

Definition - California State Parks

State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as those improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

Purpose – Red Rock Canyon State Park

The purpose of Red Rock Canyon State Park is to protect and perpetuate the spectacular high desert landscape, associated natural ecosystems, and important archeological values for public enjoyment and inspiration, and for scientific study.

GUIDING LEGISLATION, LAWS AND POLICIES

- ***DPR Resource Management Policies and Directives***
The document "Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Parks and Recreation" provides policy about use patterns, allowable use, and avoidance of resource degradation.
- ***State Park & Recreation Commission Statements of Policy***
The "California State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy and Rules of Order" provides guidance on the preservation of natural and cultural resources and on the uses that may damage those resources.
- ***California Desert Protection Act, Section 701***
Enacted in 1994, this law provides for the protection of the California Desert, and specifically the lands to be transferred to Red Rock Canyon State Park, in order to preserve their scientific and scenic values.
- ***Public Resources Code, Sections 5019.53***
The Public Resources Code (PRC) states the purpose of any park classified as "State Park". Summarized, the purpose is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic and cultural values and the most significant examples of such ecological regions of California as the desert and desert mountains. The section also includes a provision for improvements related to

recreational activities with some restrictions.

- ***Declaration of Purpose, Red Rock Canyon State Park***
This declaration gives the underlying purpose for which the park was established. As well, it defines the purposes for Red Cliffs and Hagen Canyon Natural Preserves within the park, and applied-for federal lands.
- ***General Plan, Red Rock Canyon State Park***
The existing General Plan will be amended to include the lands transferred under the California Desert Protection Act.
- ***State Approach and Legislative Intent for Riparian & Wetland areas***
Management of the Main Wash and the Last Chance Canyon watershed is subject to these provisions.
- ***MOU between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Parks and Recreation.*** Under this MOU, the Department is responsible for management of the unconveyed Desert Protection Act lands as a part of Red Rock Canyon State Park, and BLM manages the valid mining claims on this land pursuant to existing Federal mining laws and regulations.
- ***Last Chance Canyon Archeological District***
Last Chance Canyon is listed in both the National and State of California Registers of Historic Places and is also on the National Register of Historic Places for prehistoric resources. As such it is protected by law.
- ***State & Federal Endangered Species Acts***
These acts provide for the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of any endangered or threatened plant or animal species and its habitat. Red Rock Canyon State Park and the Last Chance Canyon Addition contains a number of species that are listed on state or federal registers as being rare, threatened, or sensitive.

- ***Archaeological and Paleontological Resources***
Archaeological and Paleontological Resources are protected under the Public Resources Code (PRC 5097) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR 4307). The new lands contain significant archaeological and paleontological resources.

