

**Summary of Public Planning Workshop #2**  
**For**  
**Sinkyone Wilderness State Park**  
**General Plan**  
**April 24, 2003, 6:30-8:30 pm**  
**Leggett American Legion Hall**

Approximate attendance: 25

**Introductions and Presentations**

***Steve Horvitz, Park Superintendent, Eel River Sector of North Coast Redwoods District and Roger Goddard, Landscape Architect, 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 and beyond.

***Connie Gallippi and Petra Unger, Environmental Consultants, 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 May 8, 2003
- Public Workshop No.2 – Alternatives (Summer 2003)
- Review Draft EIR – Public Workshop No. 3 (2004)

## **Comments**

Due to small group at the meeting, one group circle was formed to discuss scoping issues and concerns for the park. The group was facilitated by Travis Johnson and the public comments below were captured and recorded by Connie Gallippi of EDAW on large easel paper.

( ) The number in parentheses represents the amount of votes the comment received during the public meeting voting exercise following the group session. Each meeting attendee voted for the five most important comments or issues brought up during the meeting.

## **OVERALL PARK MANAGEMENT/FUTURE VISION**

- More pristine wilderness (10)
- Adding to State Wilderness System (1)
- Protect the physical beauty, isolation and length of park (1)
- Value the land itself and our connection to it
- Keep it untouched – let nature take its course (1)
- Consider vandalism issues
- Cooperation with BLM wilderness plan
- Cooperation with InterTribal Council wilderness plan (1)
- Protect the unusual wild coast – no impact use
- Use solar and bio-diesel energy
- Establish sound or noise volume restrictions
- No chainsaws or generators
- Resident Ranger
- Bio-diesel park vehicles

## **PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Fisheries and Wildlife
  - Elk study of population and impacts (2)
  - Bear protection – canister use (similar to BLM plan)
  - Habitat corridor Red Mountain (1)
  - Protect sensitive bird habitat south of Usal (1)
  - Return of coho salmon and steelhead (4)
  - Protection of Mattole watershed
  - Rename Jackass Creek to Wolfe Creek
  - Protect the southern most population of mountain beaver at Low Gap Creek
  - Protect Marble Murrelets
  - May have a ecologically significant unit of cutthroat x rainbow trout hybrid
  - Protect mountain lions (elk control)
  - Protect dense population of sea lions and other marine mammals at Wolf Creek (discourage surfing)
  - Reintroduce sea otters
  - Re-establish California Condor
- Plants

- Protect and restore native plants (4)
- Vegetation restoration
- Protection of native herbs from elk and broom
- No herbicides (2)
- Remove pampas grass without herbicides
- Biological Heritage for the Future (4)
- Develop and maintain biological connectivity for genetic diversity (i.e. Six Rivers and InterTribal lands) (3)
- Designate Sinkyone and King Range Ocean Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)
- Designate all 20 miles of coast a marine sanctuary (1)
- Conservation water storage in Mattole watershed

#### **FIRE HAZARDS AND MANAGEMENT**

- Controlled burns/fire management (1)

#### **PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- Local Native American land management practices
- Reestablish Native American village in an appropriate location for cultural events (similar to Patrick's Point)
- Support InterTribal Council ownership/management of Four Corners (7)
- Help protect Native American cultural and heritage resources (1)

#### **RECREATION USES**

- Vehicular Use
  - Restrict mechanized access to existing areas and developed campgrounds (1)
  - No vehicles on beach (5)
  - No vehicles in the park except Usal campground (1)
  - Vehicle restrictions at Usal Creek campsites
- No overuse – preserve isolation (1)
- Activities should be coherent with values of the park
- No dogs
- Camping
- Hiking and backpacking
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Bird watching
- Whale and fish watching
- Photography

#### **INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION**

- Outreach and education to local communities
- Low impact kiosk at four corners
- Info. kiosk at Baker Creek for sensitivity information (1)
- Information kiosk for Sinkyone and interpretation for wilderness designation

- Solar power interpretive structures

## **FACILITIES**

- Visitor Center with native plant gardens at Baker Creek property
- Visitor Center at south end when safer
- Two more outhouses on Hotel Gulch Trail
- Acquire property from Usal to Highway 1 and designated wilderness (1)
- Hike-in campsites at Usal (1)
- Access development on the park periphery
- Shuttle system into Usal
- Tribal Center/Sustainable Forestry/Trail Access Center at Piercy (1)
- Provide special areas that are easily accessed for the majority of visitors (1)
- No development at Four Corners (headwaters of Mattole) (3)
- Remove test wells at Wheeler
- Resident Ranger – law enforcement at south end

## **ROADS AND TRAILS**

- Roads – Open or Close
  - County Road maintained and open year-round, upgraded for erosion control in cooperation with the County
  - Keep/maintain Road from Needle Rock to Bear Harbor (0.5)
  - Convert Needle Rock to Bear Harbor to a trail
  - Close Needle Rock (use Low Gap Road) (0.5)
  - Decommission Hotel Gulch Road and Wheeler Route
- Trails
  - Additional trail access (2)
  - Restore Needle Rock and Flat Rock trails
  - Adequate and more trails
  - Put bridge in on Whale Creek (2)
  - Shadowbrook trailhead