL AREA
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

JORDAN CREEK TRAIL CORRIDOR
- DETERMINE FEASIBILTY OF TRAIL LINK TO LAKE EARL

MILL CREEK AREA
- DEVELOP 2 TRAILHEADS WITH PARKING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES
- DEVELOP HIKE-IN CAMP FOR 15 PEOPLE (5 SITES) WITH A SANITARY FACILITY

HOWLAND HILL AREA
- DEVELOP EQUESTRIAN TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES.
- CONTROL TRAFFIC GENERATED DUST.

HUFFMAN RANCH
- RESTORE AND INTERPRET HISTORIC STRUCTURES
- RETAIN AS EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE

SIMPSON-REED DAY-USE AREA
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PICNIC, PARKING AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

JEDEDIAH SMITH AREA
- RELOCATE ENTRY ROAD AND CONTACT STATION.
- REMOVE CAMPSITES FROM ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA (RESTUDY).
- RELOCATE MAINTENANCE AREA TO ELK VALLEY AREA. USE EXISTING AREA FOR STORAGE AND SEASONAL HOUSING.

HIQUCHI-FLAT
- PROPOSED NPS CAMPGROUND

SMITH FORK AREA
- DEVELOP DAY-USE AREA WITH PARKING, PICNIC, FISHING-ACCESS, SANITARY AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES IN COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

CEDAR CREEK AREA
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH PARKING AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

CAMP PACAMO
- RETAIN RESIDENCE FOR ADMINISTRATION
- DEMOLISH REMAINING STRUCTURES

LITTLE BALD HILLS ROAD
- CONVERT TO TRAIL USE ONLY

STOUT GROVE AREA
- DEVELOP TRAILHEAD WITH INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

LEGEND

EXISTING	FEATURE	PROPOSED
	NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY	
	STATE PARK BOUNDARY	
	NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY	
	ROADS	
	TRAILS	
	DAY USE AREA	
	OVERNIGHT USE AREA	
	ADMINISTRATIVE AREA	
	TRAIL HEAD	

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SCALE IN FEET

LAND USE & FACILITIES MAP

1 GENERAL PLAN

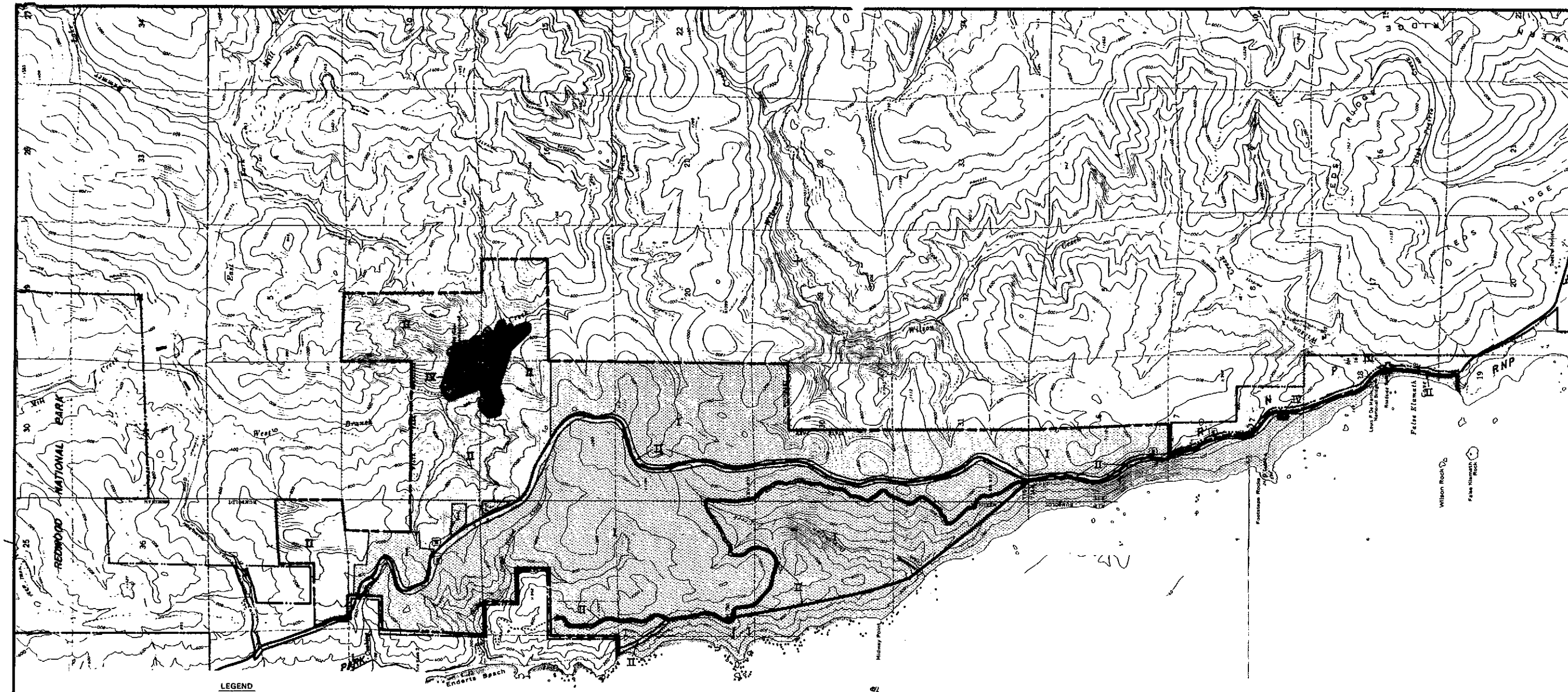
MAP 4

DESIGNED | DRAWN | CHECKED | DATE | REVISIONS

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED | DATE

JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
LAND USE & FACILITIES

DRAWING No. 20342
SHEET No. OF



LEGEND

Use Intensity Category[1]		Representative Examples of Appropriate Activities or Facilities[2]
I	Very Low	Sightseeing and nature observation in primitive areas; hiking, backpacking and primitive camping. Activities restricted to designated unsurfaced trails and campsites, foot use only.
II	Low	Sightseeing along scenic corridors and at vehicle accessible scenic attractions, family or informal picnicking at turnouts or established low use sites; river bar and fishing access. Unsurfaced roads, requiring slow vehicle speeds; picnic sites without permanent facilities . Utility easements.
	Moderate	High density walk-in sites, heavy beach and river use; formal family or picnicking; family, group and bike camping at low facility development and unpaved locations. Small paved day-use parking; small-scale campsite development.
IV	High	High density camping; self-guided and physically impaired persons nature trails; formal interpretation; exhibit viewing. Large-scale facilities and support systems; park operations facilities; employee residences. Major paved roads (high speeds).

State park boundary (approximate)

NOTE Boundary lines are approximate and subject to revision by land acquisition or exchange, and should be used here only as a general reference for planning purposes.

[1]Activities and facilities permitted in lower numerical categories are also appropriate.

[2]These examples serve as a general guide to appropriate uses. Detailed field investigations shall be made prior to approval of any site-specific facility development.

Source: prepared from various resource data maps by G. O. Fregien.

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2000 0 2000 4000 6000
SCALE IN FEET

MAP 5

DESIGNED		
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CHECKED		

REVISIONS	DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

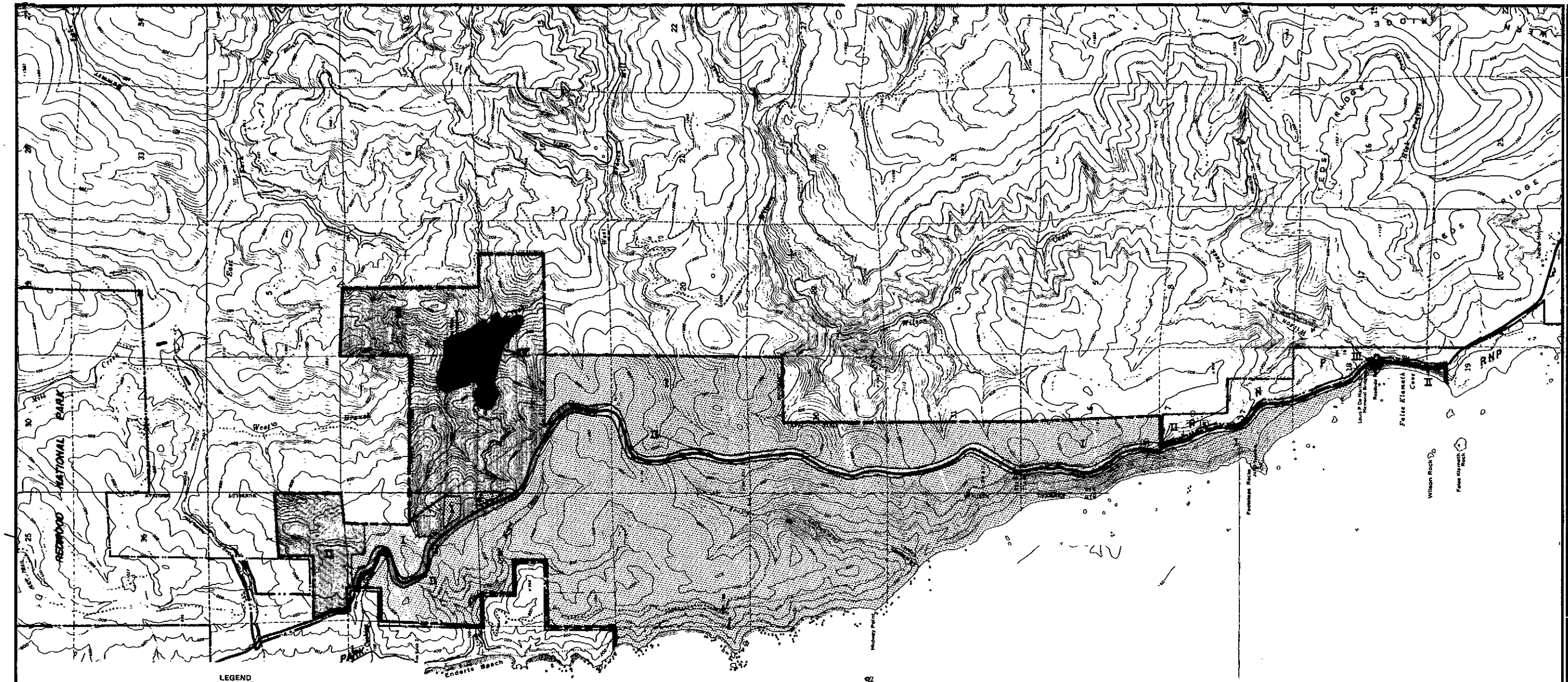
DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

INTERIM ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING NO.

MAP NO.



LEGEND

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State park boundary (approximate).

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[2]These examples serve as a general guide to appropriate uses. Detailed field investigations shall be made prior to approval of any site-specific facility development.

Source: prepared from various resource data maps by G. O. Feaglan.

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SCALE IN FEET

MAP 6

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REVISIONS	DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED ____ DATE ____

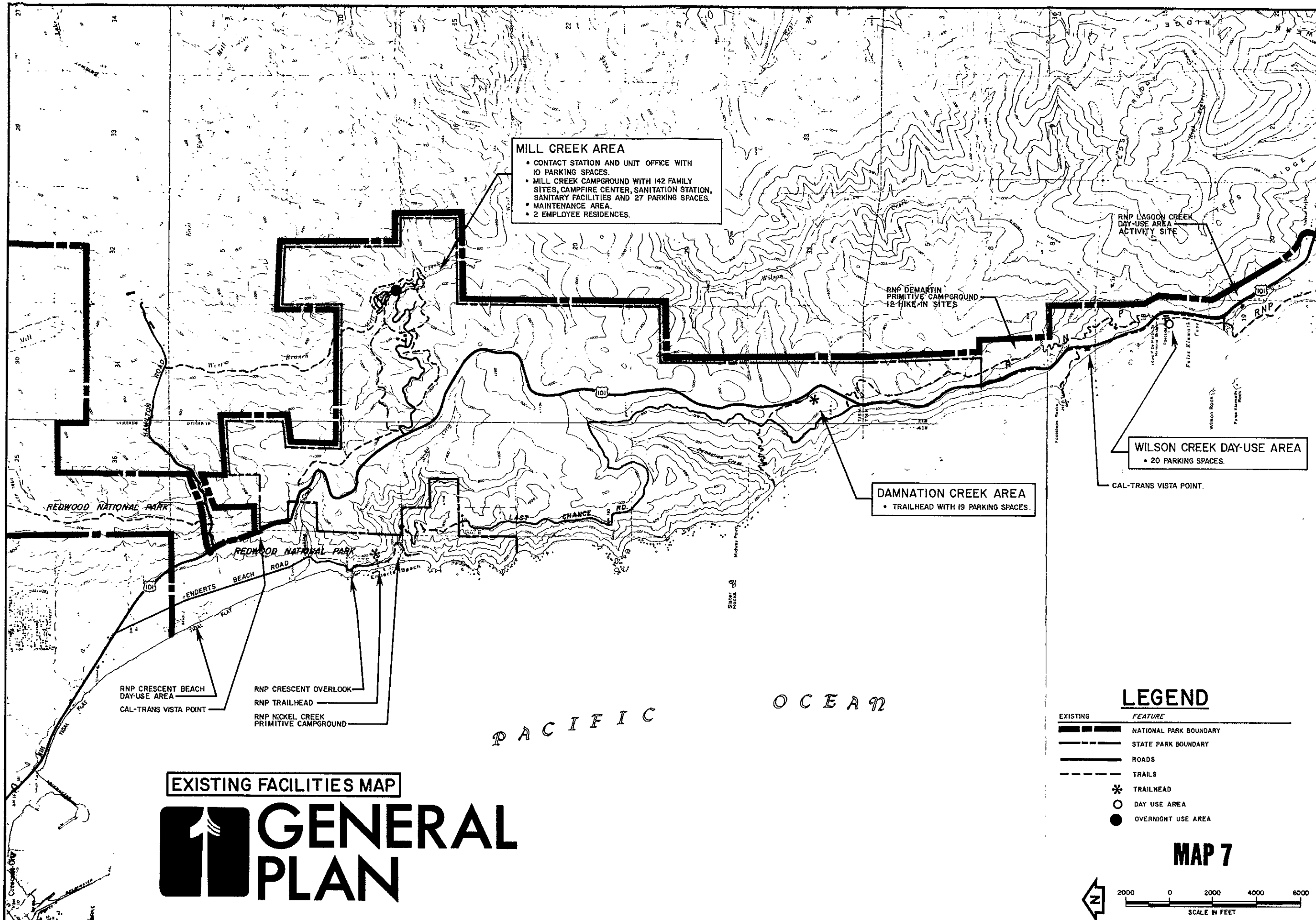
DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

PLANNED ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING No.

MAP No.



EXISTING FACILITIES MAP

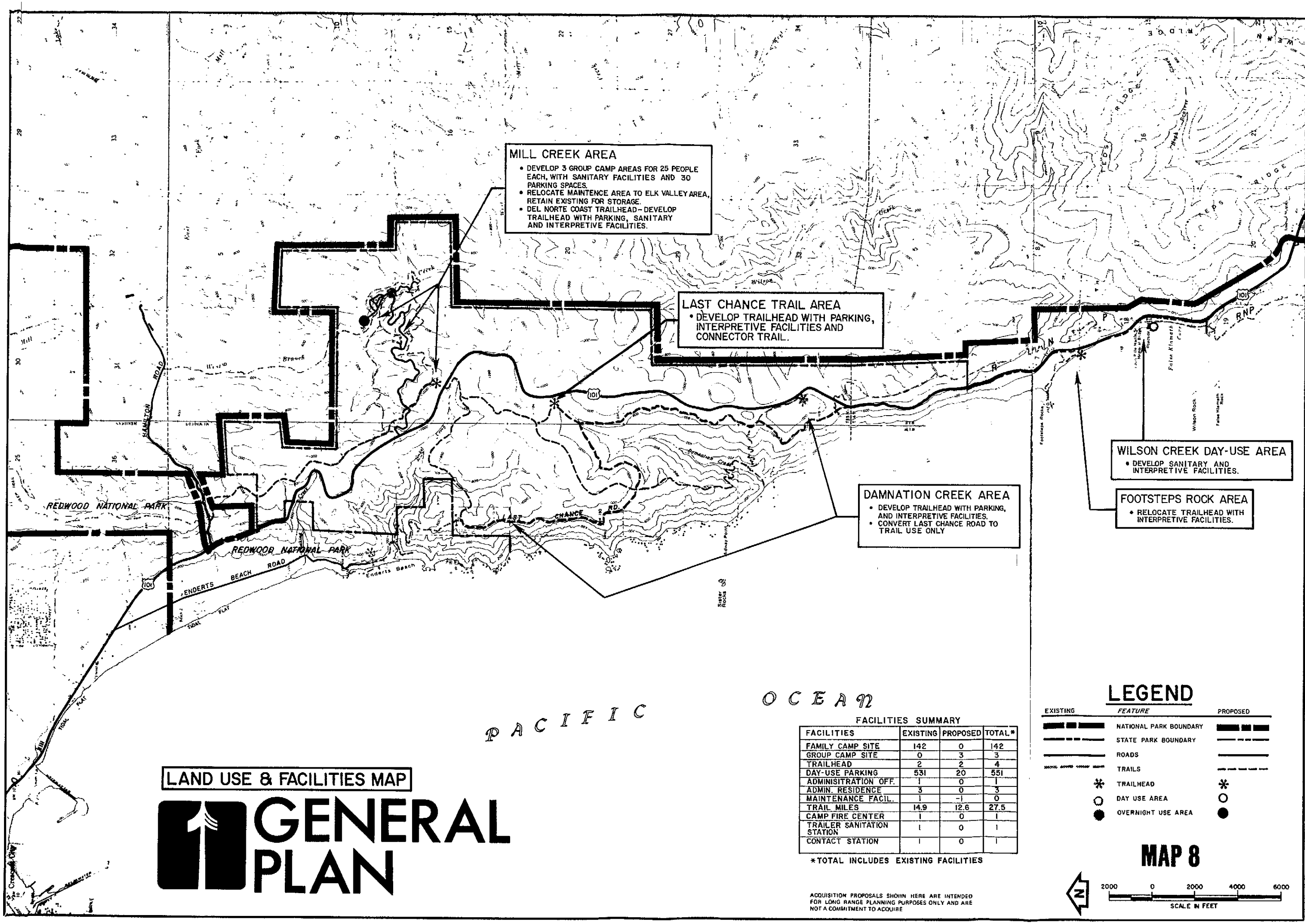
1 GENERAL PLAN

DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
DATE
REVISIONS

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED
DATE

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
EXISTING FACILITIES

DRAWING No. 20343
SHEET No.
OF



LAND USE & FACILITIES MAP

GENERAL PLAN

FACILITIES SUMMARY

FACILITIES	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TOTAL*
FAMILY CAMP SITE	142	0	142
GROUP CAMP SITE	0	3	3
TRAILHEAD	2	2	4
DAY-USE PARKING	531	20	551
ADMINISITRATION OFF.	1	0	1
ADMIN. RESIDENCE	3	0	3
MAINTENANCE FACIL.	1	-1	0
TRAIL MILES	14.9	12.6	27.5
CAMP FIRE CENTER	1	0	1
TRAILER SANITATION STATION	1	0	1
CONTACT STATION	1	0	1

*TOTAL INCLUDES EXISTING FACILITIES

ACQUISITION PROPOSALS SHOWN HERE ARE INTENDED FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT A COMMITMENT TO ACQUIRE

DESIGNED | DRAWN | CHECKED

DATE | REVISIONS

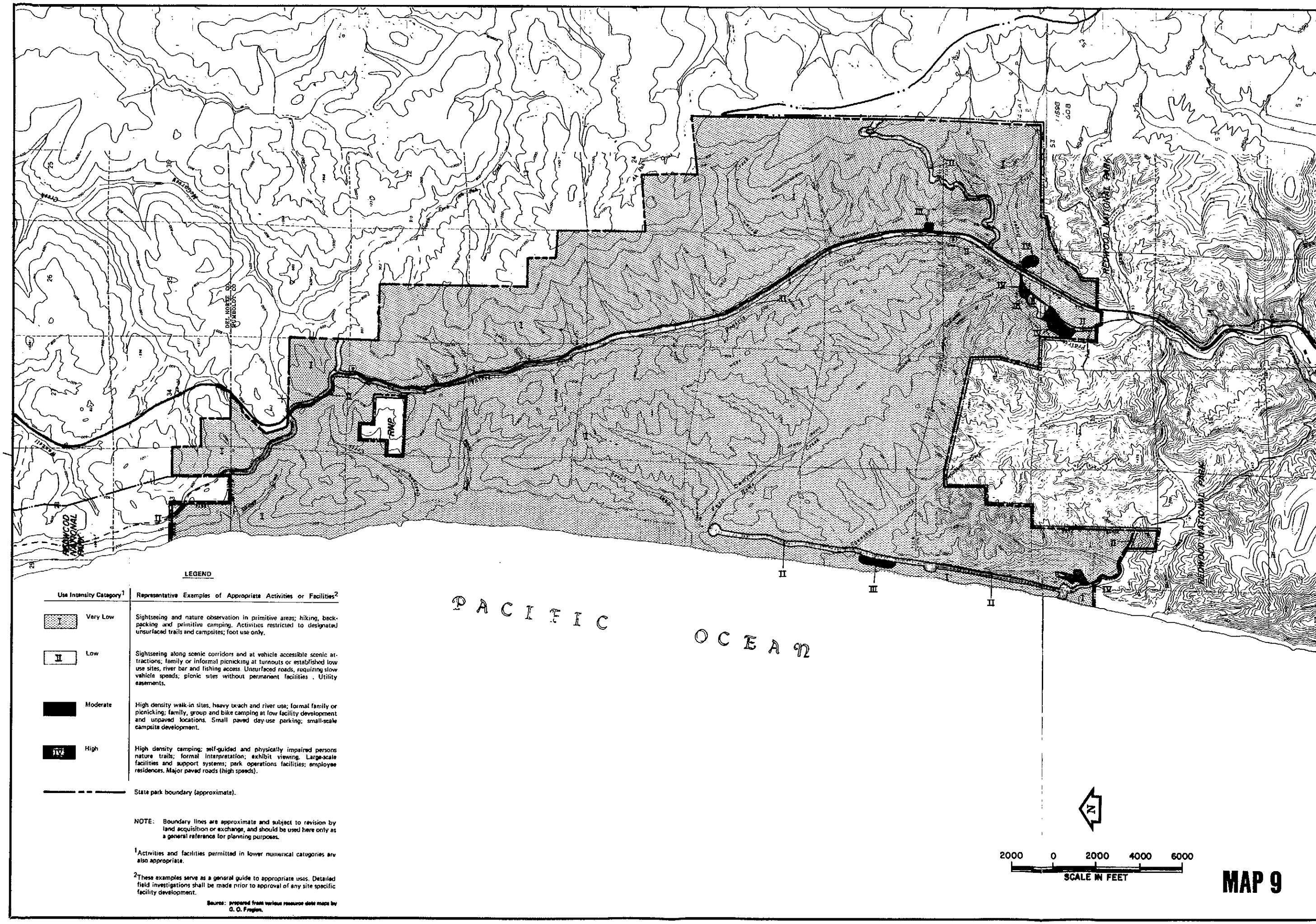
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
LAND USE & FACILITIES

DRAWING No. 20343

SHEET No. OF



LEGEND

Use Intensity Category[1]	Representative Examples of Appropriate Activities or Facilities[2]
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IV High	High density camping; self-guided and physically impaired persons nature trails; formal interpretation; exhibit viewing. Large-scale facilities and support systems; park operations facilities; employee residences. Major paved roads (high speeds).

State park boundary (approximate).

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Source: prepared from various resource data maps by G. O. Fregien.

MAP 9

DESIGNED
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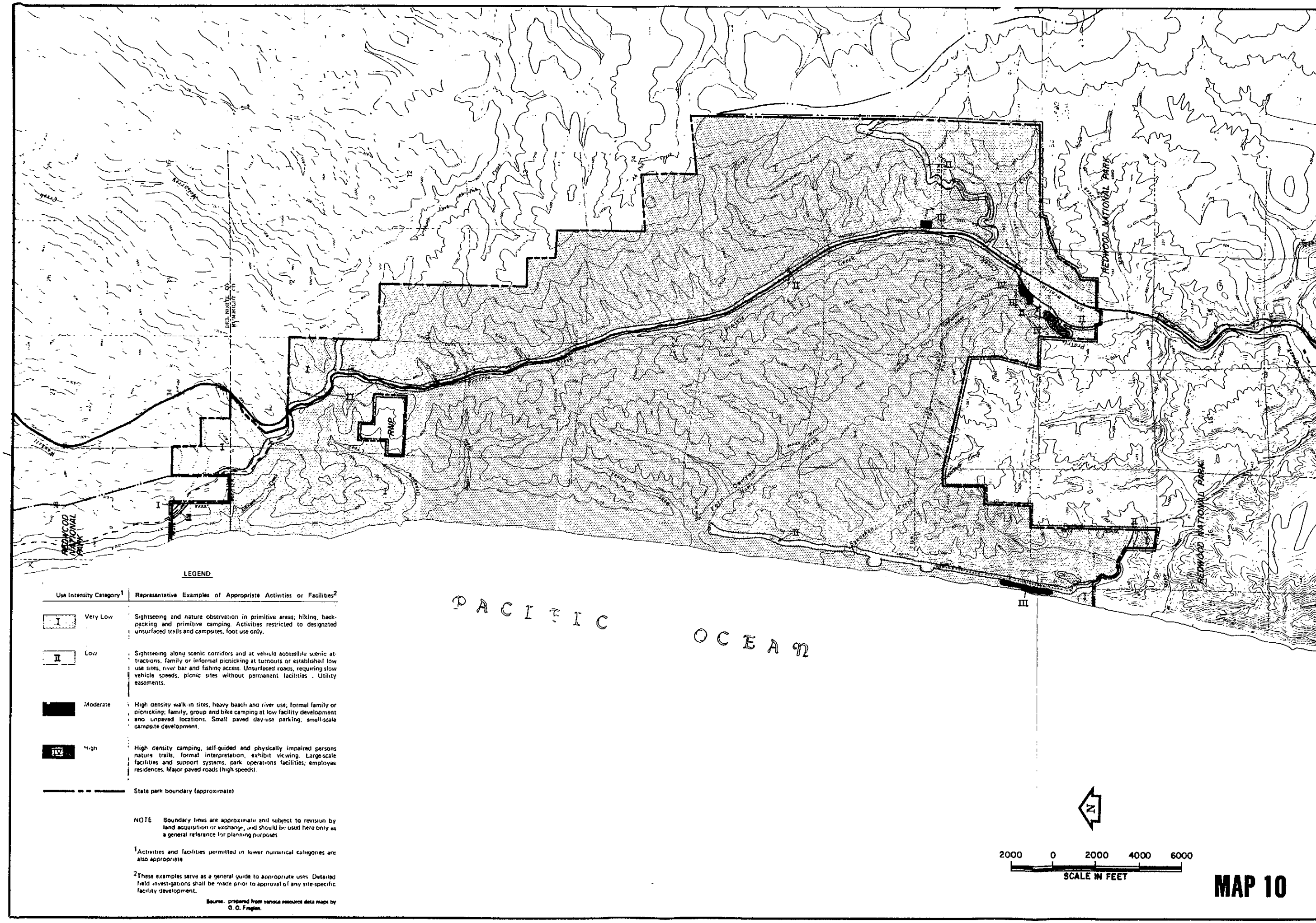
CHECKED
REVISIONS
DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED_____ DATE_____

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
INTERIM ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY
RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING No.

MAP No.



LEGEND

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I	Very Low	Sightseeing and nature observation in primitive areas; hiking, backpacking and primitive camping. Activities restricted to designated unsurfaced trails and campsites, foot use only.
II	Low	Sightseeing along scenic corridors and at vehicle accessible scenic attractions, family or informal picnicking at turnouts or established low use sites, river bar and fishing access. Unsurfaced roads, requiring slow vehicle speeds, picnic sites without permanent facilities . Utility easements.
III	Moderate	High density walk-in sites, heavy beach and river use; formal family or picnicking; family, group and bike camping at low facility development and unpaved locations. Small paved day-use parking; small-scale campsite development.
IV	High	High density camping, self-guided and physically impaired persons nature trails, formal interpretation, exhibit viewing. Large-scale facilities and support systems, park operations facilities; employee residences. Major paved roads (high speeds).
		State park boundary (approximate)

NOTE Boundary lines are approximate and subject to revision by land acquisition or exchange, and should be used here only as a general reference for planning purposes

[1]Activities and facilities permitted in lower numerical categories are also appropriate

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Source: prepared from various resource data maps by G. O. Fregien.

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REVISIONS | DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

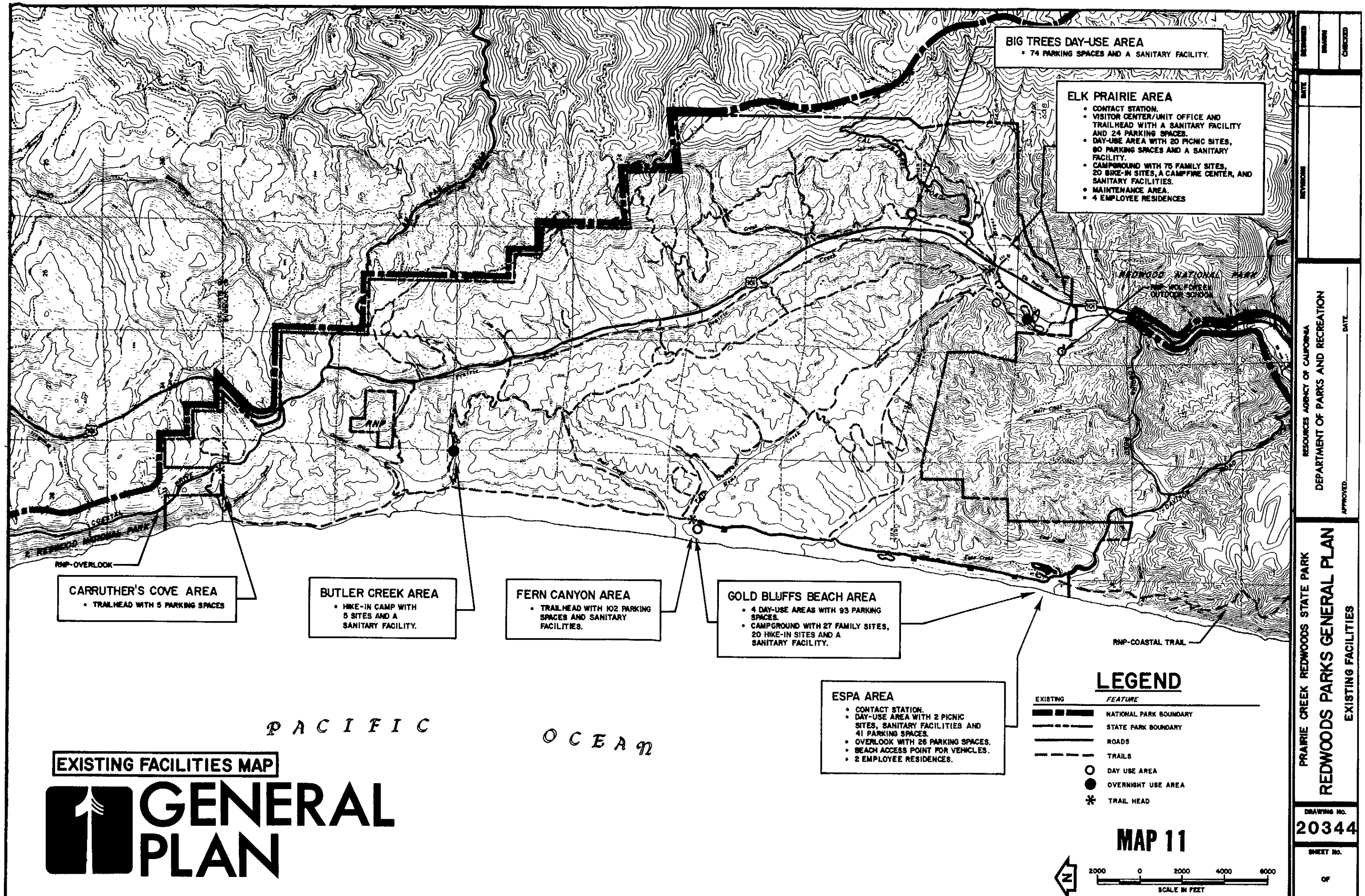
APPROVED_____ DATE_____

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
PLANNED ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY
RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING No

MAP No.

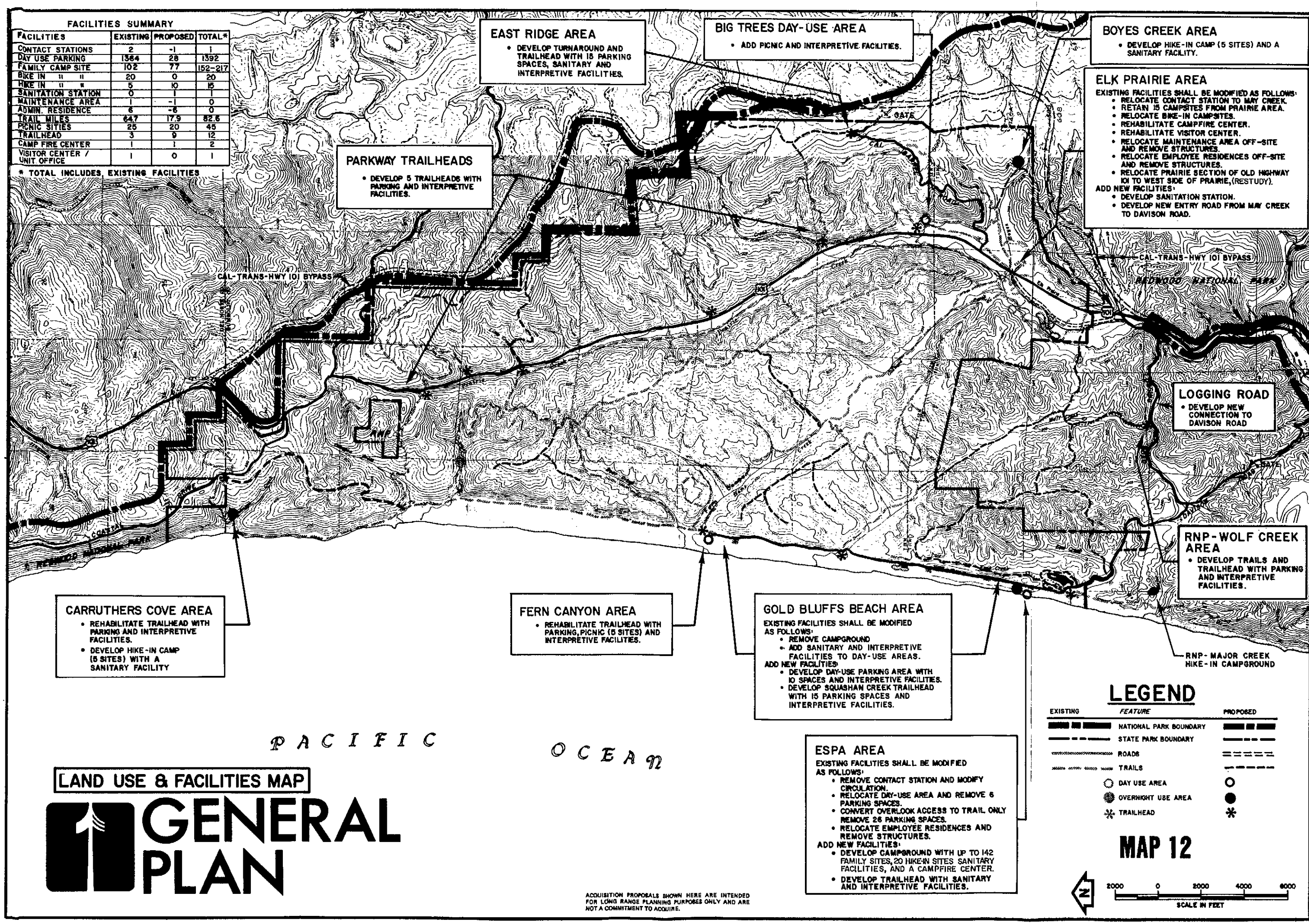
MAP 10


BIG TREES DAY-USE AREA
• 74 PARKING SPACES AND A SANITARY FACILITY.
ELK PRAIRIE AREA
• CONTACT STATION.
• VISITOR CENTER/UNIT OFFICE AND TRAILHEAD WITH A SANITARY FACILITY AND 24 PARKING SPACES.
• DAY-USE AREA WITH 20 PICNIC SITES, 80 PARKING SPACES AND A SANITARY FACILITY.
• CAMPGROUND WITH 75 FAMILY SITES, 20 BIKE-IN SITES, A CAMPFIRE CENTER, AND SANITARY FACILITIES.
• MAINTENANCE AREA.
• 4 EMPLOYEE RESIDENCES
REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK
RNP-OVERLOOK
CARRUTHER'S COVE AREA
• TRAILHEAD WITH 5 PARKING SPACES
BUTLER CREEK AREA
• HIKE-IN CAMP WITH 5 SITES AND A SANITARY FACILITY.
FERN CANYON AREA
• TRAILHEAD WITH 102 PARKING SPACES AND SANITARY FACILITIES.
GOLD BLUFFS BEACH AREA
• 4 DAY-USE AREAS WITH 93 PARKING SPACES.
• CAMPGROUND WITH 27 FAMILY SITES, 20 HIKE-IN SITES AND A SANITARY FACILITY.
RNP-COASTAL TRAIL
ESPA AREA
• CONTACT STATION.
• DAY-USE AREA WITH 2 PICNIC SITES, SANITARY FACILITIES AND 41 PARKING SPACES.
• OVERLOOK WITH 26 PARKING SPACES.
• BEACH ACCESS POINT FOR VEHICLES.
• 2 EMPLOYEE RESIDENCES.
PACIFIC OCEAN
LEGEND
EXISTING FEATURE
NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
STATE PARK BOUNDARY
ROADS
TRAILS
DAY USE AREA
OVERNIGHT USE AREA
TRAIL HEAD
MAP 11
N
2000 0 2000 4000 6000
SCALE IN FEET
EXISTING FACILITIES MAP
11 GENERAL PLAN
REVISIONS
DATE
DESIGNED
DRAWN
CHECKED
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED
DATE
PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
EXISTING FACILITIES
DRAWING No.
20344
SHEET No.
OF

FACILITIES SUMMARY

FACILITIES	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TOTAL*
CONTACT STATIONS	2	-1	1
DAY USE PARKING	1364	28	1392
FAMILY CAMP SITE	102	77	152-217
BIKE IN " "	20	0	20
HIKE IN " "	5	10	15
SANITATION STATION	0	1	1
MAINTENANCE AREA	1	-1	0
ADMIN. RESIDENCE	6	-6	0
TRAIL MILES	64.7	17.9	82.6
PICNIC SITES	25	20	45
TRAILHEAD	3	9	12
CAMP FIRE CENTER	1	1	2
VISITOR CENTER / UNIT OFFICE	1	0	1

* TOTAL INCLUDES EXISTING FACILITIES



LAND USE & FACILITIES MAP

11 GENERAL PLAN

ACQUISITION PROPOSALS SHOWN HERE ARE INTENDED FOR LONG RANGE PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT A COMMITMENT TO ACQUIRE.

REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED / DRAWN / CHECKED

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN
LAND USE & FACILITIES

DRAWING NO. 20344

SHEET No. OF

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

October 10, 1984

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I am writing you this letter in reguard to your recently released revised proposals concerning the State Redwoods Park systems. Since these proposals may eventually affect my ability to work and provide a living for my family, I feel it is necessary to let you know in writing some of my concerns in reguard to these proposals.

My line of work happens to be commercial smelt fishing. I am licensed by the State Department of Fish and Game to pursue these fish on the beaches of Northern California. I have been doing this type of fishing for 13 years. I spend approximately 200 days and nights each year on the beach fishing, and for the past four years have caught and landed approximately 70,000 pounds of smelt per year (white bait and silver smelt). I catch these fish in a hand held net at all hours of the day and night in the surf and obviously I do not carry these fish off the beach in a bucket. It is vital that I be allowed to use my four wheel drive truck to get to the fish and haul them off of the beach.

This brings me to your proposals and how they might affect my work. Closing Davidson road and building a new State Parks road that could be locked at night could affect my access to the Gold Bluffs Beach area, a place where I carry out a large percentage of my commercial fishing activity. Although the proposal states that Indians and commercial fishermen will retain their access, it doesn't say how often or for how

4-5796

long. This brings me to my second concern.

Why is reference made in your proposals to a study made on Crescent Beach, as to the effect vehicular traffic has on invertebrate life forms (sand fleas and crabs)? I have fished on every beach from San Francisco to Smith River and know enough to conclude that each beach has its' own peculiarities as far as sand and gravel compaction. Believe me when I say that Crescent beach and Gold Bluffs beach are a far cry from being very simular. One is sheltered from the northwest ravages or the open sea and one is not.

2

The third thing I would like to voice my opinion on is the elk poaching problem. I am an avid elk hunter and travel every year to Washington State to hunt elk. I would like nothing more than to see the Elk herds throughout this state increase in number so as to permit a hunting season for elk here in my home state. As you might know a limited permit hunt was held this year in the Big Lagoon area of Humbolt County. In the six years that I have fished on Gold Bluffs Beach I have neither seen not heard anything that would indicate a problem with elk poaching. Commercial fishermen would not endanger their livelihood by engaging in such illegal activity. I personally would report to the local park ranger any and every incident so related. This brings me to the proper solution for the problem. The solution is not one of restricted access but rather one of proper law enforcement. A more regular and consistent check of vehicles leaving the Davidson Road entrance by Park, Department of Fish and Game and county Sheriff's Personel at appropriate hours of the day or night would be a sufficient deterant to poachers.

3
19

The reason for my concern about your listing of these problems in your current proposals, and how they relate to beach vehicle access stems from my encounter, at the meeting of the Humblot County Board of Supervisors held earlier this year, with a member of the Sierra Club who had the gall to say she felt that for now Commercial Fishermen should have access, but that the Sierra Club would eventually like to see that access "phased out".

These people are talking about MY LIFE! and also the lives of many other people who depend on Commercial Fishing here in Humbolt County.

Sincerely yours,

Darrell D. Willhite

Darrell D. Willhite
1350 Gross Street
Arcata, CA 95521

(1)

Oct. 15, 1984

Mr. James Doyle
State Park & Rec.
Sacramento, Ca.

RECEIVED
OCT 16 1984
RPI

Dear Sir;

I would like to start by saying that I totally object to your inadequate distribution of the General Plan and find the length of time for a review absurd! How do you expect to have a sufficient review and get
4 the public's opinion? Maybe it is not the desire of State Parks to hear the opinion of the people! I know there are people behind State Parks with lots of money who really aren't concerned with the needs and or wants of the people!

I, however, am one of the very few who has been "privileged" to acquire one of your plans, but, only through demand.

Since my husband and I are Commercial Beach Fishermen I will acknowledge that topic first. I do appreciate you allowance of our vehicle
1 access but I don't feel very secure about it. One gets the impression it could be haulted at any time. Example: Your comparison of South Crescent Beach and its damage to that of Gold Bluff. You mention monitoring, I dont object to that but I wonder if you have any one qualified to do this. You statments and other lack of knowledge
2 makes me wonder. If you were to talk to Mr. Cris
5 Otoole, Manon Biologist in Eureka, also associated with Mr. Boyd and his studies, he would tell you that there is no comparison of these beaches. It is a fact that our frequent storms and the severe waves cause far more damage

4-5797

(2

than a four wheel drive. Your plan acknowledges the wave damage. How do you propose to control nature?

7 Why are you planning to move the campground and disrupt another area? Does fish & game approve of this? I was under the impression they didn't want anything in the Espa area. I didn't realize State Park even controlled the type of fish in Espa lagoon. Is fish and game involved in this? And what harm is done by the bullfrog?

8 What about the Native American? Are they aware of your plans for Espa? Do they agree? Will they agree to your burning brush in order to make it accessable for an archeology study? Do they want your probing in their ancestorial grounds? Or does that really matter to you?

Where are the provisions at the Bluffs for the elderly and handicapped?

How much of your plan does Redwood National Park agree with?

It appears to me that there are a lot of people who may have a lot of disagreeing comments. I know there is a lot of people in the general public who won't agree. I find it hard to even write a comment on a plan that lacks facts or knowledge. Due to the lack of copies I will do my best to let people know what is in your general plan.

9 I would also like to know why you're now refused to discuss the areas you may be considering for wilderness.

(3)

Just think, if it wasn't for man there would be no fern Cagnon!

10 It's sure nice that we can transfer animals or there would still be no elk in this area. In fact there's so many now that fish & game allowed a legal hunt, Bulls & Cows!

11 Oh yes - your rare grass, another of mans imports!

12 Then there's the subject of Davidson Rd.! Why are you so set on getting your own road? What do you mean by control? And whats this about minor repairs? Who pays? Who gives you the right to disrupt wild life?

It must be nice to have money and power and be able to play God!

I want my life protected, too, and my children and their children. You never know what it's like to set with your children and watch the elk eat or share lunch with the sea gulls, point to the whale who just blew off shore or see you four year olds eyes light up as a sea lion babe at the edge of the surf, or see his proud little face as he strugles to bring in his perch, or watch him gather his treasures from the sea and answer his 10,000 questions about life. We are a part of life, we see it, breath it, feel it, teach it and share it. It's beautiful and no one values it or understands it any more than we do.

Therefore I don't like people making off the wall comments, half truths and misleading statements. So you'll have to excuse my resentment and my being so blunt, but try to under

(4)

stand I fighting to protect my family, my fellow fishermen and my neighbor.

It's not just a job alone it's a way of life and a love of life.

Sincerely,

Cathie Ryler
Charles O. Ryler

Children
Cashmere Ryler
Ira Shain Ryler
Chas Gurrat Ryler

Edward Roberts, M. D.

Ophthalmologist
Parkway Drive
Crescent City
CA

October 4, '84

Dear Mr. Healey,

I believe you probably still have the several extensive letters I addressed to Mr. Alan Kolster some months back on the subject of closing Last Chance Road, an item from the Preliminary General Plan for the three northerly Redwood Parks. (If these prior letters of mine are not at your convenient hand I could send you a copy of them; they contain considerable on-the-ground information perhaps not readily known to persons not familiar with the area).

The burden of my protest at the contemplated closing of Last Chance Road to vehicles was, and is, it is just too far in there to have to walk the whole way if you can't take a car at least part of the way in there. If you close Last Chance Road at (red) "B" (on the enclosed General Plan map 8) you will find that a person will have to walk 8 miles from B to A. Now that itself may not be a prohibitive distance, but the hell of it is you just can't do it one way unless there is a second car, or pick up by one at point "A". That's beginning to make it pretty complicated. Well, 8 miles may not have been prohibitive, but 16 miles is. As I noted in my earlier letters, if you block off vehicles at B, then the center of the Last Chance route, something like
13 "M", would be the furthest walking point from a place where a car could have been left, the furthest walking point of all of the trails of all of the 3 northerly redwood parks. I submit, and I hope I do so gracefully, that it is not a marvelous accomplishment for the Plan to have, for all practical purposes, to have isolated that part of the trail. You've made it nearly unreachable.

Map 8 shows us that there are plans in the works for other new trails. G, F, H, none of them are yet present, and when and if they do materialize they will still not give us any help to get to "M"-- on foot. What we need is for you to leave the road open to access OR give us an access that will cut down the great walking distance it now would take to get to M entirely on one's flat feet.

Kindly refer to a cut from the Geological Survey (enclosed) marked with a red "C" (the same point is marked on the General Plan map 8). That angle of the Last Chance Road at "C" brings us very close to highway 101. Now what else do we need? We need a place to park on 101 close to "C", if you are relentlessly determined to lock off Last Chance to vehicles. Looking at the cut of the Geological Survey, which is in larger scale you will see an old logging road coming off 101 at "3". And at this same location there is a sizable
13 parking space. It would take very little to clean up the beginning of that logging road, and then all one would have to do to jump from the logging road to the Last Chance route is to make either "1" or "2", entirely new. "1" is about 1/4 mile of new trail, "2" is about .40 mile. Kindly consider how easily it would get me-- or anybody else-- in there to "M", now without the need of a vehicle at all. Can the Plan thumbs down so rational a suggestion as this?

I do not wish to seem to be animadversively criticizing the intention to create trails "G", "F" and "H". You can't make too many trails in there to please me, but I must gently point out that these projected trails are quite long and not nearly as "efficient" as tiny little connection "K", much of it already laid out.

I would sincerely hope that you would create connection "K", and furthermore I'm certain you're going to have the delicacy of not gating Last Chance Road until that modest little connection "K" is established.

I am a sensible person, I like to think, and of course I admit that a Last Chance Road open to vehicles in general could have problems and dangers. (The reason it doesn't have problems and dangers now is that practically nobody not on electric line business ever goes in there). The entrancing of Last Chance Road is very dangerous--it comes off right in the middle of a sharp downhill curve of the highway, and the turns to go into Last Chance are all "wrong".

However, the same hesitancy about over-vehiclization on Last Chance Road does not seem appropriate to the Plan's equal determination to also close off the Little Bald Hills Road, m Jedediah Smith.

14 Comment up here hinges on the reality that of 4 off-highway roads in the two most northerly Redwood parks, the plan intends to scratch two of them. We ask you what are you doing for us, in so far as the vaunted "prime scenic drives"? If Last Chance Road and Little Bald Hills Road don't please you and you're not inclined to bring 'em up to snuff, where are the newly-built scenic roads that the Plan supposes to include?

15 Blocking off Little Bald Hills Road does much more than keep vehicles out of there; it would keep walkers too. From the beginning at the Smith River to the end of the road 2000 feet higher is eight miles. There are indeed very few people around here who have in them to walk 16 miles and that much of a climb. We need to be able to drive the first 3 or 4 miles in order to get to the desirable part above. You're just closing this road to hikers too, and don't think you're doing anything else.

Many people here read this as the "General Plan"-- California-- has thrown in our chips to the National Park Service. That knee jerk action, every time the N.P.S. can cull a property, up goes that gate instantly, and from then on whatever avenue it was is now a private road for the edification of nobody but N.P.S. personnel themselves. They don't walk up there, if they want to go up there they unlock the gate and drive up in trucks we saps are paying for. As it stands there isn't a heck of a lot wrong with the first several miles of Little Bald Hills Road, the part the State owns, you don't really have to spend any money on it. After the initial two miles let the N.P.S. smooth it out if it feels like it. Just don't completely "cut our water off" right from the beginning just because the Feds would like you to do it. We hicks up here really do have enough brains to judge what kind of a vehicle we need to negotiate the roughnesses of L.B.H. Road, and we'd like to be allowed if not more than we have now, at least for none of what we presently have to be removed.

Kindest personal regards,

Edward Roberts

Save-the-Redwoods League

114 SANSOME STREET, ROOM 605, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104
TELEPHONE (415) 362-2352

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3. *To purchase* Redwood groves by private subscription.
4. *To foster* and encourage a better and more general understanding of the value of the primeval Redwood or Sequoia and other forests of America as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.
5. *To support* reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

October 12, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for sending the Save-the-Redwoods League a copy of the Preliminary General Plan for Jedediah Smith, Del Norte Coast and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks.

Overall, the plan is an excellent one. The detailed, careful and thoughtful planning that went into the preparation of this report is evident throughout.

We particularly appreciate the policy declarations that stress the importance of protecting the natural values of the three parks while still providing for visitor access and enjoyment. In this connection we enthusiastically approve the proposed construction of 47 miles of new trail to provide access to less-visited areas of these parks.

16 The League also approves of the proposal to pave the Howland Hill road or otherwise reduce the dust effectively without widening or straightening the roadbed. However, we strongly urge that the flow of traffic be regulated to provide for travel in a one-way direction. This narrow road can best provide an outstanding park experience as a leisurely one-way route.

17 The Walker Road, on the other hand, would best serve the park values at Jedediah Smith by being closed to motorized vehicular traffic. The speed and volume of traffic on U.S. Highway 199 is such that the intersection with Walker Road is quite dangerous. While the road does provide access to the Smith River, the length of the route is not such as to be a deterrent to its use as a hiking trail to the river for fishing and picnicking.

(continued)

4-5795

The League has contributed substantial sums of money to buy parcels of land along the north bank of the river, and has conveyed these parcels to the state with the understanding that they would provide convenient vehicle access to the Smith River from the North Bank road. We are pleased to note that the general plan provides for the development of day-use and fishing access areas, and family and group campgrounds along the North Bank. These facilities will certainly be able to satisfy the need for motorized access to the Smith River without duplicating such access on the South Bank. Development of two day-use fishing and picnicking sites on the South Bank as walk-in facilities would provide a different experience from that found at the North Bank site, and would eliminate the impact of 50 parking spaces on the old-growth forest surrounding the Walker Road.

18 With further reference to the controversial subject of excessive use of motor vehicles in units of the State Park System, the League wishes to register a strong objection to the proposed policy of accomodating motorized access to the wave slope at Gold Bluffs Beach for commercial fishing or any other purpose. Those wishing to use the ocean frontage for wood-gathering and commercial fishing should be permitted to park along the beach access road and walk down to the shore. As for traditional Native American gathering needs, the Native Americans did not traditionally gather anything with motor vehicles, so the availability of the present Gold Bluffs Beach road should give adequate access to the wave slope without the necessity of driving vehicles directly onto the beach.

19 We recognize that it is difficult to terminate long-established economic uses of a beach area. If the department believes that the only feasible compromise is to permit vehicular access to the wave slope from one location near the Espa Lagoon, then we urge that the general plan be modified to allow retention of the contact station at the end of Davison Road.

The plan description clearly demonstrates that three of the most serious threats to the integrity of the northern redwood parks occur in the Gold Bluffs Area: the potential for further degradation of Fern Canyon by visitor overuse; the poaching of elk in conjunction with vehicle access along the beach; and the destruction of dune vegetation and animal life by indiscriminate driving of motor vehicles off the access road. Therefore, the maintenance of a contact station in the immediate vicinity of the point of entry of Gold Bluffs is essential. For those few visitors who intentionally or impulsively violate the park regulations, a contact station at Elk Prairie or May Creek would have little influence on the activities of such visitors because of its relative remoteness. On the other hand a contact station located directly at the point of vehicular access, either to the road or to the wave slope, at the south end of Gold Bluffs Beach should have a much stronger deterrent effect. In brief, a continuing, permanent and visible ranger presence at the threshhold of Gold Bluffs Beach is virtually mandatory.

Of course, the contact station in the Elk Prairie area is essential for visitor activities in that vicinity, so the implementation of our recommendation would result in two contact stations continuing to be maintained. While the staff saving would not be as great as proposed by the general plan, we believe that it is more important to provide adequate protection to the critical natural and scenic resources at Gold Bluffs Beach. As noted in the plan, the proposed sharing of responsibilities with the National Park Service should still result in some mitigation of contact station expenses.

We agree that Espa Lagoon is a sensitive area that should be protected from over-development and that it is desirable that the two residences be removed eventually. While we believe that the contact station should remain in the area for the reasons stated above, it could be relocated to a site having less impact on the lagoon, yet compatible with the modified vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

Finally, with respect to Gold Bluffs Beach, we totally agree with the recommended removal of the campground from its present location on the beach near the mouth of Fern Canyon. However, it is not clear from the text exactly where the new campground in the Espa Lagoon area would be located. It appears from Map 12 that it would be located again on the beach near Espa Lagoon.
20 The League would strongly prefer that no campground facilities be located directly on the beach. We believe the most appropriate site would be in the cut-over lands several hundred yards to the south of the lagoon in a location that would not have an impact on the lagoon or the beach directly. If necessary, a cooperative agreement could be reached with the National Park Service to construct the new facility on the adjacent federal lands on the south side of Davison Road.

We note with approval that the former Tracy property at Jedediah Smith will
35 not be converted into a conference center; although we believe that the site is well-suited for an environmental education facility. The old Pacamo Camp
65 on the property should be removed. However, the cleared site could still be available for the establishment of a simple, low-maintenance facility for environmental studies of the surrounding serpentine outcroppings in contrast to the other vegetative biomes of the park. The existing road to Pacamo Camp could be maintained for use strictly as a service road to the environmental education camp and the ranger residence.

In relation to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the League heartily endorses the general plan statement that the entire basin of Mill Creek is in the category of a zone of primary interest to the Department of Parks and Recreation. We believe it should ultimately be purchased to protect both Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

At Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park the League is unalterably opposed to any attempt to declare that the 1979 Bureau of Land Management resurvey is applicable to the eastern boundary of the park. In the 1930s the League and the State spent substantial sums of money in good faith to acquire the old-growth redwoods up to the historical boundary line - a line which has stood as the agreed boundary between the State and the timber company lands for more than half a century. It is unconscionable for anyone, a timber company or the federal government, to now claim that a presumed error in a governmental survey in the 1890s will result in a reversion of title to a stand of old-growth redwood trees to a landowner whose predecessor in interest was already fully conpensated for that timber with public and privately-raised funds.

The League commends the Park department for taking the initiative in doing a resurvey on its own and filing a record of survey that shows the boundary in its historical location. The League deplores any attempt by anyone, including the B.L.M., to assert a right of ownership to a portion of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park which is now protected in established memorial groves.

The League also commends the authors of the plan for the policy statement concerning the prescribed burning program. The statement emphasizes the urgent need to prevent scorching of the boles in the primeval forests, particularly in the memorial groves, and affirms the policy of the department to work closely with the League in implementation of the program.

21 In a related policy statement concerning the memorial groves, the plan ignores the vital importance to the League, and to the State Park System itself, of giving visible and definitive recognition to the donors who have made possible the preservation of the old-growth redwoods. If these civic-minded individuals had not contributed through the memorial grove program, the funds that might have been available to the State through other means would never have been adequate to rescue from logging these magnificent and costly redwood forests.

The donors have always relied on the assurances made by the League and the State that their contributions would receive appropriate recognition by means of signs or benches with plaques in the groves themselves. For the League to cooperate in any policy that would eliminate the signs recognizing the donors' generosity would be a breach of faith with the contributors and their families. As a practical matter, such acquiescence on the part of the League would seriously impair our ability to raise future funds to help the State's redwood land acquisition program.

In short, the League cannot support a program to remove the grove signs. As a suggestion, it may be possible to modify the design of the signs in the future to reduce any perceived visual impact from the ladder signs at Prairie Creek. The modified signs could gradually be introduced as the present ones deteriorate and require replacement.

In most other aspects, the League is supportive of the policy declarations in the general plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to present the views of the Save-the-Redwoods League concerning this Preliminary General Plan. We hope you will modify the plan policy statements in accordance with our comments before the plan is submitted to the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

Sincerely,

John B. Dewitt

JBD/dp

Save-the-Redwoods League

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TELEPHONE (415) 362-2352

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4. *To foster* and encourage a better and more general understanding of the value of the primeval Redwood or Sequoia and other forests of America as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.
5. *To support* reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

November 5, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I just learned that three more Elk have been poached on Gold Bluffs Beach this past weekend. This problem underlines my argument that you need a full time ranger to protect Gold Bluffs Beach and Fern Canyon at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

The General Management Plan would eliminate this position and we don't agree with this recommendation.

Sincerely,

John B. Dewitt

JBD/dp

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

October 19, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle
California Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SCH# 82020312, Redwoods Parks General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and the comments of the individual agency(ies) is(are) attached. If you would like to discuss their concerns and recommendations, please contact the staff from the appropriate agency(ies).

When preparing the final EIR, you must include all comments and responses (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15132). The certified EIR must be considered in the decision-making process for the project. In addition, we urge you to respond directly to the commenting agency(ies) by writing to them, including the State Clearinghouse number on all correspondence.

In the event that the project is approved without adequate mitigation of significant effects, the lead agency must make written findings for each significant effect and it must support its actions with a written statement of overriding considerations for each unmitigated significant effect (CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and 15093).

If the project requires discretionary approval from any state agency, the Notice of Determination must be filed with the Secretary for Resources, as well as with the County Clerk. Please contact Price Walker at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions about the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

John B. Ohanian
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Resources Agency
attachment

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4-5902

State of California | The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : 1. Projects Coordinator
Resources Agency

2. Mr. James M. Doyle
Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date: October 10, 1984

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: SCH 82020312 - Preliminary State Redwoods Parks General Plan - Humboldt/Del Norte Counties

The document covers the preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

We have reviewed the plan and with a few minor revisions we believe the General Plan and final EIR would be acceptable.

Our specific comments are as follows:

P. 75 - 1st Aquatic Life Policy

The maintenance of native coastal cutthroat trout populations is desirable. This policy proposes the Department of Parks and Recreation take steps to terminate the planting of hatchery-reared resident rainbow trout in all streams in the subject Redwoods Parks. At the present time the Department of Fish and Game is not planting these streams with hatchery-reared resident rainbow trout, and to our knowledge, none have been planted in the recent past.

22 Planting of Espa Lagoon with resident rainbow trout provides significant recreational fishing opportunity. Unless studies show an adverse impact on the coastal cutthroat trout in Espa Lagoon and its tributaries, planting of the lagoon with rainbow trout should continue. The Department of Fish and Game would be glad to assist the Department of Parks and Recreation in determining the impact of hatchery-reared resident rainbow trout on the coastal cutthroat trout in Espa Lagoon.

We would also like the Department of Parks and Recreation to consider modifying this policy to allow the planting of yearling steelhead in some of these streams.

P. 86 - U. S. Highway 101 Relocation

This section indicates the beneficial impacts of the "Redwood Park Bypass," but fails to recognize the severe adverse impacts to aquatic environments

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which will be caused by the development of the bypass as proposed. We feel the document should discuss the adverse impacts of the proposed bypass to aquatic habitats and to Roosevelt elk. These impacts include loss of aquatic habitat to fill and siltation and disruption of elk travel routes and habitat. Furthermore, some discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding that is being developed to provide mitigation for these losses would be appropriate. 23

P. 105 and 106 - Issue No. 3 - Bypass Route

A bypass route for Highway 199 is not discussed on page 86 as indicated in this section. However, it should be discussed along with all the potential impacts and mitigation measures.

P. 143 - Significant Environmental Effects

We cannot agree with the concept that it is impractical to quantify any significant environmental effects for the General Plan, as stated in this section of the Environmental Impact Element. Quantifying significant environmental effects are required in an EIR and may have crucial impact on the planning process itself and may help decision makers determine the advisability of maintaining certain plan components. For example, a thorough evaluation of the ramifications of building a bypass for Highway 199 may indicate that the potential adverse impacts to the Smith River and its tributaries may outweigh the advisability of planning for the bypass. We do not know that such a bypass would adversely impact the Smith River, but feel that potential should be explored and the impacts, if any, addressed at this time. 24

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Mr. A. E. Naylor, Regional Manager, Region 1, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001, (916) 225-2300.

for Pete Bontadelli
Jack C. Parnell
Director

State of California

The Resources Agency of California

Memorandum

82020312

To : Price Walker
State Clearinghouse

Date : September 17, 1984

1019

From : **California Regional Water Quality Control Board**
North Coast Region— 1000 Coddingtown Center
Santa Rosa, California 95401

Subject: Redwoods Parks Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR, SCH No. 82020312

The Water Quality Control Plan, Klamath River Basin and Water Quality Control Plan, North Coastal Basin contain water quality objectives and description of beneficial uses for the Smith River, Klamath River, Mad River - Redwood Creek surface and ground water, which are, in the Regional Board's judgment, necessary for reasonable protection and prevention of nuisance. Reference to the water quality control plans could be appropriately included in the Inventory Summary, Water Features and Hydrology Section of the preliminary subject document.

Theresa Wistrom
Theresa Wistrom
Environmental Specialist

TVW:kad

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SIERRA CLUB
Redwood Chapter
North Group
POST OFFICE BOX 238
ARCATA, CALIFORNIA 95521

October 17, 1984

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR-- Redwoods State Parks

Dear Sir:

The North Group of Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments for your consideration regarding the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the 3 northernmost Redwoods State Parks

In reviewing the document we find that, in general, it reflects a greater sensitivity to protection of natural resources of the areas, as well as the cultural and historical resources, and still provides opportunities for quality recreation experiences with interpretation of all values. We commend the staff's efforts in preparing the document for public review.

Our comments are referenced by page number.

p. 76 re Ecological values, Gold Bluffs beach

The Sierra Club has a long history of calling for full protection of the Gold Bluffs beach area by controlling access for vehicular use and prohibiting all vehicles from beach use except for specified emergencies.

p. 87 re. Cal Barrel road surfacing

25 An alternative to "paving", which tends to increase speeding, is oil dusting or use of (non-asphalt) hard surfacing material. We do not support "paving".

p. 101 re. Contact station, Jed Smith area

26 We support relocation of the contact station, but recommend that no visual degradation of the prairie be allowed.

p. 102 re. Howland Hill area parking

Development of any facilities must be considerate of the Howland Hill Outdoor School.

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p. 103 re. Simpson-Reed day-use area

27 We question the need of 30 spaces. Any facility, if not located off Walker Road could create a traffic hazard on highway 199. No trees should be removed.

p. 103 re. Deer Meadow Area

28 Parking should be in forest; not in meadow. Facilities should not be visible from the meadow--a special place.

p. 104 re. Scenic Roads

Howland Hill - treat for dust control. Do not pave. See below.

Walker Road - Do not pave. Treat for dust control

p. 103 re. campsites, Jed. Smith

New campground in second growth off North Bank Road should be designed with care to provide campsite privacy.

p. 146 re. Howland Hill Road

16 We support one direction use, but the road should be 2-way at least to the Outdoor School gate from the western approach. Treat for dust control. Do not pave. Howland Hill Road provides a special experience and should be retained for its nearly "hands-on" travel encounter.

General Comments

Re. trail signing. In spite of vandalism, every trailhead or trail crossing on public access roads should be signed.

Re. the maintenance facility at Jed. Smith, it should be well screened from the highway.

Re. a high priority - and missing link in the Coastal Trail system, a segment could be called the Carruthers Cove-Ossagon link.

It is our understanding that proposed wilderness designations, which we support, will be handled separately at a later time.

Thank you again for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

For the North Group Executive Committee

Lucille Vinyard, Secretary

Lucille Vinyard, Secretary

cc: R. Mark, SC State Parks Task Force
Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair

SIERRA CLUB
Redwood Chapter
North Group
POST OFFICE BOX 238
ARCATA, CALIFORNIA 95521

Oct. 17, 1984

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Detailed comments regarding the Department's proposals for management of Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast, and Jed Smith State Parks are being submitted for the North Group's Executive Committee by Lucille Vinyard.

However, as Conservation Chairman, I would like to emphasize our position regarding vehicular use of Gold Bluffs Beach. We believe that protection of the area's natural resources and its outstanding recreational and aesthetic values precludes off-road vehicular use. We understand the feelings of those who want vehicular access, but we believe it is neither appropriate within a California State Park nor compatible with park values.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Susie Van Kirk

Susie Van Kirk,
Conservation Chairman

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OCT 22 1984
RPI

4-5903

Directors Office

OCT 18 1984

DEPT. PARKS & RECREATION

COUNTY OF DEL NORTE

450 "H" STREET
CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA 95531

AREA CODE 707
464-3101

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 15, 1984

RECEIVED

Development Division

William S. Briner, Director
CA Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Redwoods Parks General Plan

Dear Mr. Briner;

We have reviewed the above referred document and have attached our comments to this letter. The Board of Supervisors offers its comments in an effort to better understand the proposals within the plan document. Our comments reflect those items of concern to us. Additionally, we wish to convey the general support of the County in the development for visitors use of acquired State Park lands. We agree with the statement on page 20 that states that acquired lands have been insufficiently developed to satisfy the recreation demand of visitors to our area.

We are disappointed in the lack of information in the plan document, and the inadequency of the Environmental Impact Report. In a March 22, 1984 letter from youself to our chairman, your department stated:

> "We share your concerns about the potential impacts in both directions between the private residential parcels and the proposed campground and day-use development on the north side of the Smith River. As we indicated at the December public meeting and in private communications with the Schuylers, the General Plan is a planning document which sets forth proposed land use patterns and does not purport to lay our detailed plans for specific facilities. The Environmental Impact Element of the General Plan will address this issue."

29

The subject Environmental Impact Report fails to address these issues. Additionally, we believe that the Environmental Impact Report fails to meet the basic purposes of the CEQA as identified in Section 15002 of the CEQA guidelines. We suggest that your department develop a more responsive environmental document which would comply with the requirements of CEQA, and have a proper public review period. As we have learned that your hearing is being postponed until January, we believe there to be sufficient time to

recirculate a more informative and structurally complete Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Helga Burns
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

HB/llc
Attachments
CC: Honorable Barry Keene
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dan Hauser
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

30

1) pg. 3 - Stated objective to "monitor unnatural erosion of sedimentation caused by construction, mining, timber harvesting, or visitor activities to ensure adequate protection of park resources."

Comment: How would such monitoring be accomplished, and how would such monitoring distinguish between natural vs unnatural erosion or sedimentation? Does "monitor" mean a site specific program or a review of data developed by a permitting agency?

31

2) pg. 59 - "The department shall use its full influence in appropriate ways to protect the purity of the river, and to bring about full protection of the upper waterbed of Mill Creek,..."

Comment: What constitutes full protection? As you are fully aware, one of the County's major private enployers is located on Mill Creek upstream of the park.

32

3) pg. 59 - The document states that a major objective of the Department of Parks and Recreation to "...hasten the construction and opening of the bypass" of Highway 199 around Jedediah Smith State Park.

Comment: The environmental document reflects no cumulative analysis of this project, nor do the plan maps reflect the proposed route. We believe the "proposed and adopted" route of Cal Trans will affect the new facilities proposed in the North Bank area, and cumulatively may impact the Hiouchi/ Myrtle Creek area which is where the bypass intersects with Highway 199.

59

4) pg. 60 - "It shall be a major objective of the Department to achieve the rerouting of this highway (Hwy 101) to an identified route via Wilson Creek and the upper slopes of the West Branch of Mill Creek, avoiding all memorial groves."

Comment: The environmental document reflects no cumulative analysis of this project, nor do the plan maps reflect the proposed route.

33

5) pg. 61 - The plan established zones of primary interest on "all lands which are upstream of the State Park system."

Comment: What legal authority establishes these zones? What is the purpose of these zones, and what mechanism will be used to "enforce" these zones or regulate activities within these zones?

34

6) pg. 63 - 64 & 66 Negative comments are made on these pages regarding timber harvesting, mining, grazing and road building. The plan states in past that these projects, specifically, result in major environmental impacts.

Comment: What is the factual basis for these statements, and in the case of the "strip mine" your document is making assumptions prior to the completion of an environmental analysis currently underway.

35
65

7) pg. 81 - Pacamo Camp shall be removed.

Comment: Pacamo Camp is a very popular, location, locally, for youth oriented activities. Your plan only proposes to demolish the structures and provide for no alternative use for youth activities at this location or any other location.

36

8) pg. 85 - Jordan Creek Corridor

Comment: No analysis is provided in the plan, nor in the environmental document of the feasibility of such a proposal nor its cumulative impact on other lands.

37

9) pg. 88 - It is the goal of the Department to bring about the relocation and elimination of the existing high-voltage transmission line through Del Norte Coast Redwoods.

Comment: What are the cumulative impacts of such a rerouting? What is the relocation route? Who bears the cost of relocation?

38

10) pg.105 - Acquisition

Comment: a) The quality of the maps in general leaves a lot to be desired. For example on Map 4, a new National Park Boundary is proposed, but on the legand it is the same as the existing boundary symbol.

b) What is the cumulative effect of expanding the National Park Boundary?

c) Map 1 includes lands on Tan Oak Drive which were previously not included as aquisition areas. Are they to be acquired?

d) On Map 2, High and Moderate use designations copy the same.

11) pg.133 - The Smith River: Height and Sound and Motion

34 Comment: What is "...the present damage of its (the Smith River) degradation through upstream disturbances.."? Please identify the source of this statement and the proposed remedies.

12) Environmental Impact Element "as the environmental impact report"

Comment: a) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a table of contents (Section 15122 CEQA guidelines).

b) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a brief summary (Section 15123).

c) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a project description (Section 15124).

d) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a description of the environmental setting (Section 15125).

e) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a discussion of all phases of the subject project including planning, acquisition, development and operation for each item in Section 15126 (a), (b), (c), (d) (items 1-5), (e), (f), and (g).

39 f) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a list of organizations and persons consulted (Section 15129).

g) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a discussion of cumulative impacts (Section 15130).

h) The environmental impact report is deficient as it does not contain a discussion of economic or social effects (Section 15130).

i) Your attention is brought to Section 15166 of the CEQA guidelines if you choose to use the plan as part of the EIR.

40 j) Was the document submitted to the State Clearinghouse, and if so what is its number?

41 k) The EIR is deficient as it does not prescribe nor identify a review period.

42 l) Please provide the County with a copy of the filed copy of the Notice of Completion filed with the Resources Agency.

at (707) 822-7611; and Jim Huddlestun, of this office, who can be reached at (415) 556-8313.

Sincerely,

for Howard H. Chapman
Regional Director, Western Region

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, REDW w/o enclosure

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7621 (L7621 (WR-RPE)

October 18, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Both this office and our Redwood National Park staff have reviewed the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report--Redwood State Parks. The Redwood National Park comments are contained in the enclosed copy of a memorandum from the Park to this office. We have a few additional comments to offer as follows:

1. On page 72, under "Rare and Endangered Plant Protection", and after Policy, we recommend the following revision: "State and Federal rare, endangered and threatened plants....". Also on page 73, in the title: "Management of Rare and Endangered Species" and after the following Policy, the term "threatened" again should be added. The same recommendation also applies to Item 5 on page 147.

43 2. On page 75, under "Aquatic Life" and Policy, the plan is not clear as to whether or not the normal State fishery rules and regulations apply in the State parks or if there are separate regulations.

3. To underscore a comment made in the enclosed submission by Redwood National Park, there needs to be several revisions throughout the document to reflect the actual status of the U.S. 101 bypass project. This will have a significant impact on the future management of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and it is important that all applicable aspects of the Plan reflect the impact of this project which is now under construction.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Plan and environmental report, and concur with our Redwood National Park staff's finding that the document is well-written, informative and in accord with the approved General Management Plan of Redwood National Park. We look forward to working with you in implementing the Plan.

Should you have questions or need additional information on these comments, our contacts are John Sacklin, of the Redwood Park staff, who can be reached

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OCT 3 1984

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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK
1111 SECOND STREET
CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA 95531

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7621

October 6, 1984

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
Attention: Chief, Park Planning and Environmental Quality

From: Superintendent, Redwood

Subject: Review of Preliminary General Plan, State Redwoods Parks.

We have reviewed the subject plan and offer the following comments:

General:

We have found it overall to be a well-written and informative document. We also found it to be in general accordance with Redwood National Park's approved General Management Plan. Although the style and substance varied from section to section, we usually found the level of detail sufficient to understand their proposals. We do, however, take exception to a number of proposals in the plan.

44 The first involves land acquisition. The General Plan maps in the back of the document show existing and proposed National Park boundaries. The proposed lines include lands not currently within our Congressionally-authorized boundary. We believe that these "proposed" boundary lines should be State rather than National Park boundaries. Our current Land Protection Plan does not identify any of these tracts as necessary for park protection at this time.

45 Second, a philosophical difference seems to exist between the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service over development of National Park lands. A basic tenent of the Redwood National Park General Management Plan is that the Park is one component of California's north coast recreation spectrum. As such, the Park should not be attempting to satisfy all the needs and desires of the recreating public. Many of these, according to the plan, can and should be provided by private enterprise in the nearby communities. In addition, Servicewide policies of the National Park Service echo the philosophy of Redwood National Park's General Management Plan. Overnight facilities will be restricted to the kinds and minimum levels necessary to achieve each park's purpose consistent with the protection of park resources, and will be provided only when the private sector or other public agencies cannot adequately provide for them in the park vicinity (NPS

46 Management Policies, 1978). Thus we take exception to the concept (expressed on page 29) that National Park lands should necessarily be considered for significantly more development than what is currently called for in the Redwood National Park General Management Plan.

Specific Comments:

Page 21: Under Existing Federal Resources, please note that National Park Service facilities provide a wide variety of functions, including local, regional and state information, interpretation, trails, backcountry camping, maintenance, research, watershed rehabilitation, and resources management.

Page 29: Two county parks (one each in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties) and 8.3 miles of county roads have been donated to the National Park Service.

Page 29: As noted above, we believe major facilities beyond those identified in the General Management Plan should occur on private lands outside the park.

Page 49: The discussion of Native American history should reflect the fact that there are sizeable contemporary Native American communities living in the vicinity of the parks. Many of these people continue the traditional activities of subsistence, ceremonies, and arts.

47 Page 55: The plan notes that there are a number of bicycle routes through the park. We also recall a discussion of bicycle use at the Crescent City public hearing for the plan. However, the plan does not seem to address deficiencies in current bike routes or propose improvements in them. We also noted on page 112 and elsewhere that bike-in campsites are defined as one person each. We believe bike-in campsites should be designed to accommodate more than one person, especially since bicyclists seem to travel in groups.

Page 60 (and elsewhere): The U.S. 101 Bypass discussion should be updated to reflect a project which is under construction.

Page 75: We agree that planting of hatchery-reared rainbow trout should be terminated.

48 Page 79: We would suggest the Department of Parks and Recreation consider consultations with representatives of local Native American communities regarding actions which may affect pre-historic sites and contemporary Native American resources.

16 Page 85: We would hope the Department would consider designating the Howland Hill road one way from Stout Grove to the Howland Hill School access road. We believe this would significantly improve the visitor experience, while allowing ease of access to facilities near the ends of the road.

49 Page 87: We believe that current U.S. 101 across the Elk Prairie should be re-routed to the east side rather than the west following completion of the U.S. 101 Bypass. We believe routing the road westward would disrupt the internal circulation pattern of the visitor center area. Through tourist traffic (and commercial traffic during emergencies) would be traveling

adjacent to the campsites, increasing noise and degrading the serene, creek-side setting. An east side route offers the opportunity for exceptional views across the prairie. We would also suggest if the current highway alignment is retained, the existing parking lanes and wide shoulders be reduced in size.

Page 88: We agree that the power line in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park should be relocated and that the Last Chance Road be closed to vehicular traffic.

Page 89: The discussion of beach use presupposes that Redwood National Park's portion of Gold Bluffs Beach will remain open to all vehicular use, no matter how the State manages its portion of the beach. We believe this statement should be corrected to reflect beach management policies stated in the approved General Management Plan. The plan (page 30) states, "The Park Service will continue to allow vehicle access to Gold Bluffs Beach south to Mussel Point for commercial fishing. Access will be limited to identified access points. The Park Service will manage vehicular beach use to ensure the
50 preservation of the attributes of a wild beach; therefore, wood gathering on federal lands will be allowed in concert with regulations for adjoining state park lands (50 pounds and one piece)."

We believe the rationale for management of Gold Bluffs Beach is equally, if not more, applicable to National Park beaches as they are to State land. We also believe the variety of beach experiences available, from beach camping to vehicle access along three miles of road adjacent to the sand, and to a wilderness-like experience at the south and north ends, is desirable and provides opportunities for all types of visitors. Therefore we desire to manage Gold Bluffs Beach in concert with state parks and provide a uniform policy along the entire beach.

Page 100: We are proposing major facilities in the Hiouchi area, including an Activity/Information Center (to replace the current facility north of U.S. 199), a picnic area, and the opportunity to relocate up to 43 campsites out of the 100 year floodplain of the Smith River within Jedediah Smith State Park. It is not envisioned that these campsites would increase the current camping capacity on parklands in the Hiouchi area.

Page 101: We agree that the current contact station at Jedediah Smith could be relocated onto Redwood National Park land; however, we would defer any move
51 until development concept plans are complete for the Hiouchi Flat Activity Center (planning should occur in the early 1990's).

Page 112: We question the desirability of removing all campsites from the Elk Prairie area. We believe these provide for much needed, off-season
52 camping when sites within the trees are less appealing. Unless the road is moved west, we would suggest retention of some of the family campsites in this area.

Page 113: As a point of clarification, Davison Road meets U.S. 101 on private land.

53 Page 113: We do not believe a sanitation station is desirable at the south end of the Elk Prairie and believe such a service could be provided better in nearby communities.

54 Page 124: With the Redwood Information Center six miles south of the Prairie Creek area, we see no reason for NPS presence at a fixed contact station near the elk prairie.

Page 137: We believe common information and terminology about the Coastal and Kelsey Trails, two interagency routes, should be provided.

55 Page 143: We note there are a number of proposals for development (contact station, sanitation dump, re-routed road) at the south end of the elk prairie, either on or adjacent to National Park land. Although the facilities have not been sited, we would expect they would be at least partially located in the second-growth forests and riparian vegetation just south of the elk prairie. Considering the opposition in 1980 by your Department to a proposed National Park Service facility in this area because of impacts on elk habitat, we found your proposal for facilities in the same area to be incongruous.

Map 1: Redwood National Park's boundary bisects Section 29, and is not on the section line between 29 and 28 as shown on the map.

Map 5: There is a small area of National Park land south of the Hamilton Road (part of the northeast quarter of section 1).

Maps 9 and 10: Redwood National Park's boundary on the east side of Prairie Creek State Park is shown correctly on map 11. Maps 9 and 10 should be corrected.

If you have any questions regarding these comments please call John Sacklin, Environmental Specialist, at (707) 822-7611.

Douglas G. Warnock

Douglas G. Warnock

MILLER REDWOOD COMPANY

Manufacturers of Forest Products

P.O. BOX 247 / CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA 95531 / PHONE 707 464-3144

November 9, 1984

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I have quickly reviewed your State Redwood Park General Plan dated August, 1984. My review is not in depth but deals primarily with our area of concern, the Mill Creek drainage.

I am appalled at the innuendoes brought forth in the plan. The innuendoes appear to be simply re-prints of similar documents published in the mid-1960's which were substantiations for the Redwood National Park taking. It is apparent that the new theme is to take without compensation simply by regulating private lands outside the existing public ownerships.

It is unfortunate that Miller Redwood Company was not at least presented with a plan since their lands are being impacted so severely by your proposals. It is amazing that we in the private business sector have to notify State agencies before we can operate on our own lands, yet the State feels that it has the right to indiscriminately write plans which impact private lands without notifying the owners. As you can readily detect from my comments, I am certainly not happy with the quality of your general plan.

Let's now look at some of the areas of concern that we have found in the plan.

56 1. PAGE 37, PAR. 3. This paragraph states that 40% of the turbidity in the Smith River drainage is attributed to human activities. This is not true. Please refer to June, 1972 United States Dept. of Agriculture's Water, Land, and Related Resources, North Coastal Area of California and Portions of Southern Oregon, Appendix No. 2, Sediment Yield and Land Treatment.

MIR REDWOODS FOREVER

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In the same paragraph, you state that the Smith River is one of the purest rivers in California. The principal activity in the Smith River drainage for the past 50 years has been logging. Prior to 1974, these activities were basically unregulated. If logging and man's activities truly created the problems, which you infer, the Smith River would not be a pure river. Your innuendoes lack logic.

57 2. PAGE 39, PAR. 2. You refer to landslides being mapped in the Smith River drainage. I hope you are not utilizing landslide maps prepared by the firm EDAW which were prepared in the late 1970's. These maps were never "ground truthed" and, as a matter of fact, many areas designated on those maps as slides showed no evidence of any soil movement.

58 3. PAGE 42, PAR. 4. You refer to Melbourne soil as being highly erodible. Please check the current erosion hazard rating charts and I believe you will find this soil type to be moderate.

59 4. PAGE 55, PAR. 1 and PAGE 60, PAR. 3. You refer to a by-pass plan proposed in the 1960's. I find no map showing the identified route referred to on page 60. I believe that this is the route which would go through the mill site of the largest employer in Del Norte County thereby eliminating more jobs in an already economically depressed area.

31 60 5. PAGE 59, PAR. 5. You refer to "full protection of the upper watershed of Mill Creek." What does this mean? I am almost afraid to ask.

33 6. PAGE 61, PAR. 3. Once again, you refer to the entire basin of Mill Creek in the category of a zone of primary interests of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Again, what does this mean?

61 7. PAGE 63, PAR. 3-"POLICY." You state that your department will be actively involved in land-use decisions to develop or change the current uses of all lands adjacent to the parks. The next sentence states "this specifically includes actions that may be hazardous such as timber harvesting...," etc. Is it your intention to create a super-agency which regulates the California Department of Forestry?

61 At the bottom of page 63 where you refer to chemical spraying; likewise, it appears that you would like to take over the Departments of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board.

62 8. PAGE 133, PAR. 3. It is very nice of you to let Rellim Redwood Co.'s Demonstration Forest be an interpretation area for the Redwood National Park at no expense to the State. I would like to know how private companies can continue to help the State Government when the Government is trying to regulate these private businesses out of existence.

I certainly anticipated an approach other than what this document presents from the current administration.

I would appreciate at least notification of the public hearings to be held on this document.

Yours very truly,

David E. Scott
Vice President

m

Foot of Commercial Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-8369

October 18, 1984

James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Env. Review Section
Calif. Dept. of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I would like to comment on the State Redwoods Parks Preliminary General Plan in regards to beach access at Gold Bluffs Beach. The plan quite rightly points out that indiscriminent motorized vehicular traffic can have an adverse effect on dune vegetation as well as birds and wildlife associated with the strand ecosystem. I heartily approve of your plan to limit vehicle access across the strand to one or a few designated crossing areas, and your plan to limit vehicular access only to essential users.

I am happy that the Plan will "accomodate" the "infrequent and relatively few users of off-road vehicles for purposes of...fishing activities (commercial)" (p. 114). The policy statement on page 89 is even clearer: "Commercial fishermen and Native Americans have had traditional vehicular access to the beach, and these uses will continue without jeopardizing the very special park values".

2 I hope this policy will remain unchanged in the final version of the Plan. I am concerned that a groundwork for modifying this policy exists in earlier sections of the text which refer to the 1977 Boyd and DeMartini study (pp.45, 74-75). I worked as a student assistant on portions of the RNP intertidal study and am familiar with the intertidal fauna at both Crescent and Gold Bluffs Beaches. I have also recently discussed this matter with Dr. Milton Boyd, the study's principal investigator. Considering the different sediment characteristics and wave exposures of the two beaches, we feel the applicability of data from the Crescent Beach compaction mortality study is questionable in regards to Gold Bluffs Beach. Considering that there are fewer species as well as greatly reduced numbers of organisms on Gold Bluffs Beach, we feel the potential for significant damage of intertidal fauna is reduced. I hope you will reconsider how you apply data from the Boyd and DeMartini report in the final Plan and delete or modify the sentence on page 45: "Such impacts are expected at Gold Bluffs Beach as well".

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions I can be reached at the above address and phone number. Dr. Boyd is now the Chairman of the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Humboldt State University and can be reached at (707) 826-3245.

Sincerely,

Christopher Toole
Area Marine Advisor,
Humboldt County

cc: Dr. Milton Boyd

3 - Rob Veltzen
118 Highland Lane
Mill Valley, CA 94941
October 19, 1984

Directors Office
OCT 24 1984
DEPT. PARKS & RECREATIC

Mr. Wm. Briner
State of California, The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P. O. BOX 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

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Development Division

Dear Mr. Briner:

4 Although I participated in public hearings over the last few years and had my name on mailing lists, I thought, and received correspondence from you this past summer, I did not receive a copy of the draft of the STATE REDWOODS PARKS PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN until October 18 (following my request after reading a newspaper article). I wonder if other interested persons and participants were notified and have submitted comments since I find that much public testimony has been disregarded often or that sections of this draft were not current (or consistent with other sections that had been updated).

My comments: page 2 add third column

Change
--
--
+ 36
+ 102
+ 26
+ 20
+ 1
- 1
--
+ 67.2
+ 55
--
+ 19

22 page 4 - "Allow stocking of streams with native cut throat trout" ~~only~~ and resident species of salmon and steelhead only.

con't

page 4 -- "Create more interpretive trails including self-guiding trails, trails for mobility and visually challenged (disabled) and historical trails. persons

page 5 -- Acquire adjacent primeval forests or significant recreational, historical or cultural sites now in private ownership.

-- Provide bicycle trails within park sites and arterial bike trails connecting park sites , fascilitating a coastal cyding trail as alternative transportation mode.

64

-- Prohibit off-road vehicles, motorized bicycles or equestrian use on environmentally sensitive trails.

--Plan cooperatively with adjacent Natiional Redwood Park system and the Six Rivers National Forest and Federal; cour agencies in joint management goals and policies; maintenance and environmental enhancement.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

-- Add 6) ~~16.7~~- miles of new trail including bike/hike and interpretative trails.

-- Relocate and expand a library, resource and park center

35 65 -- Reinstate Pacamo Camp as a small educational and conference site

page 6

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

-- "Adopt management plans for special attraction areas ... and Fern Canyon,"improve road access to canyon with programs "to insure their continued viability".

64 page 13

(Addenda should address - or this draft - plan distribution)

Agency Coordination

(This list should be completed with obvious ones who also have jurisdiction in areas of parks) Relist alphabetica

California Air Resource Board

United States Army Corp of Engineers, Regulatory Functions

United States Department of Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Minerals Management Service

Environmental Protection Agency

con't

page 17

"owned attractions, and the historic features"of the public lands and adjacent communities and ~~quaint-little~~ "towns."

page 19

64 "... wood products industry, proposed mining activities and the...

"...been shifting toward more year-round employment in service occupations. An imbalance in the population exists with the elder

Page 20

"A conflict exists between the lumber industry, proposed mining and ore processing plants and the large influx of tourists as recreational vehicles, cyclists, lumber trucks, coal, ore and hazardous waste trucks adjust traffic speeds and compete for road space."

Coastal Resources

"... increase visitor appreciation." A conflict exists between park needs and offshore oil exploration, dredging and future oil drilling/platforms and storage/distribution/processing.

page 34

"..over 400 meters (1,3000 feet) in a chaparral/madrone terrain."

page 35

" ...3600 centimeters(60 to more than 1200 inches) per year with 256 inches recently in theGasquet Mountain area, as the highest figures are applying to areas ...."

Page 37

Water quality of the Smith and the tributaries of the Klamath Smith and other small streams is adversely affected by aerial spraying of pheonxy herbicides, 2,4-D, fertilizers, pesticides used on private lands, national forests, and county and state maintained roadside spraying programs. A critical problem through leeching in ore processing plants is anticipated because of already existing concentrations of some metals. Another "major problem to be faced is of a non point source nature, ~~also, from~~ vehicle activity and parking areas. ~~which~~ These are geographically widespread, difficult to define / require accountability, contain, monitor and correct and are the result of long-held use practices."

con't

page 37

AIR QUALITY

64 Acid deposit ion has been identified as a potential problem. Sulphur coal (52 tons a day) and the state of the art which allows 5-10% emision of contaminants in the ore processing on Gasquet Mountain or the demonstration plant at Smith River. Not only has wet acid sulphur oxides been noted but also nitrogen oxides. Monitoring as established by the Kapiloff Acid Deposition Act of 1982 should be followed and studies redwoods vulnerability to air pollution conducted. Both dry and wet deposition will affect water quality and total park eco-system.

page 39

"on Douglas Park Road (a continuation of the old stage coach road/Howland Hill Road)

Page 42

Gold mining in the Smith River above Niels Christensen Bridge and in the South Fork has been permitted and many mining claims may be worked (permits by the Six Rivers National Forest) and gravel workings and other inwater mining obtain petition for permits from SRNF or the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

"Logging activity ....."

Page 47

Lake Earl, Lake Tolowa State Park, The Smith River Delta, Requa, the Klamath mouth, sandbar and the Lagoons are also part of this coastal plain extending along to the Oregon border. Coastal sand dunes, marshland, sloughes, woodlands and inter-tidal flats and channels sustain life similar in importance to the ASBS and require the protection of species and entire support systems of the habitats.

Page 49

"The people whom we call the Tolowa after the Yurok word for other people occupied the region ...."

coaastline . ... They gathered salmonberries, thimble berries, blackberries, Himalayas, and blueberries seasonally, roots, acorns, basketry materials and had fishing sites along the Smith and its tributaries. Habitation debris, shells and tools were found in the excavation for the covered bridge by Douglas Park neighbors at the mouth of Sheep Pen Creek.

con't

Page 51

64 "...(Sullivan, 1934) Native narrative documents the reconnaissance of two scouts from this party crossing today's Hiouchi flat, seen by Native Americans climbing to the top of the serpentine cliffs (Ralph Hughes, Del Norte Historical Society Bulletin) and the journals of a party member also documents this (Rogers). The following day a crossing was made near the present Peacock property from the Jedediah State Park property area reached by Walker Road today. Ralph Hughes believed the route described in the journals was that of an old Indian trail going along North Bank Road, to Ashford along the ridge of the Low Divide to the northern area of Myrtle Creek (a portion of this was marked Jeep Trail on USDIGS, series V895 N4145-W12400/7.5 1966m Hiouchi Quadrangle - attached).

In 1855 Ben Kelsey came to Crescent City, gaining suport for a trail via the Elk Valley road, over Howland Hill, from an area researched by J. Zegart, T. Evanow and portions ofit being cleared in Jedediah State Park from Nickerson Ranch area by Ranger Theuerkauf. This trail strikes easterly across Mill Creek and up along the ridge known now as Bald Hills going in a south easterly direction, descending into the valley of South Fork and continuing on easterly where the South Fork of the Smith turns abruptly northward, and on to Yreka - a distance of 120 miles. (Chase and Helms, Pack Saddles and Rolling Wheels 1959)From the 1850's trails and ferry crossings on the Smith River went through other portions of Jedediah Smith State Park property with a pack train of twenty or thirty mules, up the Howland Hill, through the park crossing to the Illinois Valley in southern Oregon. Peacock's ferry and Black's ferry are important sites to be noted in park interpretation. (see map on page 32-33, Chase and Helms for addition as MAP 13 - historical and cultural interpretation sites, trails, roads and ferry crossings)

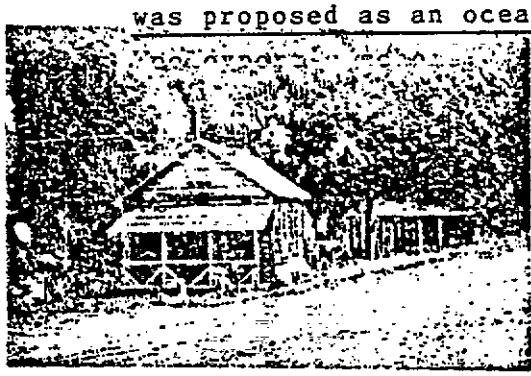
"One of the earliest "rushes" ..... established. These companies successfully mined the auriferous sands along the Gold Bluffs, into the early 20th century. Still remaining traces of the Myrtle Creek mining activity exist of mining and of the Chinese who worked these steep rocky areas with the magnificent primeval timber still standing and Myrtle Creeks several falls.

con't

Page 52

64 Other T"trails and toll roads eastward ....and southern Oregon. Two portions of the 1856 Crescent City Plank Road and Turnpike remain near the Pacamo Camp road entrance and on a spur off Howland Hill.

Water transportation from the native American sea going canoes to the period from 1857-1869 when it was normal for two to four ships to call at Crescent city daily. For examples, in 1857 1717 passengers arrived in a three month period. As late as 1920 transportation from Del Norte was by water. Lake Earl was proposed as an ocean going port, reached by a canal by a plan to



round Lake Earl and to have made factories and industries to serve a large population. From Wenger's Mill on the south end of Lake Earl ran a railroad which went to Crescent City and by late 1880's this reached to Smith River and this portion of the line operated for only a decade. (Chase and Helms & Ralph Hughes, DN Historical Soc).

Three schoolhouses are standing from these early times. One has been torn down and was located in the sheep grazing meadow immediately northeast of the park entrance by the maintenance building of Jedediah Smith State Park. One, pictured, stands as it was built by Niels Christensen in 1906. Used by neighboring Native American and settlers for their children, it was later supplanted by the school by the park reached by a swinging bridge or boat when the river was lower and by another standing school house converted to a home at 366 Douglas Park Drive. A larger schoolhouse is standing on North Bank Road. The first three have been supplanted by the Mountain School in Gasquet. (Mrs. Jean Christensen Gertrude).

Page 53

In 1980 Pacamo Camp was made available to the State Parks by Lynn and Helen Tracy. for a conference center and educational retreat which was a continuation planned by them for their earlier internatiional young people's summer camps, their environmental studies programs credited through Dominican College, Marin County and the education courses, reading learning courses through Humbold State University

con't

Page 54

Ranger Rresidences, homes, cafes, stores, recreational vehicle parks if not painted in earth tones or set back from the bank or landscaped along the Smith River, scenic roads or park trails near Hoochi are in this category; in a few other places, lands modified by logging or ..."

The proposed stacks of the ore processing plant on Gasquet Mountain and the plumes of particulates will be intrusive.

Page 55

"...holes, separated by riffles , providing attrtactions for swimmers, fisherpersons and snorklers. Rafters embark between Myrtle Creek bridge and Niels Christen/Bridge above South Fork. Berrying at the Walker homestead site , at the proposed site of the new maintenance center and along roads and trails is a popular daytime and camper pasttime..

"... and quiet contemplatiion. Courses, craft classes and retreats would be appropriate uses of Pacamo Camp .

Page 63

"... Gasquet Mountain mine project , Smith River six story ore processing plant, Myrtle Creek logging, offshore oil exploration and drilling, U.S. Highway 101 development, etc.).

"Policy: ... California Wild and Scenic Rivers System and for identified tributaries and the Smith River in the Federal Wild River category of protection.

Page 64

" ... been designated a state and federal Wild and Scenic ... "

Page 66

Air Pollution Control

Acid Deposition in this area will be monitored from a site near Gasquet Mountain.

Policy: (please develop an appropriate one for this docmment. Consultants, California Water Quality , University of California forestry con sultants , Fish and Game and other experts).

Page 68

"... in the future. The department shall identify the hazards of acid depositiion on the redwood and other plant communities and shall participate in policy decisiions to allow /curtail.

con't

Page 71

"Policy: ... Removal of scotch broom and other (cytisus) invasive broom, and cooperative efforts with nursery, Cal Tran, county
64 and federal agencies in erradication programs-exotics; poison oak along trails, roads and in recreational or campsite areas. Specific programs shall be prepared for the control of trouble- ...

Page 81

South Fork school house is located on private property where there is swimming and state park campsites are proproposed .

Policy: The department shall acquire the site and use schoolhouse for interpretative program and remaining portion of parcel 34-020 for parking, picnic and restroom/changing space.
38 (alternate policy: The department shall acquire and move the 1906 school house to site of second school house on its property in Hiouchi, and reduce to ten number of campsites to allow for parking for the intensive day-use swimming at this site .

"Pacamo Camp

Presently the site is closed to public, posted no trespass and is occupied by a park ranger. On this recently acquired Tracy property is a relatively new large five room building (log and stone fireplace) which had been used by Helen Tracy as a conference and educatiional center with courses from Humboldt State University and Domincan College, Marin County.
35 Buildings used in the earlier Pacamo Camp International Youth
65 summer programs are ~~is~~ in ~~extremely~~ dilapidated and hazardous condition. The state of deterioration in these structures appears to outweigh their usefulness as residential or study units as an adjunct to the primary building in excellent condition. ~~relatively minor historic significance~~.

"Policy: The deteriorating Pacamo Camp structures shall be ~~removed~~ replaced because they constitute a hazard. ~~they detract from the esthetic and scenic quality of the location~~
The wooden pucheons of the old stage/toll road on the property should be protected and included in an interpretative program.

Page 82

"...dislodged or broken. Vehicle use and parking should be stopped immediately on this road. Trail use with history and interpretative signing (transitional between several plant communities as is a shorter road, Pacamo Camp, which roughly parallels ecological diversity) should be implemented.

con't

Page 82

38 Acquisition of the small holding in private ownership is of primary impo rtance to secure safety of park users on this trail (Little Bald Hills Road) is of high priority.

Page 85

64 "... adequate circulatiion to the swimming beach, Walker homesite berrying patches and fishing hole access.

Page 86

"...within the park watershed. No construction activity shall commence unless a bond is provided to fund the waste discharge or erosiion control required on project contrary to fall 1984 when inadequate mulching done.

Referecnes for INVENTORY SUMMARY should include relevant articles in bulletins of the Del Norte County Historical Society, The Roger Journal of the Jed Smith exploration in Del Norte (available in COR Eureka campus library), Esther Ruth Smith's History of Del Norte County, D. Chase's & Marjorie Helms'' Pack Saddles and Rolling Wheels, and mate rials from the California Resources Board on Acid Precipitation in California and documents from the California Department of Fish and Game series on Coastal Wetlands, i.e. # 10, Natural Resources of Lake Earl and the Smith River Delta.

Page 101

" The following require attention :

The area between Myrtle Creek and Christen sen bridges requires restrooms, debris collection and parking since it is used by Crescent City residents and park visitors for swimming and by the park rangers and many others as a rafting trip embarking point.

Roadside pulloffs need to be modified for safety improvements as area and park visitors stop to photograph and view trees.

More vista areas with picnic facilities and rest stops need to be created as private service stations restrict increasing access to gas station restrooms.

Refuse control and provisions for receptacles and pickup are neded and an educatiional program regarding refuse in parks is needed .

Historical trails like Jed Smith and Ben Kel sey, need to given high priority and funds located from Foundatiion and budget allocations to acquire needed portions not now public.

Transient and aggressive tenants on a small holding on Little Bald Hill threaten successful use of proposed trail and their parked vehicles and temporary structures mar views.

Area held by SRNF and proposed for thirty cam psites could not sustain environmental review for this project because of circulation hazards already exisiting with the

con't

Page 101

"The proposed facilities are described by area below:

64 __ Add benches for elderly and handicapaped when providing an access to fishing area or on designated handicapped trails.

- -"Relocate maintenance activity to Elk VAlley Area ; use existing facility for ~~storage and seasonal housing~~ ranger lunch center, library and educational (Native American crafts, etc.) activity center to supplant or replace recent minimal center, established by volunteered effort

- - Create handicapped access trail to Nickerson Ranch and Mill Creek; and summarize all handicapped access trails on display at each park entrance.

- -Reestablish loop trail at Douglas Park entrance to Smith River and along to Stout Grove which utilizes a portions of Howland Hill Road .

Page 102

Pacamo Camp (Cedar Creek Area)

- - Retain former Tracy educational center and home employee

35 Demolish and replace remaining residential and study units
65 and continue the educatiional center and focus on this transitional and serpentine plant community by interpretive signing.

"South Bank Area

...and interpretive facililties. Retain berry patches and
64 incorporate in campground area when necessary. Create privacy in RV two day-use sites and permit day use access for berrying and fishing (no fee access by continued).

"Camp Lincoln Area

... page 83). Use structures for employee residences replacing proposals (for Pacamo Camp educational center and present maintenance area structure in Jed Smith) for sites which should be for park visitor/educational and interpretive us Rebuild to duplicate fortification/camp plan using replaced buildings for housing employees.

Little Bald Hills

38 Acquire parcel of land and remove temporary structures which do not meet code. Provide day use amenities.

"Trails

Kelsey Trail: Continue to develop and maintain (see page 51).

64 Pacamo Camp Trail:. Provide interpretive trail paralleling road which will be open for conference/educational center.

Myrtle Creek Trail Loop: Continue trail of SRNF up Creek through redwoods and primeval forest across Barsotti land (to be acquired) with a spur retracing Jediah Smith surveilance and combine interpretation with Natiional Redwood Park; SRNF. .

con't

Page 104

"- - North Bank Trail: Develop ... Smith River . Utilize (acquire) existing school house for parking; amenties and park information, or historical focus (interpretive).

Jedediah Smith Trail: Establish and clean trail in public ownership , acquire easments/strip through private holdings as a primary focus of this park. (See page 51)

64

Note: I do not believe an EIR would support more than ten cmapsites at the South Fork campsite because of percolation (waste disposal for thirty sites), traffic and existing high use level by Crescent City residents, neighbors and the many park visitors who swim or stop to enjoy maajesty of view. Not only is circulation critical but also parking. Further this intense a camping use would be an adverse impact for the residents on Christensen Way. If you do have any park and SRNF permanent sites here you may wish to have homes re painted in earth tones (trees have been cut which had screened homes originally by owners wishing to enhance views of river, etc..

Note: Miles of Trail will ned to be increased to reflect those trails requested at public hearing and summarized in my commentary

Trails should be defined as interpretive, multi-use, bike, handicapped access enhanced (e.g. braille) loop etc. just as you have indicated campsite type .

Table 9

(correct numbers and add categories)

Family campsites	108	155
Interpretive Centers	1	3
Small educational and conference center	0	1
Employee residences	2	1
Seasonal employee residences	0	10

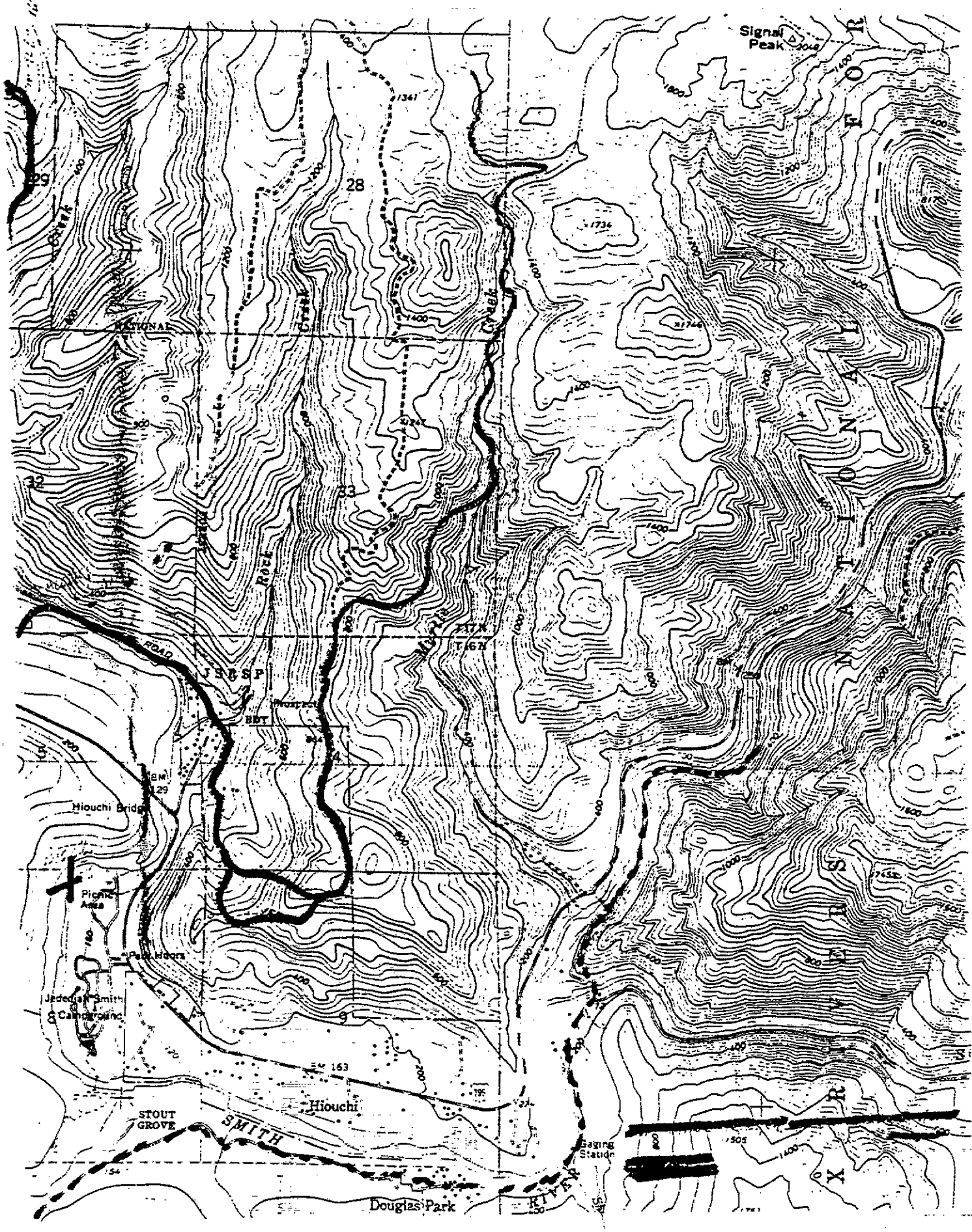
Page ~~3X~~ 105

Issue No. 3 --- 1971. Recent proposals and public hearings reflect ..... (you supply the data , please contact DN and CALTRAN

Issue No. 4 CAL NICKLE mining projects and demonstration plant with a particular study on acid deposition, effect on water quality, damage to conifers and redwoods and other-endangered species. Drinking water is from the Smith and some minerals are already at maximum levels without projected leaching problems. Increased seasonal (or seasonally unemployed) will require low or no cost recreational access to the Smith.

Thankyou and sincerely,

Margaret Kettunen Zegart (Douglas Park)



Signal Peak
28
29
32
33
NATIONAL
Creek
Rock
Creek
Creek
ROAD
J S R S P
Prospect
BDY
BM 129
Hiouchi Bridge
Picnic Area
Park Hdqrs
Jedediah Smith Campground
BM 163
Hiouchi
STOUT GROVE
SMITH
RIVER
Gaging Station
Douglas Park
T 17 N
T 16 N

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NOV 13 1984
RPI

Orick, California
November 8, 1984

Wm. S. Briner, Director &/or James Doyle, Superintendant
Department of Parks and Recreation Environmental Rev. Section
Sacramento, California 95811

Sirs

I am expressing very few concerns , due to time limitations and so few General Plan booklets available in our area, on the State Redwoods Parks (preliminary). My comments concern Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park only.

The Plan states (pg.50) the original purpose for purchase of Prairie Creek State Park. In conformity with this purpose I recommend the special area known as Gold Bluff Beach and Fern Canyon be accessible to all visitors wishing to experience this beautiful area.

63
7

I am in favor of expanding visitor services. I am not in favor of expansion at the expense of protection of Native American Village sites, with 12,544.30 acres within this Park it should not be necessary for the facilities to be on or very near a village site. In the plans for additional use (pg. 54), a roadway should not be deleted until access opportunities are provided for all members of the public. Access for "active visitors" as well as the disabled, senior citizen, and/or these not so active visitor.

I do not consider Davison Road an uncontrolled access, improve the road where it is. The level of "Park control & regu-

4-63/3

3 19 lation" should never affect Davison Road, The Big Tree Day use area , The Cal-Barrel Road or any other roadway from the main Highway.

Respectfull submitted.

Blanche Blankenship
#37 Hufford Road
Orick, California 95555

10-2-84

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NOV 1 5 1984

RPI

To Whom it may concern;

I don't feel the General Plan Proposal was distributed properly. Three objectionable points come to my attention;

2 #1 - A study by Mr. Boyd on South Crescent Beach shows habitat damage comparable to Gold Bluff. There is no comparison.

10 #2 - It is maintained Gold Beach is first priority in Elk poaching. There is no supporting facts. In fact - the Fish & Game Department has issued some 200 kill permits due to surplus Elk.

3 19 #3 - Controling access will not control poaching. Keep Davidson Road as is.

Glenn Lynch
Gardena Beach 46311

RECEIVED
NOV 1 6 1984
RPI

Nov. 7, 1984

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I am writing in regards to the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

The plans concerning the making of a new road for access to the Sea Bluff Beach and Fern Canyon is not necessary as needed. Why not do some repair on the Davison road that has been there for years and is well known and traveled? I believe it would be much less expensive to repair the road we now have than to build a complete new road at May Creek Area.

The animals are well adjusted to the Davison Road being traveled and have their habitats on May Creek area and not familiar with people being around. Why disturb the animals just to build a new road we don't need; just repair the road we already have.

At the entrance of the Davison Road to Fern Canyon is a restaurant

4-6310

which largely depends on the traffic of that road and is a convience to the people that come to see our Beautiful Park and its scenerie. To move this road would jeperodize the jobs of the people who work there; which is something the park should be trying to prevent.

The plans of building new and more camp sites in the Espa Area are not reasonable either. To expand the camp sites, build sanitation facilities, etc. means getting into the wet lands, disturbing the animals habitats, and invading the Indian burial grounds.

Rather than develop the Espa Area, expand the existing camp grounds where the area has already been disrupted. I feel that this solution would make the People happy, cost far less, which mean less tax dollars being spent and less wildlife disturbed.

20

Mr + Mrs. Lester C. Gifford
And Family

OCT - 4 1984

Dear Mr James Doyle,

As the general public, we the undersigned would like to state our opinion on the development of the Gold Bluff Area. We enjoy the freedoms that has been available
1 to us for many years, and would
2 like to keep it that way for our
12 children, and their up coming
famlies We enjoy the convenience of having the area opened 24 hour a day. We enjoy the use of having a 4 wheel drive access to our beaches for us and also commercal fisherman to use freely. Many fisherman depend on this area to be opened 24 hour, for their livelyhood, which creates jobs at the fisheries on the north coast. We would like to see
3 our road improved instead of pushing
12 through a new road and Ruining
19 the natural beauty that is now here, The commerial fisherman are aware of Elk Poaching, and are working hand in hand with the park ranger to report any illegal actions.

4-5798

Paul M. Trent ss

Sigrid S Snow 3377 Drake Hill Rd. Fortuna, Calif
Luella Dyer 626 W. Everding. Eureka Ca
Bernice B. Trout 3655 Spear Ave. Arcata, Ca.
Connie Berte 570 Westgate Dr Eureka Ca
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Lawrence Cashen 275 Meadow Brook Fortuna
ROBERT TRAHEN BOX 349 Scotia 95565
Charles L. Bettiga Box 323 Scotia 95565
Veronda Williamson 7174 David Ave Eur 95501

MR. JAMES DOYLE
STATE DEPT. OF PARK & REC.
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

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NOV 1 0 1984
RPI

DEAR SIR;

IT IS MY UNERSTANDING THAT THE GENERAL PLAN REGARDING PRAIRIE CREEK, GOLD BLUFF, IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK, HOW DO YOU EXPECT A SUFICIENT REVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED
4 WITH ONLY A COUPLE OF DOZEN COPIES AVAILABLE FROM ORICK TO EUREKA WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND IN THE SHORT TIME YOU HAVE ALLOWED FOR THE REVIEW? NOTHING WAS AVAILABLE UNTIL THE LAST FEW DAYS OF SEPTEMBER AND THEN ONLY A DOZ. OR SO COPIES.

FURTHER MORE I DON'T FEEL THE ELK POACHING AT THE BLUFFS IS AS DRAMATIC AS YOU WOULD HADE
10 THE PEOPLE BELIEVE. IF IT IS TRULY HALF AS BAD AS YOU BELIEVE, THEN YOU HAVE A SERIOUS PATROL PROBLEM. IN RECENT MONTHS THE RANGER HAS BEEN AIDED IN WATCHING THIS AREA BY LOCAL CITIZENS. I ALSO FIND IT RATHER IRONIC THAT DUE TO THE ABUN DANCE OF THE ELK, FISH & GAME HAVE ALLOWED A LEGAL HUNT OF ELK. YET YOU GIVE THEM "PRIORITY OVER ANY HUMAN RESOURCE".

I FIND YOUR DESIRE TO ABANDON DAVISON RD. AND BUILD A NEW ROAD TOTALY ABSURD!! WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO DISRUPT AND DESTROY THE
3 HABITAT OF THE ELK AND OTHER WILD LIFE TO BUILD
19 A ROAD YOU WANT FOR CONTROL? HOW WILL YOU
12 CONTROL, BY YOUR USUAL LOCKED GATE & AND WHO PAYS FOR YOUR ROAD? THE TAX PAYER! IT WOULD COST FAR LESS TO UP GRADE DAVISON RD. AND NOT DISRUPT OUR WILD LIFE.

THEREFORE, I SAY, SPEND OUR TAX MONEY OUR WAY FOR A CHANGE AND NOT YOUR WAY!

[illegible] Box 23 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Claudie Thomas
Connie Imus
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4-5799

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Shasta Corporation
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Playwright Composer
JAY J. WIMBERLY
Engineer

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION
1212 BROADWAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612, PHONE 415/834-4411

October 16, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Jim:

Please refer to a letter sent to you from Save-the-Redwoods League. A copy of which was sent to me.

I concur in their comments and wish also to compliment you on the Master Development Plan for Jedediah Smith, Del Norte Coast and Prarie Creek Redwoods State Parks as well as the other master plans which the Department is developing. Your crew is doing an excellent job which should insure the quality of the system for the future.

Sincerely,

William Penn Mott, Jr.
President

jlp

cc: Les McCargo
John Dewitt

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COOPERATING COUNCIL
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CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS
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SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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4-5837

National Parks & Conservation Association

1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W.• Washington, D.C. 20009

RUSSELL D. BUTCHER
Regional Representative
SOUTHWEST & CALIFORNIA
Box 67
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
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(202) 265-2717

November 9, 1984

Mr. James M. Doyle
Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

National Parks & Conservation Association has for many years taken a special interest in the nationally significant northern redwoods state parks: Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast, and Jedediah Smith, in particular. We wish to take this opportunity to briefly comment upon the Preliminary General Plan for those three redwoods state parks.

First, we are overall most pleased with the PGP. It is obvious that a tremendous amount of excellent effort has been devoted to your planning process, and we commend all those who have had a hand in it.

Among specific proposals our Association especially favors:

(1) We strongly support the proposal to remove the campground from near Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park's unique and exquisite Fern Canyon. It has long been obvious that this fragile little canyon is being impacted by over-visitation, and that the proximity of the canyon to a campground can only add substantially to this impairment. We hope a new location for camping will be selected somewhere along the Davison Road before it reaches the Gold Bluffs Beach--perhaps in cooperation with the National Park Service. There should be a number of suitable sites within the second-growth lands.

In conjunction with the need to increase the protection of Fern Canyon, and other ecological values of Gold Bluffs Beach, we urge that a top priority for this state park should be the establishment of a permanent state park ranger position at the beach. Without this vital presence, it is clear that

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continued intentional and unintentional visitor impacts will continue to occur--including elk poaching and harmful use of motor vehicles upon the beach.

Regarding the use of motor vehicles, we also strongly urge that such vehicular use of the beach be strictly limited to the existing roadway. In fact, we urge one step further: that the road to Fern Canyon (once the campground is eliminated) be pulled back southward, so that visitors will walk to Fern Canyon. By restricting motor vehicles to the southern end of the beach, there should be less impact upon Fern Canyon, upon the elk herd, and upon other natural qualities of Gold Bluffs Beach.

(2) We strongly support the top-priority objective of acquiring all of the privately owned portion of Mill Creek watershed, to round out Del Norte Coast and Jedediah Smith Redwoods state parks. We recognize this has been a major objective of the State of California and the Save-the-Redwoods League for many years; and we are aware of the landowner's opposition to this objective. We hope every effort will be made to finally bring these vital watershed lands under park protection.

(3) We favor the prescribed burning policy's emphasis upon the importance of preventing the blackening of redwood trunks. We urge the greatest care be taken in pursuing prescribed burns in these three state parks, and recommend a conservative, cautious approach in the overall use of fire. We suggest that relatively small areas of these parks be treated with fire during any given decade or quarter-century. The creation of a fire matrix should extend over a period of many decades or even centuries. There should be no "rush to burn" in these magnificent areas. We urge this approach, while fully aware of the ecological value fire does play in the redwood forest, as in other types of natural habitat.

(4) We strongly support the re-survey by the State of California of the eastern boundary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, to establish that boundary along the lines that have been historically relied upon. We applaud the efforts by the state to resist and oppose any attempts to set that boundary at a new location which would result in the loss of state park acreage.

We appreciate this chance to comment upon the PGP, and hope the above comments may prove helpful. As is obvious from the fact that these three state parks were "included" within the master boundary of Redwood National Park, Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods state parks

3-Prelim. General Plan

are truly of national significance. It is outstanding to see the State of California continuing to place the highest priority on the need to protect the natural integrity of these parks.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Butcher

Russell D. Butcher
California-&-Southwest Representative
Nat'l Parks & Conservation Ass'n.
Box 67, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

cc: Save-the-Redwoods League

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November 12, 1984

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

We applaud the preparation of a general plan for the long range management of the State Parks.

In regard to the plans being prepared for Jed Smith and Del Norte Coast, please amend them in the following areas:

1. Identify on a map the route which is referred to as a Highway 101 bypass of Del Norte Coast. The original intent of the Save the Redwoods League was to preserve unharvested area next to Highway 101 so the traveling public could observe them. We think you are deviating materially from those good intentions through this proposal.

2. Retain and maintain Little Bald Hills Road for the enjoyment of people who cannot take the time or are physically incapable of walking this unique area. It is the best exposition of an ecological staircase in the redwood region. From a lush rain forest to open, Jeffrey Pine glades within three miles is a remarkable experience which should not be limited to the few who are capable of such an outing.

3. Delete references to trails on privately owned land unless such easements have been secured.

4. Make Howland Hill Road a safer driving experience by making it a one-way road or through other modifications.

I will not comment on further deficiencies since there are many other people who have expressed an intent to do so.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Brown

Richard L. Brown
1152 A Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

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James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
State of California - The Resources Agency
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for the copy of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report -- Redwoods State Parks dated August 1984. Following are our comments.

The United States Congress has not approved a conversion to the S.I. measurement system, and due to the many disadvantages of S.I., the change may never be approved. Note that S.I. is not the same as one of the numerous inconsistent "metric systems" and should not be referred to as "metric". We find that the primary use of S.I. in the report (with U.S. customary units in parenthesis) gives the report an artificial, stilted appearance. The public dislikes S.I., and as Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia found out, and now Canada is finding out, the public can throw out the S.I. system very easily. Many so-called S.I. countries, such as China, do not use S.I. in their daily commerce or in governmental publications. We suggest that either the S.I. units be deleted or the convention be reversed, and S.I. units be put inside the parentheses.

Caltrans apparently has jurisdiction over the infamous "Redwood National Parking" lot along Freshwater lagoon. This parking area has more campers using it by far than the entire Redwood National Park and the three State redwood parks put together. Citizens would not be legally allowed to have such an unsanitary camping area. Since this camping area is State owned, other Calif. Parks & Rec General Plans do not address the problem, the Redwood National Park reports do not address the problem, and Caltrans would like to likewise ignor the problem, we feel that somewhere, somehow, the State Parks and Rec should acknowledge this camping area's existence and prepare a General Plan for it.

The three State redwood parks were to be made part of the National Park. While the two jurisdictions are mostly cooperating, there has been no transfer of jurisdiction. Both Federal and State reports avoid discussing the issues on this transfer. We definitely get the feeling that both government groups would prefer to keep the public in the dark - the public should not be meddling in "their private affair". We suggest that information on the issues and problems being raised be available to the public.

It is becoming more and more evident that Caltrans has lost control over the traffic that will be using the bypass highway at Prairie Creek. After committing more than $125,000,000 to divert only a small portion of the vehicles onto the bypass, there is still no hard evidence that the bypass will accomplish any of its

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mixed up, confused purposes. For one, we question whether the State can legally prohibit non-commercial traffic from using the existing route if the driver claims he is using it to view the scenery. Since Caltrans admits in their EIS that many small cars and cars pulling trailers will take up to thirty minutes longer on the bypass, we feel that there is ample incentive to avoid using it. There has been no effort made by government to measure the elusive "intimidation" factor which is purportedly one of the goals. We feel that it will be extremely embarassing to government to have this massive project sitting there unused and near empty. We suggest that much, much, much more effort be directed at figuring out how government is going to live with this monster and hide it.

Page 86 states "the adopted East Ridge route is the only one where damage to park resources and to visitor experiences would be reduced". This statement is incorrect and in conflict with the bypass EIS. The EIS admits that the non-construction alternate with reduced speeds would have much less environmental impact (and 1/3000th the cost), but states that the East Ridge route was selected because Congress had decreed that a bypass must be built, even if it was more detrimental than other alternatives. The bypass EIS is a classic example of how government can legislatively tell the EIS writers how to justify a project's construction and ignor alternatives.

Since we doubt whether the bypass will significantly reduce traffic on the existing highway near Elk Prairie, we OPPOSE relocating the road to the west side. While the west side would be preferable to the east side IF traffic were reduced, we feel that the decision and the possible alternatives being considered should await actual confirmation that a reduction in traffic can be accomplished. Any decision now is mere uninformed speculation.

Figure 2 shows the large government land ownership and the need for coordination between them.

Government already owns over 53% of California, 80% of the land within 1,000 miles of the redwood parks, and most of the Northcoast coastline. It is not necessary that the U.S. emulate the U.S.S.R.'s 100% government land ownership. Government ownership does not bring environmental benevolence. The $100,000,000 RNP work layoff scandal is just starting to surface. We OPPOSE further park acquisition.

"Unresolved Issues" on page 118 is a good idea, and rare for government to admit, but the section lacks comprehensiveness and candor.

We agree with the policy to only allow stocking of streams with native cutthroat trout.

On page 36 it mentions that "three major river networks encompass the parks -- the Smith River, the Klamath River, and the Mad River - Redwood Creek drainages".None of the three redwood parks lies within the Mad River drainage basin. On page 37 it mentions

"oyster rearing" which does not occur in any of the park drainage basins.

On page 36 and 44 it mentions an "Inventory of Features". We could not find this word in the Table of Contents or in the body of the report. What constitutes the "Inventory of Features"?

On pages 37, 59, 64, and elsewhere it mentions that the Smith River is one of the purest rivers in California. "Purity" would seem to refer to turbidity, not necessarily to dissolved mineral content or to biological contamination. Perhaps the reference should be clarified.

We feel that information should be provided somewhere at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park which describes the safe and the dangerous swimming areas of the river. After seeing a man drown within 70 feet of a 15-man work crew in a seemingly easy stretch of river near the Stout Grove, we feel the potential risk is not being addressed.

Page 37 says that "Redwood Creek exhibits problems with dissolved oxygen, temperature, heavy metals, and pesticides." We are not aware of any significant dissolved metals in these waters other than iron and manganese, which taste bad, and both of these are not "heavy metals" in the same sense that chromium and cadmium are. The term should be clarified and the magnitude of the problem briefly described. Also, we have never heard of any pesticide problems in Redwood Creek. These problems should also be briefly described.

We agree with the program to reduce visual impairment caused by conspicuous memorial grove signs. The place sometimes looks like an old-fashioned cemetery with all the headstones. Information should be given to private map makers so that the important features of area are shown, not just an endless series of memorial grove names which help little in finding what you want to see.

We agree that a program should be developed to eliminate the generation of dust on park roads in an environmentally safe and appealing way.

We feel that it is a mistake to <u>not</u> pave the Howland Hill Road with 8-foot wide asphalt. Much of the dust on this road is generated by vehicles avoiding pot holes and driving onto portions of the road which would not otherwise be used. The road has enough curves to slow down traffic without having to depend on the potholes. The road should also be made one way to the west, uphill, in order to decrease conflicts, improve safe stopping distance, and decrease the width of the impacted roadway. The shoulders and unused roadway could be covered with crushed, graded aggregate to provide pullout parking or encouraged to return to vegetation. Cars would not have to smash down the vegetation along the edges of the road in order to get out of the traffic lane.

We suggest that graded, crushed aggregate be used instead of the river-graded rock when filling potholes. The river-graded rock

is of uniform size and does not compact, even after repeatedly being rolled over. In properly graded crushed aggregate the smaller pieces fit between the larger pieces, and rolling will compact the material into a uniformly hard surface.

We feel that Cal Barrel Road should not be paved since it is a two-way road. Paving on this steep road would increase the speeds even more than they are. We notice a significant conflict on this road between speeding (relatively, due to short safe stopping distances) and pedestrians who are walking down the road after being dropped off at the top. We suggest that signs be placed to funnel these pedestrians onto the trail system. The signs should indicate how the pedestrian will meet up with the car at the bottom. Other signs on these particular trails should follow up on this route so that the pedestrians don't get lost.

We suggest that the road down to Mill Creek from Howland Hill Road be blocked. There is no reason to allow vehicles in this area. It spoils the view from the bridge and encourages trash.

We agree that a program should be developed for fire protection together with prescribed burning to insure perpetuation of the redwood forests and their supporting ecosystems.

We agree that non-native plants should be removed. The Nature Conservancy on their dunes preserve near Arcata are working hard to eradicate the European beach grass.

Close to a billion dollars will have been spent on the three redwood parks and on the national park. For this amount of money it does not seem out of sorts to expect that the park provide a beach which is not sliced up with automobile tracks. Government is forcing the construction of a $125,000,000 bypass to avoid effects of automobiles on the park. Surely there is no need to allow them to destroy the park experience only three miles away. We OPPOSE allowing vehicles on the beach.

We also feel that Native Americans do not have any historical rights to use automobiles on the beach. Accomodation for fishermen (which includes Native Americans) may be agreed to, but ethnic preference is not ethnic equality.

Page 75 mentions a "Vital Elk Habitat Map" which is not in the report. Where may we get a copy of this map?

We support deletion of Davison Road as access to the beach. We feel that it would be much better to have a single park control point near Elk Prairie. (Page 76).

We feel that attempts to provide wheelchair access to Fern Canyon will destroy the beauty of the area. The pedestrian ramps and channelization of the stream are obnoxious enough already. A removable boardwalk along the canyon floor does not sound like it will enhance anybody's enjoyment of this extremely beautiful spot.

We support keeping the beach north of Fern Canyon as a completely wild beach, safe from even the politically allowed fishermen's

cars. At least somewhere on the beach you should be able to get away from their tracks.

We support keeping the Visitor Center at Elk Prairie. We agree that it is historic, attractive, and well located.

We support removal of the vehicle overlook at Espa Lagoon and eventual removal of the buildings there.

We agree that all new development should be prohibited in the primeval forests.

Prairie Creek gives the parks a unique charm and character. We object to unnecessarily channelizing it for a quarter of a mile just south of Prairie Creek State Park. While Caltrans denies using curve radii greater than 1100 feet in the design of the bypass, the initial segment of the bypass has a radius of 4500 feet and forces the destruction of a portion of the creek. While this area is outside the boundaries of the park, we would appreciate the efforts of another State agency asking Caltrans to review their proposed design at this location.

Page 60 mentions a route for Highway 101 around Del Norte Redwoods State Park. Where may we obtain a copy of the map showing this route?

We realize that report writers have a hard time, and we appreciate your efforts to provide something useful for us to work with. We have tried to be stright forward and tell you what we think from our vantage point. Since we doubt whether you will get any other comments from Southern California (where most of the people unfortunately live), we hope you will take our comments and suggestions with a good spirit.

Yours truly,

Mel Bley

Mel Bley
President, Citizens' Review
c/o 7420 W. 83 St.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

TRI-AGENCY
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November 9, 1984

Mr. Wm. S. Briner
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

— RECEIVED AFTER END OF REVIEW PERIOD —

Dear Mr. Briner:

Ref: State Redwoods Parks, Preliminary General Plan, dated August 1984

The Tri-Agency appreciates this opportunity to comment on the referenced document and to have our comments become part of the public record regarding this issue.

I, as the Executive Director of the Tri-Agency Economic Development Authority, which is a political joint powers governed by two County Supervisors, two City Councilmen and two Harbor Commissioners, am charged with administering assistance in any way possible to the basic industries of the area. Timber, mining, and fisheries have been traditionally, and will continue to be, very important segments of our economy. Newer, but none the less vital, is our tourist industry. One of my critical roles is to help effect a balance among the competing goals of our primary industries and to facilitate communication to the benefit of the entire local economy.

The following discussion relates to inappropriate commentary, statements of "fact" which are not fact, or factual errors and opinion contained in the referenced document (State Redwoods Parks Preliminary General Plan). You are reminded that many of the subject areas we find necessary to address in this correspondence were previously discussed with you in a meeting in your office on October 11, 1983, between yourself and the undersigned.

During that meeting, we discussed and agreed upon, several vital and guiding criterion regarding the referenced document. Among the points discussed and agreed upon were:

1. Activities occuring on private land would not be discussed nor was it or is it appropriate to discuss those activities in a Parks Department document.

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2. Non-Park land would be very carefully referenced, if referenced at all.

3. Department of Parks and Recreation comments or concerns that could/would impair other values would not be contained within the referenced document.

More importantly, as we discussed, undue fears or expression of fears regarding alleged or projected impacts to the environment from sources outside the Department's direct span of control were deemed inappropriate. Such comments were deemed inappropriate due to the numerous Legislation and the resulting Administrative Codes that directly impact/affect the issues raised above. For example, the Forest Practices Act, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act along with numerous Clean Water and Clean Air Acts seek to and infact assure protection of those value systems on national, state and local levels. For the Department of Parks and Recreation to allege potential threat due to uncontrollable outside influences, assumes the balance of the Administrative and Legislative Codes do not exist, are impotent, or they are not valid.

Examples of inappropriate or misplaced commentary that <u>must</u> be removed from the referenced document include the following specific citations:

1. From page 3, under General Resource Management Policies, the following statement--"Monitor unnatural erosion or sedimentation caused by construction, mining, timber harvesting, or visitor activities to ensure adequate protection of park resources".

   Activities that occur within the park should be very carefully monitored by the Department. Activities that occur outside the park boundaries are the responsibility of numerous other agencies and public and private organizations. The statement in the referenced document implies that the Department will engage in monitoring activities outside its jurisdictional boundaries.

2. From page #36, last paragraph--The sentence,"Human activity increases runoff and sediment transport by removal of vegetation for timber harvesting, agriculture, grazing, and mining" is a stand alone commentary that has no place in the Department's General Plan document unless the Department is referring to those activities occuring within the Park's (sic) boundary.

3. From page #61, Zones of Primary Interest, the second and third paragraphs are among the most irresponsible, archaic, indiscriminate and liberal intrepretation of the Department's responsibilities I have ever seen. To wit:

"To fulfill these responsibilites, the department has an undeniable interest in all lands where land uses or management practices could have a physical impact on any lands in the State Park System. This includes, most obviously, all lands which are upstream from State Park System lands, or on watersheds of streams which enter or flow through State Park System properties. In addition, certain other lands which are conspicuously visible from State Park System lands, and particularly from places frequented by visitors, are within the interest zone of the department.

"In the case of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the entire basin of Mill Creek is in the category of a zone of primary interest of the Department of Parks and Recreation, because of the great significance of lower Mill Creek as an ecological and aesthetic resource in the park. The upper West Branch of Mill Creek bears this same relationship to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, in addition to its significance for Jedediah Smith Redwoods."

Mr. Briner, am I and the general public to assume the the Department has assumed the role of Lead Agency and Approving Authority for all activities that occur upstream of "Park System Lands"? That the Department has established itself on par with the self-rightaous Coastal Commission? That the Department will dictate the ecomomic survivability of the County of Del Norte and its associated private enterprises? I think not. I further suggest that any and all such grandiose and self-serving, arcane references or statements be removed from the referenced documentation.

4. In similiar style, from page #63, Sedimentation and Erosion, the following policy statement must be revised to reflect only conditions that occur within the Parks::

"Past, present, and future human disturbances (e.g., logging, construction, mining, grazing, recreational uses), whether inside or outside the parks, will continue to affect the sediment load and siltation rates in the parks. If these situations are not identified, monitored, and corrected or prevented by watershed treatment methods, stream channels will be affected to the point where major park values will be lost.

"<u>Policy</u>: The department shall be actively involved in land use decisions to develop or change the current use of all lands adjacent to the parks that may affect hydrologic resources. This specifically includes actions that may be hazardous to park areas such as timber harvesting, mining, grazing, or road and building construction (e.g., Gasquet Mountain mine project, U..S. Highway 101 bypass development, etc.). Measures...."

The Department should be involved with land use decisions immediately adjacent to its boundaries as should any adjoining property owner. However, for the Department to assume active involvement with land use decisions miles away (the Gasquet Mountain Mining Project) is ludicrous and usury. For the Department to even contemplate, much less assume, that it has approval authority to "prevent and correct" potential past, present, and future disturbances outside the parks boundaries borders on insanity and reeks of tyranny.

5. In similar style, again from page #63, Water Quality, the following policy statement must be revised to address only issues within the Parks:

   "Policy: The department shall request additional monitoring of surface water quality by responsible agencies as it deems appropriate, for runoff originating in or entering the parks. Specifically, this shall include gathering additional information to determine the magnitude, extent, and causes of a potential coliform bacteria problem in Prairie Creek. Monitoring is also particularly important for maintenance and protection of the Smith River in its current pristine state as part of the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Studies shall also be undertaken to determine the depth, quality, and extent of groundwater in the parks. Data from such studies shall be applied to the evaluation of potenital adverse impacts on hydrologic an biotic resources, as well as on other park values. Surface water shall be protected from degradation and from excess sedimentation resulting from human disturbances both inside and outside the parks, (e.g., chemical spraying, construction, logging, grazing, mining, and inappropriate forms of recreation)".

   And next week, we (the Department) will stop the world! Mr Briner, the general public as well as the resource industries cannot continue to endure concealed assults dealt from the professional bureaucrats employed by the Resource Agency of the State of California. The Agency and your Department must stop publishing unwarranted and capricious remarks. There is no question that the Department should and must actively pursue water quality parameters within the Park System Lands. The State of California and the National Government have sufficient resources and the responsibility to look out for the rest of the State.

6. In similar style, from page #64, Smith River, the following policy statement must be revised to reflect only issues within the Parks:

   "The Smith River is a prime attraction at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. It is the last free-flowing river in California, and has been designated a Wild and Scenic River. Its water quality is higher than that of other rivers in the area, and perhaps in the entire state, and it supports a significant anadromous fishery.

With its clean, clear, deep, slow-moving water, the Smith is probably the best example of moving fresh water in the State Park System. It is now used by some visitors for snorkeling and scuba diving. The quality of the water appears to be endangered only by certain upstream mining proposals.

"Policy: All development and operational activities shall be examined carefully for potential impacts on the Smith River. If adverse impacts are identified, they shall be mitigated. Any new facility development within 30 meters (100 feet) of the river banks shall consist only of minor access facilities."

In addition to our following statement of concern, it appears to us that the preparers of the "general Plan" are not even familiar with the Smith River. For example, the Smith is not slow moving and deep except within tidal lands. The Smith to the contrary is known for its "White Water" potential and is listed by white water enthusiasts as a "Grade 4" meaning that it should be approached with caution and by individuals with considerable rafting experience

Regarding the comments on page 64 of the referenced document, what the Parks System does or doesn't do within Park System Lands as it relates to the Smith River must follow the criteria established within the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or exceed those standard's, as must the resuource industries operating within the river system. We applaud the Department's concern over the Smith River as we share those very interests. We, however, do not assume responsibility for protecting the integrity of the entire 3100 miles of the Smith River System as apparently the Department has. We reiterate, it is not appropriate for the Department to make assumptions that the River is endangered or will be endangered by activities outside the direct span of control of the Department. All such inappropriate references to activity outside the Park Systeas Lands particularly those of pure speculation or conjecture must be removed from the referenced document.

7. In similar style, from page #66, the following policy statement must be revised to reflect only activities occuring within Park System Lands and the speculation, innuendos, and conjecture must be removed from the referenced document:

"The area around Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park has been extensively explored for mineral deposits. Mining for cobalt, nickel, and other commodities has resulted in surface distubance, construciton of roads, and (thus far) minor environmental impacts. Proposals to develop and operate a strip mine and minerals processing facility in the adjacent Six Rivers National Forest may result in major environmental impacts, however.

"Policy: The department shall acquire baseline information for the biologic and physical environment of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, and shall rigorously monitor key environmental factors over time, to determine the effects of nearby mining and processing activities."

Again, Mr. Briner, only the Department can determine the necessity of obtaining additional baseline information regarding Park System Resources. However, the innuendos regarding offsite activities must be removed from the referenced document. Please be advised that this office takes considerable exception to the Department's determination that activities that occur or will occur over four miles from Park boundaries are considered adjacent activities and activities which the Department has or should have direct control.

8. In similar style, from page #133, Primary Theme 3: The Smith River: Light and Sound and Motion, the innuendo regarding degradation through upstream disturbances must be removed from the referenced documentation:

"Interpretation of the Smith River will contrast its openness and movement with the stillness of the redwood forest, and will emphasize the river's habitat value to many species of birds and fish (including anadromous fish). The Smith's uniqueness as California'(s) longest free-flowing and one of its cleanest rivers, the present danger of its degradation through upstream disturbances, and its long history of usefulness to people will also be interpreted for visitors to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park."

Mr. Briner, as acknowledged earlier in the referenced document, upstream mining activities have had "minor environmental impacts" and I might add, none of record within the Park System. There is no reason, particularly in lieu of the major efforts (Legislation, Administrative Codes and resource industry practices) in place to assure the contrary, to assume that any upstream activity will significantly degrade the Smith River. Further, incorporating such assumptions as a "Primary Theme" is inappropriate and the Theme and the referenced document must be revised accordingly.

After considerable and very careful review of the referenced document, it is painfully obvious to this reviewer that you and your Department are not in touch with the Administration. It is further obvious that your Department has a desire to establish itself as the premier reviewing authority for all activity that occurs on private or public lands whether within your jurisdiction or not. Please be advised that this office does not concur with the direction you have taken your Department or with the <u>State Redwoods Parks General Plan</u> as currently drafted. Accordingly, we strongly request that the commentary contained within this letter be taken to heart and reflected in your revised "Document". We are prepared to work cooperatively

with your Department to achieve a document that will accomplish the Departments goals and objectives without additional undue/unwarranted destruction to the integrity of our primary economic interests.

Sincerely,

Warren W. White

Warren W. White
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary Resources Department
The Honorable Gordon W. Duffy, Secretary of Environmental Affairs
Ms. Anna Sparks, Humbolt County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Kirk West, Business, Transportation, and Housing
Mr. David C. Nunenkamp, Vice President, California Nickel Corporation
Mr. David Scott, Vice President, Miller/Rellim Redwood Company
Board of Directors, Area Independent Development Corporation

Dear Sir RECEIVED AFTER END OF REVIEW PERIOD 11 7 84

1. Thank you for sending me your paper (information) Could you take those donors names signs out of the red wood parks and leave the parks alone. Do not build new bridges etc. Just repair the trails that are present. Like de Martin trail on the right as you enter del Norte State you have not cleared the large logs off that trail yet you want to disturb

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NOV 14 1984
RPI

4-6351

State of California, George Deukmejian, *Governor*

California Coastal Commission
NORTH COAST DISTRICT
350 E Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 4946
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-1623

RECEIVED
Development Division

7219
Directors Office
NOV 16 1984
DEPT. PARKS & RECREATION

November 14, 1984

State of California
Department of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA. 95811

RECEIVED AFTER END OF REVIEW PERIOD

Re: Preliminary General Plan
State Redwoods Parks

Dear Sirs:

We have reviewed the Preliminary General Plan for the three Redwood State Park units and offer the following comments:

We urge the highest priority be given to the completion of the Redwood Coastal Trail System. The importance of the trail system cannot be over-emphasized. Once completed it would form a continuous trail from the Oregon border to the City of Arcata with the key links being within the State Parks System. The General Plans should be consistent with the Certified Local Coastal Plans for the counties of Del Norte and Humboldt. The plans should adequately address the County of Humboldt's concern with continued commercial access at and to Gold Bluff Beach. We feel the Preliminary Plan does not, at this time, meet the needs and concerns expressed by both the Commission and the County regarding this issue. The Jordan Creek Corridor is a good idea; but before it is implemented, we hope Parks & Recreation would complete the Master Plan for its Lakes Earl and Talawa acquisitions. The Elk Prairie rerouting should be carefully evaluated to address its impacts on all effected resources, as the rerouting could cause more problems than it would solve.

In closing we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important plan for the North Coast and look forward to working with you to its completion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Bruce Fodge

Bruce Fodge
Coastal Planner

BF:dp

cc: Pat Stebbins
Tom Hofweber, Humboldt County Planning Dept.
Ernest Perry, Del Norte Planning Dept.

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4-6510

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The numbered responses correspond to the numbered sections of the comments. Map and text corrections will be made in the final document. Comments received after the end of the review period are included as part of the record, but no responses were prepared.

1. The length of time that commercial fishing access will be maintained has not been determined. Presumably, it will be as long as the current commercial fishermen need access and as long as it does not interfere with the purposes of the State Park. Relocation of the eastern portion of Davison Road to park land will not change the need for 24-hour access to the campground located on the beach and, therefore, the road will remain open.

2. The impact of vehicular use on dunes and beaches has been documented in various locations; the impacts may differ in magnitude, but are otherwise similar regardless of the variations in climate, soil characteristics, etc. Reference to the Crescent City beach study has been deleted to avoid confusion and any misunderstanding.

3. Relocation of the contact station to the proposed new entrance of Davison Road at the south end of Elk Prairie will allow better monitoring of vehicles and should provide a deterrent to elk poachers.

4. The length of the public review period under the California Environmental Quality Act is prescribed by law. The Department attempted to provide copies of General Plan documents to all those who requested them. The cost of providing copies to everyone on the mailing list is prohibitive.

5. See response no. 2. The Department does possess the expertise to perform the necessary monitoring.

6. It is the Department's goal to reduce the impacts by man to the dune and shoreline habitat to a minimum. The Department does propose to allow nature to take control.

7. The location of the existing campground at Gold Bluffs Beach does not permit the closure of the road along the beach after dark to discourage illegal use of the shoreline and dunes, or poaching. The beach campground relocation site lies just north of the East Creek and Espa Lagoon outfalls, and offers no adverse impact on the wetland area.

8. The National Park Service, the Department of Fish and Game, and the local Native Americans have been involved with the planning process since its inception. There is no intent to burn brush to make the land accessible for archeological studies. As stated in the plan, the purpose of the prescribed burns is to reduce fire hazard through the reduction of excessive fuel, the maintenance of native vegetation, and the restoration of natural processes to the ecosystem.

9. The establishment of wilderness areas is independent of the General Plan process.

10. This year, the Department of Fish and Game permitted elk hunting in the vicinity of Big Lagoon. Presumably, the elk herd there was judged of sufficient size and vitality to permit hunting. Hunting is not permitted in State Parks.

11. European beachgrass, an imported species, is not rare.

12. The proposed relocated portion of Davison Road would lie on an existing, unused logging road and should not cause damage to the surrounding resources. The requirement for 24-hour access to the campground on Gold Bluffs Beach will not allow this road to be closed. The relocation of the eastern portion of Davison Road will provide better public and resource protection.

13. The closure of Last Chance Road is proposed because of the lack of use, the deteriorating roadway condition, and the cost of maintenance. Access to Highway 101 is difficult and unsafe. There is inadequate space for turnarounds and parking. There are also the adverse impacts of vehicles (noise, visual, and pollution) on the resources. The roadway is threatened by receding coastal bluffs and landslides. The proposal to establish a trailhead and connecting trail midway along the Last Chance Road has merit, and its feasibility will be investigated.

14. Scenic roads sufficient to meet the public's need are provided as follows: Walker Road and Howland Hill Road in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; Highway 101 in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park; and Highway 101, Cal-Barrel Road, and Davison Road in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

15. Bald Hills Road is proposed for closure because it is a steep, narrow, and deteriorating roadway. The roadway was also once surfaced with wooden puncheons; some still remain. Vehicular use would destroy this resource.

16. Howland Hill Road will remain as a two-way, low-speed scenic road to facilitate patrol and emergency vehicle access.

17. The development of day-use facilities and the retention of Walker Road as a vehicle access is considered to be a necessary complement to the north bank day-use proposals. The Highway 199 bypass around the north end of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park would reduce the traffic hazard of the intersection of Walker Road and the highway.

18. The fishermen and Native Americans have a pre-existing practice of vehicular use of the wave slope which the Department believes will not have a significant effect if the use is controlled and monitored.

19. The relocation of the contact station to the entrance of the new Davison Road at the south end of Prairie Creek would/should provide better control in that it will be more likely to be manned a greater portion of the time. The serious infractions of park regulations normally occur

during off-season and off-hours when no staff are present. A manned contact station has limited value in terms of supervision, because the area of supervision is limited to the immediate vicinity of the station and those vehicles entering the area controlled by the station; vehicles leaving an area receive only cursory checks. Contact station personnel are not necessarily able or assigned to police functions and must rely on calling rangers. A ranger in a vehicle can patrol a much larger area.

20. The proposed location of the new campground for Gold Bluffs Beach would be north of the outlets of Espa Lagoon and East Creek on the beach. The concept was to maintain the beach camping experience and opportunity, and move the campground to permit after-hours control of the beach frontage road.

21. The policy in the plan does not recommend the removal of the memorial grove signs but the reduction of the visual impairment in a manner "contingent on the full cooperation and support of the Save-the-Redwoods League".

22. We do not agree that planting rainbow trout in Espa Lagoon should continue. However, the Department welcomes the assistance of the Department of Fish and Game in studying the impacts of planted rainbow trout on the native coast cut-throat trout.

23. The Department recognizes that adverse impacts will occur if or when the Highway 101 and 199 bypasses are constructed. It is not the function of the General Plan to provide environmental analyses of the Department of Transportation's projects.

24. The degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity described in the EIR.

25. The Department is not committed to the use of paving to reduce the generation of dust on Howland Hill Road, Cal-Barrel Road, etc.

26. The Department will make every reasonable effort to mitigate the visual impacts of the intrusion of man-made structures.

27. The actual number of parking spaces will be determined at the time of development of site-specific plans and by the demand and physical limitations of the site. The Department of Transportation has the authority and responsibility of determining the safety factors of access to Highway 199; we are not planning any facilities with direct access to Highway 199.

28. The parking area will not be located in the meadow.

29. It is not the function nor is it possible for the Environmental Impact Element of the General Plan to examine the potential impacts of a site-specific problem. The letter of March 22, 1984 is in error; the impacts can and will be reviewed when the site-specific developments are proposed for the north side of the Smith River.

30. The details of a monitoring program have not been developed. The monitoring program could be either a site-specific program or a review of data developed by another agency as the County suggests.

31. Full protection in this instance refers to the attainment of water quality conditions that do not impair the natural, esthetic, and recreational values of the river.

32. We agree that the proposed Highway 199 bypass may impact the Hiouchi/Myrtle Creek area. However, it is not this Department's responsibility to perform an environmental analysis of a Department of Transportation adopted route.

33. The primary purpose of the General Plan is a guideline for this Department for the operation, development, and management of the unit for which it applies. It has no legal binding authority over other jurisdictions. The zones of primary interest are no more than what the name implies; they are areas within and without the unit boundaries in which the Department has an interest because they directly affect the operation, development, and management of the unit.

34. The term "strip mine" will be deleted from the final edition of the plan. The basis for the statements of adverse impacts are derived from various environmental documents on development and management proposals for the upper Smith River and nearby redwood region habitats. The potential impacts are described in the EIR on the Regional Transportation Plan for Del Norte County, Draft EIR - State Highway 199 Route Improvements in Del Norte County, Watershed Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment - Redwoods National Park, DEIS Gasquet-Orleans Road (Six Rivers National Forest), FEIS Eightmile/Blue Creek Units Land Use Plans (Six Rivers National Forest), and the DEIR/EIS Cal-Nickel Gasquet Mountain Mining Project.

35. Camp Pacamo is still available for youth-oriented activities. The area has not been used since its acquisition.

36. The General Plan only proposes to investigate the feasibility of creating a trail corridor.

37. The impacts of rerouting the existing transmission line through Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park would be soil disturbance and erosion, vegetation removal, disturbance and possible displacement of wildlife, and esthetic impacts. The relocation of the transmission line would be worked out in cooperation with the Pacific Power and Light Company.

38. Concur. The quality of reproduction did not show the differences in shades, creating confusion as the County indicates. The high and moderate use designations on Map 2 were supplemented with corresponding Roman numerals identified in the legend. The question of additional acquisition, as stated in the plan, is an unresolved issue.

39. As stated in the introduction of the Environmental Impact Element, the entire General Plan comprises the environmental impact report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The deficiencies identified by the County are generally met in other sections of the General Plan.

40. The document was circulated through the State Clearinghouse as is required by law; the Clearinghouse number is 82020312.

41. The EIR is not required to prescribe or identify the review period.

42. When a document is circulated for review through the State Clearinghouse, no Notice of Completion is required to be filed with the Resources Agency.

43. Normal State fishery rules and regulations apply in the State Park System. However, the Department may also enforce additional restrictions if necessary.

44. Proposed acquisition boundaries will be shown as State, and not Federal, in the final document.

45. We recognize that there are philosophical differences. However, the Department is not attempting to meet all the recreational needs and desires of the public. Only those facilities that allow the protection of the resources, complement the purpose of the unit, and are within the carrying capacity of the resources, and are not provided by the private sector, are considered for inclusion within a State Park System unit.

46. The Department has recommended development on Redwood National Park lands where it is preferable to use second-growth or cut-over forest lands as an alternative to primeval redwood lands.

47. The number of bike-in campsites indicates the total capacity; generally, the campsites are set up for groups of four to five bikers each.

48. The Department regularly consults with representatives of the local Native American communities and the California Native American Heritage Commission regarding actions affecting Native American cultural resources.

49. The relocation of Highway 101 through Elk Prairie is proposed in conjunction with the bypass around the State Park, which will eliminate most of the traffic. The western relocation alternative will also keep one side of the prairie free for elk movements.

50. The statement will be corrected to read: "Access to the Redwood National Park lands along the beach to the south should be maintained under the current limitations."

51. Relocation of the contact station for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park onto Redwood National Park lands can be deferred until the National Park Service has developed plans for the Hiouchi Flat Activity Center.

52. Campsite removal from Elk Prairie is proposed to restore the prairie to a more natural functioning ecosystem and to eliminate scenic impacts.

53. We concur that a sanitation station at the south end of Elk Prairie may not be the most desirable facility; however, the nearby communities have not yet met this need.

54. Shared responsibility at the relocated contact station north of May Creek may be considered more feasible by the National Park Service with the development of their campgrounds at Skunk Cabbage Hill and Major Creek. The joint operation of the contact station would provide more coverage and security for the proposed access to the Gold Bluffs Beach area which includes both State and Federal lands.

55. We concur that facilities located at the south end of Elk Prairie should be of minimum size to provide the necessary services and will be sited on existing roads or cleared areas to reduce impacts.

56. The statement on page 37 that about 40% of the turbidity is attributed to human activities is based on the Jones and Stokes Associates study performed for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981. It is assumed to be reliable and more pertinent as a more recent publication. In spite of the water quality problems, the Smith River is one of the purest rivers in California; other California rivers have greater problems.

57. Pages 92 and 93 list the references used for the Inventory Summary. The EDAW study was not a reference. The maps used were recently prepared for the Division of Mines and Geology and were "ground truthed".

58. The section of the report reads: "The classified residual soils of the steeper uplands (50-70 percent) are predominantly of the Melbourne series. Where surface disturbance has occurred (grazing, logging), these soils are highly erodible." In the context of the steep slopes and the condition of soil disturbance, this statement is correct.

59. The bypass around Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park was proposed by this Department in the early 1960s to the Department of Transportation. The route was not adopted by the Department of Transportation. The proposed route would not run through Miller Redwood Company's mill site.

60. The term "full protection" means that the Department wants to use its "full influence in appropriate ways to protect" State Park System resources that may be affected by upstream activities. As any landowner or steward would do, the Department will exercise its right to protect the public's interests and resources within the State Park System.

61. The Department intends to participate in the existing regulatory processes to protect the public's interests and resources of the State Park System.

62. The General Plan is simply acknowledging the contribution the Miller Redwood Company has provided in the interpretation of the redwood region habitat, history, and industry.

63. It is assumed the writer is referring to the Native American village site at Espa Lagoon. The site was previously impacted; it is proposed to reduce the impact by reducing the development.

64. These comments are amplifications or additions to resource information and development proposals. The specific development proposals will be considered when site-specific development plans are prepared.

65. The hazardous structures at Camp Pacamo will not be replaced. The area is still available for educational, interpretive, and youth programs. The center was an attraction by itself, which conflicts with Section 5019.53 of the Public Resources Code.

I-1487R

STATE REDWOODS PARKS GENERAL PLAN

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THE DEPARTMENT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE ASSISTANCE OF:

— The many citizens who contributed time and energy and helped shape this plan.
— Individuals with various local, state, and federal agencies who cooperated with the authors.