

APPENDIX E

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH SURVEY SUMMARY

**SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH
SURVEY SUMMARY
APRIL 18, 2003**

Number of responses: 37 (17 electronic, 20 hardcopy)

Zipcodes of responders: 93705, 94111, 94117, 94121, 94127, 94534, 94923 (2), 94954, 95402, 95403 (3), 95430 (2), 95441 (4), 95465, 95472 (5), 95492, 95603, 95608, 95616, 95628, 95666, 95673, 95678, 95765

Organization affiliations:

- ▶ Vertex Climbing Center
- ▶ Environmental Devices
- ▶ EDAW
- ▶ Holy Virgin Community of San Francisco, Inc.
- ▶ Sonoma Wings Hang Gliding Club (3)
- ▶ Petaluma firefighter
- ▶ California State Parks Advisory Committee
- ▶ Learning Waters (501c3)
- ▶ Redwood Empire Hang Gliding Association
- ▶ Hood Mountain Adventures/Rim Club
- ▶ Coastwalk (2)
- ▶ Garden Creek Ranch (2)
- ▶ Gateway Christian Life Church
- ▶ Planner for Sonoma County PRMD
- ▶ Retired veterinarian
- ▶ Stewards of Slavianka (2)

Frequency of visits to park: Once to several times a year: 94.2%, Every few years: 2.86%, Never 2.86%

Distance/time to reach the beach: 120 mi (2), 100 yds, from Santa Rosa area (2), 1 mi, 25 mi, 75 mi, 275 mi, 130-140 mi (2), 1.5-2 hrs (2), 40 mi, 35 mi, 15-20 mi (2), 15 mi or less, 15 mi to Bodega Bay (2), 20 mi, 30 - 40 min (2), 30 min, 3.5-4 hrs (2), 4 mi, 2-2.5 hrs (2), about 30 mi, less than an hour away

Activities participated in during visits:

Beachcombing 85.29%
Picnicking 64.71%
Camping 47.06%
Fishing 14.71%

Biking on trails 14.71%

Wildlife viewing 82.35%

Whale watching 61.76%

Other 70.59% [hang gliding (6), hiking/walking on trails/beach (4), rock climbing (2), just relaxing, canoeing on Russian River, riding cruise boat to view sea lions, diving, horseback riding]

OVERALL PARK MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Keep it the same (remote, untouched, natural) (5)
- ▶ Keep beaches clean and foster healthy environment for future generations
- ▶ Maintain/expand access
- ▶ Limit access to beaches
- ▶ Continuity of management philosophy needs to be addressed in GP
- ▶ Take guns away from park rangers. Return them to the status of nature mentors and away from police activities.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Appreciation/protection of natural resources (4)
- ▶ Value of open space/ wilderness (2)
- ▶ Willow Creek should get top priority for preservation of flat-lands (reparation from logging) and headlands of the creek and possible channelizing for recreation of wetlands and rehabilitation of the riparian corridor.
- ▶ Watershed restoration, encourage watershed perspective (2)
- ▶ No seawalls and riprap to protect the highway or other infrastructure from coastal erosion (2)
- ▶ How to accommodate increased public usage and protect resources at the same time
- ▶ Address erosion on coastal gullies (2).
- ▶ Value of tidepools (2)
- ▶ **Wildlife**
 - Abundance of wildlife as a value (6)
 - Preserve native wildlife (3) (increased seal protection)
 - Sustainable fishing practices (no drag nets)
 - Prosecute those who injure/kill birds and mammals.
- ▶ **Plants**
 - Control non-native invasive plants (3)
 - Discontinue all spraying of herbicides
- ▶ **Water Quality**
 - Ensure that sewer and septic systems do not enter waterways
 - Need to address water quality in Russian River

- No outfall of wastewater into ocean (5)
- ▶ **Scenic and Aesthetic Values**
 - Keep pristine untouched beauty/remoteness (5)
 - Appreciation of cleanliness (6)
 - Hide auto glitter
 - Appreciation of clean air (3)
 - Concern for trash in general or on beaches (8)
 - Concern for noise, appreciation of serenity/quiet (5) (designate quiet areas)
 - Appreciation of the lack of commercialism (3)
 - Appreciation of scenery/view/natural beauty (18)
 - Appreciation of climate (3)
 - Dislike of wind and fog
 - Less development (e.g., along Russian River, marina, ocean) (3)
 - Too many tourists/crowding (2)
 - Fewer unsightly parking lots along bluffs (4)
 - Need more enforcement of trash/noise rules

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ No park fees (2)
- ▶ Appreciation of friendly people (park hosts, rangers, etc.) (4)
- ▶ More clean-up days at the coast
- ▶ Need better public awareness
- ▶ I am concerned that consolidation of the park headquarters with other parks will lead to park supervision being located out of the area and not familiar with local issues and problems.
- ▶ Control inappropriate behavior of children
- ▶ Encourage children/families to experience and respect nature (2)
- ▶ Clubs, such as Sonoma Wings that use certain areas like Goat Rock could adopt an area of coastline that they would help keep clean.
- ▶ Dislike of changing personnel in ranger/administrative hierarchy; can have negative impact on public e.g., Ron Hanshew as superintendent created friction with public and users
- ▶ More public appreciation events, rituals, festivals, which emphasize human life in harmony & respect for the physical forces of land & water, as well as for all the inhabitants.

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Historical structures/resources protection (2)
- ▶ Preservation of all archaeological sites (including potential arch. sites)

RECREATION USES

- ▶ Value of hiking/walking (2)
- ▶ Fire as a recreation use
- ▶ Surfing
- ▶ **Camping**
 - Discontinue reservations through contractors with poor services. State Parks should administer this program and could do so easily and more economically via automatic telephone reservation system.
 - Need a pricing system for camping that allows a higher rate for weekend use and a lower rate for weekdays
- ▶ Excellent conditions for hang gliding (3)
- ▶ Value of Fort Ross State Park area and Russian River mouth area
- ▶ Appreciation of free access (4)
- ▶ Abundance of landmarks
- ▶ Address highway danger for bicycle riders.
- ▶ Value of rock-climbing (e.g. Sunset Boulders) (2)
- ▶ More flying (launch and land) sites available for local hang gliders/ paragliders close to beach (eg., Salmon Creek, Wright's Beach, Fort Ross) (5)
- ▶ Value of beach access /parking close to beach (10)
- ▶ Spiritual value (2)
- ▶ **Vehicular Use**
 - Limit size of RVs @ Wright's Beach and at bodega dunes, assign RVs to smaller loop
 - Dislike of RVs
 - When checking in, make use of CB radio/cell phone to confirm site selected with entrance station personnel. This would negate the need to pull RVs around camp and thus reduce noise and pollution cause by additional driving.
- ▶ **Use/Overuse** (2)
 - Concern for overuse
 - Protection from excessive human use
 - Concern for impacts from increasing visitors

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

- ▶ Education/information about how people need to behave around wildlife and noise level awareness
- ▶ Ongoing education about coastal safety practices with regards to sleeper waves and particular locations that are prone to drownings.
- ▶ Need more interpretive signage and trail markers (2)

- ▶ As a non-profit dedicated to environmental education, I would like to be considered for using acquired properties for educational programs, i.e., the Coleman Ranch property.
- ▶ Create a signed trail system protecting bluffs.
- ▶ Education about native species, engendering respect & protection for all.

FACILITIES

- ▶ Improve and expand recreation facilities
- ▶ Need more trash cans/ waste disposal areas for visitors (4)
- ▶ Need recycling receptacles to encourage more recycling (2)
- ▶ Need hot water for restrooms and showers
- ▶ Too many visitors for the existing facilities (e.g., viewing points, campgrounds) (2)
- ▶ Good facilities
- ▶ Need hostels (2)
- ▶ Need a dump station at Wright's Beach
- ▶ Need more restrooms (eg., at Kortum Trail, by rocks) (4)
- ▶ Restrooms are always tidy
- ▶ Discontinue shooting range in Willow Creek (esp. lead) (2)
- ▶ More acquisitions (3) eg. Scotty Creek Beach, Willow Creek, Red Hill
- ▶ **Campsites**
 - Less campgrounds
 - More campgrounds (e.g. group camp at Pomo Canyon, east side of Hwy 1, group camp south of Shell Beach) (8)
 - need more campsites with beach access, year round camps (2)
 - smaller campgrounds
 - More non-RV campsites
 - Not enough spaces to accommodate trailers, 5th wheels, and RVs
 - Lack of enforcement of generator use rules
 - More asphalt/concrete in campsites
 - Need shower facilities (eg., Wright's Beach campground) (2)
 - Need water at camp sites
 - Need electricity, sewer, and water hook-ups
 - State parks RV pads need to be leveled in many areas of Dunes state park and Wright's Beach
- ▶ **Parking and Access**
 - Distinguish between pulloffs (no parking) and parking to prevent accidents.
 - Allow more overnight parking in the day use area and move day use parking to opposite side of day use lot

- Build tram system for beach access and remove parking lots
 - Need more parking (2)
 - Less parking lots (3)
 - Need handicapped accessible facilities (2)
 - Need more bike/auto turnouts
 - To alleviate parking problems, have a central parking structure that can accommodate several hundred cars and then provide shuttle service in daylight hours with a connection to Sonoma County Transit and Mendocino Transit buses. Over time reduce the number of parking places at the beaches so that folks are encouraged to use the system and reduce vehicle emissions at the beaches.
- ▶ **Signage**
- Need trail signs (eg., how far to beach from parking, in dunes, etc.) (3)
 - More signs to indicate what is and is not permitted in park
 - Rock climber access trails and signs are needed (2).
- ▶ **Development and Structures**
- Protection from development (4)
 - Concern for inappropriate structures
 - Need design control/guidelines on residences
 - Better Visitor Center (would like to help with this)
 - Provide kiosk at “Hole in the Head”

ROADS AND TRAILS

- ▶ Value of hiking on the near-beach trails (2)
- ▶ No bikes on trails
- ▶ Keep people on main trails to avoid disturbance/erosion
- ▶ Maintain roads and trails for access (2)
- ▶ Roads need to be repaired (especially at Wright’s Beach) (2)
- ▶ Poor trails/signage
- ▶ Dislike of trails that don’t connect
- ▶ Great trails
- ▶ Complete/extend the California Coastal Trail (2)
- ▶ Need more trails (at bluff head; for hikers, rock climbers, dog walking at Bodega Dunes) (3)
- ▶ No bikes on hiking trails

OTHER COMMENTS

- ▶ Keep up the great work – we love this beach! (3)
- ▶ I enjoy my time spent at the coast with my family and hope to pass this beautiful place on to many more generations to come. Thank you.
- ▶ We are happy to volunteer to build trails to climbing sites
- ▶ We love Wright's Beach
- ▶ We look forward to our visits to Bodega Dunes Park
- ▶ I find it disconcerting that under activities you do not list hiking, but you list "biking on trails". Hiking is very popular on the Kortum Trail, the Pomo Trail, Salmon Creek to Bodega Head and on the Head, as well as on the longer sandy beaches. These trails are not suited for bikes.
- ▶ I am very sorry the State Park system is so short of funds for ecosystem enhancement. and short of funds period. (2)
- ▶ I'm currently working on a long-term project celebrating the coastal waters & watersheds of our Pacific Northwest region. I envision this work as vital to public understanding of coastal issues, & invite support to achieve it. Please see my web site: www.sonic.net/~sandoak. Thank you.
- ▶ Please keep the area open to hang gliding. It has one of the smallest impacts of any sport, and the pilots are in close touch with nature. (2)
- ▶ I have enjoyed the area for over 22 years, camping with children and now grandchildren- thank you for having such a wonderful place for us to enjoy.
- ▶ I hope we don't "love" the coast to death or destruction. No need to advertise it more.
- ▶ Hang gliders have soared at Goat Rock for over 20 years, at Vista Trail for about 10 years (all by permit); very successful program, very low impact, excellent response from public, and we maintain areas we use free from litter. Sonoma Wings manages permits for hang gliding and regulates use by establishing rules for use and overseeing program. We want to continue in this relationship.
- ▶ Sonoma Coast still looks a lot like it did 30 years ago, although the pace of development has seemed to accelerate lately. I value Bodega Bay as a fishing community where there are experiences for rock fishing, surf fishing, and numerous boating opportunities. I want Bodega Bay to smell like a harbor, not Carmel. My family uses the coast on average at least once a month or about 15 times/yr for general airing out and preferred location for celebrations. My grandson is the 7th generation born in California and I hope he will always have free access to California coast. However, I do support fees and use controls when traffic to a particular location begins to overwhelm the natural ecosystem's ability to heal. Ultimately there should always be opportunities for our young people and senior citizens to enjoy the coast without charge. No one should be denied coast access due to lack of finances as our state tidelands are a public trust that belong to us all. I really miss doing bonfires at the coast.