SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

COMMUNITY SHARES FEEDBACK ON ALTERNATIVES

Thanks to all of you who attended the 2nd Public Planning Workshop on May 22 for the Sugarloaf Ridge State Park General Plan! Over 110 people came to learn about the alternatives being considered and to provide feedback. Three alternatives were presented, each offering different ways to balance the protection of natural and cultural resources with the demand for recreation and providing a satisfying visitor experience. Workshop participants were able to ask questions about specific components of the alternatives and share their ideas and concerns.

In selecting a Preferred Alternative, California State Parks considered the local community's input received at the Workshop, as well as the written comment letters received before and after the meeting. State Parks representatives also met with various state, regional, local agencies and organizations to seek feedback on the alternatives. Participants in these meetings included Sonoma County Parks, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, LandPaths, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Sonoma County Land Trust, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Glen Ellen Fire Protection District. Also considered during the selection process were state-wide interests, agencies' relevant rules and regulations, the park's purpose and vision, and environmental constraints and resources. A description of the Preferred Alternative for the park is provided in the center of this newsletter.

Santa Rosa Creek

NEXT STEPS

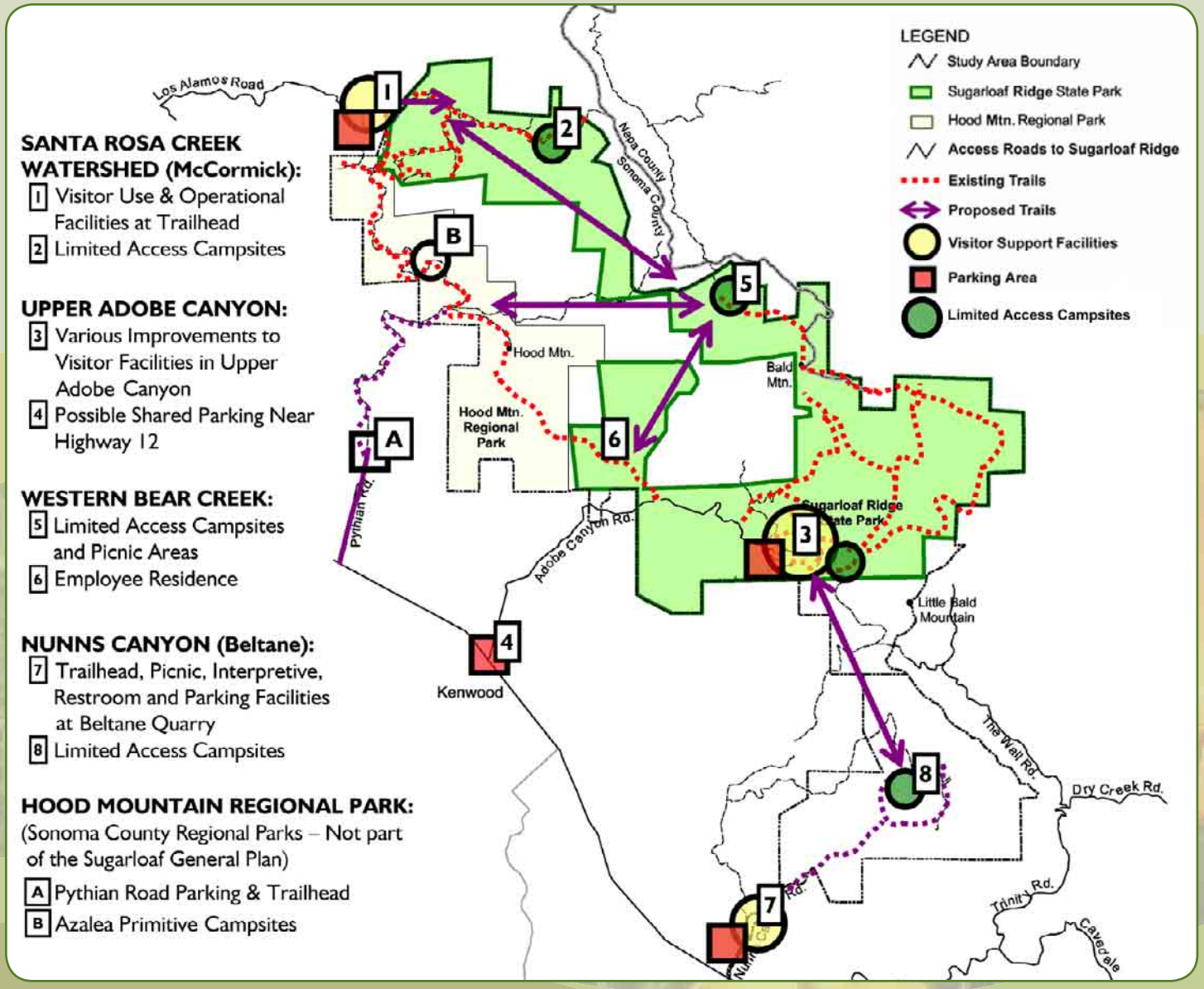
Over the next few months, the Preferred Alternative will be further refined and used to develop the Draft General Plan for Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The Plan will guide park operations, future improvements and environmental stewardship for the next 20 years. State Parks will also prepare a programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the Plan and identify mitigation measures if needed. In this process State Parks may make some modifications to the Preferred Alternative presented here since development of the Draft General Plan and environmental review will necessitate refinement of the proposals.

The next opportunity for public review and input will be upon release of the Draft General Plan and EIR in winter/spring 2004. A Notice of Availability will be sent to the General Plan mailing list when the document is published (see back page to add your name to the mailing list).

View from Bald Mountain

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative for the General Plan is a combination of features from the three conceptual alternatives described in Newsletter #2 and at the last public workshop on May 22, 2003. The key concepts and recommendations described below will be further refined over the next few months during development of the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report. The Plan will include goals and guidelines relating to resource management, protection and enhancement, trail connections, recreation and visitor experience, circulation and parking, maintenance and operations, aesthetic resources and interpretation.



Note: The "bubbles" depicting the location of facilities, use areas and trail connections are conceptual in nature. Precise facility locations will be determined when the facility is evaluated at a project level. Projects developed out of this general plan will be evaluated by a more detailed project level environmental review prior to implementation.

Key Concepts

- Preserve large wild land areas
- Restore and protect the resources and riparian vegetation along the Sonoma, Santa Rosa, Bear and Calabasas Creeks
- Connect trails between broader areas of the park
- Open as many trails as possible to shared use
- Resolve existing facility siting issues in upper Adobe Canyon to improve visitor experience and protect natural and cultural resources
- Expand visitor support facilities in limited areas to improve visitor experience and accommodate some of the expected increase in visitors
- Develop limited access campsites (limited or no car access)
- Provide interpretation of the park's resources
- Preserve the dark night-time sky

RECOMMENDED NEW OR EXPANDED FACILITIES

	Existing	New Plan
SANTA ROSA CREEK WATERSHED (McCormick)		
Construct new bridge(s) over Santa Rosa Creek	No	Yes
Additional visitor use and operational facilities	No	Yes
Limited access family campsites (8 people per site)	0	2
Los Alamos Road trailhead & parking (by County)	30	30
UPPER ADOBE CANYON		
Camping Facilities		
Family campsites (8 people per site)	49	70
Large group campsite (50 people)	1	1 - Relocated
Add reservable corrals for equestrian camping	0	8
Limited access small group campsites (15 people per site)	0	4
Limited access family campsites (8 people per site)	0	4
New restroom facility with showers at family campground	No	Yes
Observatory	Yes	Expand
Horse Barn		
Horse concession	Yes	Yes
Maintenance storage	Yes	No
Interpretive center	No	Yes
Picnic areas	No	Yes
Visitor Center	Yes	Expand
Picnic Areas	5	Up to 20
Maintenance and Operations		
Construct new bridge to family campground	No	Yes
Consolidate maintenance shop and equipment storage	No	Yes
NUNNS CANYON (Beltane)		
Quarry area restoration and trailhead	No	Yes
Parking spaces	0	40
Interpretive displays	No	Yes
Picnic areas	No	Yes
Limited access family campsites (8 people per site)	0	2
WESTERN BEAR CREEK WATERSHED		
Red Barn Area		
Limited access family campsites (8 people per site)	0	2 campsites
Picnic area	No	Yes
Interpretive displays	No	Yes
Harr Ranch Area		
Employee residence	Yes–vacant	Yes
TOTAL PARKING SPACES	271	428
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM PEOPLE IN PARK AT ONE TIME*	900	1,700

* Hard copy versions incorrectly characterized this as maximum per day.

HOOD MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK (by County) Under Separate Action (for reference only)		
Pythian Road trailhead & parking	No	County
Primitive campsites (Azalea Camp)	No	County

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Diablo Vista District
363 3rd Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

CHANGING STATE PARK DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

In the state budget currently under consideration, California State Parks will be consolidating 24 park management districts into 14 districts, with some shared administrative staff. It is proposed that Sugarloaf Ridge and other State Parks in eastern Sonoma County be consolidated into the larger Diablo Vista District. This new district will encompass most of the former Silverado District and Mount Diablo State Park. For now the Silverado Sector and the Diablo Vista District will be located on the Vallejo Home grounds at 363 3rd Street West, Sonoma. The new Diablo Vista District headquarters will eventually be located in Petaluma, across from Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. The district boundary changes will not affect the creation of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park General Plan.

Contact Information

If you are not currently on our mailing list (if you received this newsletter in the mail, you are already on the list) and would like to receive the Notice of Availability when the Draft General Plan and EIR document is released, please contact us at:

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www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans

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