Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Alternative 1

Highlights

Parkwide Concept
This concept provides additional park facilities, where appropriate, and emphasizes visitor opportunities to increase public access, recreation opportunities, and visitor enjoyment of park resources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities</th>
<th>Headquarters Zone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blend historic and compatible new development to support visitor use in Headquarters area</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increase overnight accommodations.</strong> Consider converting portions of North Escape Road and Sky Meadows group camp area to overnight cabins.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use interpretation to increase the public’s awareness of the park’s diversity and opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Relocate main park administration and campground registration functions to Saddle Mountain.</strong> Retain some park operations services at Headquarters.</td>
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- **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.

- **Rehabilitate historic structures** for appropriate adaptive uses, to expand visitor services and interpretive activities.

- **Rehabilitate Big Basin Lodge** for multi-purpose functions, including concessions.

- **Protect the old growth redwoods**, native plants and wildlife habitats.

- **Protect cultural sites and features** and provide interpretation to educate and involve visitors in resource protection.

- **Continue existing staff residences** at Sky Meadows. These historic structures are proposed for a National Register Historic district designation.

- **Maintain existing maintenance center.**
Alternative 1
Planning Zone Possibilities

Establish new entrance facilities at Saddle Mountain and improve traffic conditions, visitor services and park operations

South and North Entrance Zones

South Entrance at Saddle Mountain

- Develop a new park Welcome Center with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.
- Develop park shuttle/metro bus stop with a day use park and ride lot.
- Rehabilitate/upgrade former Gatehouse building for park operations use.

North Entrance at China Grade

- Redirect visitors to the South Entrance at Saddle Mountain through coordination of highway signs with Caltrans.
- Improve existing trailhead parking and signage.
Alternative 1
Planning Zone
Possibilities

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

Expand Big Basin day use and overnight opportunities, to serve evolving recreation trends

Little Basin Zone

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

- **Retain/rehabilitate existing facilities** for group use, camping, overnight cabins, and operations support.

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

- **Develop an overnight lodge** with dining facilities and additional rustic overnight cabins.

- **Protect native plants, wildlife habitats, cultural sites and features**, and mitigate impacts to allow for compatible public uses.

- **Provide interpretation** to educate and involve visitors in resource protection, and interpret history and use of Little Basin by Hewlett-Packard Corp.
**Alternative 1**

**Planning Zone Possibilities**

- **Promote RDO as the western gateway to Big Basin, West Waddell Creek State Wilderness**
- **Upgrade and expand day use parking and trailhead facilities**
- **Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination**

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**Rancho del Oso Zone**

- **Develop a new distinctive “front door” and safe entry that is welcoming and conveys a sense of arrival and area identity.**
- **Retain the equestrian campground and staging area.** Allow tent, bike-in and walk-in camping.
- **Develop new camping facilities** near Quarry Road. Allow controlled authorized public vehicle access.
- **Upgrade/replace ranger station** and park interpretive facility, and improve provisions for bicycles, horse trailers and equestrian staging and enroute vehicle camping.
- **Improve entrance roads** for safe vehicle access from Highway 1 to inland trailheads and Nature and History Center.
- **Maintain parking and access facilities,** and upgrade facilities, as needed, to support beach and surfing activities.
- **Protect and interpret significant natural and cultural resources,** mitigate adverse impacts.
### Alternative 1
**Planning Zone Possibilities**

- Expand recreation opportunities while preserving the undeveloped character of the wilderness and backcountry areas.

### Wilderness and Backcountry Zone

- **Maintain and improve trails** for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography. Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks.

- **Use existing fire roads as an inland multi-use trail system.** Connect to the surrounding regional trail network.

- **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.

- **Maintain the existing roadbed into the wilderness** for bicycle access from the south and for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles.

- **Develop additional trailside camps**, where feasible.

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

- **Consider emerging forms of recreation** such as geocaching and evaluate benefits and potential impacts.

- **Continue management practices** to protect native plants and wildlife habitats, cultural sites and features, to allow for continued public access.