

Park Headquarters & Sky Meadow

Existing Conditions

- The prime resources within this zone are old growth redwood forest, Opal Creek and Blooms Creek ecosystems, historic park development and cultural features.
- The forest conditions are recovering in the backcountry and wilderness areas.



Historic Park Headquarters building

- Many visitor facilities, interpretation programs, concession services and park administration functions are located in the headquarters area.
- Old growth forest provides critical habitat for the marbled murrelet and other native wildlife.
- Significant historic resources remain from past development and use. However, cultural landscape and historic building conditions have somewhat deteriorated from deferred maintenance, storm damage, and long-term use.

Planning Issues

- *In some developed areas the visitor activities and past forest management have created conditions detrimental to redwood forest and wildlife health.*



- *Marbled murrelet populations are at risk in the region, partly due to nest predation by corvids, development and high intensity use in critical habitat areas.*

- The primary interpretive period is 1902 to 1941, emphasizing the early park years and the environmental conservation movement, including the CCC era of 1933 to 1941.
- There are other primary and secondary interpretive periods such as the prehistory to 1810, logging from 1862 to 1900, and the post-war (WWII) period from 1945 to 1955.



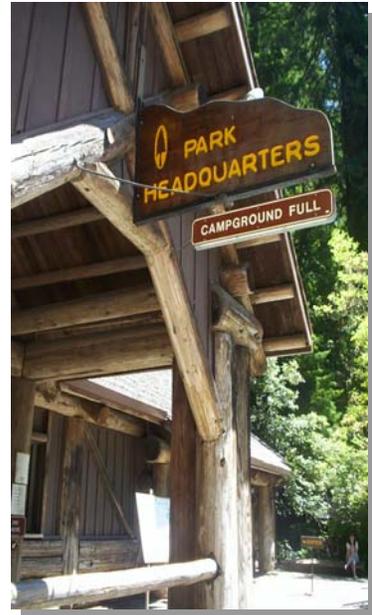
Visitor parking along Highway 236

- State Highway 236 provides vehicular access through the headquarters area for visitor and non-visitor traffic.
- Roads and parking lots physically separate buildings and use areas within the headquarters area.



Blooms Creek Campground

- *Determining the appropriate preservation treatments and uses of historic buildings require resource surveys and evaluations to determine historic integrity and significance.*



Example of rustic architecture

- *Traffic and parking congestion occurs during the peak use season (June – October), which impacts visitor experience and resources.*
- *Concentrated use in HQ area creates some confusion for visitors seeking campsite reservations, information and directions to popular sites and features.*

- Recreation demand is increasing for camping, day use, group use, and trails in the Santa Cruz Mountains.
- There are numerous dedicated trees and memorial groves located on lands purchased by Sempervirens Fund and Save the Redwoods League throughout the redwood forest.



Lower Sky Meadow Residence Area

- The lower Sky Meadow residence area includes 8 single family dwellings constructed between 1941 to 1949.



Sky Meadow Group Camp

- The Sky Meadow camp is comprised of two campsites that accommodate 40 people per site. The campground area is occasionally reserved for special events.

- *Future development plans and uses must be respectful of the area's natural beauty and spirit of place.*



Employee housing

- *The plan must address the needs of employee housing, while maintaining the historic integrity of this 1940s residence area.*
- *This distinct example of post-WWII development is proposed to be nominated as a National Register Historic District.*
- *Sky Meadow group camp lacks sufficient parking and infrastructure to support year-around visitor use and special events.*
- *Planning must consider the potential for development of overnight facilities (cabins, yurts, etc.) outside the old growth forest.*