



Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

INITIAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 16, 2012

State Parks staff welcomed attendees and gave a short presentation (available on the project website). After the presentation, attendees broke into two groups for discussion. Staff facilitated these discussions based on a series of questions. The following comments were provided by participants.

FACILITIES

- Need a group camping site – very basic cabins with mess hall; potential uses include family reunions and non-profit groups (like Mendocino Woodlands).
- Hudson House – utilize for education, interpretation.
- Barns on A.M. Allen Ranch (Point Lobos Ranch property) could be used for education, interpretation.

DRAINAGE

- Drainage on Marathon Flats changed after the multi-use trail was added. This may have caused the surrounding area to be wetter than normal.

CIRCULATION/PARKING

- Parking issues – provide parking without negatively impacting resources.
- Transportation – look at existing infrastructure and tying recreation into existing infrastructure.

RECREATION AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

- Big Sur Marathon would like to use more of the Marathon Flats/Barnyard area for special events.
- Interconnected trails.
- In depth eco-tourism.
- Recreation (low impact) – hiking, biking, connectivity.
- Use Pt. Lobos Ranch for low impact recreation.
- Provide a bike path all the way up Hatton Canyon.
- Provide eco-cultural tourism activities.
- Tie in with existing programs like MEarth and Carmel Unified School District.
- Provide interpretive programs around geology, native peoples, and plants.
- More interpretive events – San Jose Creek is a potential location.
- Native American Demonstration village.
- More interpretive opportunities – provide docent-led tours at Carmel River State Beach.



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- Odello – provide more access for education.
- Science/cultural camp (beyond CampSea Lab).
- More outreach to urban youth.
- Education-based interpretation, institutes, science camps, kids camps.
- Maintain existing programs.
- Facilities to support programs – amphitheatre, yurts, serve groups as big as 100-150.
- Restoration of plants and natural environments – use grad students doing research.
- Concern about an increase of use in the lagoon causing an issue with nesting birds.

OTHER POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Groups associated with Carmel River Lagoon
- Carmel Valley Forum
- Carmel Valley Traffic Concessions
- Monterey County Parks

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES/ISSUES

- Need to get funding – maybe from other foundations.
- May be able to get grant funding for some facilities/programs.
- Current budget shortfall may be temporary – State Parks shouldn't make long-term decisions that would degrade the resources for short-term financial issues.

GENERAL

- Pt. Lobos Ranch should not be the name for the "ranch" property so as not to be confused with Pt. Lobos SNR, and to be more consistent with the historical name of the ranch.
- Regional emphasis (serving wider than just local Carmel area).
- Consider safety issues.
- General Plan will be long-term (i.e., 20-30 years) and should not preclude future development.