Welcome to the Open House

in preparation of the

Big Basin Redwoods SP General Plan

- Provide information to public on the status of the Big Basin Redwoods SP General Plan

- Present the alternative concepts for resource protection, public access, and recreational opportunities

- Receive public comments
General Plan Purpose

- Establishes primary purpose of park
- Vision for future
- Long term goals and guidelines provide framework for more detailed park development, management, and public use.
- Plan duration: at least 20 Years
Planning Schedule

Evaluate Alternatives    February 4th and 6th
  • Obtain public input and feedback on planning concepts and alternatives

Preferred Alternative    Summer 2010
  • Analyze additional information and develop a preferred alternative

Preliminary General Plan / Draft EIR    Fall-Winter 2010
  • Analyze the potential environmental impacts and prepare and distribute a Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for the 45-day public review and comment period

Final Environmental Impact Report    Spring 2011

State Park and Rec. Commission Hearing    Summer 2011
  • Present General Plan/Final EIR to the Commission for consideration and approval
Key Issues and Opportunities

• Plan and manage the parks in a regional context
• Address increasing recreational demand and provide more diversified and accessible recreation opportunities
• Improve public access and circulation
• Protect wildlife and habitat, especially species of special concern
Management Considerations

Coordinate with area state parks, other public agencies, and nonprofits on:

- Regional open space management
- Sensitive resource protection and habitat linkages
- Recreation, trail networks
- Education and interpretation
Regional Map

Butano SP

Año Nuevo SR/SP

Big Basin Redwoods SP
Planning Zones
Highway 236 south entrance to the park
Headquarters’ Area

- Historic buildings
- Parking
- Campgrounds
- Visitor services

Park Headquarters
Campfire center
• Interpretive programs
• Special events

Park Store
Interpretive Exhibits

Ancient forests, storytelling rocks, the secret lives of animals... come explore this place, where California's state park system began.
Redwood Trail

- Self guiding tour of the park’s oldest redwoods

- Critical habitat for marbled murrelet
Remaining Old Growth Redwoods

Then and Now; the disappearance of Old Growth Redwoods, and the role of Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation in their Protection.

Legend

- Historical Redwood Range
- Remaining Old Growth Redwoods as of 1986
- State Parks With Old Growth Redwoods
- County Boundaries

Redwood Historical Range .......... 1,970,800 acres.

Old Growth Redwood
Protected by Public Agencies in 1986 .. 108,300 acres, approximately 5% of historical range.

Old Growth Redwood Owned by Public Agencies

Data Sources:
- Pan, Larry. 1986 (Old Growth)
- Greenline 2008 (Ownership)
- Kuchler, 1954 (Historic Redwood range)
The Marbled Murrelet
Meet a Rare Bird
Struggling to Survive

Deep in this forest, a mysterious seabird travels far from the ocean to raise its young. Marbled murrelets are so secretive that scientists didn't find a nest until 1974. Murrelet parents journey to and from the sea to bring fish to their single chick. They are cautious to avoid attracting predators like jays, ravens, and crows. Unfortunately, predator numbers are increasing and its getting harder for murrelet eggs and chicks to survive.

How can you help? Never feed wildlife. Predator populations increase when they have access to our garbage and food scraps. Keep your campsite clean by using trash containers, locking food in your vehicle, and never leaving food unattended.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK
State Wilderness

- The park includes 8,000 acres designated as State Wilderness
Outstanding scenic views from the ridge tops along Chalks Road

Berry Creek Falls
Rancho del Oso
Waddell Beach

- State Highway 1 at the mouth of Waddell Creek

Popular destination for kite surfing
Resource Management

GOALS:

• Maintain, enhance, or restore the movement of native species through the park and regional ecosystems in order to protect and promote species abundance and diversity.

• Implement appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs in heavily impacted or disturbed areas.
Animals native to Rancho del Oso and Ano Nuevo SB

San Francisco Garter Snake
Special animals found in Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Marbled murrelet on large mossy branch

Marbled murrelet at sea
Snowy Plover habitat at the mouth of Waddell Beach

Western snowy plover with chick
Big Basin provides habitat for these Special animals

Coho salmon

Red legged frog

Steelhead

Photos provided by Oregon Fish & Wildlife
Cultural Resources

Wardens Office 1939
Historic District

- National Register Historic District designation proposed for the historic core area to acknowledge and recognize the significance and integrity of the historic park rustic features and landscape.
Big Basin Lodge with outdoor dining area
Big Basin Lodge

- Site included 50 cabins, swimming pond, and dance floor
Sky Meadows Residences area

- A distinct example of post-WWII development, is proposed for a National Register Historic District.
GOAL:

- Protect and preserve important and significant cultural resources, including Native California Indian sites and historic landscapes.
• **California Indians**: Ohlone lifeways, hunting, gathering, basketry, shell manufacturing and trade

• **Spanish contact period**: Portola Expedition, Missions, California Indian relocation, resistance

• **Mexican period**: ranching, land grants

• **American period**: maritime history, logging, dairies, agriculture
Tribes of the Ohlone People inhabited area of the coast and Santa Cruz Mountains

Portraits of Indians of California
L. Choris c.1816
Indians of California – Ludwig Choris c 1816
Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, UCB
Artist's replication of Ohlone Winter Camp

Portola Expedition in search of Monterey Bay camped at Waddell Creek in October 1769, days later they “discover” San Francisco Bay.
Recreation Resources

GOAL:

• Provide a range of high quality recreational opportunities to allow visitors to enjoy, experience, and appreciate the important natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources of the park.
GOAL:

• Provide a trail system that offers a range of trail experiences, including hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use.

• Provide trails for access to park areas and to connect with regional and statewide trail systems.
Little Basin
(Private Property)

- State Parks is pursuing the acquisition of Little Basin, as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Alternatives and Planning Zone Possibilities

The following slides present alternative concepts for planning the future of Big Basin Redwoods State Park.
Alternative 1
Connecting People with Big Basin

• This concept provides additional park facilities, where appropriate, and emphasizes visitor opportunities to increase public access, recreation opportunities, and visitor enjoyment of park resources.
Alternative 1
Connecting People with Big Basin
• Change park’s main access and circulation for improved visitor contact and orientation.

• Redirect visitor traffic to the south entrance on Hwy. 236, and provide park shuttle service to reduce HQ traffic congestion.
Campground Registration

• Relocate campground registration functions to Saddle Mountain.

• Retain some park operations services at Headquarters.
• Increase overnight accommodations.

• Consider converting portions of North Escape Road and Sky Meadows group camp area to overnight cabins.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Rehabilitate Big Basin Lodge for multi-purpose functions, including concessions.
Saddle Mountain

• Develop a new park Welcome Center with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Consider relocation or removal of existing facilities at Saddle Mountain when lease expires.
• Develop a new distinctive “front door” and safe entry that is welcoming and conveys a sense of arrival and area identity.
Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Preliminary General Plan

Alternative 1
Connecting People with Big Basin

Legend

- Visitor Services
- Day Use
- Interpretation & Education
- Overnight Accommodations
- Park Operations
- New Development
- Park Entrance
- Park Road
- Private Road
- Trail

Rancho del Oso

January 2010
• Upgrade/replace ranger station and park interpretive facility

• Improve provisions for bicycles, horse trailers and equestrian staging and enroute vehicle camping.

• Develop new camping facilities near Quarry Road. Allow controlled authorized public vehicle access.

Alternative 1  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Retain the equestrian campground and staging area.

• Allow tent, bike-in and walk-in camping.
• Improve entrance roads for safe vehicle access from Highway 1 to inland trailheads and Nature and History Center.
• Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities
Wilderness & Backcountry

- Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation and education to strengthen park resource protection and enjoyment of wilderness and backcountry areas.

Alternative 1  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Maintain the existing roadbed into the wilderness for bicycle access from the south and for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles.
Little Basin

- Acquire property and establish area as a public group use and special events destination area.

- Adapt facilities for family and group use, to support active recreation and special events with both outdoor and indoor facilities.

Alternative 1  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Retain existing facilities for group use, camping, overnight cabins, and operations support.

Alternative 1  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Develop an overnight lodge with dining facilities and additional rustic overnight cabins.

Alternative 1  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Expand Big Basin day use and overnight opportunities, to serve evolving recreation trends

• Provide safe two-way public vehicle access on Little Basin Road from Hwy. 236 to Little Basin through coordination with the County.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities
Alternative 2
Preserving & Enjoying the Redwood Forest

• This concept emphasizes preservation of the primary natural resources, with possible relocation or removal of some existing development, activities, or services to preserve redwood forest.
Alternative 2
Preserving & Enjoying the Redwood Forest

Legend
- Visitor Services
- Day Use
- Interpretation & Education
- Overnight Accommodations
- Park Operations
- New Development
- Park Shuttle Stop & Route
- Initial Visitor Contact & Campground Check-in

January 2010
Headquarters Area

- Restore the health of redwood forest and ecosystem, including the protection of marbled murrelet habitat.

Alternative 2  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Limit facilities to serve basic needs of visitor access, public safety, and resource protection.

• No new developments in HQ core area.

Alternative 2  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect sensitive natural resources and significant cultural sites and features.

• Restore forest understory vegetation and reduce soil erosion.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Provide park shuttle and satellite parking areas to reduce HQ traffic congestion.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Rehabilitate Lodge building and adapt as a multi-use facility for interpretive purposes and/or park operations.

Alternative 2  Planning Zone Possibilities
• Relocate park administration and concession operations to a new south park entrance at Saddle Mountain.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
Saddle Mountain

- Develop a new park Welcome Center with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Rehabilitate former Gatehouse building for park operations use.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
State Wilderness

- Remove the roadbeds through the state wilderness, and restore as trails for hikers and equestrian use.

- Consider expansion of wilderness boundaries to Gazos Creek Road for more effective management

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Provide a continuous trail (outside of the wilderness) from the ridge tops to the coast for bicycle access to natural areas and scenic points of interest.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
Rancho del Oso (RDO)

- Develop park entrance interpretive kiosk and parking adjacent to highway.

- Limit entrance road use as a multi-use trail and access for authorized vehicles.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Preliminary General Plan

Alternative 2
Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest

Legend
- Visitor Services
- Day Use
- Interpretation & Education
- Overnight Accommodations
- Park Operations
- New Development
- Park Entrance
- Park Road
- Private Road
- Trail

- Road Access to Private Ranches
- Equestrian Campground (Allow Tent/Bike-in Camping)
- Expand Trailhead Parking after Relocating Ranger Station
- Marsh Interpretive Trail
- Expand and improve Nature & History Center to include New Park Office
- Maintenance Storage
- Canyon Road Park Entrance

January 2010

Rancho del Oso
Coordinate with Caltrans on the Waddell Creek bridge replacement project to improve hydrology processes and provide safe beach access.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Manage development and human activity to achieve resource management objectives and support trail access to inland areas for hikers, equestrians, and bicycle use

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Protect sensitive plant and wildlife habitats, preserving natural values in and around the T. J. Hoover Natural Preserve.

• Rehabilitate the Nature and History Center building and facilities to serve as the RDO park office and interpretive center. Remove existing park office.
Little Basin

- Acquire property and establish an environmental education center and recreation facility to complement the Department’s resources, interpretive and educational programs, and recreation.

Alternative 2  Planning Zone Possibilities
- Remove ball field and playground facilities, and maintain open space.

- Remove dam and reservoir, and reestablish creek and riparian habitat.

Alternative 2  Planning Zone Possibilities
Alternative 3
Preserving Big Basin’s Legacy and Traditions

• This concept emphasizes the preservation and interpretation of the prime natural and cultural features and maintains traditional park activities and programs.
Alternative 3
Preserving Big Basin’s Legacy

North Escape Road
Day Use Picnic
Big Basin Lodge Interpretive Center
(Includes Nature Museum & Sempervirens Room exhibits)

Park Headquarters
Staff Residence
Park Store
Park Office & Exhibits
Campfire Center
Redwood Trail

Legend
Visitor Services
Day Use
Interpretation & Education
Overnight Accommodations
Park Operations
New Development
Initial Visitor Contact & Campground Check-in

Highway 236 to Saratoga and Bay Area
Designate Core Area as a Historic District and the original park acquisition area as a National Historic Landmark

Sky Meadows
Maintenance Center
Staff Residences
Group Campground
Tent Cabin Campground
Family Campgrounds

Saddle Mountain
Park Information
Park Offices & Meeting Facilities
Day Use Parking & Picnic Area
Staff Residences

Little Basin
Acquire & Rehabilitate Existing Facilities for Public Use
Active Day Use Recreation
Administrative & Maintenance Facilities
Campground and Overnight Cabins

January 2010
Headquarters Area

- Rehabilitate HQ historic structures and restore cultural landscape.
- Adapt historic structures to appropriate uses.
- No new structures in HQ historic core area.
• Rehabilitate the Lodge building.

• Adapt as a central park interpretive center by consolidating existing interpretive features

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Increase interpretive programs to enhance visitor experiences and appreciation of Big Basin’s cultural history and traditions.

• Maintain traditional campground registration in Park Headquarters area.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities
Saddle Mountain

- Continue existing south and north park entrance access to the Headquarters area.

- Develop a visitor orientation center and parking lot as supportive/supplemental services to HQ services.

Alternative 3  Planning Zone Possibilities
Wilderness & Backcountry

- Maintain and improve trails for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography.

- Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities
Rancho Del Oso

- Maintain existing inland vehicular access, trailhead, ranger station, and park staff residence.

- Retain the equestrian campground, mitigate adverse impacts and protect and interpret natural and cultural resources.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities
Alternative 3
Preserving Big Basin's Legacy

Legend
- Visitor Services
- Day Use
- Interpretation & Education
- Overnight Accommodations
- Park Operations
- New Development
- Park Entrance
- Park Road
- Private Road
- Trail

Coastal Trail
Waddell Beach Parking & Restrooms
Metro Bus Stop
Kite Surfing & Wind Surfing Access Location
Roadside Day Use Parking
New Highway Bridge with Trail Undercrossing

Waddell Creek Coastal Trail

Skyline to Sea Trail
Staff Residence
Authorized Public Vehicle Access only on East Waddell Road
Park Entrance
Highway 1 to Half Moon Bay

T.J. Hoover Natural Preserve

Canyon Road
Quarry Road
Private Agricultural Fields

Rancho del Oso

January 2010
Increase on-site interpretation, publications, and historical information available to visitors about RDO prehistory and history.

Alternative 3  Planning Zone Possibilities
Little basin

- Rehabilitate existing overnight and group facilities to serve group uses and special programs/events.
- Improve access and utilities infrastructure.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities
• Provide natural and cultural resource interpretation, and interpret Little Basin recreation history.

• Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect cultural sites and sensitive natural resources.

Alternative 3  Planning Zone Possibilities
Thank you for attending our open house

- Please take a few moments to stop by the various planning stations
- Ask questions and provide comments
- Enjoy a few refreshments
- Visit a State Park soon!