

**Summary of Public Planning Workshop #1
For
Sinkyone Wilderness State Park
General Plan
March 19, 2003, 7-9:30 pm
Garberville Veterans Hall**

Approximate attendance: 45

Introductions and Presentations

Steve Horvitz, Park Superintendent, Eel River Sector of North Coast Redwoods District

- Opening comments regarding purpose of the meeting;
- Welcomes public to comment on the planning process;
- General plan (GP) is a planning document that will serve as a guide for Sinkyone Wilderness State Park for the next 20-25 years.

Roger Goddard, Landscape Architect, North Coast Redwoods District

- What is General Planning
 - Open-minded without preconceived plans or outcomes;
 - Holistic in its approach (individual elements are determined by their relations to all other elements of that system);
 - Considers both internal and external influences;
 - Focuses on resource and facility management.
- Purpose of the GP
 - To serve as the primary management document for the park;
 - To establish the park's purpose, vision, long-term goals and guidelines;
 - To define a comprehensive framework that guides park development, ongoing management and public use.

Petra Unger, Environmental Consultant, EDAW, Inc.

- General Plan Process
 - Document existing conditions (ongoing)
 - Identify and inform stakeholders (ongoing – mailing list)
 - Identify issues and concerns (visioning surveys)
 - Develop alternatives for planning (spring/summer 2003)
 - Identify preferred alternative (Fall 2003)
 - Circulate General Plan and EIR for public review (Winter 2003)
- Purpose of EIR
 - To analyze the preferred alternative's effects on the environment
 - Public disclosure
- EIR Process
 - Notice of Preparations (NOP) – filed with the State Clearinghouse on February 27
 - Scoping – today's meeting, comment sheets
 - Preparation of Draft General Plan/EIR
 - Public and Agency Review of Draft EIR (45 days)
 - Final General Plan/EIR
 - DPR Commission adopts Plan

- Partners in Planning
 - California State Park: North Coast Redwoods District and Statewide General Plan Unit
 - GP/EIR consultant: EDAW, Inc., Thomas Reid Associates (Carrying Capacity Study)
 - Local community
 - Park visitors/users
- General Plan/EIR Timeline
- Opportunities for Public Input
 - Public Workshop No.1 – EIR Scoping Meeting
 - Visioning worksheet – fill out by hand or online
 - Scoping comment worksheet – return by April 15, 2003
 - Public Workshop No.2 – Alternatives (Summer 2003)
 - Review Draft EIR – Public Workshop No. 3 (2004)

Comments

Concern was expressed over the deadline for public comments published in the Notice of Preparation. The deadline was extended to April 15, 2003 and comments will be accepted throughout the process.

Breakout Groups

Four breakout groups were facilitated by Martin Urbach, Travis Johnson, Wayne Woodroof, and Don Beers of DPR. The public comments below were captured and recorded by Petra Unger, Connie Gallippi, and Brian Ludwig of EDAW, and Wayne Woodroof of DPR on large easel paper.

* The starred items are additional comments received from the General Plan Surveys circulated by mail, available at the public meeting, and available on the web.

() Number in parentheses represents the amount of votes the comment received during the public meeting voting exercise following the break-out group sessions. Each group member voted for the five most important comments or issues brought up within their group.

OVERALL PARK MANAGEMENT

- Keep it the same (3)
 - Keep wild character, solitude (9)
 - Keep remote and public
- More wilderness
- More law enforcement
- More funding for patrolling and prevention of illegal uses
- General plan success monitoring and updating (1)
- Progress towards adding to State Wilderness System (1)
- King Range – Sinkyone consistency

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Fisheries and Wildlife habitat protection (4)
 - Elk population management (7)
 - Preserve Salmon habitat-reintroduce native fish

- Bear management plan
- Maintain wildlife diversity
- Protect sea lions haul-out at Little Jackass Creek
- Establish a carrying capacity
- Remove or fence in elk*
- Reintroduction of salmon
- Salmon protection at Shadowbrook parcel
- Protection of martens
- Wildlife connectivity – migration corridor between King Range, Mattole, and Piercy
- Usal Creek Fisheries restoration
- Plants
 - Protect coastal strand plant communities
 - Removal of exotic plants
 - Without toxics or herbicides (3)
 - No removal at Bear Harbor (2)
 - Berries
 - Preserve meadows
 - Protection of old growth forests
 - Protection of flora and fauna
 - Encourage mature forests
 - Identify and manage native plants (protect from elk and people) (2)
 - Establish a permanent non-herbicide policy (1)
 - Continue to restore coastal prairie ecosystems by Douglas fir removal and controlled burns*
- Water Quality (1)
 - Incorporate upper parcels into a cooperative watershed management plan (1)
 - Pristine quality of streams
 - Water Quality sampling
 - Watershed restoration
 - Water management for facilities in the Mattole watershed
 - Lost River restoration – fisheries
- Scenic and Aesthetic Values
 - Work with timber owners to protect viewshed from park (special treatment areas)
 - Keep views from Anderson, Usal, Jackass, Dark Gulch, the sag ponds, beach at Sandy Beach Grove, Little Jackass, and Jones Beach
 - Wind-swept ridges and topographical variety
 - Beach protection – no vehicles (2)
 - Intrinsic value of park (1)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local community and organizations (5)
- On-going role for Whale Gulch and Whitethorn Schools (2)
- Access to thin elk herd when needed by local property owners*
- No park fees for locals*
- Intertribal Council coordination

FIRE HAZARDS AND MANAGEMENT

- Concern for firewood poaching
- Fire hazards

- Natural fire – mosaic consistent with wilderness
- Comprehensive fire hazard management plan
- No fire season burns
- Provide fire access
- Fuel load management (1)
- 10,000 gallon tanks of water for fire and other needs at Needle Rock and Usal camps (1)
- No firewood gathering – sell at visitors center
- Stricter smoking and campfire management
- Consistent guidelines for campfires and stoves between agencies (BLM, CDF, DPR)

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Protection of Cultural and Historic resources (8)
- Cooperation with Sinkiyone Intertribal Council in managing wilderness consistent with their needs (2)
- Return 4-Corners property to Indian stewardship (cultural preserve) (12)
- No visitors center at 4-Corners
- Build traditional structures for cultural events (2)
- Increase Indian stewardship
- Protect Indian heritage, spiritual place
- Native American Indigenous restoration (1)
- Conduct a cultural resources inventory
- Tribal member designated use areas (2)
- Protect the Eucalyptus Forest and other European historic sites (the barn, house, railroad)

RECREATION USES

- Vehicular Use
 - Control or eliminate vehicles at Usal Beach (2)
 - No OHV use in park
 - Vehicular restrictions at Usal Beach
 - Restrict driving at Usal Beach, but keep access
- Use/Overuse
 - Concern for overuse (5)
 - Protection from vandalism at south end (1)
 - No large groups
 - No Horseback riders
 - Establish a carrying capacity for backcountry trails and Usal campground (5)
 - Address commercial group use permits (boy scouts)
 - Implement hiking/wilderness permit system
 - If backpacking permits are needed, have them available locally
 - Volunteer trail patrol (1)
 - Drive-in camping reservation system during high season (1)
 - Consult with other agencies who have dealt with overcrowding (i.e. Forest Service) and follow their models
 - Make permits and regulations season-specific (high season only) (1)
- Campgrounds
 - No generators or chainsaws in campgrounds
 - Illegal camping and fires at Usal Beach
 - Existing minimal campsites at north end of park and at Usal
 - Keep campsites

- No dogs
- Keep kayaking at Bear Harbor
- Public Safety and access to beach
- Abalone diving and history
- Keep accessibility to ocean
- Bear container policy
- Limited mountain biking*

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

- Interpretive Signage
 - Improve interpretive signage (1)
 - More signs, interpretive panels, handouts, etc.
 - Improve signs for water hazards
 - Mountain lion education
 - Educational materials, signs – local flora
 - More signage for parking and smoking rules
- Student Education
 - Student employment and programs – internships
 - Student backpack and camp trips
 - Teaching facilities for children*
- Incorporate educational groups to various management strategies (1)
- Keep interpretive hikes run by Sanctuary Forest and others at Jones Beach and Shadowbrook
- More wilderness education (DPR status)
- Preserving and educating public on cultural importance
- Have more Sinkyone information at BLM office
- Tide pool interpretation and monitoring (1)
- Increased information availability (pamphlets, website, signs) (1)
- Address concept of special uses of food for tribal and public traditional events

FACILITIES

- Visitor Center
 - Consider a visitor center, but close road and start trail
 - Keep Needle Rock House as visitor's center (2)
 - Visitors center at Usal
 - Develop Bake Creek visitor center (1)
 - No new additional visitor center
- Outhouses
 - Remove outhouses except at visitors center
 - Two new outhouses: 1) Timber Point and 2) Hotel Gulch and Wheeler Junction
 - Keep outhouses (2)
 - Better maintenance of outhouses
 - No facilities, but redo outhouses
- Expansion/Acquisitions
 - Expand to ridge and Mattole (1)
 - Anderson Strip Park acquisition (2)
 - Connectivity to Chamise Mountain/King Range
- Campsites
 - Keep primitive campsites (3)

- Improved horse trails with corrals at campsites
- Provide cabins or other indoor camping facilities*
- No more campsites north of Needle Rock
- Parking and Access
 - Clarify parking at Jones Beach
 - Parking issues need to be addressed (1)
 - Public access
 - Keep accessible to all
- Development and Structures
 - Like the lack of visible structures, improvements signs and other man-made features (2)
 - No more buildings on north end, small cabin or facility on south end (2)
 - No commercial development
 - Minimize development (3)
 - Keep development on the periphery
- Hire more people to maintain park
- Provide public emergency phones

ROADS AND TRAILS

- Roads – Open or Close
 - Convert Needle Rock-Bear Harbor Road to trail (1)
 - Shuttle from 4 corners to Needle Rock
 - Leave Road open to Bear Harbor (2)
 - Drive to Needle Rock and hike to other areas
 - Close Wheeler Road and GP Coastal Haul Road (3)
 - Quads, horses, and emergency vehicles are okay
 - Have staging at perimeter of park (1)
 - Close Usal Road, remove and restore (3)
 - Shuttle in to park from perimeter
 - Limited roads and vehicular access
 - Keep roads gated and allow use for emergency and rangers only
 - Manage traffic on Needle Rock Road- shuttles?
 - Provide access for disabled to the beach
 - No road widening
 - Public access from Piercy
 - Dispersed access points for roads and trailheads
 - Volume restrictions on County Road 435
 - Establish visitation thresholds to regulate traffic and parking (1)
 - Preferences for local users (3)
 - Controlled access on Needle Rock Road – certain times for coming in and going out*
- Road Maintenance
 - Minimal maintenance of Usal Road
 - No expansion or paving of roads (2)
 - Better maintenance of roads
 - More turnouts and/or guard rails for safety on roads
 - Better maintenance of internal and county roads
 - Road management plan (1)
 - Upgrade Usal Road to manage sedimentation
 - Replace culverts with rock armoring erosion control on roads (2)

- Maintain Needle Rock Road as is (1)
- No bridge over Whale Creek
- Too much trash on roads
- Trails
 - Trail back to Needle Rock beach (3)
 - Restore trail to Needle Rock Beach, no concrete - just dirt (3)
 - Trails should focus on wilderness
 - No bikes or horses on trails
 - Keep bikes and horses on Hotel Gulch trail
 - No extensive trail building
 - Decentralized trailhead at Piercy-connectivity to South Fork Eel River (3)
 - Trails with different levels of difficulty
 - Safe and maintained trails
 - Keep undeveloped trails and beaches
 - Species-specific trail use (horses, llamas, goats as pack animals) (2)