

Planning for Mount San Jacinto State Park

Newsletter No. 1

February-April, 2009

Long Valley Management Plan

Parkwide Interpretation Master Plan



Announcing the Start of the Next Planning Phase at Mount San Jacinto State Park

Several years have passed since the adoption of the Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan. California State Parks is now initiating two detailed plans that build on the general plan. The Long Valley Management Plan will set the specific framework for the future of Long Valley. The Mount San Jacinto State Park Interpretation Master Plan will map out future interpretation and education throughout the park. See inside for more information on both plans.



Pointing to the future: one of the first park signs, 1934

“How Can I Participate?”

Public participation is essential in planning for the future of Long Valley and park interpretation and education. Your input helps us ensure these plans are based on the best possible information, and incorporate ideas and desires of the community. You can participate by attending workshops and meetings State Parks will hold during the planning process. The first workshops will introduce the planning process, and gather your input on park issues and opportunities to address in the plans.

(Workshop locations and dates on next page.)

The first workshops are scheduled for:

Palm Springs

Friday, April 24, 2009

Katherine Finchy Elementary

777 Tachevah Drive

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Idyllwild

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Idyllwild Nature Center

25225 Hwy 243

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

There will be further opportunities to provide input throughout the planning process. Be sure to stay on the email or mailing list to keep involved. State Parks will also keep you updated on progress via the park planning webpage (<http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>).

What We Want to Learn from YOU at the April Workshops

Long Valley:

- What are your important destinations and landmarks in Long Valley?
- What natural and cultural resources do you value most in Long Valley?
- What types of recreational opportunities should be considered and expanded in the future?

Park Interpretation and Education:

- What displays, programs and activities do you enjoy at the park? What needs improvement?
- What other interpretation or education opportunities would you be interested in if they were available?
- Are there park issues that you think could be improved by providing more information to the public via interpretation and education?



Building the Long Valley Management Plan, from the Ground Up

Planning for the Future of Long Valley

The Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan, approved in 2002, provides the overall and long-range vision for park management. Rather than prescribing specific facilities, capacities, or locations, its broad goals and guidelines give general direction for the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. Specific future actions are determined by parameters defined in management plans that build on the general plan framework.

Because the general plan identified the need for a Long Valley Management Plan, California State Parks is initiating this planning process. Public input plays a significant role in this process.

The Long Valley Management Plan is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). California State Parks will formally begin the CEQA process by issuing a Notice of Preparation for public review following the April 2009 public workshops. It will be available for viewing and download on the project web page, <http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>.



Snow play in Long Valley

A Master Plan for Park Interpretation and Education

The Mount San Jacinto State Park Interpretation Master Plan will create a unified interpretation “roadmap” for the entire park. It will define facilities, displays, and programs that implement the general plan’s broad interpretation and education vision. The plan is being developed in coordination with the Long Valley Management Plan because this heavily-used area of the park is an important location for interpretation and education.

Unlike the Long Valley plan, the Interpretation Master Plan is not subject to CEQA review because it will not designate specific sites for new facilities. But public input is still very important for effective planning. What are your ideas? Let us know via the public workshops and meetings, or via email.

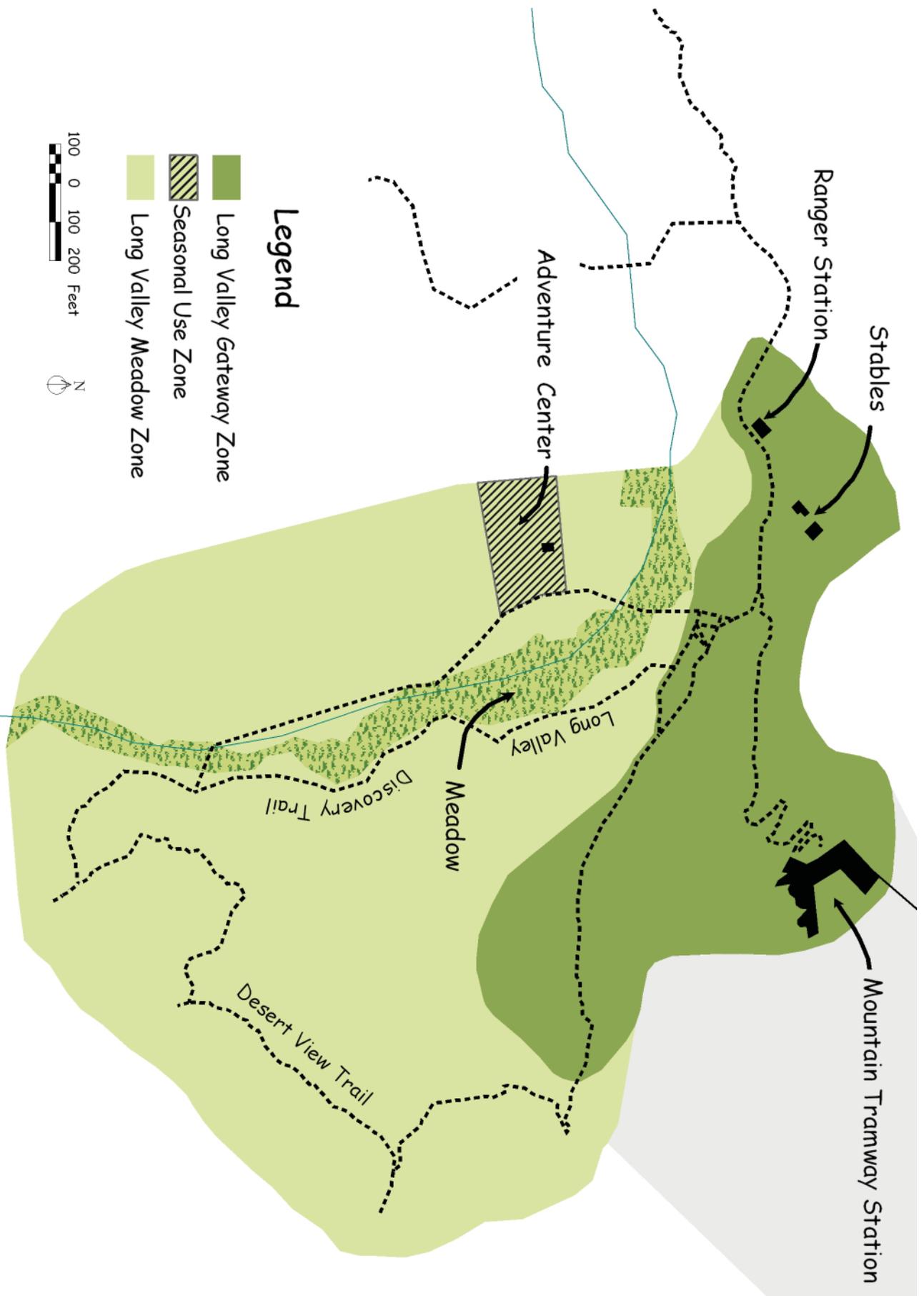


Interpretation (like this Long Valley Discovery Trail panel) introduces visitors to the park’s resources, and can help increase resource protection.

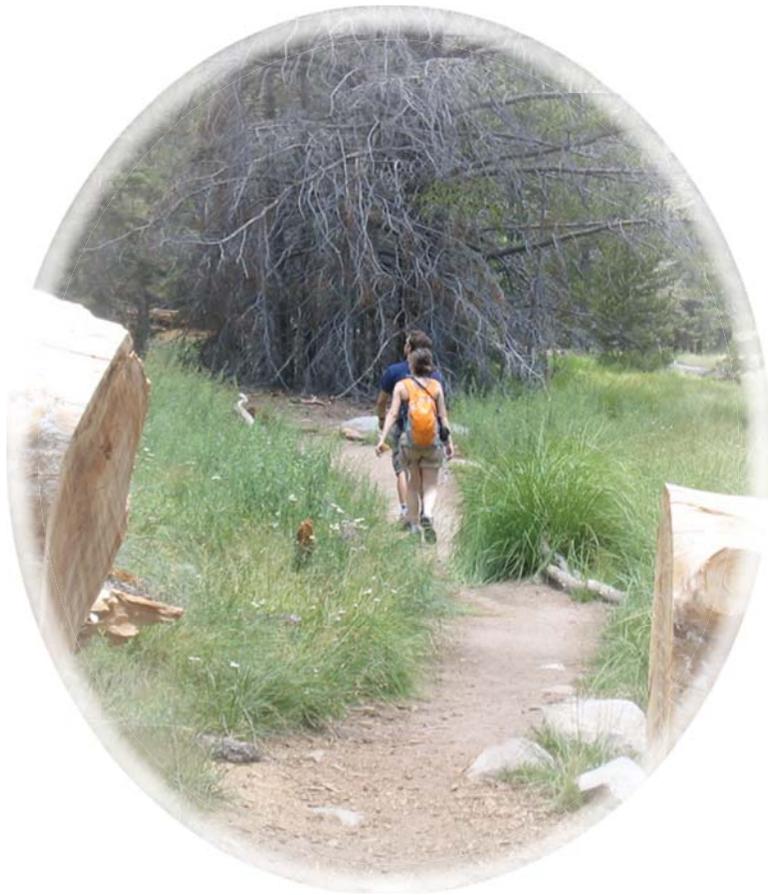
California State Parks’ Interpretive Mission Statement

Interpretation is a special form of communication that helps people understand, appreciate, and emotionally connect with the rich natural and cultural heritage preserved in parks. It is the mission of interpretation in California State Parks to convey messages that initially will help visitors value their experience, and that ultimately will foster a conservation ethic and promote a dedicated park constituency.

Long Valley and the General Plan Management Zones



Long Valley and the General Plan Management Zones



Hiking around
Long Valley Meadow

Long Valley comprises three of the seven management zones defined in the Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan: Long Valley Gateway Zone, Seasonal Use Zone, and Long Valley Meadow Zone. Planners delineated the zones based on their natural, geographical, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational sensitivities and values. The highest use is allowed in the Long Valley Gateway Zone.

The general plan gives details on the park planning zones, their characteristics, and allowed uses. You can view and download the Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan from the project web page at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>.

Want More Information?

To keep up to date on the planning process, visit the Mount San Jacinto State Park planning web page:

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>.

You may also email, call, or mail
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This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting the district planner, or at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>.



California State Parks' Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

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**You are invited
to attend**

a

Public Workshop

to provide input for the
Mount San Jacinto State Park
Long Valley Management Plan
and
Parkwide Interpretation Master Plan

April 24: Palm Springs Workshop

April 25: Idyllwild Workshop

Details on pages 1 and 2

Everyone is Welcome

All interested parties are welcome to attend the public meetings, so pass on this invitation if you know others who would like to be involved.



Please call (951) 940-5664 at least two weeks in advance of the meetings if you need special accommodation. We will be happy to make arrangements.