

Comments and Responses
from the
California Environmental
Quality Act Review

for the

**MacKerricher State Park
General Plan**

Approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission
June, 1995

Pete B. Wilson
Governor

Douglas P. Wheeler
Secretary for Resources

Donald W. Murphy
Director of Parks and Recreation

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

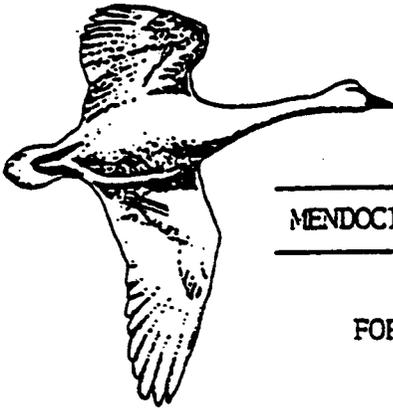
The MacKerricher State Park Preliminary General Plan was circulated for public review in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Notice of Availability was published in the Ukiah Daily Journal and the Mendocino Beacon. Copies of the Plan were available for public review at the Fort Bragg Branch of the Mendocino County Library, Russian River-Mendocino District Office, and Mendocino Sector Office at Russian Gulch State Park. The Preliminary General Plan was sent to:

Resources Agency
California Coastal Commission
Coastal Conservancy
Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
Department of Transportation
Regional Water Quality Control Board - North Coast Region
Native American Heritage Commission
State Lands Commission
Bureau of Land Management
Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mendocino County Council of Governments
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department
Fort Bragg Planning Department
Supervisor Liz Henry, County of Mendocino
California Recreational Trails Committee
Sierra Club - Mendocino Chapter
Department of Anthropology, Sonoma State University
Sierra Club State Park Task Force
Mendocino Area Parks Association
Mendocino County Audubon Society
Fort Bragg Historic Preservation Committee for City General Plan Update
Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblyman Dan Hauser
31 Private Citizens

The public review period of 45 days ended February 24, 1995.

The Preliminary General Plan including the Environmental Impact Element, the Comments and Response to Comments constitutes the Final Environmental Impact Report for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CCR Section 15132) and will be presented to the State Park and Recreation Commission for their consideration in approval of the General Plan.

Following the comment letters are the responses to the comments. The numbered comments correspond to the numbered responses.



MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY

130 DANA STREET
FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA 95437
(707) 964-6333

22 February 1995

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

The Mendocino Coast Audubon Society's official response to the Preliminary General Plan at MacKerricher State Park is generally favorable. Our slant on the plan naturally is defined by concern for the ecosystems and their association of plants and animals, both marine and terrestrial. We understand the need to weigh these concerns against the demands of human use as a recreational and educational gold mine and feel basically those considerations are dealt with exceptionally well.

I do have specific comments which I will state as briefly as possible.

Our absolute NUMBER ONE concern is that no mention is made of the potential acquisition of GLASS BEACH. Teresa Sholars, of College of the Redwoods, Park representatives Bill Berry and Renee Pasquinelli, Pattie Campbell, the Mayor of Ft. Bragg, Gary Milliman, the City Planner, Diane Stewart, of the Planning Board, representatives of California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Mendocino Coast Audubon Society (MCAS), and other concerned organizations have worked long and hard studying ways to acquire this rare and threatened tiny stretch of our coastline. A plan for that eventuality needs to be included in the MacKerricher General Plan. Additionally, including GLASS BEACH in the General Plan was expressly suggested by Steve Horn of the California Coastal Conservancy as a first step toward their support of that acquisition.

2 Number two: I am dead against making Ten Mile River more accessible until there is more control over people and their dogs. Members of MCAS are participating in the Snowy Plover census and were appalled at the number of unleashed dogs chasing birds when we were there for the initial count. Signs need to be posted and enforcement needs to be stepped up. A stiffer fine for habitat disturbance of a Federally Listed Species might help, too. To increase access before establishing firmer control is the cart before the horse.

On the other hand, I am for providing an area for obedient dogs to be off their leashes. A number of the dogs seen at Ten

Mile were well-behaved and walking with their owners. Only one was truly out of control and racing through the heaviest concentration of plovers. Perhaps, unleashed dogs could be permitted along sections of the haul road. It is always a shame when all suffer for the inconsideration of a few.

I don't ride, but I love horses on the beach. Making sure the equestrian organization(s) and horse owners understand the importance of having restricted areas of access and limits to where they can ride will be sufficient.

Lastly, we are absolutely AGAINST opening the haul road to motorized traffic. If cars are allowed, the road becomes unusable for pedestrians. I think bicycles and foot-traffic should be the only allowable mode of transportation. People go there for the peace of enjoying our scenic coastline. Additionally, Parks does not have the personnel necessary to control the abuses that will arise if automobile/motor bike access is reestablished. Considerations for wheelchair accessibility to beaches can be made in enough places that opening the haul road to vehicular traffic for that reason will be unnecessary. People who need to drive to a beach rather than walk can use Pudding Creek and the beach north of Ten Mile River.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Ginny Oesterle
President
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society

Memorandum

To : Mr. Robert Ueltzen
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street
Sacramento, California 95816

Date: February 24, 1995

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: MacKerricher State Park General Plan, SCH# 95013019, Mendocino County

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the preliminary MacKerricher State Park General Plan. The General Plan covers the management proposals for dealing with natural, cultural, ethic, and recreational resources, land uses, facilities development, and other operations.

6 We generally support the plan. However, there are some omissions from the plan that should be addressed. Nesting attempts by western snowy plover were unsuccessful in 1994. Current protection is probably not adequate. Reduction of human activity in the vicinity of the existing nesting habitat is of key importance. The plan should also address the issue of maintaining low levels of use in any sensitive habitat areas. Within forested areas, dead and down woody material (logs) should be left to provide habitat for wildlife. Standing snags should only be removed in areas where they present a substantial safety risk, such as in campground areas.

7 The Department supports the classification of the dunes, Ingelnook Fen, and Ten Mile Beach as the "Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Beach Natural Preserve." These areas all contain high quality natural resources that deserve and require special protection. Management of these areas should be directed toward maintaining environmental conditions promoting the long-term survival of important habitats and species, especially the endangered plant, Howell's spineflower (*Chorizanthe howellii*), found nowhere in the world except the Ten Mile Dunes.

8 While the plan includes statements in several sections regarding the need to protect "rare plants," the language of page 58 under "Directive" does not adequately convey the Park's responsibilities in protecting populations of Special Plants, especially those that are State-listed Endangered or Threatened. The "Directive" should include, in addition to the requirements for protection, management plans, and surveys, language more consistent with that included on page 61 for Special Animals; for example, requirements that (1) listed and candidate species "shall be a high management priority," and (2) programs or projects shall be planned and designed so that special plants will not be adversely affected.

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
February 24, 1995
Page Two

8 | The document should state that formal consultation with the Department is required under CESA for any proposed activity that would potentially affect plants listed as Threatened or Endangered.

9 | This document does not appear to address the Department's previously stated concerns regarding impacts to the State-listed Threatened Howell's spineflower from trail and haul road rerouting and maintenance in the vicinity of Lake Cleone and elsewhere. We understood that this would be covered under the topic of "Vegetation Management."

10 | The document states on page 58 that "populations of ten special plant species occur within MacKerricher State Park (Table 5, Appendix C)." However, Appendix C does not contain a Table 5. Table C-1 within Appendix C lists 22 plant species under the heading "Special Plant Species & Rare Natural Communities of MacKerricher State Park" and does not designate which of these have actually been found within the Park.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Jack W. Booth, Wildlife Biologist, at (707) 468-0639; Ann Howald, Plant Ecologist, at (707) 944-5529; or Carl Wilcox, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (707) 944-5525.

Cindy Catalano
Acting Regional Manager
Region 3

cc: Ms. Teresa Sholars
California Native Plant Society
Post Office Box 2340
Mendocino, CA 95460

Ms. Jan Knight
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Sacramento Field Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer To:
1-1-95-TA-583

March 9, 1995

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: Comments on the Preliminary General Plan at MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County, California

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary General Plan at MacKerricher State Park (Park). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) supports MacKerricher State Park's commitment to identify, protect, and preserve sensitive resources and the Park's directive to protect and manage special status plants and animals for their perpetuation.

To further assist you in your efforts of conservation and protection of federally-listed, proposed and candidate species and their habitats, we recommend the following:

- 11 | 1) Recognize Howell's spineflower, *Chorizanthe howellii*, as a federally-listed endangered species. This species is known to occur in the area and should be granted full protection as provided under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).
- 12 | 2) Include a monitoring plan in the Special Plant Species Management Plan. The management plan should include regular monitoring of the threats, impacts, and population trends to determine management needs and evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented conservation activities. The Service is willing to provide technical assistance in the development of management plans for listed, proposed, and candidate species.
- 13 | 3) Explore further protection strategy options to assure conservation of habitat and associated species. Some options might include education and outreach to conserve the Park's sensitive habitats, conservation agreements with the Service for federally-listed and proposed species, designation of land specific to the conservation of plant and animal species, and acquisition of their occupied and un-occupied habitat.
- 14 | 4) Focus your surveys for red-legged frogs on the northern red-legged frog, *Rana aurora aurora*, rather than the California red-legged frog, *Rana aurora draytonii*, since the most recent Service information for the two subspecies indicates MacKerricher State Park is only within the range of the northern red-legged frog.

Mr. Robert Ueltzen

2

- 15
- 5) Protect the forest floor and coastal bluff areas from the effects of foot-traffic and off-road vehicle use where violets (*Viola spp.*) are found. Violets are the larval foodplants for the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene myrtleae*), listed as endangered under the Act, and the Behren's silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene behrensii*), proposed for listing under the Act. Surveys for these species should be conducted because if remnant butterfly populations are found, such areas may be essential to the survival of the species.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this response, please contact Matthew D. Vandenberg of my staff at 916/979-2752, for further discussion. Thank you for your concern about endangered species.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Medlin

Joel A. Medlin
Joel A. Medlin
Field Supervisor

cc: ARD-ES, Portland, OR

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH COAST AREA
45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
(415) 904-5260



24 February 1995

Northern Service Center
ATTN: Robert Ueltzen
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Commission staff has reviewed the preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park. The Plan appears to address adequately all Mendocino County Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan Policies regarding MacKerricher State Park.

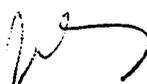
We notice that on Page 58 there is a section on Special Plants, which includes a directive that special plants within the park shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation, and that management plans will be developed for all special plant species found within the unit.

The Coastal Commission has taken on appeal (A-1-MEN-94-42) a County-approved land division on property adjacent to MacKerricher State Park (APN 069-052-04.) On this property are many specimens of the Point Reyes horkelia (Horkelia marinensis), which is listed as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society. Apparently the owners of the property, David Springer and Maryellen Sheppard, have spoken with Bill Berry, Director of State Parks in Mendocino County, regarding management of a conservation easement over the portions of their property that contain the horkelia.

16 The Commission has approved with conditions the land division, and has attached as a permit condition of approval a requirement that the applicants record an offer to dedicate an open space easement over certain portions of the property that contain the horkelia (as well as other sensitive habitat). Should the Department of Parks accept for management this easement, or possibly at some future time buy a portion of the property and incorporate it into MacKerricher State Park, the Coastal Commission would be greatly interested in having the rare and endangered horkelia protected and managed to perpetuate its growth, pursuant to Parks' directive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


JO GINSBERG
Coastal Planner

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street
Sacramento, Calif 95816

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

I have several comments on the general plan:

The sensitive plant list is not helpful because it includes many species that absolutely do not occur in the park (Blennosperma, Carex californica and Erigeron supplex.) It also leaves out many sensitive species that do occur in the park. A few of the sensitive species that occur in the park that are not listed in the plan are listed below.

(The following is from the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Species, 1994)

Plant/Family/Notes	CNPS List	R-E-D Code	State/Fed. List	Habitat
<u>Abronia umbellata</u> ssp. <u>breviflora</u> Nyctaginaceae "pink sand-verbena" Perennial herb July-September	1B	2-2-2	/C2	CoDns
<u>Boschniakia hookeri</u> Orobanchaceae "small groundcone" Perennial Herb (rhizomatous, parasitic) April-August Parasitic on <u>Gaultheria shallon</u> and <u>Vaccinium</u> spp.	2	3-1-1	CEQA	(NCFrs
<u>Collinsia corymbosa</u> Scrophulariaceae "round-headed chinese houses" Annual herb April-June	1B	2-2-3	CEQA	CoDns
<u>Hesperis matronalis</u> var. <u>brevifolia</u> Asteraceae "short-leaved evax" Annual herb April-June	4	1-2-1	CEQA?	CBScr, CoDns
<u>Listera cordata</u> Orchidaceae "heart-leaved twayblade" Perennial herb March-July	4	1-2-1	CEQA?	BgFns, LCFrs, NCFrs

17

- 18 | 2. I do not think that Lupinus bicolor is a common dune species (page 32)
- 19 | 3. I am concerned that the plan does not adequately address each sensitive species and how best to protect each species in its own specialized ecological niche. As it stands the plan does not address the protection of the sensitive species individually at all.
- 20 | 4. The newest Inventory edition (1994) should be used.

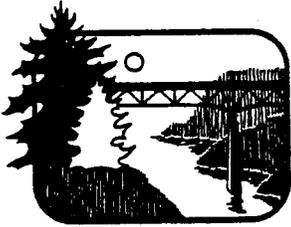
I would be happy to respond in further detail or to work with park personnel on this matter.

Sincerely,

Teresa Sholars
Teresa Sholars
DKY, CNPS Rare Plant Coordinator
Author of Lupinus (Jepson Manual)
Botanist, Science Coordinator
1211 Del Mar Drive
College of the Redwoods
Fort Bragg, Ca, 954372

xc:Cindy Catalano
Acting Regional Manager, Region 3
Department of Fish and Game

Renee Pasquinelle
State Park Ecologist
Mendocino Area State Parks



Fort Bragg Unified School District

Tony Sorci, Superintendent

312 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, California 95437-4499 Telephone (707) 961-2850 Fax (707) 964-5002

February 15, 1995

Rob Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Northern Service Center
1725 - 23rd Street #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

It has come to my attention that one of the proposed uses of Mackerricher State Park is as an outdoor education center. Fort Bragg schools are always interested in educational opportunities in the local environment.

Mackerricher Park offers many possibilities as an educational site. It is well known as one of the best marine mammal observation points. The easily accessible tidepools and sand dunes provide additional study areas.

An outdoor education center with trained naturalists would provide a valuable opportunity for local teachers wanting to expose their students to seashore ecology and natural history. The wise use and conservation of natural resources is a necessary part of public education. I believe Fort Bragg schools would take advantage of this type of facility in the future.

Thank you for considering our input in your planning process.

Sincerely,

Tony Sorci
Superintendent
Fort Bragg Unified School District



P.O. Box 942
Mendocino CA 95460
(707) 937-0722

A Recreational Outlet
for Orthopedically Impaired Children

1/27/95

To whom this concerns:

Recently I saw a copy of the MacKerricher General Plan Newsletter and noticed a reference to the creation of an outdoor education center. We at Camp Rubber Soul are very interested and supportive of this plan.

22 As a summer camp for disabled youth, one of our main objectives is to get these kids outside where they can enjoy and appreciate nature. In the past five years we have visited MacKerricher State Park often. With its combination of wooden walkways and varied aspects of nature it fits our needs well.

An outdoor education center with trained naturalists would provide an excellent opportunity for these kids to learn more about the natural world. This aspect of life is often limited for those with mobility impairments. We would consider using the facility for our program provided that it is engineered properly for ample wheelchair accessibility.

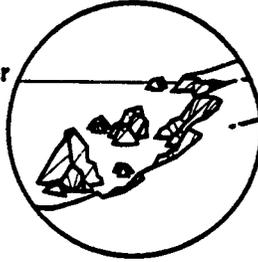
23 As a side note, the absence of wheelchair accessible bathrooms at the day-use area has been a major inconvenience. It would also be much appreciated if a wheelchair accessible trail could be built up to the Haul Rd. (north of the cave-in).

Thankyou for considering our input in your planning process.

In service,

Beth W. Szychowski
President
Board of Directors
Camp Rubber Soul

Pacific Environmental Education Center



February 20, 1995

Rob Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
1725-23rd Street #200
Sacramento, CA. 95816

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Pacific Environmental Education Center or PEEC has been in existence on the North Coast now for over 20 years. The center has been providing a complete local, scientific, outdoor educational program for thousands of students around Northern California since its beginning. Students from 5th through 7th grade participate in a hands on study of a variety of habitats in the area and enjoy a wonderful experience. The curriculum covered during their 5 day stay encompasses several key areas of study stated in the California State Science Framework. A program such as this brings the real world into the classroom and helps enrich the important scientific education of many California students.

Mackerricher is a popular state park locally and with a number of out of town visitors. The park is popular because one can experience "the marine and shore environments, sand dunes, marine terrace, wetland areas, geology, plant and animal life, and numerous cultural sites" *within its boundaries. As an outdoor recreational area the park offers something for everyone, as a site for an outdoor education facility Mackerricher makes perfect sense.

24 As president of the PEEC board of directors and a frequent visitor to Mackerricher I strongly urge the State of California Parks Department to join with PEEC and the two will greatly benefit. PEEC is currently in negotiations with the State Parks Department. It is encouraging that PEEC is mentioned in the memo announcing public comment of the Mackerricher general plan. I am writing to voice my comment and approval of this union.

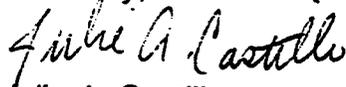
In the current general plan for the park, there are several sections that mention the idea of a facility for an environmental education center**. I urge you to take the opportunity PEEC is offering and make this idea become reality. Because it is an established business, PEEC will be able to immediately start running a program at a facility at Mackerricher. Already Mackerricher is a vital part of PEEC's program. Students spend part of their week studying various sites at the park. They are

24 currently being bussed from the Road 409 facility to Mackerricher. If the entire program takes place at Mackerricher, PEEC will be closer to the various study sites. The participants of the program will also develop an intimate relationship with the State Park System. The union of these two organizations is a logical evolution for both.

Economically, Mackerricher will benefit if PEEC moves in. The facility could be rented out during the park's busiest season, because PEEC operates in the fall and spring. In the winter the facility could be rented by other educational groups and retreat programs. PEEC itself will provide an income to the park. The PEEC program could be enriched and expanded by the involvement of park rangers. Likewise PEEC's naturalists will be spreading the message of conservation to our future land stewards. The opportunities for the two organizations are too numerous to mention in one short letter.

Again, I encourage you to continue the plans for an environmental education center (being PEEC) at Mackerricher. I welcome the chance to be involved in the decision making process. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Castillo
President of the Board

c.c. Bill Berry, Superintendent, Mendocino Coast State Parks

* Mackerricher General Plan, Land Use Element, Declaration of Purpose page 102.

** Mackerricher General Plan, Facility Proposals page 4

Interpretive proposals page 5

Impact Concerns, Facilities Element, Facilities Proposals for the Campground
page 165

Ned Harwood
26150 Bennie Lane
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Rob Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725 - 23rd Street #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

25 January 1995

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

I was very pleased to review a copy of the MacKerricher General Plan News recently. I want to encourage your attempts to share and preserve MacKerricher's beauty.

25 In particular, I want to express my sincere endorsement of the idea to establish an environmental education program at MacKerricher. I understand that park personnel are presently negotiating with the Pacific Environmental Education Center (PEEC) about implementing educational programs in the park for youths in the 6th and 7th grades. Nature studies can be so important for kids this age, and what better place to expose them to the great outdoors than MacKerricher.

Uniting PEEC, an educational organization with a proven track record, with the ecological diversity found at the park would do well to further MacKerricher's interpretive and recreational goals.

Best of luck with executing your general plan.

Sincerely,

Ned Harwood

Ned Harwood

cc: Bill Berry
Mendocino District Hdqs.

159 Jewett St.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
February 26, 1995

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

I apologize for my tardiness in writing to you regarding the MacKerricher S.P. General Plan, which I recently read through.

I was very favorably impressed by the document's scope and by the detailed understanding of this complex park which it demonstrated. I was particularly pleased by the emphasis placed on the protection of natural resources -- in particular, the Virgin Creek Beach area, the Inglenook Fen, and the Ten-Mile River area.

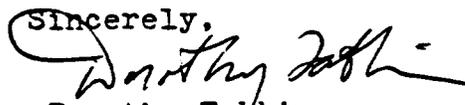
Of special importance to me and to the local chapter of Audubon for which I have been spokeswoman regarding planning for MacKerricher, is the promotion of protective efforts in relation to the roosting sites and historic nesting areas of the threatened coastal population of Western Snowy Plover.

We take issue with two items only. I mention them recognizing that your policies must often represent compromises between opposing points-of-view. These two are:

26 | The provisions for parking at Ten-Mile seem excessive. Please consider reduction to 10 or 15 spaces rather than 30. At present the unofficial parking area, which will hold 6 vehicles, is very rarely full. We understand that you need to provide a safe and legal place to park but believe 30 spaces is too many, even given the projected increase in population.

27 | We have considerable misgivings about continuing to allow horses in the park, as it seems to us they do a great deal of damage to a variety of natural resources; it also seems unlikely that they will be ridden only in the designated areas. We have been told that it is not possible for you to prohibit horseback-riding -- that we are saddled with them, so to speak. Is this true, or is it possible to consider that advantages of keeping them out of the park?

In conclusion, we are very pleased with almost all of the recommendations in this carefully researched document.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Popkin

Gloria Berlin
400 South Street #18
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Jan 12, 1995.

Dept. Parks + Rec.

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!
I'm so thrilled to read in your
#5 issue of MacKerracker News, that
you are planning to improve and
extend the Seal Road.

28
Would it be possible to add a
bench or two along the way?
If this is not in your plans, it's
O.K. Just improving the road is
simply wonderful!!

I'm a biker and really looking
forward to a longer ride.

Thanks again,
Gloria Berlin



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889
416 N. Franklin St.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
FAX 707-961-2802

January 20, 1995

Robert Veltzen
Northern Services Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Veltzen:

The City of Fort Bragg Planning Department has reviewed the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park. We offer the following comments:

Page 3-4

Support facilities proposals with special interest in the trestle, haul road and the southern entrance improvements to MacKerricher State Park.

Land Use Element, Map #9, "Southern Section"

29

Lands south of Pudding Creek, west of Highway 1, east of the Haul Road and north of Elm Street have different land use classifications.

Land Use Element, Map #11, "Southern Section"

The City would recommend acquiring the Glass Beach property west of Old Haul Road from Elm Street to the trestle. Public access is available at Elm Street and possibly other pocket beaches on the property, a parking lot on the south side of the trestle, public parking along Old Haul Road, and having park lands on both sides of Pudding Creek would be extremely beneficial to the citizens of the world.

30

Page 143, Appropriate Additions, #5

In relation to this recommendation, the Glass Beach property would be an ideal candidate for purchase. Access, a trail system, public parking and a "bookends" effect of park land on both sides of Pudding Creek should make this a top priority and be included in the twenty year plan.

Page 153, Facilities Element

Support Haul Road, Trestle Coastal Trail concept.

There may be another letter from Dave Goble, Assistant Public Works Director with comments regarding water and sewer capabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary General Plan. I wish you success in implementing the Plan.

Very truly yours,
Scott Cochran
Scott Cochran
Planning Director

SCC/brp
VELTZEN.LTR/PLAN95

ADMINISTRATION/ENGINEERING
(707) 961-2823

FINANCE/WATER WORKS
(707) 961-2825

BUILDING/PLANNING
(707) 961-2828



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889

416 N. Franklin St.

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

FAX 707-961-2802

February 1, 1995

Robert Ueltzen
Department of Parks & Recreation
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

I have reviewed only a small portion of the preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park provided to me by our City Planning Director. The areas reviewed were utilities on page 97 and Facilities Element on page 159 and I have only one minor correction and some information.

31 On page 159 reference is made to City water 2200 feet from the South MacKerricher Coastal Trail Access Facilities, when it is actually 600 feet from the facilities near the Pudding Creek Lift Station at Highway 1. Wells are permitted within the City Limits for domestic use in areas that do not have infrastructure available, however, once available the owner has 60 days to connect to the City system and convert the well to landscape use only with proper backflow prevention, or abandon the well. This is covered in Section 14.04.125 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code.

Plans and specifications have been completed to extend City utilities north from Pudding Creek to the City Limits. We currently have no time schedule for construction, as funding for this project is still being established.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your plan.

Sincerely,

David W. Goble
Assistant Public Works Director

DWG:cvw

B1PARK/DAVE95

Feb. 10, 1995

Dept. of Parks and Recreation,
Northern Service Center
1725 23rd St., #200
Sacramento, Ca. 95816
ATTN: Rob Ueltzen

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

I am writing in response to the preliminary draft general plan for MacKerricher State Park which is on file at the Fort Bragg public library.

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the effort that has gone into this preliminary general plan, particularly with respect to utilizing public input and incorporating it into the proposals.

Since I live adjacent to the park, it is of particular concern to me that its unique natural features be preserved. I was pleased to see that the bluffs adjoining the haul road, and the meadow connecting the haul road to Hwy. 1 near Virgin Creek Beach (footpath access) are designated as "Natural zone - appropriate public use encouraged" (Drawing #26790) and "Low use intensity" (Drawing #26788). I feel that these provisions honor the general public sentiment, to preserve and retain these natural areas.

32 I am, however, concerned by the intention to increase signage and establish prescribed trails along the bluffs adjacent to the haul road (Drawing #26791). It has been my experience that these measures are neither necessary nor appropriate, since closure of the road to motor vehicles. Over the years, this area has been enjoyed by visitors and local residents who have shown respect for the natural features, and it is my opinion that the best maintenance and assistance which the State Parks could provide for us, is your goodwill and noninterference with the integrity of the natural landscape.

Erosion of the bluffs, caused by rainfall and ground squirrel activity, is a natural occurrence which would not be slowed down by mandated trails or posted restrictions. In my opinion, the existing bluff trails, utilized by both wildlife and humans, are in harmony with the environment and non-harmful to geologic stability, or diversity of plants and animals. The addition of more signs and/or man-made trails would be an intrusion on the landscape.

As I mentioned before, there is a high degree of respect for this area among those people who leave their cars behind, and enjoy a long, quiet walk by the ocean. The various bluff trails

32

which exist are limited and well utilized. If the Parks Service wishes to carry out the wishes of a majority of regular haul road area users and visitors, it will desist from adding more signs or restricting access to the bluffs.

I think that maintenance of the haul road (pavement) and restoration of the Pudding Creek trestle are positive and useful projects! Also important are plans for campground expansion to accommodate more people in the years ahead.

Hopefully, the open spaces in the park can remain unspoiled, as places of beauty and freedom for the human spirit.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and your continued work on MacKerricher Park.

Sincerely yours,


Victoria Kraus

1250 N. MAIN ST.
FT. BRAGG, CA. 95437

Feb. 24, 1995

Northern Service Center
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

re: MacKerricher State
Park General Plan

Dear Sir:

Upon reading the general plan for the above mentioned park, several suggestions & questions come to mind. Please allow me to voice them.

33 That section of the Mendocino Coast line has been one of the attractions to visitors & residents for years & mainly because of its natural condition. Why is it deemed necessary to spend many taxpayers dollars to turn it into a park similar to those in southern California, i.e. Refugio Beach? Let it remain in its pristine condition. That is the allure.

34 If erosion is a real threat (it no doubt is) why not eliminate horse back riding & encourage only hiking & bicycling in designated areas?
35 Why fence in any of the dune

35

acres? Sand movement can easily (2)
 curtail the benefit of such an under-
 taking & will do nothing to discourage
 visitors.

36

One consideration that I have not
 found discussed in the general plan
 is moorings for sailing vessels that
 are traversing the Mendocino coast.
 With the current activity in Eureka to
 encourage sea travel, it could be advant-
 ageous to have some sort of facility
 to promote added visitors to the park.
 Anchoring would greatly disturb the
 ocean plants where moorings would not.

37

If money must be spent on MacKerricher
 Park in some manner, how about restoring
 the haul road, making the entire Ten
 Mile Beach accessible to cars? For fifty
 years & more, our family members were
 able to explore & enjoy the area. Now some
 of us are unable to hike the distance
 needed to get to the beach. What a sad
 thing it was when the road eroded
 & washed out & no one cared enough
 to repair it to a usable condition.

The above are only a few remarks
 I wish to make & I'm not sure they will
 have any impact on your plans. At
 least I will have said what I feel.
 Thank you.

Sincerely,
 (Mrs.) J. Brush
 PO Box 532
 Albion, Ca.

93410



NOYO RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

PO BOX 91
FORT BRAGG. CA 95437

February 14, 1995

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
P.O. Box 94286-0001
Sacramento, CA 94286-0001

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and make any comments on the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park. I do have a couple of comments that I will address below concerning the Native American text of the plan:

Page 46 - Paragraph 6 and Page 186 - Paragraph 1 (both the same concern)

The last sentence must be changed, especially the after-thought words (and many Indians left, some going to Round Valley.)

38 FACT: When the Mendocino Reservation was abandoned, any Indians visible, including the local Pomos and coastal Yukis, were rounded up like cattle and driven by the soldiers to Round Valley. This atrocity was our own coastal "Trail of Tears" as told to me by my grandmother. I was told that Indian women who had young babies, who couldn't keep up, were hit in the head by rifle butts of the government soldiers on horseback and left to die by the trail with babies still sucking on their breasts. My childrens great-grandparents were also rounded up and driven to Round Valley with the other Indians but ran away after three days making the long journey back to the coast. They lived long and productive lives along the Mendocino Coast and both are buried in the Fort Bragg area.

Page 205 - SPECIAL EVENTS

39 Please add to large groups etc. paragraph after the words:

foot races, wedding receptions, club activities, NATIVE AMERICAN festivities, etc.

MacKerricher General Plan
February 14, 1995
Page 2

Generally, this Mackerricher Preliminary General Plan appears very ambitious with many strong features. I would like Native American history to be portrayed accurately and truthfully in all documents being currently developed and published for the public if at all possible. Please take under consideration my comments and use what you can. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harriet Stanley-Rhoades

Harriet Stanley-Rhoades
P.O. Box 91
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

HSR/hs

cc: Valerie Stanley
Robina Rafanan

Memorandum

: ROBERT UELTZEN
Department of Parks & Recreation
1725 - 23rd Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Date : February 15, 1995
File No. : 1-Men-1-64.87
MacKerricher State
Park General Plan
SCH #95013019

From : DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - District 1
P. O. Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502-3700

Subject : MacKerricher State Park Preliminary General Plan/DEIR

We have reviewed the MacKerricher State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the development and expansion of the existing State Park facilities, located north of Fort Bragg, west of Route 1, from Pudding Creek north to Ten Mile River, and offer the following comments:

40 | The concept for this segment of Route 1 is a two-lane conventional highway with 12-foot lanes and four-foot shoulders. We recommend that the final EIR adopt the Caltrans highway concept for this segment of Route 1.

41 | Caltrans' right of way adjacent to park lands consists of a range of ownership including access controlled, prescriptive rights, easements and fee title. We recommend a corridor preservation setback of 50 feet as measured from centerline for this segment of Route 1. Such a setback is consistent with the route concept and the Highway Design Manual for two-lane highway widths. The setback would allow for work on the State highway, including the development of four-foot shoulders (primarily for bicycle and pedestrian use), minimize the chance of disrupting property improvements, and help protect the improvements from adverse highway impacts such as dust and noise. Improvements within the setback should not include required parking areas.

42 | We understand from discussion with Joanne Weiler of your staff on January 26, 1995, that there are basically three areas adjacent to Route 1 where access to Route 1 may be improved as a part of the General Plan: 1) at Pudding Creek Beach (the parking lot will be paved); 2) at South MacKerricher Coastal Trail Access parking area (the parking lot will be paved and expanded from 30 to 60 spaces); and 3) at the Caltrans mixing table just south of Ten Mile River (the parking lot will be increased from 5 to 30 spaces). Joanne also indicated that she has discussed the proposed plans for access to Route 1 with Royal McCarthy, Caltrans Permit Engineer.

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
February 15, 1995
Page 2

43 Caltrans cannot release the "mixing table" south of Ten Mile River to the jurisdiction of MacKerricher State Park, nor allow its use as a parking facility, because Caltrans uses the "table" for temporary storage of materials used in the repair and maintenance of Highway 1. We therefore recommend that references to providing parking at the mixing table south of Ten Mile River be deleted from the General Plan.

44 Any of the existing or proposed accesses to Route 1 should be upgraded or built to Caltrans current public road approach standards (in accordance with Chapter 400, Index 405.7 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual). Any work within the State highway right of way as a result of this project will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans (per 1991 Statutes relating to the California Department of Transportation, Chapter 3, Articles 1 and 2). The encroachment permit application submittal must include a copy of the lead agency's conditions of project approval. Provisions for adequate sight distance and turning geometrics are the responsibility of the applicant. Early consultation on engineering plans and drainage plans that affect State highway right of way is recommended. Requests for encroachment permit application forms can be sent to Caltrans District 1 Permits Office, P. O. Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502-3700, or requested by phone at (707) 445-6390.

45 The Directive on page 56 of the Plan under "Pacific Coast Highway/State Highway 1", indicates that the Department of Parks and Recreation "shall review all proposed repair, maintenance, or development plans for those sections of State Highway 1 that are adjacent to or in physical or visual proximity to park resources." Caltrans development projects (such as highway widening and adding pullouts) adjacent to the Park will continue to be reviewed by the public and other State agencies. Caltrans repair and maintenance projects (such as the removal of landslides) are not distributed for public/other agency comment, unless the project has the potential of having a significant impact on resources adjacent to the highway. Therefore, we recommend that the above mentioned Directive on page 56 of the General Plan be removed.

Mr. Robert Ueltzen
February 15, 1995
Page 3

We would appreciate receiving a copy of the final environmental document, and any conditions of approval and required mitigations. Should you have any questions, please call Dave Carstensen at (707) 441-5813.



CHERYL S. WILLIS, Chief
Transportation Planning and
Public Transportation Office

cc:Michael Chiriatti
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hot Dragg, &
Feb. 4, 1995

Rob Helman
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

Dear Sir -

In regards to the plan for Mc-Kerricher State Park and Mill Creek Drive -

We purchased our property in Cloone from Frank Hyman in 1945 - He told us, at that time, that we would have a deeded right of way from our home down Mill Cr. Dr. to the beach.

46 We attended the dedication of the park and heard the Parks Dept. assure Mr. Hyman that that road would always be open to the residents of this area -

Since that time we (including Mr. Hyman, until he died) have had to fight your Dept. continuously to keep this right - We are tired of the hassle.

47 If your chief concern is about filtering (which is no worse here than elsewhere) why don't you do the obvious and move your entrance building to the junction of the access road and Mill Creek Drive.

Your main entrance to the Park in the bottom of the Creek flood plain was a stupid mistake to begin with - It flooded every winter and being we have had a winter as of years ago you will realize this - More money (taxpayers) wasted!

48 Mill Creek Drive has been a County road since before the park was ever built - my husband used to drive there

and catch the bus on to the woods up
Ten Mile River -

Also it might be prudent for you to contact
The Oregon Parks Dept and ask about their
parks with direct beach access - no fee - The
park at Brookings is an example -

We believe that State Parks should also
benefit local people and if they close our
road that would cease -

49 We drive to the beach at least five times
a week and know many other serious and
young families who do the same. We
could neither afford the cost of a fee or
the walk from a parking lot near Hwy #1 -

Please consider all of this before you
make a serious mistake -

Thank you -

Coralene Peeler
Alvin Peeler

32620 Mill Creek Drive
Fort Bragg, Ca - 95437

707-964-2992



RAYMOND HALL
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
(707) 964-5379

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

February 13, 1995

MAILING ADDRESS:
143 WEST SPRUCE STREET
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437

Robert Ueltzen
Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: MacKerricher State Park General Plan

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the preliminary plan for MacKerricher State Park. I found it informative, well-written and thorough.

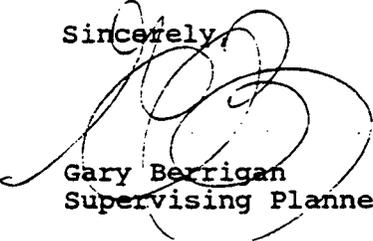
The Plan identifies and discusses various policies of the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) as they apply to MacKerricher. Of particular importance is the issue of Mill Creek Drive. On page 163, the Plan states:

"The Department will notify park visitors and local residents before implementing solutions that will affect Mill Creek Drive (emphasis added)."

50
If the Department proposes to implement either of the identified closure options, it will be necessary to do more than "notify" the public. A coastal development permit from the County also will be required prior to any closure. The Coastal Act and the County's LCP define "development" requiring a coastal permit as, among other things, a "...change in the intensity of use of water, or of access thereto..." (emphasis added)." It is very important that the General Plan recognize that any closure may be implemented only after a coastal permit has been obtained. This will require the Department to work closely with the Board of Supervisors and local residents to achieve an acceptable solution.

I would be happy to provide you with any further information or answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,


Gary Berrigan
Supervising Planner

GLB:am
letter.uelzen

cc: Liz Henry, Supervisor, 4th District
Raymond Hall, Director
Alan Falleri, Chief Planner



C.F. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR

Ex Officio
Roads Commissioner - County Surveyor
County Engineer

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482
(707) 463-4363
FAX (707) 463-5474

17 February 1995

DIVISIONS

Administration & Business
Airports
Engineering and Technical Assistance
Land Improvement
Transportation/Roads

Mr. Rob Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Northern Service Center
1725 - 23rd Street #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: MACKERRICHER STATE PARK PRELIMINARY DRAFT GENERAL PLAN
MILL CREEK DRIVE (CR 425)

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Upon reading of the availability of the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park in Issue #5 of *MacKerricher General Plan News*, we reviewed the subject document. With the goal of increasing safety for park visitors, the Facilities Element of the General Plan (page 163) includes several proposed options for Mill Creek Drive, CR 425. In reference to those options, we offer the following comments for your consideration:

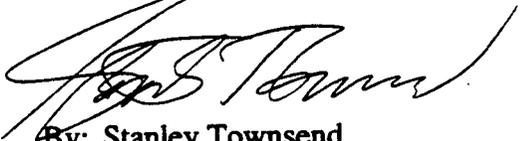
- 51 | 1. Option No. 1 suggests the "nighttime only" closure of Mill Creek Drive. Based upon our understanding of Streets and Highways Code Section 942.5, closure or restriction of a County Highway can only be accomplished by authority of the Board of Supervisors. Streets and Highways Code Section 966 "...provides for the erection and maintenance of gates on the county highways to avoid the necessity of building highway fences", and would not apply to the situation proposed for remedy.
- 52 | 2. Option No. 5a suggests the posting of a low speed limit on Mill Creek Drive. We have previously responded to this issue in our 31 August 1994 letter to James E. Stillwill of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, in response to his request for the posting of a 15 MPH speed limit (copies of letters attached for reference). To reiterate, County Highways are subject to requirements and regulations of both the Streets and Highways Code and Vehicle Code. We are not aware of any provision that would allow the reduction of the speed limit to 15 MPH on a road such as Mill Creek Drive.

- 53
3. Option No. 5b suggests the construction of several speed bumps on Mill Creek Drive. Such installation would require obtaining an encroachment permit from the Department of Public Works. Because of safety considerations, we do not consider speed bumps to be an acceptable method of traffic control on County Roads.
- 54
4. Option No. 5c suggests the installation of stop signs "*... on the road at its intersections with the park entrance road and/or the Pinewood Campground entrance.*" If the proposal is to stop traffic which would be entering onto the County Road, we have no comment. If the proposal is to stop Mill Creek Drive traffic, please note that the Caltrans Traffic Manual sets forth specific warrants for the installation of stop signs on County Roads. Such installations should only be installed where warranted by facts and field studies, and as authorized by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Accident records would be a primary factor in consideration of a stop sign installation. The installation of stop signs for the sole purpose of slowing traffic is not consistent with the policy for the use of such signs. Department of Public Works would review any and all such requests for traffic controls on the County road.

As stated in our previous letter, we would be glad to work with your department to find mutually satisfactory solutions which best serve the public interest. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

C.F. Campbell,
Director of Public Works



By: Stanley Townsend
Deputy Director

cc: Supervisor Henry, Fourth District Supervisor
Ray Hall, Department of Planning and Building Services
CR 425

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
RUSSIAN RIVER - MENDOCINO DISTRICT
MENDOCINO SECTOR
P. BOX 440
Mendocino, California 95460
(707) 937-5804

August 14, 1994

C.F. Campbell
Director
County of Mendocino
Department of Public Works
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Campbell:

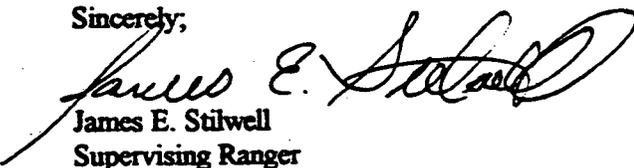
The State Park Staff of Mendocino Sector has some concerns about the current speed limits of county roads in state parks and of the public's safety on these roads. Mill Creek Road in MacKerricker State Park and Heeser Drive in Mendocino Headlands State Reserve have visitors walking and bicycling along the road edge daily.

Mill Creek Road is currently posted 25 mph. It's narrow without a shoulder and at several different points along this road two vehicles can not pass each other safely when there are people walking. This road is heavily used by hikers and bicyclists accessing the beach, lagoon, campground, and the Haul Road. Park visitation has increased by a factor of eight (8) times since the road was originally built. There is a long gradual incline that tends to accelerate westbound traffic which ends at a dog-leg curve with vegetation along the road way causing restricted visibility which creates a hazardous environment for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. There is a campground entrance along Mill Creek Road which adds to the use by hikers, bicyclists and motorists. At campground entrance there is also heavy vehicle use due to vehicles entering and exiting the campground. There are a number of places along the road where visitors cross from Cleon Lake to fish, to go to the beach, and to use the Haul Road. The current speed of 25 mph is too fast for the existing foot and bicycle traffic. We request that the posted speed limit on this road be reduced to 15 miles per hour for public safety.

Heeser Drive is currently posted at 35 mph and is heavily used by tourists and residents alike on foot and bicycles. Daily visitors to the park are walking and crossing this drive for whale watching, hiking, and bicycling. Many people walk down from the town of Mendocino along Heeser Drive to gain access to the trails and the beach areas. Although; the road has a good center line and is wide enough to allow for good traffic flow the speed is excessive when pedestrians are present. The standard speed, for visitor safety in parks, when there are no campsites present is 25 miles per hour. We also request that the posted speed limit be reduced to 25 miles per hour for visitor safety.

We thank you for giving this request consideration and we hope that you will commit your resources to reducing the speeds on Mill Creek Road and Heeser Drive.

Sincerely,


James E. Stilwell
Supervising Ranger
Central and North Sectors



C.F. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR

Ex Officio
Road Commissioner - County Surveyor
County Engineer

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482
(707) 463-4363
FAX (707) 463-5474
August 31, 1994

DIVISIONS

- Administration & Business
- Airports
- Engineering and Technical Assistance
- Land Improvement
- Transportation/Roads
- Solid Waste Management

State Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Russian River Mendocino District
Mendocino Sector
P. O. Box 440
Mendocino, CA 95460

Attn: James E. Stilwell

Dear Mr. Stilwell:

PUBLIC WORKS	
	H. ARNOLD
✓	B. PARKER
	W. BILSTEIN
	C. BOYER
	C. CAMPBELL
	C. DALZELL
✓	D. ELLINGER
	A. GIALDINI
	V. JACOBS
	G. POOL
✓	S. FORD
	S. TOWNSEND
	L. WEER
	D. WHITE
✓	CR No. 425

With reference to your letter of 14 August 1994 regarding Speed Limits on portions of both Heezer Drive, CR No. 407FF and Mill Creek Drive, CR No. 425. I've had an opportunity to review your suggestions/request and offer the following for consideration.

Mill Creek Drive, CR 425

County Highways are of course subject to requirements/regulations of both the Streets and Highways Code and Vehicle Code and I'm not aware of any provision that would allow us to reduce the speed limit to only 15 MPH on a road like Mill Creek Drive. In this regard.....if the State has special authority to establish a 15 MPH on similar roads under State control, please provide us a copy and we will look at it for applicability to a County Highway.

While recognizing that it may not have represented peak traffic use conditions, when I reviewed the road last Wednesday afternoon.....in general, what I saw would lend itself to resolution thru operational changes rather than imposition of a 15 MPH speed limit.

Although we look forward to reviewing the situation with you in the field, the issue of immediate concern is:

The park has removed all road shoulder areas and while recognizing it eliminates vehicle parking.....it also forces any pedestrian type traffic onto the roadway itself. The Park needs to establish formal pedestrian walkways to get them off the roadway.

Page 2

With established walkways and formal pedestrian crossings, we can provide appropriate advisory signing.

Our experience is that you have to reduce the opportunity for conflict rather than depending on an unenforceable speed limit. Separate walkways and trails will best remove those conflicts.

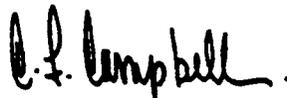
Heezer Drive, CR No. 407FF

Again pointing out that we are governed by the Vehicle Code, et. al.....while we generally support the suggested 25 MPH Speed Limit.....it would most likely not be applicable to established warrants. You mention that the State has a "Standard Speed" for such situations and a copy of your regulations may assist us in a 25 MPH Speed Limit consideration.

Again.....as at Mill Creek Drive, the State has created some operational problems (in terms of pedestrian-vehicle conflicts) by installing the log barriers so close to the edge of the pavement. While eliminating vehicle parking along the road.....in the process and without formal pedestrian walkways, you have forced the pedestrians onto the travelway. You need (in our opinion) to proceed quickly to establish walkways to accommodate pedestrian traffic. Additionally, based on my review of 24 August 1994, all parking on the east side of the road has been eliminated and there is only limited / rudimentary parking on the west side. It forces people to walk on the roadway which is adequate for vehicular traffic but not both vehicles and pedestrians.

Please send us a copy of applicable State regulations regarding speed limits and look forward to discussing these issues with you to find a mutually satisfactory means of providing facilities to best serve the public.

Sincerely,



C. F. CAMPBELL,
Director of Public Works

CFC/vj

cc: Supervisor de Vall
Supervisory Henry
CR Nos. 407FF and 425

Attention: Rob Veltzen

31375 Airport Rd
Fort Bragg Ca 95437
Feb. 7, 1995.

Dear Sir,

I have read your MacKerricher General Plan News:

55 | First, let me tell you that I was present at the meeting at
The Town Hall in Fort Bragg along with many other concerned
citizens when you were proposing closing the Mill Creek Road.
I came across your news letter strictly by accident and I
protest the fact that all the people who were at that meeting
probably did not even know your news letter is out.

We are the public, we have enjoyed unlimited access
to Cleone Park since we were children - 57 yrs.

I have comments on your options listed on page 4

56 | 1) do not close the road - day or night

2) go ahead and fence and or close the Parking Lots
not the road at night.

3) video surveillance of the traffic on the road is O.K,
but according to your ranger the stealing goes on in
the campground.

4) out of the question: how can you afford the personal
to police this?

5) Low speed limits, stop signs, speed bumps are all
good ideas.

6) # sounds really good.

57 | final comment: It ~~will~~ would be really nice if you
would post your suggestions in The Advocate, Press
Democrat or Mendocino Beacon, also at The Sporting
Good Stores etc so that the General Public will
know what's going on before it's too late.

Sincerely

Ronald N. & Jo Ann Mitchell
31375 Airport Rd
Fort Bragg Ca 95437

P.O. Box 2831
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
March 7, 1995

Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
Attn.: Rob Ueltzen
1725 23rd St., #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: MacKerricher State Park

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

58 | We are requesting your careful consideration regarding the issue of MacKerricher State Park and the proposed closing of Mill Creek Drive. As long time lovers of the North Coast, this area has been a special privilege as part of our lives, one that is unique and precious on the coast of California. Never have we seen any abuse of the sand dunes, Haul Road, or any areas in or around MacKerricher at any time. We do understand your commitment to protecting public land, and we honor that responsibility as individuals, and we feel Fort Bragg as a community respects that position.

59 | It would be so very helpful if the June 1995 proposed hearing to solidify the General Plan could be held in Fort Bragg. This issue does affect so many residents of our area, and the State needs to hear our voices and concerns, as even though many tourists enjoy passing through this area, we residents are truly the daily custodians of this cherished area.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. & Mrs. Michael A. Hamann

Thank you!

February 8, 1995

Dear Sir,

Please do what you are able to do in keeping the beach free and open to Cleone Lake and beach. We and our families spend a lot of time ^{there} because if we had to pay. We spend all our vacations (several a year, almost monthly) in Fort Bragg. Its easy to get to the beach and a good place to walk for our exercise. If we had to pay to go to the beach we would go up into Oregon and not be in Fort Bragg at all.

Thank you in advance for giving this a great deal of thought.

60

Yours truly,
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Donaldson

P.O. Box 2831
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
February 6, 1995

Rob Uelzen
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center 1725-23rd St. - #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Uelzen:

61 It has been called to my attention that there is a possibility that Mill Creek Road near the Cleone Lake may be closed or abandoned by the county sometime in the future. This is very distressing to me, as one of the reasons my husband and I moved to this area was to have easy access to fishing and walking on nearly a daily basis. Being that we are nearly retired, we cannot foresee that we would have the money easily available to pay for parking or fees. There is really no other greater reason to relocate to Northern California than to know that nature can easily become a way of life for you. Please do not change this area so that it becomes another Southern California, where 62 walking on the beach is a luxury (unless you own a beach front home!), parking is very expensive, and the crowds are unsettling at best.

I appeal to you for your protection and respect of this pristine area.
Thank you so much.

Very Sincerely,



Margaret M. Hamann

ANDY JOHNSTON

LAND SPECIALIST

PLS 4141

707-964-3610

Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Feb. 23, 1995

Attn: Robert Ueltzen

RE: MacKerricher State Park

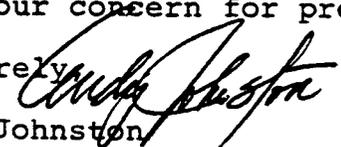
Dear Mr. Ueltzen;

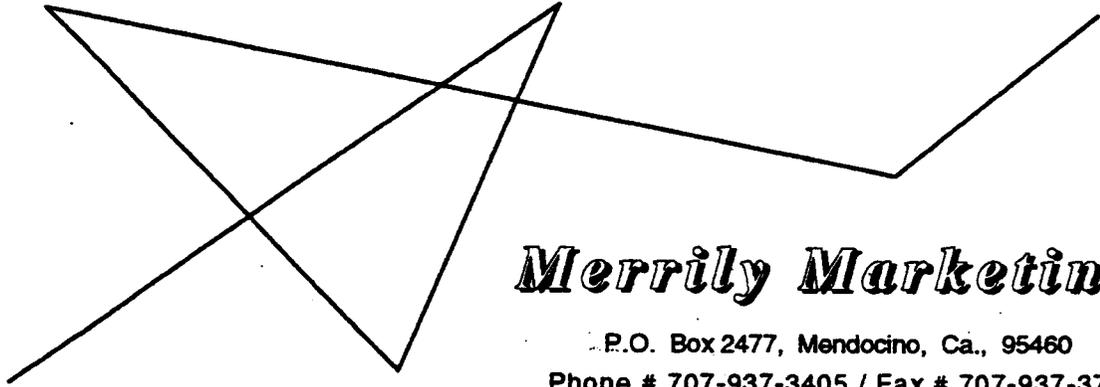
I have finished reading the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher Park and wish to make three points as an adjacent property owner that owns almost all of the Virgin Creek area adjacent to and Easterly of the park on both sides of the creek to Highway One.

- 63
1. My family has owned the above property and lived here since the 1930's. We have always had free access to the beach. We will not let that right be taken away including the public right to use Mill Creek Dr. as stipulated in recorded documents by Frank Hyman who provided the PUBLIC with that roadway.
 - 64 2. Horses have no place South of Laguna Pt. on St. Parks property. You make endless statements in the plan with references to erosion on the bluff and trails areas. Take the horses off that area and most of your erosion problem will be resolved, they DO NOT stay on the designated trails.
 - 65 3. I was disappointed more emphasis was not given to Lake Cleone. You should see the kids fishing there in the Summertime. Maintain the fishery and trout planting program it is one of the most attractive recreational features on the coast.

As neighbors we appreciate your concern for preservation.

Sincerely,


Andy Johnston



Merrily Marketing

P.O. Box 2477, Mendocino, Ca., 95460
Phone # 707-937-3405 / Fax # 707-937-3710

Mr. Rob Ueltzen,
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
No. Service Center
1725-23rd St. #200
Sacramento, Ca, 95816

2-3-95

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

It has just come to my attention the possible closing of Mill Creek Drive in Fort Bragg. I thought this matter had been resolved and it was with great dismay that I found out it wasn't.

66 I have been on the coast since 1973, working as the Park manager of The Woods home park, and selling mobile homes, for 15 years...more recently, selling real estate and managing the Good Book, a Christian book store. With many of my clients, in "selling" them on the joys of the coast, I take them to MacKerricher Park. It offers so much of the vital energy and impact of beauty and nature to our very existence here on the coast. My great delight in showing people around, is to take them to see our sealife and vibrant sunsets that abound there. It is representative of everything that is good about why we choose to live here, and not somewhere else.

To restrict the use of this park is totally unacceptable to all of us who live and work here.....and I'm sure the tourists would be greatly disappointed also. Is it fair to make thousands and thousands of people unhappy in order to make .000001 of the populace happier? I think not!

66 Access to MacKerricher Park, and in my case, primarily the beach and headlands, is not only my place of escape, but also my place of grounding and joy. I go there several times a month. Before my injury, I went a few times a week. (I'm now on disability). Also, I would like you to keep in mind that I live in LittleRiver. I do not only go to the park when I just happen to be up in Fort Bragg. I also make many trips from home where that is my only destination.

To deprive others and myself of the privileges we now enjoy, is like taking away our back yard, a part of our home. Dare I say, we might feel like a native American facing the hoards of white men building towns and fences on their lands and depriving them of what was once open and free?

Respectfully Yours,

Merrily Pence

Peter M. Swan
16575 Franklin Rd.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

3/1/95

Dear Mr. Veltjen,

I'd like to request
that the State Parks
Dept. HOLD THE FINAL
HEARING ON THE

NATURE PRESERVE

N. of Mackerricher Park

here in Fort Bragg.

We, the people of
Fort Bragg & the
vicinity are the
users of this beach,
mainly. THANKS,
Peter M. Swan

67

DANA LEW
3305 BEAL W
FT. BRAGG, CA -
FEB. 22, 1995

ROBERT VELITZ, NORTHEAST SERVICE CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA. 94296-0001

DEAR MR. VELITZ,

AS A NEIGHBOR AND LANDOWNER LIVING NEAR
THE NORTHEAST EDGE OF THE SAND DUNES, NOW A
PART OF WILKERRICKER STATE PARK, I HAVE READ
WITH GREAT INTEREST THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL
PLAN FOR ITS FUTURE. I WAS INVOLVED IN A
GROUP FOR SEVEN YEARS CALLED "FRIENDS OF THE
TEN MILE DUNES" THAT ORGANIZED FOR THE EXPRESS
PURPOSE OF CONVINCING DPR OF THE NEED TO
ACQUIRE THE UNDEVELOPABLE SAND PORTIONS
OF THE LANDS FROM CLEONE TO TEN MILE RIVER.
WE HAD THE VISION OF PRESERVING THIS DUNE
AREA FOR PARK USERS AND ELIMINATING PIECE-
MEAL DEVELOPMENT BY PRIVATE PARTIES THAT
COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DEGRADATION ESPECI-
ALLY ORV USE. WE ALSO WERE FOCUSED ON
DUNE STABILIZATION AS OUR PROPERTIES ON
BEALLANE WERE BEING THREATENED BY SAND
MOVEMENT CAUSED BY ORV USE.

68 | I AM IN SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR AREAS OF
THE PLAN AS IT REALIZES THE FRAGILE NATURE
OF THE AREAS FROM TINGLE CREEK TO TEN

68 MILE RIVER AND THINK A BOARDWALK TRAIL
FROM THE WIKING TABLE AS AN ENTRANCE AT THE
NORTHERN END IS A GOOD SOLUTION. IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THE OIL-
69 TRAYS MIXING TABLE ON MAP #13 WHERE THE
BOX LABELED "10 MILE RIVER" DESCRIBES THE PLAN
TO SITE THE PARKING LOT AND TRAIL. AT PRESENT,
IT POINTS TO AN AREA FURTHER NORTH.

70 DPR NEEDS TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO
THWART ORU ACTIVITY AND, WHEN A PLAN IS
IN PLACE, THE BLM PARCEL MUST BE ACQUIRED.
EFFORT NEEDS TO BE CONTINUED TO PURCHASE
THE SMITH PROPERTY TO COMPLETE THE BOUNDARIES
AND ACCESS OPTIONS.

71 P. 180 STATES "NATIVE DUNE PLANTS HAVE BEEN
LARGELY SUPPLANTED BY EUROPEAN BEACH GRASS."
I HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE 1971 AND AT THAT TIME ALL
NATIVE VEGETATION WAS SPARSE, AS ORU'S DESTROY-
ED MUCH OF WHAT GREW IN THIS AREA. ONCE THIS
ACTIVITY WAS PREVENTED, THE NATIVES MADE A
STUNNING COMEBACK. I TAKE EXCEPTION TO THIS
THEORY OF MASSIVE ENCROACHMENT. IT IS VERY
WELL ENTRENCHED IN THE AREAS WHERE IT WAS
PLANTED AND CARED FOR, I.E. ALONG THE HAUL RD.
AND AT THE END OF BEAL LAKE, WHERE IT HAS
THICKENED AND PROSPERED. THE ^{ONCE} BARE DUNE AREAS
NOW HAVE NATIVE PLANTS BUNCHING UP ON SOME
AND GRASS ON OTHERS. I HAVE NOT OBSERVED
NATIVES BEING SMOOTHED BY GRASS GROWING
ALONG SIDE AND ENGULFING THEM, AS "SUPPLANTED"
WOULD INDICATE. THE GRASSY AREA NEAR BEAL
LAKE IS WELL WEST OF FLOWER HABITAT AND SHOULD
BE LEFT ALONE TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR
AREA FROM DRIFTING SAND.

72

SINCE THE FLOW OF SAND OVER ANY BOARDWALK TRAIL WOULD BE PROTECTED BY THE EUROPEAN DUKE GRASS, DO NOT BE TOO HASTY IN REMOVAL SAME, AS IT WILL REQUIRE A LARGE INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL AND LABOR TO ESTABLISH SOMETHING IN ITS PLACE. WITHOUT PROTECTION, THIS NEW BOARDWALK WILL BE IN CONSTANT NEED OF RESCUE. THE INTENSE LOGGING OF THE 10 MILE WATERSHED IN 1993 + 1994 SHOULD PRODUCE A BUMPER CROP OF MOVING SAND FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

DUE TO THEIR LACK OF EVOLVING AND LEARNING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR YOUNG, THE SURVIVAL OF THE PLOVER PROBABLY DEPENDS ON FORBIDDING HUMANS AND DOGS FROM USING THE BEACH IN THEIR NESTING AREA. SPENDING LARGE SUMS ON GRASS REMOVAL MAY NOT ACCOMPLISH MUCH ON THEIR BEHALF.

PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED AS THIS PROCESS CONTINUES.

Sincerely -

David Lee

C.C. WILLIAM BERRY

February 23, 1995

Robert Ueltzen
Northern California Service Center
Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

The following letter constitutes my response to the preliminary plan for MacKerricher State Park. I reside on Beal Lane just north of MacKerricher Park on the west side of Highway 1 just adjacent to the coastal dunes. The beach is a ten minute walk out my front door through the dunes. I walk this area from the fen to the mouth of Ten-Mile River more than several times a week. I have owned property in this location for five years and have been a coastal resident with a fondness for this particular area of coastline for twenty years.

73 I am not a trained botanist or ecologist but my love of natural beauty and the outdoors makes me very observant of the areas I frequent. It has been claimed that the European dune grass has invaded the native plant habitat, endangering species native to the area. I do not find this to be true. The dune grass does proliferate in those areas where it has been planted. However, it appears to have been planted for a reason: to stop the movement of sand across the haul road used for many years by Georgia Pacific, and to stabilize the dunes immediately adjacent to the occupied residential areas of Beal Lane and Ocean View Drive. The dunes have encroached on these residential areas in previous years collapsing and swallowing entire parcels of land with sand. These areas appear to be somewhat more stable as a result of dune grass planting.

It is my feeling that the tremendous climatic variations of freezing temperatures and drought that we have experienced in the last decade have impacted both dune grass and native plant populations causing them to retreat. I do not see that one population has taken over the other. The dune grass proliferates along the haul road and on the dunes to the east, adjacent to residences. Between these areas are bare stretches of dunes with localized areas of native plants and dune grass here and there, somewhat independent of one another.

74 It is also claimed that the snowy plover habitat has been encroached upon by the dune grass. My study of these birds and their habits during classes at the College of the Redwoods, indicates that these birds nest right out in the open in sand depressions with no cover. These nesting grounds suffer from increases human activity as more people come to enjoy the beauty of the northcoast. This will not change since the general plan promotes additional public access to this recreational area. Dune grass removal will neither enhance nor increase these nesting grounds.

75 I would strongly urge that a clause be inserted into the general plan specifically stating that there be no dune grass removal on those dunes immediately adjacent to residential areas affected by this plan. Please allow what stabilization effort has taken place here be allowed to remain.

Lastly, I would like to give my complete support to the proposed bicycle path from Fort Bragg to the Ten Mile River. This would be a wonderful asset to the park as a recreational area.

Sincerely,

Tenaya Middleton
33151 Beal Lane
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(This letter was retyped; the original was too faint for legible reproduction)

Lanphere-Christensen Dunes Preserve

6800 Lanphere Road, Arcata, California 95521 • (707) 822-6378



February 22, 1995

Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

To Whom It May Concern:

76 I reviewed the McKerricher State Park Preliminary General Plan and have the following comments. My review was restricted to the Coastal Dune section of the Resource Element. In general, I found the general plan guidelines to be very sound, with the control of European beachgrass identified as a management directive. This species is still in the relatively early stages of invasion at McKerricher, especially south of Inglenook Fen. Any delay in control efforts will increase the cost considerably. Over the next 10 years, your actions will determine whether or not the valuable natural dune resources at the site are lost or protected. At our Lanphere-Christensen Dunes Preserve, we have done extensive work with *Ammophila* control, and are now implementing the final phase of a multi-year restoration effort that is resulting in the eradication of 10 ha of beachgrass. We used manual eradication, which is very costly and due to its labor intensity. However, the technique has been highly successful, with native plants volunteering in restored areas, and only a minor need for reintroduction of natives. I would be happy to supply you with documents detailing our efforts, including detailed cost and labor analysis. In just the last year or two, there have been significant advances in the use of the herbicides Roundup and Rodeo in treating European beachgrass. I'm sure you are aware of the PhD dissertation being carried out at U.C. Davis on *Ammophila* control with herbicides, as your agency funded the original work. Rachel Aptekar has had good success with a high concentration (10%) and application rate. Similarly, in Oregon, Monsanto Company has recently made a breakthrough using a 10% concentration and a spray-to-wet application technique.

77 I have just a few comments on the description in the Coastal Dune ecological unit, pages 31-34. You have switched the names for the Northern foredune and Northern foredune grassland communities. NFG is found on the primary foredune, and the distinguishing species is *Leymus mollis* (formerly *Elymus mollis*). NFD is found on hinddunes, and is dominated by *Poa douglasii*, *Artemisia pycnocephala* and other species. NFG is a globally endangered community, ranked G1 by the Natural Diversity Data Base.

78 The population of wallflowers found at McKerricher is the subspecies *Erysimum menziesii* ssp. *menziesii*. You can find a description of the separate subspecies and their status in the 1994 edition of the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California put out by the California Native Plant Society. *Erysimum menziesii* is both state and federally listed as endangered.

On page 76, in the sand dunes section of RMZ directives, I recommend that you identify

mapping and baseline sampling and/or census of rare plant populations as one of the surveys you will be doing (assuming this hasn't already been done). It would be beneficial to establish the size and condition of your rare plant populations now, as a standard against which to measure variation in the future. This shouldn't just be restricted to surveys specific to particular planned developments (p.58).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The conservation philosophy reflected in the dune elements of the plan are sound, and I commend you for a thorough job.

Sincerely,

Andrea Pickart

Andrea Pickart
Area Ecologist

33201 Beall Lane
Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
February 5, 1995

Robert Ueltzen, Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, Ca. 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

I have read the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park and have found it to be generally worthwhile document. There are three proposals which I especially wish to support

Page 167: sand dune area, "No development....except for the dune boardwalk".

Page 168: Ten Mile Beach, all of the proposals.

Page 169: Ten Mile River, all of the proposals.

Because I consider the report to be an historical document and I wish it to reflect accurately all facets of the Ten Mile Dunes, I will comment on those flaws I have found.

80 | Pages 26 and 27: The maps of the Resource Elements of the Ecological Units do not show a clear outlet to the sea for Inglenook Creek. The maps show only one intermittent stream flowing from the southern drainage. A Caltrans or a USGS map would probably show that there are at least four good-size culverts passing under Highway 1. Especially lacking is notation of the northernmost arm of Inglenook Creek which flows along the southern edge of the high dunes north of Beall Lane. This is an important arm of the creek collecting drainage from the steep hills to the east. After it has flowed along the dune it picks up the drainage from Beall Lane and Oceanview Drive before entering the swamp/fen area of Inglenook Creek which is labeled R/W on the maps.

81 | Page 32: Ten Mile Dunes: "There is an absence of fresh water, even in heavy rains". Not true, I have observed conditions in the dunes for twenty years. From Inglenook Creek to the Ten Mile River there are, in rainy weather, many ponds which often last throughout the summer with flowering plants blooming as the water recedes. In very rainy years the flower display is

81 spectacular. In addition, northward of Inglenook Creek in the dunes, there has been for the last four years a freshwater pond of good size which is backed by high dunes to the west. This pond has not dried out at all and it is the home to many native wildflowers. It is home also to frog and toad tadpoles and to many aquatic insects. There is also an archaeological site nearby.

82 Pages 43 & 89: Coastal Lagoon Ecological Unit: No mention of the mouth of Inglenook Creek or of Fen Creek which certainly fit the description given to Pudding Creek and Virgin Creek. I think it is important to mention the value of Inglenook Creek and Fen Creek as coastal lagoons. These two lagoons are a good resource for shorebirds and migratory waterfowl. I get the feeling reading this report that the researchers ventured no farther than Virgin Creek.

83 Pages 47, 49 and 64: "In 1945 the rails were removed" is found on the first two pages but on page 64 the text reads, "It is possible to see ties" where the Haul Road has been washed out. It is my understanding from talks with oldtimers years ago that the railroad ties were not removed; the road was laid on the railroad ties. "It is possible to see the ties" where the road has washed out would seem to support the oldtimers' memories.

84 Page 40: Sandhill Lake/Fen and Fen Creek: Why is there no mention of the fen/swamp area through which Inglenook Creek flows? Is it because no massive study was done to give it a special status? Perhaps Inglenook Creek area is also an area of "...great biological importance" but the Park Department evidently doesn't know it yet.

85 Page 59: Directive: "... shall pursue a long range objective of reducing exotic plants." Add: This shall be done on the basis of the least harm to the people living close by who may be impacted. That is, removal and planting to be done at the same time working from west to east. And the whole to be done on a reasonable scale. No such removal of the existing dune grass should be attempted until it is adequately proven that native plants will in fact do the job that the dune grass is now performing in stabilization of the sand. This addition would also apply to the Directive on page 63.

86 Page 76: Sand Dunes. The first sentence/paragraph must be an attempt to be witty but the sentence does not read well. In the next paragraph the word, ephemeral is used to describe dunes. The same word is also used on page 129. Ephemeral hardly seems to be the appropriate word to use to describe millions of tons of sand in one of the largest dune formations on the California Coast.

Page 129 Public Opinion: This whole paragraph is self-serving

87 to the DPR's image. As a member for twenty years of the Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes, I can say that the truth is this: DPR was a party to the removal of the OHV activity at the Fen. The decision was to appease the OHVers and transfer their playground to the northern dune. This activity did not last for long because the people living in the vicinity decided not to tolerate it. To say that the Department did not respond to this pressure (OHV use) when the Department was a party to OHV use is dishonest. While the paragraph mentions considerable correspondence supporting OHV use, no mention is made of the valiant fight waged by the anti-OHV people. In addition, no mention is made of the efforts put forward by the Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes in acquiring additional property for inclusion in the Park. In fact, the State Legislature used our map when voting funds for acquisition. These facts I have related are all a matter of public record.

88 Page 131 Wetlands on Inglenook Creek: This area should also be labeled as Riparian. There is more than "a likelihood that there are rare plants there". There is a large grove of silk tassel there; there are acres of baby blue eyes there; there are remnants of a redwood grove there; there are many, many animal tracks there. This area was not used by humans for farming as long as the fen area was; this information was also from the oldtimers.

89 Page 133 Ten Mile River: "...past a sand spit recently acquired by the Department" Please refer to comments on page 129. This land was saved by the action of the Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes who were appalled by the "No Trespassing" sign the Department erected at the request of a landowner. We fought all the way on this one: the County of Mendocino, the California Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission. And in so doing, achieved formal recognition that the bed of Ten Mile River belongs to the people, as determined by the California State Constitution of 1849.

90 Page 198 Off Highway Use: "...prior to state park ownership the northern dunes was heavily used by dune buggies...". Here we go again; the facts are incorrect. There was virtually no OHV use in the northern dune until DPR entered into an agreement with the OHV and BLM without, I repeat, any public input. At that time the Park owned part of the land used by the OHV's, so it can truly said it was not prior to state park ownership. The report should also clearly state the problems associated with the use of the Bureau of Land Management parcel in the very heart of the northern dunes.

Statements given as facts when almost the opposite is true makes me think that a rewriting of history has sometimes taken place in this report.

Please take my criticism kindly. Let me know what will change in the plan especially in regards to pages 129, 133 and 198.

Sincerely,

Barbara Furey

Barbara Furey

cc: Wm. Berry, Mendocino District Headquarters

ST PARKS

FEB 23 3 20 AM 95

33201 Beall Lane
Fort Bragg, California 95437

February 20, 1995

Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Dear Sirs:

I have the following comments, criticisms and exhortations to make about the Preliminary Plan for MacKerricher State Park:

1. I consider much of your report to constitute a weary diatribe against dunegrass. This is the same plant that you repeatedly refer to as "European Beachgrass." Being of European extraction myself, I resent the derogatory manner in which this very useful plant is continually referred to in your report. I offer the following comments in its defense:

91

European Beachgrass -- more of an historic thing than the "restored" barn which is featured in the report.

Beachgrass ... a prime reason for the very existence of the haul road that is now such an integral part of the MacKerricher State Park.

The Beachgrass was evidently first installed adjacent to the old railroad, which was eventually converted to a heavy duty

truck road. It was evidently planted to protect the road against erosion from sea and wind and drifting sand. For the same reasons, beachgrass has been purposefully installed along the entire western coast of the United States within the coastal boundaries of the states of Washington, Oregon and California.

91

I have visited many seaside resorts along the eastern seaboard of the United States and have found similar installations of beachgrass in the New England states, and in New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. I know it exists in extensively-planted coastal areas of North Carolina for similar reasons. Many of these plantings are specifically designed to protect National Seashore Areas, such as the one at Cape May, New Jersey -- an analagous situation to that at Ten Mile River, where strong forces generated by ocean storms, tides, and winds continually erode the shoreline.

This beachgrass, or dune grass, is as natural, as ornamental, and obviously more effective, than any other natural dune stabilisation material. I submit that it is not nearly as invasive, as you repeatedly state in this totally undocumented document. I have lived in the immediate vicinity of the Ten Mile Dunes for the past twenty years. Neither the pattern nor the extent of dune grass coverage has significantly changed during that period of time. I can attest to the effectiveness of its sand-holding ability. The dunes may rise as the grass grows, but there is no detrimental demonstration of this. The dunes appear to be no higher today than they were twenty years ago, and much of that intervening time has been a period of drought with resulting loose and blowing sand during the summer months. The stiff, prevailing winds (almost continuous, in the dry summer months) from the northwest shear the tops off the highest dunes, whether they are vegetated or not.

As to the existing extent of the European beachgrass, I submit that on the field trip which three members of The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes took with Bill Berry, Manager of the DPR Mendocino District, and his resources assistant on the morning of January 25, 1995, we all noted that there continues to be at least one square mile of open sand devoid of any vegetation at the center of the dunes which are located between Inglenook Creek and Ten Mile River.

91 If the European beachgrass successfully, as you say, encroaches on native vegetation, then the native vegetation is not, and will not be, very effective on its own in taking over the job of stabilizing the dunes. It has appeared from my observation that many native plants co-exist in close proximity with dunegrass and that these plant communities have existed for some years.

The reason the beachgrass (I use the term dune grass interchangeably in this comment, although we are both speaking of the same plant) has apparently succeeded, at least for the time being, in establishing itself, so much to your evident concern, at the mouth of Ten Mile River is that it has often been torn loose there, and has resprouted throughout that immediate area. This is primarily because of the action of the ocean and of the river during periods of high waves, high tides and flooding. The mouth of Ten Mile River changes from season to season, from year to year. One year the river may exit toward the south and the next year it may have moved toward the north bank. The beachgrass does a damned good job of holding that whole exposed point of land together.

92 2. Even the most casual reading of this General Plan indicates your peculiar fixation upon your unproven connection between the success or failure of the beachgrass

(of whatever continental derivation) and the ultimate survival of the western snowy plover. By my own rough count there are sixteen specific references to European beachgrass, and twenty-two references to the western snowy plover in your plan, and there are probably more. This is in addition to your separate Resource Map, which is devoted almost exclusively to the protection of this one shorebird.

92

I believe that there is no direct correlation between the success or failure of the nesting of the western snowy plover and the existence of dune grass sharing its habitat. I have already mentioned the relatively vast areas of completely open sand. Scattered clumps of dune grass provide intervals of open sand and, in fact, may provide shelter for the nesting plover and its chicks. In this respect, the MacKerricher State Park General Plan Map No. 6 -- Sensitive Wildlife, Aquatic Life, and Habitats, Northern Section of the Park, and North Central Section of the Park, as shown in Appendix B, Resource Element Map, is ludicrous. Fifteen WSPn's and two WSP's have been assigned to protect the western snowy plover habitat. Your map is also definitely peculiar in skirting the boundaries of the BLM parcel which is located in the heart of the North Section. Why do the western snowy plover avoid this largely open sand dunes area, which is significantly free of beachgrass, or dunegrass, and which should be, according to your tediously repeated argument, ideal WSPn habitat? If you have another WSPn marker, put it on this 120 acres, which still belongs to the Bureau of Land Management. In effect, you have reserved the entire area of the park between Ten Mile River and the park headquarters at Cleone for the western snowy plover. In twenty years of tramping these dunes -- and this includes vegetated as well as open sandy areas -- I have hardly ever seen a snowy plover. In this regard, I notice that there is hardly any similar concern for the other species which are similarly identified in Appendix C, Table

92

C-2, Special Animal Species of MacKerricher State Park as "endangered ... protected ... threatened ... sensitive ... species of special concern ... " These are all birds and animals which also live in the park boundaries and which, logically, should have their own parkwide designators. You might also be able to make the same specious survival hazards for each of them that you assign to the "pernicious ... invasive ... invading ... highly invasive ... exotic ... aggressive ... non-native ...negatively impacting ... highly disruptive force ...dense ... solid turf ... tremendous spread ..." hard-working beachgrass in your report.

93

"Dense ...solid turf ... trememdous spread ..." It all sounds like the rantings of some insane natural scientist. I note on page 62, that the poor, unwitting, brownheaded cowbird is also singled out for Hitlerian measures because they too are accused, rightly or wrongly, of something they have probably been doing since God invented them, of "nest parasitism".

Should stuff like this be part of a General Plan for a State Park -- a plan that is supposed to describe and prepare for the management of a unique natural area which has "more than statewide significance"? I do not think so and I should note that The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes have long maintained that Mackerricher is a natural area which has not only state but national, and even international significance.

94

In this regard, and as an aside, but a relevant aside, I do not like the way the language of the report refers to (a) the former "uncontrolled" use of the dunes by dunebuggies. You leave yourself wide open for renewed attacks by OHV maniacs for "controlled" use. Why do you even mention that, hopefully, dead issue? ; and (b) offshore oil development -- Is this a necessary part of the plan? My reading of your material allows for your possible eventual acceptance, reluctant though it may be, of this atrocious development at

94

some time in the future. Is there something going on at the State level in this regard that we don't know about? Again, I don't see how this material should be a part of your State Park Management Plan. We will fight offshore oil development as a separate issue.

95

3. I believe that your plan has one glaring deficiency. Your map shows a *terra incognita* with regard to the 120 acre parcel of Federal Bureau of Land Management property in the middle of the dunes. Twenty years ago The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes fought desperately to encourage the State Parks System to acquire, from willing sellers, large open undeveloped parcels of sand in the dunes between Inglenook Creek and Ten Mile River. At that time there was insistent and highly organized private and public pressure to allow this section of MacKerricher Park to be used for the running of dune buggies (OHV's as you call them). Intense pressure was put upon BLM to allow this insanely destructive activity in this area. By good luck, hard work by The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes, and the sympathetic efforts by public officials, including Senator Barry Keene, this calamity was averted. Now State Parks (which itself had once even acquiesced in this atrocious idea) agree that this type of use is totally inappropriate for this unique natural area.

I call your attention to General Plan Map No. 7 , Cultural Resources Sensitivity, Northern Section of the Park. It shows "BLM Leased Land (not surveyed)". It is one of the most ridiculous maps I have ever seen. It shows an area of "High Sensitivity" extending neatly in a perfectly straight line along the south boundary of the BLM parcel. Can we assume that there is an coterminous area of "High Sensitivity" extending northward some distance beyond the dotted line boundary? Again, twenty years ago when The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes was doing ALL of the leg work

to encourage the State of California to acquire these open undeveloped dunes lands from willing sellers, the Bureau of Land Management sent one of their archeologists out there, at our request, to survey that property. The archeologist identified sites. Those records must be readily available at the BLM planning office in Ukiah. They are certainly a matter of public record in the office of the State designated archeological officer at Sonoma State University.

95
Twenty years ago The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes proposed that the BLM parcel be incorporated into the MacKerricher State Park boundaries. At that time BLM staff said they were not averse to this proposal. This isolated parcel of open sand had no use or significance to them. They said, however, that according to their regulations, they could not transfer ownership until they knew and approved the use planned for that land by the State Parks. State Parks said they could not plan the use of land which they did not own. Any sane person would think, in this Age Of Reason And Electronic Communication, that a simple solution to this stupid dilemma could have been found in the intervening score of years. Yet here you are, twenty years later, continuing to dodge the issue. I do not think that your plan can succeed by stating that you have a twenty-five year lease arrangement on the property. Why don't you settle the matter now? In this plan. Go ahead and plan the use of that land. Show it to BLM. They are not going to eat you alive. They are really going to be glad to get it off their books.

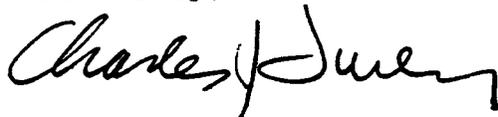
96
4. I believe that the Plan should give a clearer, more definitive statement about Ten Mile River. What recreational use of this special shoreline area is intended? As you may be aware, The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes were instrumental several years ago in establishing, by testimony to the State Lands Commission, that Ten Mile River,

96

including the bed of the river, was the property of the People of the State of California, as determined by the California Constitution of 1849. You may recall the shameful action of the State Parks Department at that time in posting "no trespass" signs on that section of the south bank which you have only recently acquired. The reason I mention this is because I see nothing in the plan that speaks to the significant interrelationship between MacKerricher State Park on the south bank of the mouth of Ten Mile River, and the tide-covered (and thus publicly owned) beach on the north side of the river that leads northward to the amorphously-owned Seaside beach. During the summer months, when the ocean builds a sandbar across the mouth of the river, thus blocking some of the ocean inflow, and there is reduced outflow from the river itself, and especially at times of low tide, many people stroll along the open surfline extending between the two beaches. It seems only reasonable to recognize this fact in your management plan for MacKerricher.

I have made other comments concerning this plan at public meetings in the Fort Bragg area. I thank you for the opportunity now to express my ideas about the Preliminary General Plan for MacKerricher State Park.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Furey

Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes

copy: Bill Berry, DPR Mendocino District

Feb. 22, 1995

Mrs. Lyn Booth
26801 N. Hwy. 1
Ft. Bragg, Ca. 95437

Dept. of Parks & Rec., No. Service Center
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regard to the preliminary Mackerricher State Park General Plan, in particular the proposed subclassification of the northern portion to a "natural preserve".

97 As this change of status will have many ramifications to the public use of the area north of Ward Ave. to Ten Mile River, I am appalled that no mention of this proposal was made during the three public "workshops", nor in any public notices until last month. The volume of information included in the plan is very substantial, and vaguely presented in explaining what such a designation would mean. I am disappointed that we (the public) have not had the opportunity to ask questions directly of the state Dept. of Rec. representatives at a meeting to gain understanding and clear up misconceptions about this proposal before the final commission hearing.

Property owners adjacent to the northern portion of the park deserve to know what is meant when it is stated that the natural preserve status will protect "resources that could be adversely influenced by neighboring land uses" (Newsletter, issue #5). Those of us who enjoy walking through Ten Mile Dunes and along Ten Mile Beach feel that our access to these areas is threatened, not just in isolated spots, but in the entire area wherever a "designated path" is not present. As stated on pg. 157 of the General Plan, "as the dune area is [sic] part of a natural preserve, access should be discouraged except on the boardwalk". I hope I won't have to tell my children that they won't be allowed to play in the sand dunes anymore should this area become a natural preserve.

98 In order to properly manage Mackerricher State Park it is, of course, necessary to balance the needs and enjoyment of the public with the preservation of the plant and animal species. However, it appears that the latter would take extreme precedence in the establishment of a "natural preserve", and I am concerned that it would override the previously-stated purpose of the park "to make beach access and these features [beach, sand dunes] available, in an essentially natural condition, for visitor enjoyment" (pg. 102). Further, the fears of the plan development staff regarding human impact on dune movement seems exaggerated; nature has always moved the sands and always will throughout the years to come, regardless of management strategies! Public use of the Ten Mile Dunes and Ten Mile Beach is very minimal anyway.

I would hope that Mackerricher State Park would retain its "state park" status as a whole in order that we will not lose physical access to this beautiful area. Or perhaps the fen area could be designated as a natural preserve instead of the entire area?

99

Hopefully the Mill Creek Drive entrance will be kept open, with no day use fee for residents or non-campers.

100

I would also like to request that another public meeting be given specifically on this proposed subclassification before the final commission hearing in June. This final hearing, by the way, should be held here in Ft. Bragg in order that those people most affected by the General Plan may attend.

Sincerely,



Lyn Booth

February 22, 1995

Northern Service Center
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Preliminary General Plan at MacKerricher State Park

Gentlemen:

We are writing as a family who dearly loves the dunes area of the Mendocino Coast near Ten Mile River and don't wish to see it's use restricted.

We have lived in the Mendocino-Fort Bragg area for almost twenty years and have found the Ten Mile Beach area to be one of the few beaches that isn't well known by tourists. Hardly do you ever see another person at the dunes. Perhaps you may see one or two other people at that beach, but never do you see the hordes that visit the other beaches nearer the towns.

101
The dunes is a haven for local children who love to slide down the tall sandy hills. Vegetation there is sparse and is not in the areas the children love to play on. Sometimes we find cans and bottles out there and we often take a garbage bag to clean up as we go. It feels so sacred out there we want to take care of it.

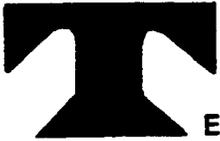
If boardwalks and fences are put out there, you will be shutting out one most beautiful areas of nature that is so dear to us here on the coast. As it is now, the tourists do not know about this area, as access is difficult at best. Consequently the dunes do not seem to be in danger. Footprints are gone within a matter of hours, especially on windy days. So PLEASE, PLEASE, do not fence it off. If you feel you must spend our tax money on the beaches, please fix the levies at the main area of MacKerricher, or use it open Russian Gulch free of charge to locals.

If you have money to spend on projects like these, please do it at the more populated beaches that need upkeep. The dunes are great just they way are!!

Sincerely,

The Sharrers

Ward, Nan and Nick Sharrer
220 No. Harold St.,
Fort Bragg, CA 95437



TEN MILE RIVER RANCH

28301 NORTH HIGHWAY ONE
FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA 95437
TELEPHONE (707) 964-3761

February 20, 1995

Rob Ueltzen
California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Northern Services Center
1725 23rd Street, #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

As adjacent landowners, we have always believed that MacKer-ricker State Park should be open to the public for recreational purposes.

WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THE FOLLOWING

102

1. Commence with the plan to repair the old haul-road, from Pud-ding Creek trestle to the Ten Mile bridge.

2. Open an access, Southwest of the Ten Mile bridge, for hiking, bicycling, equestrian and handicapped only parking at the Ten Mile River, which would link-up with the main haul-road ending at the Pudding Creek trestle.

103

3. Provide a vigorously managed educational program to enlighten the public regarding sensitive plant/animal/resource areas within the park and request their respect/attention/protection of these plant/animal/resource areas.

WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE FOLLOWING

104

1. Reference to, and categorization of, the public as "users", which presupposes the careless, wanton and destructive attitude and behavior of visitors whose intent is to abuse the park, and that only "planners" are enlightened enough to want to protect and preserve the natural attributes of the Park. Public aware-ness of important issues is the responsibility of Park personnel, including the use of interpretive signage and displays in an on-going educational effort. This is the way people can be included in the mix, not excluded.

105

2. Charging a fee for casual day-use of the park (hiking, bicy-cling, etc). Charging fees by use of "Iron-Rangers" should not even be considered.

106 | 3. The creation of a "sanctuary" or "reserve" of any kind. The whole idea of establishing a "reserve" was not mentioned early in the General Plan public meetings, and should be further discussed before the Plan is approved and adopted. The establishment of a "reserve" will only be met with opposition by those who view this as nothing more than an attempt to REGULATE AND FURTHER EXCLUDE PEOPLE from park use. Areas of concern can be identified and even temporarily fenced to allow re-generation if necessary. The public needs to be made aware of Park concerns, and encouraged to participate in a joint effort with Park personnel to protect/care for certain sensitive areas of the Park.

107 | THE MACKERRICKER STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN IS A GOOD ONE, BUT IF YOU GIVE THE PUBLIC MORE OF A CHANCE TO ASSIST IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PARK GOALS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE GENERAL PLAN, WE FEEL YOU WILL ENCOUNTER LESS OPPOSITION.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Smith

Margaret L. Smith

Don Perry
Margaret Perry

The Smith Family



Mr. Noel Young
Northfork Ranch
P.O. Box 205
Centennial, WY 82055

March 15, 1995

California Dept. of Parks & Rec:

As a Fort Bragg area
property owner and soon to be
retiree there, I respectfully
disagree with any closings of
the Mac Kericher/10 Mile beach
to public access and use.

Noel Young

108



Coastal Conservation Committee
P.O. BOX 2830 - FORT BRAGG, CA 95487
(707) 964-0684

29900 Highway 20
Fort Bragg, California 95437
February 21, 1995

Northern Service Center
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

RE: MacKerricher State Park General Plan

Department of Parks & Recreation:

The Sierra Club's Mendocino-Lake Group wishes to commend you for an excellent plan. We have carefully reviewed it, and urge its adoption without weakening amendment.

109
Of special interest to the hundreds of our members who visit MacKerricher SP each year is the dunes, dune beach, and fen ecosystem. We support the most protective possible classification for this area in order to protect natural resources, which include sea and dune life, migrating elk (I've seen them at dusk crossing the Ten-Mile River heading south through the dunes), and life forms at Inglenook Fen found, to the best of scientific knowledge, nowhere else on earth (see "Inglenook Fen - A Study and Plan"). We urge that motor and motorized vehicles be totally excluded from this area, and that any trail construction be minimal, unpaved, utilizing natural materials, and open to pedestrians only.

With these recommendations, we strongly support the proposed Inglenook Fen - Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve sub-classification.

Thanks again for a good job.

Ron Guenther, Chair
Executive Committee

For the Sierra Club Mendocino-Lake Group

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.

P. O. Box 328
Fort Bragg, California 95437

February 12, 1995

State Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725 - 23rd Street #200
Sacramento, Ca 95816

Attn: Rob Ueltzen

Re: CEQA Review, Preliminary MacKerricher
State Park General Plan

COMMENTS:

NCTC Background: Reference our letter of Dec. 9, 1991 and comments. Also, please take note that NCTC Chairman Dave Sverko accompanied Joanne Weiler, Associate Landscape Architect, of your Sacramento office on a field trip to review the equestrian trail - and walked it again with Ranger Mike Curry in the fall of 1992.

110 HISTORIC BACKGROUND: We failed to find in the CEQA document reference to the fact that the Equestrian Trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile Beach was dedicated by State Parks in 1977 - and documentation in the form of newspaper clippings and photos was submitted to Joanne Weiler in July, 1992.

We thank you for including the historic information on the early Mendocino County to Humboldt County trail usage.

111 PAGES 110=111, Existing Conditions: This section should clarify that much of the usage by equestrians results from the current Concessionaire taking the general public out on horseback rides within the Park. Although this paragraph mentions the haul road washouts in need of much repair, the need of equestrians is not fully addressed.

112 Plans for improvements to the haul road "the entire length of the park" should be for multi-purpose usage, including by-pass need of equestrians. Although the CEQA document references the Mendocino County Coastal Plan policy for a continuous trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River beach, other sections dealing with equestrian usage don't really adhere to that mandate.

113 PAGE 152: Park Trails. NCTC reiterates its position of volunteerism and assistance with park trail improvement, and requests involvement with equestrian trail planning.

114 PAGE 153, Equestrian Trail, bottom pp: "Designate specially surface where necessary, monitor and maintain a single (add "year round") equestrian trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River.

PAGE 155: "Allow horses on the beach only north of Ward Avenue and not on the beaches or on the bluffs in the southern part of the park.."

115
NCTC call to the attention of State Parks, that restricting equestrians to the beach only north of Ward Avenue is not feasible year round given existing conditions. This section is impassable due to rock abutments on the beach and during high tide and these restraints have not been taken into consideration. The Mendocino County Coastal Plan mandate for a continuous trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile would not in good faith be met if this restriction is kept in force. Plans to improve the haul road the entire length of the park, should include an alternate route for equestrians to bypass this beach area.

116
NCTC supports the staging area on the west side of Highway One, opposite Airport Road, adjacent to the motel, but requests that it be signed for Horse Trailer Parking since passenger vehicles are now doing unstructured parking making it difficult for maneuvering horse trailer rigs.

"Coordinate with equestrian groups for their continuing aid in trail maintenance, (add "trail realignment"), and support for equestrian regulations."

PAGE 168 - Ten Mile River - second pp. NCTC supports in cooperation with Cal Trans, use of the "mixing table" south of Ten Mile River bridge, as a staging area, properly signed, to alert passenger vehicles that it is also to be used for equestrian trailer vehicle.

However, we call to your attention, rumors that Cal Trans will be negotiating with the private property owner on the west side of Highway One, at the mixing table location, for access to do seismic retro-fitting on Ten Mile River bridge.

117
If Cal Trans is negotiating for an easement to get heavy equipment down to the river area under the bridge, then there would be an excellent opportunity for State Parks to also gain vehicular access to a staging area at the beach level to service the north end of the park. NCTC requests that State Park Planning Units explore this possibility.

Again, member of the Northern California Trails Council, Inc. reaffirm our commitment to assisting State Parks in trail improvements to MacKerricher Park and request involvement in trail planning and/or realignment of trails for equestrian feasibility.

Sincerely,


Dave Sverko, Chmn.

cc: 4th District County Supervisor Liz Henry

February 21, 1995

To: DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Re: Comments on the MacKerricher State Park General Plan

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

Ever since we moved to the Mendocino Coast in 1962, I have been a regular user of MacKerricher State Park. I visit the park for walking, horseback riding, whale watching, photography and just relaxation and enjoyment of nature. As a member of the Shoreline Riders, Inc., and the Northern California Trails Council, I am especially concerned with public access and trail development.

118 During my many years of using MacKerricher Park, the vast majority of users I have observed, 99% +, have been responsible and considerate of other users and of the park facilities and the environment. Therefore, I was dismayed that the Preliminary Draft of the plan seemed to regard users as a burden, as intruders who would cause problems unless they were "managed and controlled" and who should be discouraged or actually prohibited from entering allegedly "sensitive" portions of the park. I hope that this attitude does not reflect the mindset of the Department of Parks and Recreation. While the DPR does have a preservation function, the users support the state parks with their taxes and fees and recreation should receive more attention than given in the proposed plan.

GOOD POINTS Many points of the plan are positive. The plan recognizes Local Coastal Plan policies, the traditional access via Mill Creek Drive, the historical background of the Pudding Creek to Ten Mile hiking and equestrian trail and the need for bicyclists to have a safe route between Ten Mile and Fort Bragg.

119 On the other hand, the plan fails to address a current park problem - due to the concentration of facilities and parking at the Cleone Lake - Laguna Point portion of the park, this area is strained and overused during the busy summer season. Although the pre-1983 days when the Haul Road was open on weekends did see occasional user conflicts, beach use was spread over the entire Ten Mile Beach.

HIKING/EQUESTRIAN TRAILS Back in the 1970's before the Haul Road was incorporated into the park, local equestrians organized to support the designation of a permanent, continuous hiking and equestrian trail from Pudding Creek to Fort Bragg. (Because Boise-Cascade still owned the Haul Road back then, a bicycle route was not included.)

120 Since 1977 when the trail was officially dedicated, the Haul Road was washed out north of Ward Avenue (1983) and not repaired; a concessionaire offered rental horses for beach rides (about 1982); another segment of the Haul Road near Cleone Lake was partially washed out (1992-3) and the entire Haul Road was purchased by the state. Until the recent planning process, equestrians were not consulted about how the trail should be repaired and/or rerouted to avoid damaged portions. The result of DPR's failure to post new equestrian trail markers in spite of requests from the public to do so is that equestrians are often confused about the route.

121 | The recommendation on P. 52 to prepare a detailed trail study should be adopted and should include periodic review (every 5 years ?) to update the plan and address natural changes and existing or potential problems.

122 | Concerning the recommendations for the equestrian trail (P. 153 - 155), I disagree that a "single" route be designated for the entire distance because of seasonal changes in the beach. For instance, north of Ward Avenue, the sand washes out during the winter making the beach impassable at high tide. During the summer when the concessionaire has the most trail rides, overuse could be prevented by designating alternate routes, where terrain permits, so that the concession and other riders do not have to overuse the same trail. This was done successfully in the past just north of MacKerricher - the concession used the shoulder of the Haul Road and other riders used the beach.

123 | Horses should be allowed on the beach immediately north of MacKerricher Beach. The beach here which is wide and not heavily used by non-equestrians except on weekends or when surf fish are running. The tides clean up this beach and manure on the road is not appreciated by cyclists and joggers.

124 | The trail ride concession should be encouraged to continue, not only because it brings revenue to the park but because it is the only beach riding rental business between Bodega Bay and the Eureka area. However, the concession should be limited as to how many riders per day can use the beach so that independent riders can still use the trail without causing user conflicts or damage to the trail. North of Ward Avenue, over 80 % of the equestrian use between June and September is generated by the concession. The concessionaire should be required to help with trail monitoring and repair and cleanup of the paved road after especially busy weekends.

TRAIL REPAIR AND BYPASS (See Photographs) Approximately 1/3 mile north of Ward Avenue, the Haul Road was washed out back in 1982 - 1983. Photograph #1 was taken just south of the point where the road is completely gone. Photograph #2 was taken about 100 yards south of #1 where trail users (hikers, equestrians, cyclists, etc.) have to share a 3 ft wide path with a steep drop-off on one side when the beach is impassable during high tides..

Photograph #3 and #4 were taken at Point A, # 3 during a 0.5 low tide and #4 during a 5.7 high tide. Obviously hikers and equestrians can not use the beach during high tides and are forced to use the road and the constricted trail shown in #2. Photograph #5, taken near point B, shows the fence which was damaged and washed out in this area.

125 | Recommendations I approve the policy on P. 153 to repair or bypass portions of the Haul Road which have erosion problems. The washed out portion of the Haul Road north of Ward Avenue should be bypassed by an alternative route through the dunes, parallel to the road (See map). The remains of the fence should be removed as downed wires pose a hazard to hikers and equestrians.

126 | TEN MILE BEACH I oppose the designation of Ten Mile Beach as a "natural reserve" because of the potential restrictions of public access. While the dunes and wetlands should be protected as "natural areas" and use limited, the sandy beach is a recreation area which could relieve some of the crowding in the developed portion of the park with minimal impact on natural resources.

127 Another objection to the "natural reserve" designation of Ten Mile Beach is that it would limit improvement to access improvements. Caltrans is currently studying seismic retrofit of the Ten Mile Bridge and might provide opportunity for development of access under the bridge thus allowing handicapped people to use the former Haul Road which is in good condition here.

128 Facilities proposals on P. 168 fail to include provision for equestrian parking and access at Ten Mile despite requests from local riding groups for such facilities. Equestrian access at Ten Mile for independent (non-concession) riders could relieve some of the problems in the more heavily used portions of the park. I would urge that at least 6 parking places for horse trailers be included in Ten Mile facilities.

The Department of Parks and Recreation should work with both Caltrans and the adjacent property owners to improve access at Ten Mile and not lock the public out of this area.

129 I support the Directive on P. 77 to create hiking and equestrian trails in the dunes so that use would be directed away from the more sensitive areas. A hiking/equestrian trail from Highway 1 to the beach in the vicinity of the Inglenook Grange could be planned to accommodate future user demand. Also, in the several hundred acres of dunes, surely there is room for a designated childrens' play and sliding area.

ADDITIONS AND NEW ACCESS P. 143 - I support the proposal to buy land at Ten Mile from a willing seller and feel that this acquisition have the highest priority for available funds.

130 I oppose the acquisition of lands east of Highway 1 to "protect" the Inglenook Fen since scientists have not presented any evidence that development east of Highway 1 has affected water quality.

131 DPR should develop additional parking on the east portion of its parcel north of Virgin Creek. While the sight distance here may not be ideal, neither is the sight distance from the main park entrance. The south access parking lot is often nearly full on busy summer days.

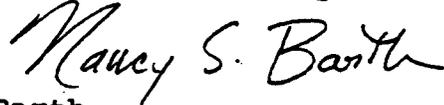
132 DPR should also acquire a trail easement for the traditional path across private land just north of the North of Town Industrial Park. This path is used by surfers going to Virgin Creek.

133 Finally, the OPERATIONS ELEMENT fails to provide for local users of the park to meet regularly with DPR staff to discuss problems arising from user conflicts, misuse of facilities, new proposals not addressed in the plan, or damage to facilities or the environment. For instance, if the equestrian trail is damaged by more erosion, should users have to wait for another ten years for repair? Not all prospective volunteers fit into MAPA or the docent council.

Because more local people use MacKerricher than any other coastal park, I recommend that park staff hold regular meetings with the local public and with riding clubs, Audubon Society, divers clubs and other special interest groups. Not only can local users offer constructive suggestions but conflicts can be defused before they erupt.

In summary, I favor (1) Repair damaged portions of the equestrian trail and post the route and regulations, (2) do not designate the northern portion of the park as a "natural reserve", (3) increase public access at Ten Mile to prevent over-use of the Laguna Point - Ward Avenue portion of the park (4) acquire land at Ten Mile from willing sellers (5) set up regular meetings between park staff and local users to discuss park problems and enlist volunteer help and (6) modify the final draft to be more "user friendly" - responsible park users deserve as much attention as the snowy plovers and the Inglenook fen bog.

Yours truly,



Mrs. Nancy S. Barth
30201 Simpson Lane
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(707) 964-3494

Copies to: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Northern California Trails Council
Assemblyman Dan Hauser

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

PHOTO # 1 - Taken at Point B on Map, 1/3 mile north of Ward Avenue parking area, looking south

PHOTO # 2 - Approximately 100 yards south of Point B showing constricted portion of hiking/equestrian trail

PHOTO # 3 - Point A at low tide (0.5) - plenty of room for hikers and equestrians

PHOTO # 4 - Point A at medium-high tide - waves are breaking on the rocks - no beach !

PHOTO # 5 - Downed fence at Point B - hazard for hikers and equestrians

Map - shows recommended bypass east of washed-out Haul Road

ILLUSTRATIONS 1.

#1



#2



ILLUSTRATIONS 2.

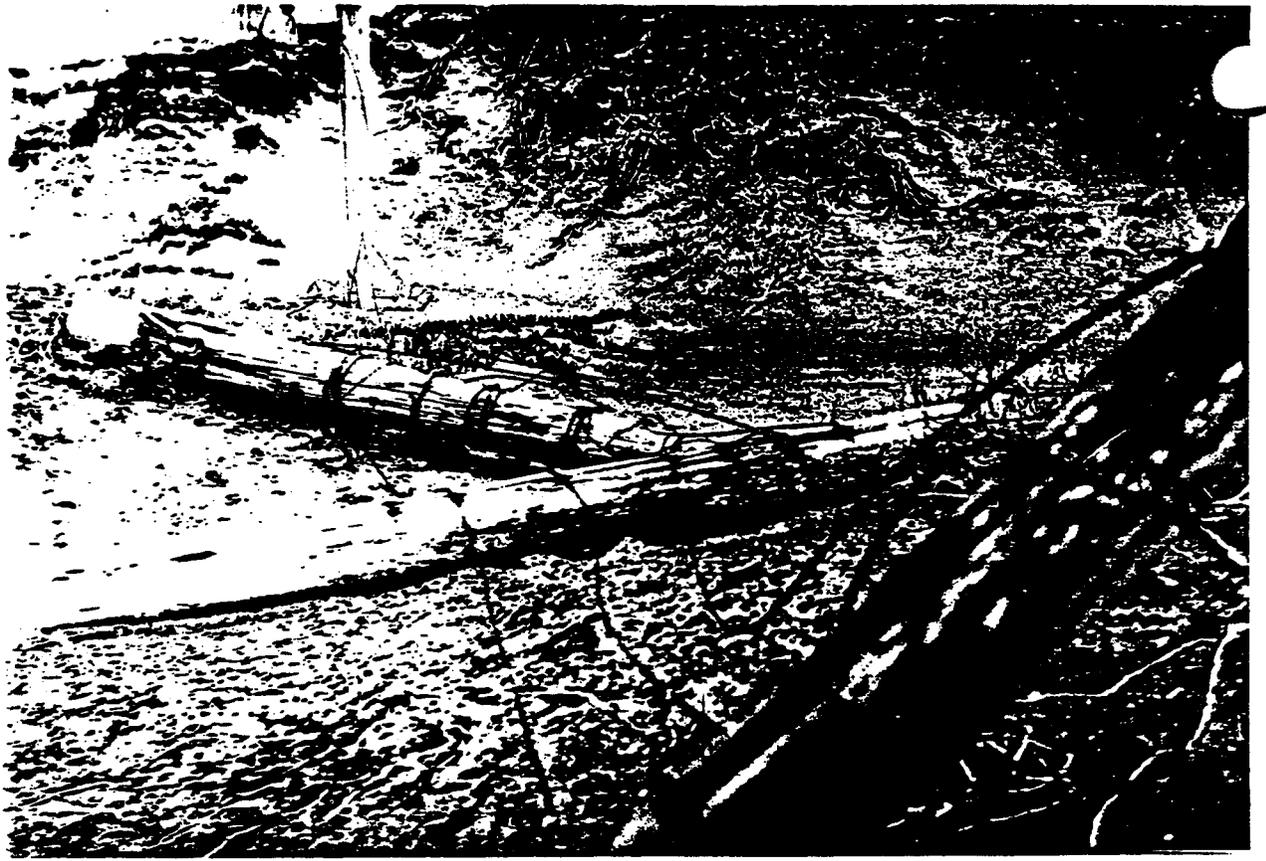
#3



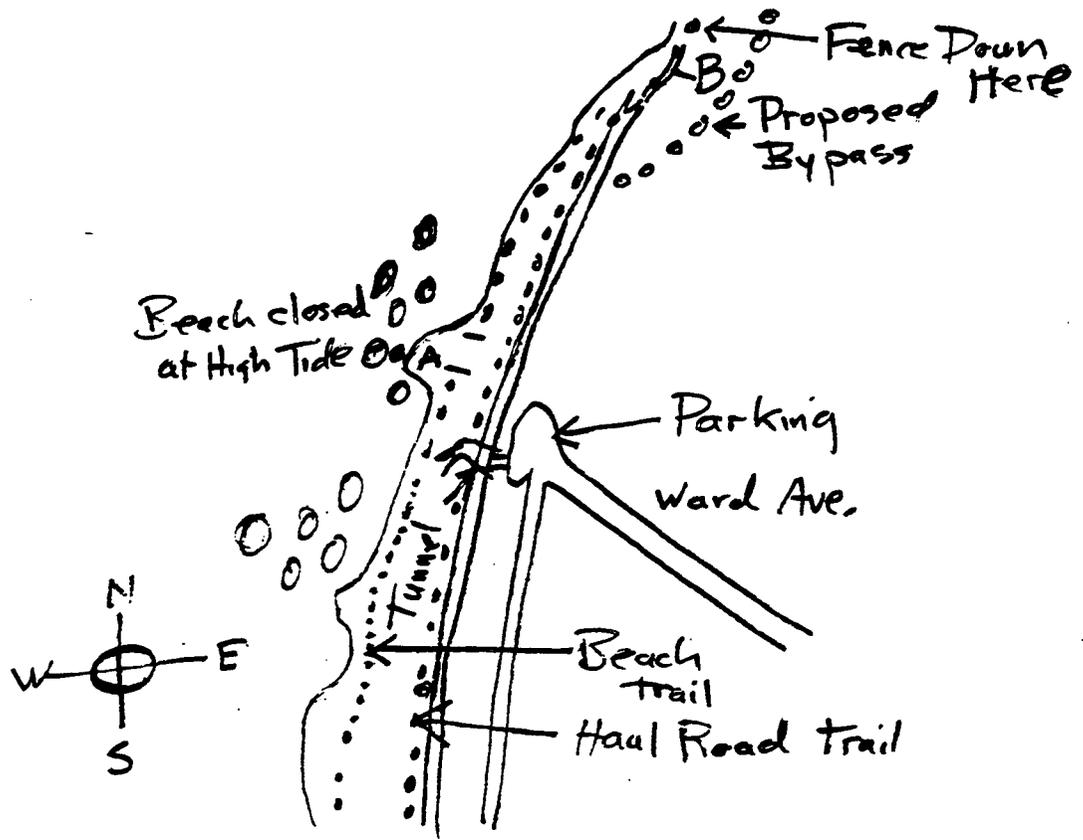
#4



#5



Map



February 14, 1995

Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725 23rd St. #200
Sacramento, CA. 95816

Att. Rob Ueltzen

RE: MacKerricher State Park
General Plan

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Regarding equestrian use of the park and trails, we would like to comment on the following items:

134

Page 111 - We believe the equestrian use is structured as most of the equestrian use is by the stable on Hwy. 1 and Mill Creek Rd. offering guided rides.

135

Page 153 - "Equestrians will use the beach for the northern leg of their coastal trail." We think the haul road/trail should be maintained as there are many times during high tides, horses cannot stay on the beach and get around the rock outcroppings. Also, many horses are fearful of the ocean.

136

Page 155 - Equestrians should be able to use the beaches north of Lake Cleone. With the exception of a few holidays, these beaches are rarely used by visitors. Virgin Creek beach should definitely be off limits to equestrians. We think a single multi use trail the length of the park would be easier to maintain and better protect sensitive areas.

137

Page 168 - Due to the erosion and washouts north of Ward Avenue, an equestrian trail should be made East of the haul road. This is the area when many times using the beach is impossible because of the tides and rocks.

138

Page 168 - Ten Mile River Facilities - Please allow a posted area for horse trailer parking. This would also be desirable in the staging area of Pudding Creek.

We realize equestrian use of the park presents unusual problems. We as individual equestrian users trailer 12 miles to use the park and hope you will give our thoughts your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred & Mary Wells
44401 Gordon Lane
Mendocino, CA. 95460
(707)937-5526

P.O. Box 644
Fort Bragg, Ca 95437

Feb. 21, 1995

State Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725-23rd Street #200
Sacramento, Ca 95816

Attention: Rob Ueltzen

Re: CEQA Review, MacKerricher State Park
General Plan

Comments:

- 139** | There is no mention of the Equestrian Trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile Beach that was dedicated in 1977.
- 140** | Improvement to the haul road should be for multi-purpose usage, hikers, bicyclers and equestrians.
- 141** | There should be an alternate trail for equestrians to use north of the Ward Avenue. The beach is impassable due to high tides and rocks.
- 142** | The equestrian staging area at Airport Road parking lot should have a sign HORSE TRAILER PARKING.

Sincerely,
Frank & Lillian Finlayson
Frank & Lillian Finlayson
Northern Calif. Trails Council

February 10, 1995,

To: Mr. Rob Ueltzen
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
1725 23rd St. # 200, Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: MacKerricher State Park Equestrian Trail

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

Thank you for sending the announcement about the MacKerricher State Park General Plan. For your information, the Shoreline Riders Inc. represent over 150 local horse owners and their families. During the 1970's, the Shoreline Riders were deeply involved in supporting the designation of the Pudding Creek to Ten Mile trail as a permanent equestrian route.

After studying the Preliminary Draft of the MacKerricher State Park general plan, we offer the following comments:

143 1. We were pleased to read (P. 153) that the plan does recognize a continuous equestrian trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile but we feel that the text on "Existing Conditions" (P. 111) should clarify that the majority of equestrian use north of MacKerricher Beach comes from a trail ride concession and much less use from local individuals, small informal groups or clubs such as 4-H, the Sheriff's Mounted Posse or the Shoreline Riders.

144 2. Although "Existing Conditions" mentions the Haul Road wash-outs north of Ward Avenue, the "Facilities Element" does not address repair of these hazardous places or rerouting the trail through the dunes so as to avoid the drop-offs. The trail should bypass these hazards and offer a route which does not force equestrians to use the beach during periods of high tide and surf.

145 3. We strongly oppose the proposal on P. 155 to ban horses from all beaches south of Ward Avenue. While equestrians do need to bypass the heavily used MacKerricher Beach, the beach immediately to the north is not heavily used by non-equestrians except on summer weekends. Requiring the horses to stay on or near the Haul Road here could cause more user conflicts than allowing horses on the wide beach.

146 4. "Ten Mile River Facilities Proposals", (P. 168), fails to address equestrian staging or access, at the southwest end of the Ten Mile River bridge. The Shoreline Riders favor provisions for trailer parking and a designated access to the northern portion of the trail. Such facilities would spread out equestrian use and prevent over-use of the more heavily used portions of the park.

5. We support the equestrian staging area at the Haul Road entrance (Airport Road) and the provision of information about the trail route and trail rules.

These recommendations were discussed approved by the Shoreline Riders, Inc. Board of Directors on February 10, 1995. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

16 FORM LETTERS RECEIVED

Edie Karki
Vice-President
Shoreline Riders

February 20, 1995

Rob Ueltzen
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725-23rd Street #200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Ueltzen,

I have recently read the MacKerricher State Park general plan manual, and I am impressed with the detail and thought that has gone into the presentation of plans for the future of this state park.

However, I am distressed at the section under Concessions which suggests that we should continue the horseback riding service in the park. I have lived in the Cleone area for nine years, and I am continually distressed by the erosion that the horses create on the ocean bluffs especially north of Ward Avenue. I am also concerned that the riders seem to have no hesitancy in approaching seals that are sunning on the warm sand.

147
Horses have their place, and I can certainly understand their use in wilderness areas, but in a park as small as Mackericher, it seems that the impact on our sensitive environment is too great. How did we go from not wanting humans to scale down the ocean bluffs to allowing horses to descend wherever their riders chose to go? Horses are huge and impact on the environment in as negative a manner as allowing dune buggies or off-road vehicles. If you doubt this, I hope that you will personally inspect the damage caused to date by the use of horses in the park.

As a family who loves and owns horses, our first duty is to protect the environment for future generations, and I urge you to reconsider their impact on this beautiful coast.

Sincerely,

Mary Webb

Mary Webb
25260 Ward Avenue
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

cc: William Berry, Park Superintendent

- 1 of 2 -

PETITION TO RETAIN "STATE PARK" STATUS FOR ALL OF
MACKERRICHER STATE PARK

We, the undersigned, request that the Parks and Recreation Commission not reclassify the northern portion of MacKerricher State Park as a "natural preserve". We feel that under the proposed "natural preserve" subclassification our current freedom of access to the dunes and beach between Ward Ave. and Ten Mile River will be restricted.

As stated in the preliminary General Plan, the declared purpose of MacKerricher State Park "is to make beach access and these features [beach, dunes] available, in an essentially natural condition, for visitor enjoyment" (page 102). However, the plan later states that "as the dune area [will be] part of a natural preserve, access should be discouraged except on the boardwalk" to be built at the washed-out part of the haul road (page 157). "With public access confined to well-defined paths," (page 129), any passage through the dunes would evidently be disallowed, since of course paths would be impossible to establish through the dune areas. Also, horses would be limited to "a single equestrian trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River" (page 153). We are concerned by the open-ended statement, "further study is needed to determine what, IF ANY, forms of human impact can be allowed in the dunes..." (page 34, emphasis added).

We ask that the commission retain the "state park" classification for the whole of MacKerricher State Park. We wish to continue to enjoy the northern portion of the park without future restricted access.

148

Name Address Date

1. Elaine N. Noasham 25161 Waad, FB 2-19-95
2. Polly Pynn 19509 Benson Ln. F.B. 2/20 95
3. J. G. Gwin " " " "
4. Barbara Thomasie #56 32850 Mill Creek Dr. Del Rey, Ca 2-20-95
5. Dan Zaffarano 464 VALLEY #4 FORT BRAGG 95437
6. Lotte M. Bailey 615 North Main St. Ft. Bragg 95437

184 SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS



MacKERRICHER STATE PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN
Responses to Comments Received During the
California Environmental Quality Act Review

1. Point No. 5 on page 143 of the preliminary general plan under Appropriate Additions states in part "As any property west of Highway 1 in the vicinity of the park becomes available for purchase, it should be evaluated for addition to the State Park System on a case by case basis." This description was written to include properties like Glass Beach, which is adjacent to the state park and west of Highway 1. When describing possible land acquisitions, it is the Department's rule not to mention specific parcels unless a source of funding for the acquisition has already become available.
2. Formalizing access at Ten Mile River is not expected to increase public use of the area greatly because illegal parking and trespassing already occur there. It is expected that formal access will result in less trespassing over neighboring property, as well as increased safety. Proposed additional interpretation and regulatory signs at both formal points of access to the proposed natural preserve (the Ward Avenue parking area and the proposed access at Ten Mile River) are aimed specifically at the protection of the sensitive plants, animals, and habitats accessible from those locations. It would not be possible for the Department by itself to increase fines for habitat disturbance because such fines are set by a statewide committee, and not the Department.
3. Your proposal to specify areas at MacKerricher State Park where dogs could be let off leash would not be possible for the Department to implement because state law requires dogs to be on a leash in state parks. Such a change would require new legislation.
4. The support of the Audubon Society for equestrian use of Ten Mile Beach with appropriate limits is noted.
5. The preliminary general plan indicates that the Department will not reopen the haul road for general automobile use. Proposals for limited use of the road by disabled park visitors and the provision of a shuttle, if proven feasible, would encourage only infrequent and controlled use. The haul road will also have to continue to be used as a service road and patrol route by Department staff.
6. The preliminary general plan has been prepared with the intent of maintaining low levels of use in all sensitive habitat areas. For example, including the ban on motorized vehicular traffic on the haul road in the draft plan was for the purpose of continuing the reduced impact of human use on Virgin Creek Beach, an important foraging and nesting area for western snowy plovers. Similar protection of the sensitive foredune habitats is intended by the installation of the dune boardwalk to bypass the washed out part of the haul road.

With respect to the request to leave snags and downed woody material in forested areas, it is already the Department's practice to do so in undeveloped areas within state parks where potential hazards posed by these materials would be minimal.

7. The natural preserve subclassification has been proposed with the intent of preserving habitats and species for which the Department of Fish and Game legally holds the Department of Parks and Recreation responsible.
8. The directive regarding special plants on page 58 of the preliminary general plan will be amended to include language requiring formal consultation under the California Endangered Species Act regarding any proposed activity that would affect state-listed plants. Also,

language will be included that describes the high management priority of special plants and the need to plan and/or design programs or projects so as not to adversely affect special plants.

9. Any proposed future development that would occur in the vicinity of the Howell's spineflower or any other sensitive plant species or sensitive animal habitat will adhere to the directive appearing on page 58 in the Resource Element, as well as the more specific directives that will be developed during the preparation of the Vegetation Management Plan.
10. Thank you for bringing this error to our attention. In the final general plan, the text that now appears on page 58 will be amended to read "Special plant species and rare natural communities known to occur in the unit will be identified in Table C-1, Appendix C".
11. The status of the Howell's spineflower changed when it became federally listed as an endangered species after the preliminary general plan went to print. The text of the final general plan will reflect this change.
12. Resource management plans are developed and implemented by Department district staff, primarily by district resource ecologists. Specific provisions of a management plan, including a monitoring component, are addressed at that level. Language will be added to the special plants directive in the final general plan stating these facts clearly.
13. Thank you for your suggestions regarding protection strategies for special plant species and sensitive habitats. These ideas will be passed on to the district staff responsible for the protection of resources and the education of park visitors.
14. Thank you for clarifying that only the northern red-legged frog might be found within the state park. The final general plan will reflect this information.
15. The "Trail Development" directive on page 66 of the preliminary general plan addresses trails and their potential impacts on sensitive resources. It is the Department's intent to develop a trails plan that will identify appropriate routes and will restore natural habitats where any unauthorized trails are removed. In addition, all vehicle use in the park is limited to paved areas only, which is strictly enforced.

The Russian River/Mendocino District resource ecologist will be contacted regarding the need for surveys for the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly and Behren's silverspot butterfly. If found, appropriate action will be taken by the district to protect the populations of these insects.

16. Thank you for bringing the Point Reyes horkelia on property adjacent to the state park to our attention. Language contained in the Appropriate Additions section of the Land Use Element covers property on the west side of Highway 1 in the vicinity of the park and would permit acquisition or a conservation easement, should either become possible.
17. Thank you for your valuable input for updating the Special Plant Species and Rare Natural Communities List in Appendix C. Those species definitely not occurring in the park will be removed from the list and an additional five special plant species identified as occurring there will be added to the list.
18. *Lupinus bicolor* ssp. *umbellatus* is a common component of the dune tops, as identified by Barry et al. (1977) in Inglenook Fen. A Study and Plan.
19. A general plan acts mainly as an umbrella guide for future resource management and development at a unit of the State Park System. A general plan cannot address specifics at

length, nor does it have the flexibility to deal with resource management strategies that might have to adapt to changing conditions during a shorter time frame than the general plan is meant to guide. The proposed Vegetation Management Plan will be developed pursuant to directives in the final general plan and will be the vehicle where individual protection approaches should be addressed for each sensitive species.

20. Thank you for reminding us of the availability of the 1994 CNPS Inventory. This resource inventory was prepared before that document was available. However, it will be used in preparing the final general plan.
21. Thank you for your support of the proposal in the preliminary general plan to include an environmental education center at MacKerricher State Park.
22. See the response to comment #21.
23. The preliminary general plan contains proposals to construct an accessible comfort station at Laguna Point and to refurbish the one at Lake Cleone to provide accessibility. The Lake Cleone bypass trail will incorporate wheelchair access to the haul road north of the washed out segment of the berm west of Lake Cleone. The proposal for the dune boardwalk to bypass the wash out north of Ward Avenue is intended, in part, to make this segment of the haul road accessible.
24. See the response to comment #21.
25. See the response to comment #21.
26. The planning team does not believe that the 30 parking spaces proposed at Ten Mile River are an excessive number. Other proposals for interpretation to alert and sensitize visitors to the nesting areas and behaviors of western snowy plovers and the protections, including regulatory signing and fencing, if and where necessary, for the wetlands on the river's south shore would accompany the provision of formal access to the area.
27. The Department is charged with the mission to serve a broad spectrum of recreational populations in the state parks. The current concessionaire and the horseback riding groups with which the planning team dealt during the preparation of the preliminary general plan are the source of almost all of the riding activity that now occurs in the park. The concessionaire is restricted to a designated route by her contract with the Department. The other groups have expressed their support for a designated trail through the length of the park and their intention to adhere to that route. In addition, the rules and regulations, as well as the designated route, will be better publicized to all equestrian trail users in the future. The planning team expects that these factors, combined with increased enforcement, will prevent the adverse impacts that have occurred in the past.
28. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the plans in the preliminary general plan to improve the coastal trail at MacKerricher State Park. A proposal for rest areas that would incorporate benches appears with the developments recommended for the haul road and coastal trail in the Facilities Element. The benches were included mostly to meet the needs of physically challenged visitors, including elderly visitors, and would be placed along the most accessible stretch of the haul road south of Lake Cleone, but they are also intended for the comfort of all those using the coastal trail.

29. Thank you for calling the change in the city's designated land uses in the Pudding Creek vicinity to our attention. The changes will be incorporated into Map #9, Adjacent Land Uses, in the final general plan.
30. See the response to comment #1.
31. The correct distance from the existing city water line to proposed South MacKerricher Coastal Trail Access will be incorporated into the final general plan. The final plan will also include the Department's intention to convert water service at the proposed coastal trail access point from a well to the city's service, when it becomes available.
32. One purpose of designating trails to the bluffs south of Lake Cleone is to allow removal of the many unauthorized trails that have proliferated on the coastal terrace over the years. Resource inventory work performed in the course of the preparation of the preliminary general plan revealed that the coastal terrace contains sensitive plants and habitats, as well as archeological sites, that have been badly impacted by foot traffic. Proposals for designated bluff access are also aimed at making the views available from the bluffs accessible to physically challenged visitors who would otherwise not be able to experience them.
33. The Resource Element of the preliminary general plan contains descriptions of many areas within the state park that are no longer in a pristine condition. Moreover, that element and other sections of the document indicate various sources of expected additional future impacts to the resources in the park, including escalating visitation during the coming decades and additional development adjacent to the park boundary. Proposals for development in the plan are intended to provide for these probable changes in public and adjacent uses while, at the same time, protecting the park's natural and scenic resources and restoring them to a condition approaching what it was naturally.
34. See the response to comment #27.
35. The proposal to subclassify the dune area as part of a natural preserve does not mean that the Department will be fencing the dunes. Please see comment #105 relating to the natural preserve proposal.
36. There are no places along the coastline at MacKerricher State Park that would furnish sufficient protection for sailboat mooring. The exposed coast experiences wave action along some beach areas has resulted in significant coastal erosion, and offshore rocks pose hazards. It would neither be safe nor practical under these conditions to maintain mooring buoys.
37. See the response to comment #5. Also, during preparation of the general plan, the planning team explored the feasibility of restoring the washed out parts of the haul road for trail use. The estimate received at that time just for rebuilding the haul road berm west of Lake Cleone and repaving the road over it amounted to \$1.2 million. The destroyed part of the road north of Ward Avenue would equal at least that amount. Furthermore, even if these segments of the road could be rebuilt, it would not be possible to assure that they would endure for more than a few years, due to ongoing incursions from wave action. Such erosion along the California coast is a natural process, and the Department's policy is to try not to build expensive developments that would require man-made protection.
38. The language in the final general plan will reflect the information in your comment. Page 46, paragraph 6, will be changed to say "and many Indians were forcibly driven by the Army to the reservation at Round Valley." Page 186, paragraph 1, in the Interpretive Element will reflect the same change and also add "Many were left to die along the way, while some of those who survived the trip were able to escape and return to the Mendocino Coast."

39. The addition, "local/historic California Native American festivities", will be inserted on page 205 of the final general plan under Special Events.
40. The Caltrans concept that Highway 1 in the vicinity of the park is a "two-lane conventional highway with 12-foot lanes and four-foot shoulders" will be added to the Circulation and Access section in the Land Use Element of the final general plan.
41. The Department will take the Caltrans recommended 50-foot setback from the highway centerline into account when designing facilities adjacent to the highway. Additional language will appear in the final general plan's Facilities Element under General Design Criteria for Park Facilities, Parking: "Caltrans recommends a 50-foot setback from the highway centerline for all improvements adjacent to Highway 1." It is always the Department's practice to obtain encroachment permits for work within a Caltrans right-of-way.
42. At the time when detailed project design is underway for the three areas in the park where access improvements are proposed adjacent to Highway 1, the Department will coordinate with Caltrans to assure conformity with all necessary rules and procedures.
43. The final general plan will contain no references to the use of the mixing table for public parking.
44. See the response to comment #41. In addition, it is the Department's practice to consult the appropriate Caltrans staff in a timely manner when planning improvements adjoining Caltrans facilities.
45. The Department interprets Caltrans' rule that plans for repair and maintenance projects should be reviewed by public agencies if "the project has the potential of having a significant impact on resources adjacent to the highway" to include MacKerricher's visual resources, as well as its natural and cultural resources. The Department's charge to serve the visiting public ranks recreational and aesthetic resources as equally significant as natural and cultural resources. The intent of the directive is to assure that DPR staff will maintain the necessary degree of attention to and involvement in the planning for highway repair work adjacent to the park. Therefore, the directive on page 56 will be retained in the final general plan.

Caltrans will receive a copy of the final general plan and any conditions of approval and required mitigations when it is available.

46. There is no record in the Department's files to substantiate a promise by a speaker at the park's dedication in 1949 that Mill Creek Drive would always be open to the residents of the area. However, the Department's policy is to honor all legal easements across state-owned land.
47. If funding becomes available, the Department will consider working with the county to improve the entrance station location. This solution would improve information services to the public and provide greater security for the campgrounds.
48. The Department recognizes that Mill Creek Drive is listed as part of the Mendocino County Road System. The Department will continue to cooperate with county officials whenever park operations or issues affect county maintained roads within state park boundaries.
48. The imposition of fees is not a general planning matter. There is no recommendation to charge day use fees at MacKerricher State Park in the preliminary general plan.
50. The Department is aware of the requirement to obtain a coastal permit for any proposed management procedures or facilities improvements that would entail "change(s) in the intensity

of use of water, or of access thereto" well in advance of implementation. The Facilities Element of the final general plan will contain added language stating that the Department will work closely with the county Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed future change in the management of Mill Creek Drive within the park.

51. See the response to comment #50.
52. The preliminary general plan identifies options for consideration only and is not an implementation plan. The Department recognizes that, whenever proposals are eventually made to deal with the management of the county maintained portion of Mill Creek Drive within the park, those that require county oversight will have the proper review.
53. The Department recognizes that the Department of Public Works' does not consider speed bumps to be an acceptable method of traffic control on the county road.
54. See the response to comment #52.
55. It is the practice of the Department to provide a sign-in sheet at all general plan public involvement meetings so that signers can be added to general plan mailing lists for future notifications. The mailing list for the MacKerricher State Park General Plan contained over 500 addresses. The June, 1994, meeting regarding Mill Creek Drive was conducted by Department Operations staff separate from the general plan public involvement process, so a sign-in sheet may not have been available. In any event, the release of the Preliminary MacKerricher State Park General Plan for California Environmental Quality Review was well publicized in the Fort Bragg area in local newspapers, as well as via radio and television. We regret that some interested residents of the area may not have reviewed the draft.
56. See the response to comment #50.
57. Please refer to the response to comment #55. Thank you for your suggestions.
58. See the response to comment #50.
59. The MacKerricher State Park General Planning Team has requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission hold its hearing for this general plan in Fort Bragg. Whether or not this will be possible has not been confirmed as of this writing. It will be dependent upon the other matters that the Commission has on its agenda and the requirement for hearings to be held within a certain distance of all matters being discussed at the hearing.
60. See the response to comment #50.
61. See the response to comment #50.
62. The proposals that appear in the preliminary general plan are not intended to hinder access to the beach at MacKerricher State Park. Rather, their purpose is to deal with expected increases in public use in such a way that access to the beach will be preserved without further damage to the resource base of the park, which is also within the mission of the Department to preserve and protect.
63. See the responses to comments #46 and #50.
64. See the response to comment #27.

65. The preliminary general plan recognizes the recreational importance of Lake Cleone. There are several reasons that major recreational expansion was not proposed there. One is that the lake lies at the center of the park and already is the focus very heavy use year round. In addition, expanding the parking area would encroach upon space occupied by the Howell's spineflower, which was recently federally listed as endangered. The Department must respect the laws relating to this listing that are administered by the Department of Fish and Game. Other reasons are that the lake is at present the sole source of park drinking water, is silting in, and may experience additional salt water intrusion.

The Resource Element states, on page 87, that "With protection from inappropriate recreational uses, the drinking water source and artificial recreational site could be retained" and recommends a study to determine the best future management strategy for the lake. On page 166, the Facilities Element proposes keeping the lake a freshwater body to provide drinking water pending the outcome of the study while examining the feasibility of moving the drinking water intake upstream on Mill Creek. It also proposes recreational improvements, including refurbishing the lake restroom, adding picnic tables, improving the boardwalk around the lake, and adding an accessible fishing dock if the lake is retained as a fishery.

66. See the response to comment #50.
67. See the response to comment #59.
68. We appreciate your support for the use of a boardwalk. However, the boardwalk proposed for the northern part of the park is not along Highway 1 near Ten Mile River but in the foredune area to bypass the large wash out north of Ward Avenue. The general plan proposes the concept of the boardwalk; however, the exact form that the proposed trail to the haul road at the Ten Mile River Bridge might take has not yet been determined.
69. The General Plan Map (Map #13) in the preliminary general plan contains proposals relating to the vicinity of the Ten Mile River Bridge and the haul road near there, as well as the Caltrans mixing table. These are not owned by the Department. Funding is now earmarked for a small land acquisition to provide state ownership all the way to the highway, but release of that funding is dependent upon Caltrans' approval. Since preparation of the preliminary general plan, moreover, Caltrans has withdrawn its offer of the mixing table for public parking. For reasons such as these, leaders (or pointers) from the boxes containing general plan proposals are drawn to point to land owned by the Department.
70. The MacKerricher State Park General Plan, when approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, will constitute the master plan required by Appendix D of the Bureau of Land Management lease with the Department for the 120 acres of dune land and will enable the transfer of that property to the Department. The BLM has expressed its desire to have the Department acquire this property when the general plan is finalized.

As indicated in the previous response, there is now funding identified for the acquisition of a portion of the Smith property adjacent to park land at Ten Mile River to allow public access to the haul road. The funding is through an approved grant from Caltrans, and the property is expected to be acquired as soon as Caltrans releases the funds for that purpose.

71. It is an established fact that European beachgrass forms a rhizomatous root mass and above-ground biomass so dense that it crowds out other vegetation, including native California plants. Encroachment upon native vegetation by European beachgrass is a relatively slow process that at times may not be noticeable. Aerial photographs and observations by Department personnel over the past 20 years document the spread of beachgrass south from the mouth of Ten Mile River in the foredunes complex. The intent of the Department is to begin to remove the non-

native beachgrass from the foredunes areas adjacent to the northern end of the haul road, well removed from Beal Lane. Policy 11.4 of the Parks and Recreation Commission "Preservation of Vegetative Entities" states the intent to " ... perpetuate significant natural plant communities"

72. A program to control European beachgrass will require appropriate consideration of related factors, including adjacent facilities and increased costs if delayed.
73. See the response to comment #71.
74. The Department's intent conveyed in the preliminary general plan is to maintain the relatively low intensity use that has existed since the haul road has been closed to vehicular traffic in areas that western snowy plovers use for nesting habitat. Wildlife experts from within and outside the Department agree that the shape of the dunes, which can be a product of the vegetation upon them, also has a bearing on the success of the birds' nesting efforts. (See page 33 in the Resource Element for a discussion of how European beachgrass influences the formation of sand dunes.) Also see the response to comment #92.

75. The directive regarding European beachgrass (see page 77 in the preliminary general plan) recognizes the concerns of local property owners about dune mobilization and encroachment. Any management plan for European beachgrass will be required to take these concerns into consideration.

We are pleased that you will enjoy the proposed improved coastal trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River.

76. Thank you for relating your considerable experience in control of European beachgrass and your support for a similar management program at MacKerricher State Park. The Department will greatly benefit from the knowledge and skills acquired through your restoration efforts.
77. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The final general plan will reflect the necessary changes.
78. Thank you for pointing out the necessary revision for Menzies wallflower at MacKerricher State Park. The final general plan will include this change.
79. These are excellent suggestions, and the directive requiring a Dune Management Plan will include a rare plant population census component.
80. In the final plan, the outlet for Inglenook Creek will be shown as it appears on the aerial photographs used in preparing the general plan. Mapping for general plan work on a park the size of MacKerricher State Park does not require the same specificity as work that is less general in scope. The Dune Management Plan will examine the dunes and adjacent areas, including the various arms of Inglenook Creek, in a great deal more detail.
81. Thank you for pointing out this inaccuracy. The intent of this paragraph was to indicate that water quickly percolates through loose sand. However, it is true that water collects in those locations termed dune swales because of the presence of a rudimentary soil profile. The final general plan will include this revision.
82. The lagoons at the mouths of Pudding and Virgin Creeks were identified in a separate ecological unit in order to differentiate these areas from the surrounding landscape, which is quite unlike them. Also, these sensitive locations are subject to relatively heavy visitor use in comparison to drainages at the north end of the park, and there is a need to emphasize their sensitivity.

Inglenook and Fen creeks are included in an ecological unit that is not only described as sensitive with unique resources, but is also included within a proposed natural preserve. This in no way diminishes the importance of the lagoons at the mouths of these two streams, which as you point out provide valuable wildlife habitat. Management of these lagoons, as well as their connected riparian/wetland systems, will be for their protection and perpetuation.

83. It was our understanding, as well, that only the rails were removed before the haul road was paved, leaving the ties in place.
84. The riparian/wetland area encompassed in the Inglenook Creek drainage is included in the boundaries of the proposed natural preserve and, as such, is recognized as having sensitive resources. Inglenook Fen has been given special prominence because it is considered to be unique to California. The nearest known coastal fen on the West Coast is in the vicinity of Bandon, Oregon.
85. Please be aware that the specifics of an exotic plant control program are not defined in a general plan. These details will be included in future management plans developed by the district resource ecologist. See the responses to comments #71 and #75 for additional clarification and related information.
86. The first sentence you mention on page 76, written by a Department geologist, was definitely not an attempt to be witty but, rather, to point out the special combination of conditions that were necessary to produce the dunes at MacKerricher State Park. Her use of the word "ephemeral" must be understood in the context of geologic time, during which the forms and, possibly, the location of the dune field can be expected to change considerably.
87. The sentences "The Department did not respond to this pressure, but rather banned OHV use in the dunes after the lease was in force. However, trespassing by OHV users, as well as others, continues to be an occasional problem" on page 129 will be replaced with "However, other local residents led a strong anti-OHV movement that eventually led to the ban of this activity on park property and the addition of more dune property to the park. Occasional trespassing by OHV users, as well as others, continues to be a problem."
88. We agree that this should be clarified. The title will be revised to "The Wetland/Riparian System on Inglenook Creek".

The term, "rare plants", has a specific connotation that is described on pages 58-59 of the preliminary general plan. The natural resources you list are of interest but are not rare by the definitions employed by botanists and the various government agencies, including the Department of Fish and Game, that have regulatory responsibility for rare plants.

89. The Department of Parks and Recreation cannot legally invite or allow park visitors to pass onto neighboring property. The Friends of the Ten Mile Dunes were correct in taking their case to the County of Mendocino, the California Coastal Commission, and the State Lands Commission, which were the proper agencies to address the issue. The intent of general planning for MacKerricher State Park was not to address the north shore or the bed of Ten Mile River, but to plan for property that is now owned by the Department or funded for acquisition.
90. On page 198, the language under "Off-highway Use" will be changed to "In years past, the northern dune area near Ten Mile River was heavily used by dune buggies and other off-road vehicles. After the state took control of the area, pressure from local residents led the Department to ban this activity, and most of it stopped."

91. European beachgrass is an accepted common name for *Ammophila arenaria*, a perennial grass of European origin that has been widely planted for its sand-stilling capabilities. However, the haul road was in place and actively used long before the beachgrass was planted. Prior to that time, native American dunegrass (*Leymus mollis*) and several other native species provided some protection for the haul road. Studies have shown that biodiversity decreases substantially where this non-native grass has been planted. It is the Department's policy to encourage biodiversity and to protect and perpetuate native plant communities and associations, including their native component plant species and associated wildlife. In addition, numerous locations of state- and federally-listed plants occur in the Ten Mile Dunes. The Department has a responsibility under state and federal law to protect rare species.

The National Park Service policy is not to use European beachgrass or any other non-native plant to protect land it administers, including national seashores. Some of these areas may have been planted with beachgrass prior to federal ownership, but this is certainly not the case today.

It is true that the interior of the Ten Mile Dunes is open sand, mostly devoid of vegetation. However, the spread of European beachgrass has been primarily from north to south, i.e., from Ten Mile River south toward Ward Avenue. It has not been suggested in the preliminary general plan that the problem is a west to east or east to west migration.

For further information, please see the response to comment #71.

92. Some animals are better able to adapt to the presence of humans than others. Western snowy plovers inherited traits that seem to make them vulnerable to impacts from heavy recreational beach use. Wildlife experts from within and outside the Department agree that the formation of the dunes, which can be a product of the vegetation upon them (see page 33 in the Resource Element for a discussion of how European beachgrass influences the formation of sand dunes), has a bearing on the success of the birds' nesting efforts. Research by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirms the findings of the Department's resource ecologists. "The most important form of habitat loss to coastal breeding snowy plovers has been encroachment of European beachgrass Stabilizing sand dunes with European beachgrass has reduced the amount of unvegetated area above the tideline, decreased the width of the beach, and increased its slope. These changes have reduced the amount of potential snowy plover nesting habitat on many beaches and may hamper brood movements. The beachgrass community also provides habitat for snowy plover predators that historically would have been largely precluded by the lack of cover in the dune community." (Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 41, March 2, 1995)

The fact that all of the dune area is identified as western snowy plover nesting habitat on Map #6 is not meant to indicate that the birds are commonly found throughout the area but, rather, that they could potentially use the entire area.

You accurately point out that the resource maps do not cover the Bureau of Land Management lease area. This area was excluded from the resource inventory field surveys performed as a part of this general planning process because it is not the practice of the Department to survey property that it does not own. Field surveys will be conducted by Department operations staff as a part of the Dune Management Plan.

93. The Department of Parks and Recreation is not alone in its desire to reduce the damage due to the rapid and destructive spread of the brownheaded cowbird throughout the country. It is a source of concern to many public and private entities. The birds originally followed buffalo herds and fed on seeds and insects turned up by the large animals. Introduction of cattle, in effect, extended this habitat nationwide. Cowbirds parasitize the nests of songbirds, so they do

not have to build their own nests or feed their chicks. Therefore, they can lay many more eggs per season than other birds. This has resulted in devastation of the populations of some songbird species.

94. You seem to have misunderstood the meaning of the references to off-shore oil development in the preliminary general plan. The intent of the preamble and directive that appear on pages 56 and 57 of the draft plan is that "Collecting ... for extrapolating petroleum-bearing potential ... is prohibited" and "The Department shall not allow the collection of geologic specimens for potential commercial purposes." (Emphasis added)
95. See the response to comment #70.
96. See the response to comment #89. Also, although the Department expects to formalize access at Ten Mile River, it does not wish to encourage high levels of public use that would be incompatible with the protection of the sensitive resources in the area. The Department of Fish and Game has determined that the wetlands on the south shore of Ten Mile River have such a high resource value that it is their intent to acquire them when funding is available. This would include the wetlands within the state park (see page 134, in the Land Use Element).
97. The proposal regarding the natural preserve was presented to those present at the third general plan public involvement meeting. The time within the general planning process and the length of the California Environmental Quality Act public review are established by law. In this case, the usual 45-calendar day review period was lengthened by two weeks in order to give all who wished to comment on the preliminary general plan adequate time to do so.

There will be a Dune Management Plan prepared by the Department to better define what uses will be permitted within the various areas of the dunes. The Department will submit this plan to Mendocino County for their review concerning California Coastal Act issues. This review should provide a future opportunity for additional public input on specific provisions that will be developed as part of the Dune Management Plan. Also see the response to comment #98 for a more detailed discussion on levels of public use in the sand dune area.

98. Planning team review of the language in the preliminary general plan subsequent to the CEQA review revealed language that may have promoted concerns among those who commented regarding the proposal to establish a natural preserve. This response is meant to clarify the reasons why natural preserve subclassification may be proposed in general plans and the ramifications this subclassification has for park management.

Subclassification as a natural preserve does not in and of itself change the management options that are available to the Department. Under its existing overall classification as a "state park", the Department can implement whatever management actions are determined to be necessary for the protection of the resources at MacKerricher. Appropriate management measures are determined by the District Superintendent with advice from staff.

The natural preserve subclassification is meant to be a guide and control upon actions that can be taken by Department staff. First, when subclassification is proposed during the preparation of a general plan as this one was, it furnishes guidelines for the creation of actual proposals that will appear in the Land Use and Facilities elements of the plan. This assures that a plan's proposals will respect the degree of resource sensitivity identified in the area of a proposed natural preserve. Second, after Commission approval of a general plan, natural preserve subclassification sets the priority for the field staff's development and implementation of the various resource management plans proposed in the general plan. Because a park may have the

need for many management plans, those for natural preserve areas will receive consideration for higher priority based on the relatively greater significance of the resources.

Natural Preserve status also gives the District Superintendent recognition of the support throughout the Department for special protection of these sensitive resource areas when reviewing requests from outside entities for uses within or adjacent to the natural preserve. For example, natural preserve status prohibits the construction of roads or the use of motor vehicles within these areas.

The area proposed for natural preserve status at MacKerricher State Park will experience varying levels of public use, ranging from relatively higher and unrestricted use on Ten Mile Beach to extremely low level and controlled use in the fen. The sand dune area falls in between, with some areas requiring more protection than others. The future development of a Dune Management Plan will define this middle level more closely.

For example, preliminary inventory work by Department resource ecologists indicates that parts of the foredunes, as a discrete area, are apt to have a higher degree of sensitivity than other places in the dunes. The foredunes are the least protected from wind blast off the ocean, as well as wave action. The foredunes are also more likely to be used as nesting habitat by western snowy plovers than other parts of the dunes due to the proximity of the ocean. Uncontrolled equestrian and pedestrian use can be especially disruptive in the foredunes. The existence of the haul road for most of the length of the foredune area has traditionally provided an excellent corridor for public recreational access. Because of the fragility of the foredunes, the preliminary general plan proposes a boardwalk to bypass the washed out portion of the haul road and maximum control of public access. Public access as it exists in most other parts of the dunes can be less rigidly regulated.

General plan proposals regarding access mainly apply to places where formal designated access will be provided. To control expected high levels of use, the preliminary general plan proposes formal access points to the sand dunes at the end of Ward Avenue and at Ten Mile River. The rest of the dune area is intended to remain undesignated, except where exceptionally sensitive resources may be found during the development of the Dune Management Plan (i.e., where the federally-listed endangered Howell's spineflower grows, etc.). The Mendocino County Local Coastal Plan provides that, where public access through dunes is permitted, "well-defined footpaths or other means of directing use and minimizing adverse impacts shall be developed and used." (Section 3.1-15) Additional contact with Mendocino County planning staff administering the LCP indicates that "well-defined footpaths" need not be formally designated by the Department, but merely "defined" by their use. Such use could include the traditional low impact casual access into the dune area by local residents where no formal designated access point exists.

Although the word "fencing" appears in the preamble of the directive on page 77 that deals with the materials that would be appropriate for dune stabilization measures, it is not the intent of the Department to fence or create other barriers to access to the entire dune area. There is nothing inherent in the natural preserve subclassification that implies that the Department will necessarily have to do that. At the discretion of the District Superintendent, fencing could be an appropriate method of protecting particular resource values in a state park, whether or not the affected area were part of a natural preserve. Proposals in the preliminary general plan are intended only to recognize that there might be areas within the dunes where the need could be compelling at some future date.

99. See the response to comment #50.

100. See the response to comment #59.

101. See the response to comment #98.
102. It is the Department's intention to commence work to improve the coastal trail from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River as soon as the approved grant funds become available. Regarding the provision of accessibility to the haul road for disabled visitors at Ten Mile River, this would ideally be desirable but will be dependent upon the design solution that will ultimately be possible for a pathway from a future parking area to the haul road.
103. The preliminary general plan's Interpretive Element contains the proposed content and priority for implementation of a major interpretive program to be developed at MacKerricher State Park. The chief facilities through which interpretation will be made available to park visitors will be the proposed interpretive center, the proposed new campfire center, and additional interpretive panels planned for many areas of the park, including Ten Mile River. These will stress the significance and sensitivity of the park's resources. In addition, a potential environmental education center at the park could create an important outreach program to serve the local and statewide community.
104. The term "users" in the preliminary general plan was meant to be synonymous with "visitors". Owing to the Department's mission to provide for "public use" of State Park System units, it was thought to be appropriate to use this term. As stated in response #103, interpretation, including signs, displays, and personal contact, are expected to increase with the implementation of the general plan, and so should Department staff's and volunteer's opportunities to interact with and better serve the public.
105. The imposition of fees is not a general planning matter. There is no recommendation to charge day use fees at MacKerricher State Park in the preliminary general plan.
106. See the response to comment #98.
107. Thank you for your support of the preliminary plan. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages the participation of the public in helping it to achieve its mission. Park Operations staff welcomes the opportunity to work with the people we serve. For those who would like to provide the valuable assistance that is becoming more and more necessary as budgets shrink during these times, there is an established volunteer program at the Mendocino Coast state parks. A docent program is relatively new at MacKerricher State Park and is expected to grow with the implementation of the proposals in the general plan.
108. See the response to comment #98.
109. See the response to comment #98 for a discussion of the natural preserve subclassification. Please note that motorized vehicles are excluded in areas classified as natural preserves.

Language will be added to the design criteria in the Facilities Element to assure that all proposals for additional construction in the proposed natural preserve will be minimal and will use natural materials, where possible. The Department will continue to keep the haul road for coastal trail uses only. This use will include bicyclists, as well as hikers. However, no bicycling will be permitted off of designated paths anywhere in the park.

110. Thank you for bringing this omission to our attention. The Existing Conditions section of the Equestrian Trail discussion in the Land Use Element will have the following language added at its beginning: "Equestrian and pedestrian trails from Pudding Creek to Ten Mile River were formally dedicated by the Department in a ceremony at the Ward Avenue underpass in November 1977."

111. Another sentence will be added before the last sentence of the Existing Conditions section. "Much of the equestrian use in the northern part of the park results from guided rides conducted by the current concessionaire."
112. The policies in the LCP call for a continuous trail for equestrian and pedestrian use. At MacKerricher, the 1977 dedication in actuality established separate trails for these uses (Fort Bragg Advocate, Nov. 12, 1977). The question of a continuous route for bicyclists separate from Highway 1 was not addressed in the LCP because of the presumed high cost. There is fortunately a paved pathway for trail use already in existence at the park, which only needs some repair to make it continuous for the length of the park. The use of this paved path by bicyclists and pedestrians would fall within the LCP safety requirements mandated in Section 3.6. However, the planning team believes that equestrian use of the haul road for the entire length of the park as a multi-use trail would not meet these safety requirements.
113. See the response to comment #121.
114. The text in the final general plan will contain the words "year round".
115. The Planning Team believes that it would be reasonable to permit equestrians to use the western shoulder of the haul road, as well as the western shoulder of the dune boardwalk when it is completed, to bypass the beach where necessary during periods when that route might be hazardous due to inclement weather or other causes.
116. At all places where staging areas are proposed for equestrian access to the equestrian trail, signs marking parking spaces for horse trailers and explaining park rules for equestrians will be a part of the site development. Language will be added to the general plan where necessary to make this explicit.
117. Thank you for the information that Caltrans may be performing seismic retrofit work on the Ten Mile River Bridge. Department staff will investigate this matter.
118. See the response to comment #104.
119. The planning team has recognized the high impact of concentrated visitor use in the Lake Cleone/Laguna Point area and taken this into account in the preliminary general plan, which essentially proposes only modest additions to facilities in those places. The draft plan directs that the area should also receive increased interpretation, as well as added docent and staff presence at the seal haul out and tidepool areas. The planning team determined that raising the level of public use greatly along Ten Mile Beach over what it has been since the closure of the haul road to motorized vehicles would be inadvisable because of the resource sensitivities documented during the general plan inventory phase.
120. Operations staff with whom the planning team consulted have stated that regulatory signing was in place for the equestrian trail in the mid-1980s and that no complaints regarding a lack of signing were brought to the district's attention prior to the start of the general planning process. It is during the general plan process that the Department typically makes a concentrated effort at public outreach, and the Department appreciates the cooperation it has received from the area's equestrian groups during the preparation of the general plan. We regret any confusion that might have occurred in the past due to a lack of trail markers.
121. The Department's Operations staff would be glad to work with equestrian groups and others on an ongoing basis. However, it is not the role of a general plan to establish this process.

122. See the response to comment #115. The language on pages 153 - 155 will be changed to reflect that fact that the park's northern beaches may sometimes be impassable. The first item under "Equestrian Trail" will substitute "designated equestrian trail" for "single equestrian trail". The second item will read "Conduct the equestrian trail along a route separate from the haul road except at those places and during the winter when it would be hazardous to confine equestrians to the beaches. Where horses must share the haul road or parallel the dune boardwalk, they should walk on the western shoulder." The fourth item will read "Allow horses on the beach only north of Lake Cleone" The concessionaire's contract with the Department indicates that the guided rides may use the northern reach of MacKerricher Beach or the shoulder of the haul road north of Lake Cleone and then bypass Ward Avenue Beach on the shoulder of the haul road. Concession riders may again access the beach just north of Ward Avenue, or they may follow the shoulder of the haul road as far as the wash out.
123. Language in the final general plan will be revised to indicate that equestrians may use the less heavily used part of MacKerricher Beach north of Lake Cleone except on weekends and holidays during the park's peak use period. The text will also indicate that the designated equestrian trail will climb up to the western shoulder of the haul road to bypass Ward Avenue Beach in order to reserve this relatively easily accessed beach for non-equestrian use, after which equestrians may return to beach level just north of that beach or, alternatively, at the south end of the wash out.
124. The concessionaire is strictly limited by the terms of her contract with the Department. At this time, groups for guided rides can be no larger than 20, including the leader, and usually average about twelve riders. Furthermore, no more than two groups can be in the park at one time, regardless of size. The contract also stipulates that the concessionaire will remove trash and manure that results from the concession operation, if required by the District Superintendent.
125. See the response to comment #115.
126. See the response to comment #98.
127. See the response to comment #117.
128. This was an omission in the description of proposed improvements at Ten Mile River. See the response to comment #116.
129. It was not the intent of the LCP to provide general public access to Ten Mile Beach from the Grange, but to have only "limited access for scientific study of the Inglenook Fen and Sand Hill Lake area." Although encouraged by the public to designate another access point to Ten Mile Beach between Ward Avenue and Ten Mile River, the planning team was unable to do so. The Department cannot designate routes for concentrated use across sensitive dune or wetland areas, as these could cause more impacts to resources than the widely spaced and low impact random foot traffic that now occurs.
130. It is the Department's desire to limit its protection of the fen watershed to coordination with local jurisdictions in planning future land uses. If lands become available east of Highway 1, additions to the park would not be considered unless absolutely necessary due to a clear threat of degradation of the fen.
131. The planning decision to retain the existing foot trail on the parcel between Virgin Creek Beach and Highway 1 was reached after consideration of the sensitivities of the resources at the beach, in addition to the difficulties of providing a safe entrance and exit for vehicles.

132. The Appropriate Additions section of the Land Use Element would provide for the possible addition of such an easement, if available and determined manageable by the park staff.
133. See the response to comment #121.
134. See the response to comment #124.
135. See the response to comment #115.
136. See the responses to comment #112 and #123.
137. See the response to comment #115.
138. See the response to comment #116.
139. See the response to comment #110.
140. See the response to comment #112.
141. See the response to comment #115.
142. See the response to comment #116.
143. See the response to comment #124.
144. See the response to comment #115.
145. See the response to comment #123.
146. See the responses to comment #116.
147. See the response to comment #27.
148. This response reiterates response #98 on the subject of the proposed natural preserve. It will be sent to those who signed the petition submitted as a part of the CEQA review.

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