

# Cuyamaca Rancho State Park



## Final General Plan and Environmental Impact Report



FEBRUARY 2015

California State Parks  
Southern Service Center  
2797 Truxtun Road  
San Diego, CA 92106

# Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

## FINAL General Plan and Environmental Impact Report

This document represents the FINAL General Plan and Environmental Impact Report approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

**Written inquiries regarding this General Plan should be submitted to the address below:**

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*Southern park entrance sign after snowfall  
February 2013*

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**Front Cover: *Hikers resting at the summit of Stonewall Peak with view north toward Lake Cuyamaca and North Peak  
January 2014. Photo by Lisa Fields, Environmental Scientist, CDPR***

This document is also available as an electronic file at: [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24356](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24356)

# Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

## FINAL General Plan and Environmental Impact Report

State Clearinghouse # 2013041026

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources

Lisa Ann L. Mangat  
Acting Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Southern Service Center  
2797 Truxtun Road  
San Diego, CA 92106



*Visitors enjoying a warm day at  
Green Valley Falls  
May 2012*

**FEBRUARY 2015**



*The Mission of California Department of Parks and Recreation  
is 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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## Document Contributors

*inside back cover*

## Under Separate Cover(s)

Physical and Biological Resources Inventory Summary  
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**View south from the summit of Stonewall Peak**



Resolution 9-2014  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California  
November 14, 2014

**General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report  
for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (“Plan”) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (“the Park”); and

WHEREAS, the Park is a significant place of scenic wildlands, campgrounds, trails, and recreation within San Diego’s mountainous backcountry; and

WHEREAS, the Park’s outstanding and diverse scenic, biological, and cultural resources warrant protection and restoration while providing a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, the Park contains several overlapping sub-unit classifications, such as wilderness, cultural preserves, and natural preserves, in order to provide equal recognition and protection of the significant resources which occupy the same geographic areas within the Park; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides conceptual parameters and guidelines for the long-term management, development, operation, and public use and enjoyment of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the Plan shall replace and supersede the original Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan that was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission on April 11, 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of a General Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing discussion of the potential impacts of future development and addressing all the requirements of an EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and functions as a “tiered EIR” pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21093, covering general goals and guidelines of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the Plan prior to approving the General Plan, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that mitigation measures or other changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Plan which will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts identified in the Plan; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceeding on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, dated August 2014; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval;

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 11-14-14

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director  
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 10-2014  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California  
November 14, 2014

**Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve Expansion  
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (“Plan”) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (“the Park”); and

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.74, Cultural Preserve, which “...consists of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California;” and

WHEREAS, the Cultural Preserve must be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve from 500-acres to 1,533-acres in order to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a very distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, including the largest known Native American site within the Park;

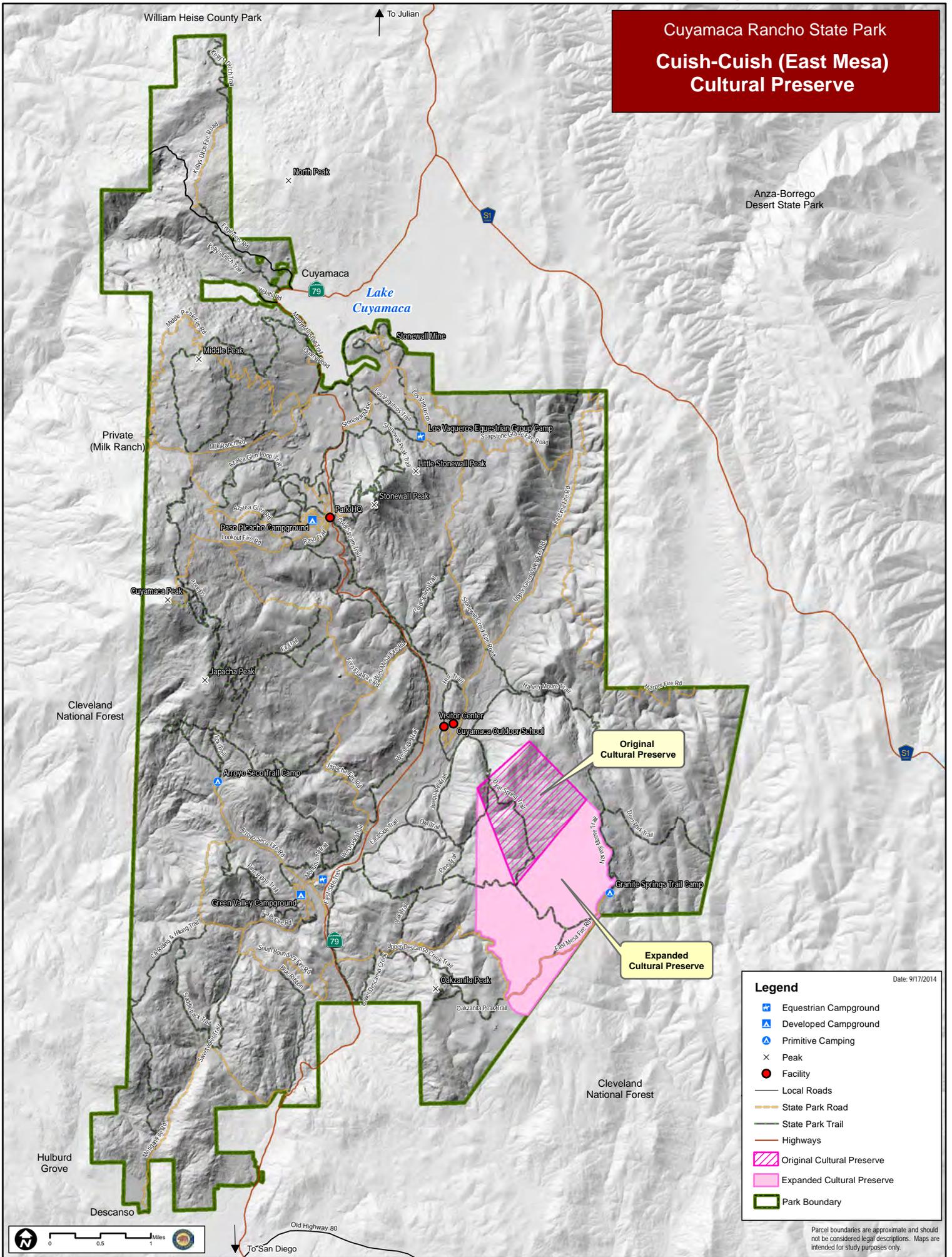
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Cultural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission’s duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 11-14-14

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director  
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa)  
Cultural Preserve



Date: 9/17/2014

Legend	
	Equestrian Campground
	Developed Campground
	Primitive Camping
	Peak
	Facility
	Local Roads
	State Park Road
	State Park Trail
	Highways
	Original Cultural Preserve
	Expanded Cultural Preserve
	Park Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.



Resolution 11-2014  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California  
November 14, 2014

**Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve Expansion  
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.50, Cultural Preserve, which "...consists of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California;" and

WHEREAS, "the Cultural Preserve must be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources..." and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve from 430-acres to 1,780-acres to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a very distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, including the highly significant Native American village site for which the mountains and Park were named;

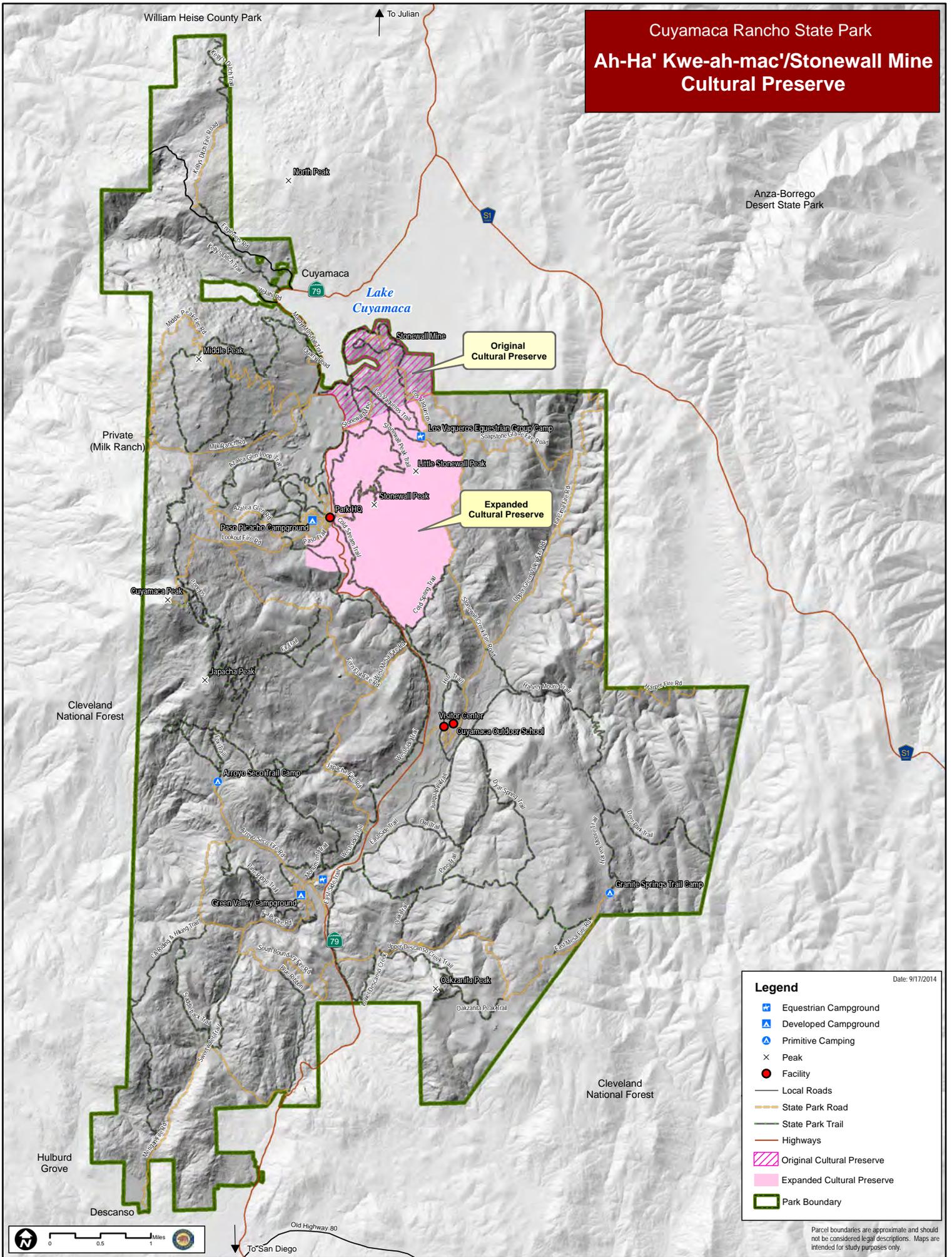
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Cultural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 11-14-14

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director  
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
Ah-Ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine  
Cultural Preserve



Date: 9/17/2014

- Legend**
- Equestrian Campground
  - Developed Campground
  - Primitive Camping
  - Peak
  - Facility
  - Local Roads
  - State Park Road
  - State Park Trail
  - Highways
  - Original Cultural Preserve
  - Expanded Cultural Preserve
  - Park Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.



Resolution 12-2014  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California  
November 14, 2014

**Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve Expansion  
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (“Plan”) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (“the Park”); and

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resources Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resources Code Section 5019.71, Natural Preserve, which “...consists of distinct areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other State Park System units;” and

WHEREAS, “the purpose of Natural Preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of Euro-American modifications, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns;” and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve from 683-acres to 1,030-acres; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the expansion of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve is to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a vitally important area of outstanding natural resources, including the meadows, grasslands, and Sky Island Forest containing State Endangered and State Rare native plant species;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Natural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

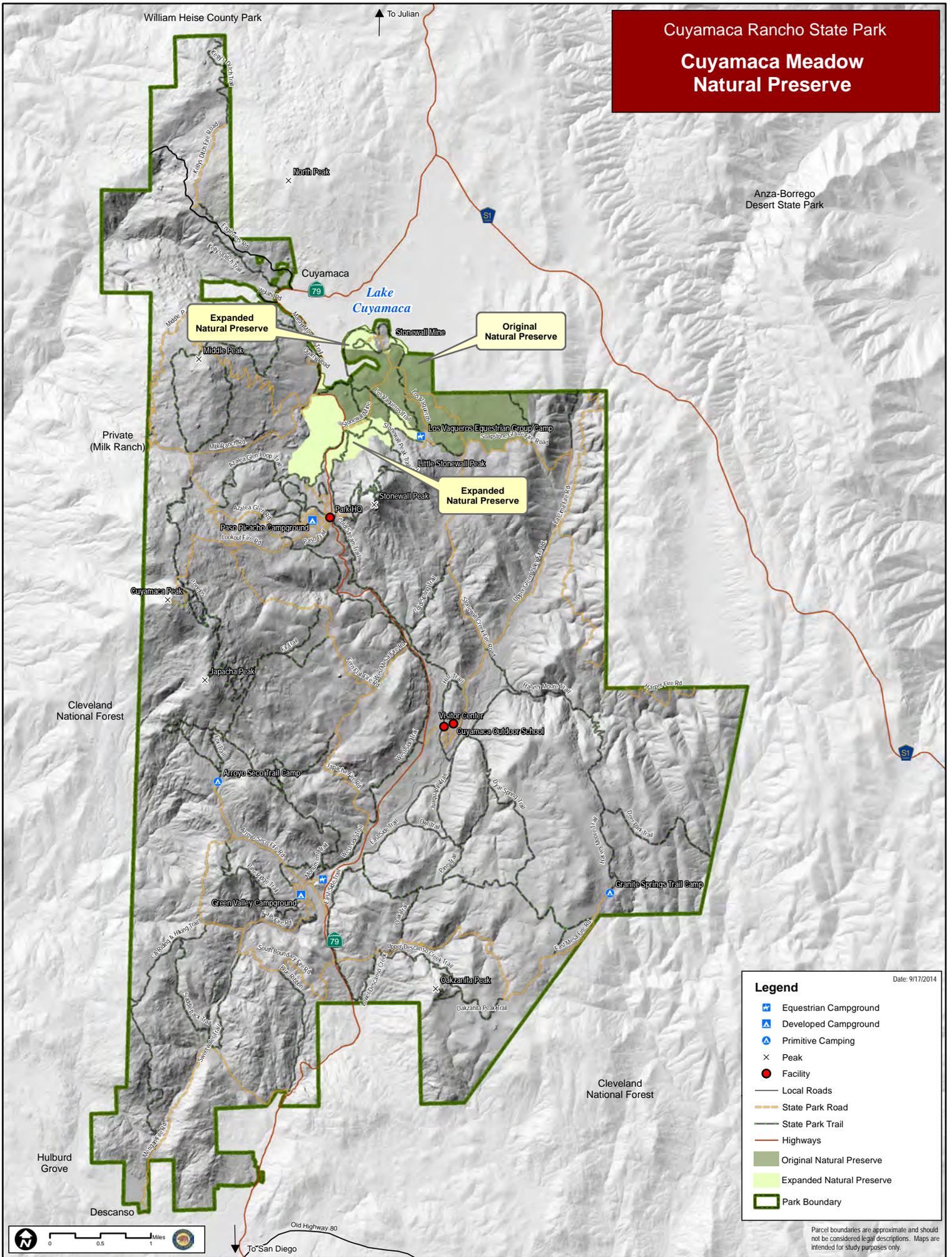
Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission’s duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 11-14-14

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director  
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

**Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve**



Date: 9/17/2014

**Legend**

- Equestrian Campground
- Developed Campground
- Primitive Camping
- Peak
- Facility
- Local Roads
- State Park Road
- State Park Trail
- Highways
- Original Natural Preserve
- Expanded Natural Preserve
- Park Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.



Resolution 13-2014  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California  
November 14, 2014

**Wilderness Boundary Adjustments  
Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness  
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.68, State Wilderness, which, "...in contrast with those areas where human works dominate the landscape, are recognized as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by humans and where humans are visitors who do not remain;" and

WHEREAS, "A State Wilderness is further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned land which has retained its primeval character and influence or has been substantially restored to a near-natural appearance, without permanent improvements or human habitation, other than semi-improved campgrounds, or structures which existed at the time of classification of the area as a state wilderness...;" and

WHEREAS, the 13,301-acre Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness was established in 1982 to preserve the areas of the Park that contain these wilderness characteristics; and

WHEREAS, some lands within the Wilderness, however, do not fit the definition of State Wilderness such as areas containing existing utility corridors and multi-use trails; and

WHEREAS, existing Wilderness boundaries were drawn with inconsistent and arbitrary distances away from fire roads, trails, inholdings, and park boundaries causing unclear boundary identification, and

WHEREAS, some existing Wilderness boundaries prevent the potential for appropriate multi-use trail connections; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed to decrease the total size of the existing Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness from 13,301-acres to 12,504-acres, by adjusting Wilderness boundaries, in order to re-establish these lands to the classification of "State Park," thereby allowing these utility corridors and multi-use trails, creating consistent wilderness boundaries, and providing for potential multi-use trail connections;

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a State Wilderness as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

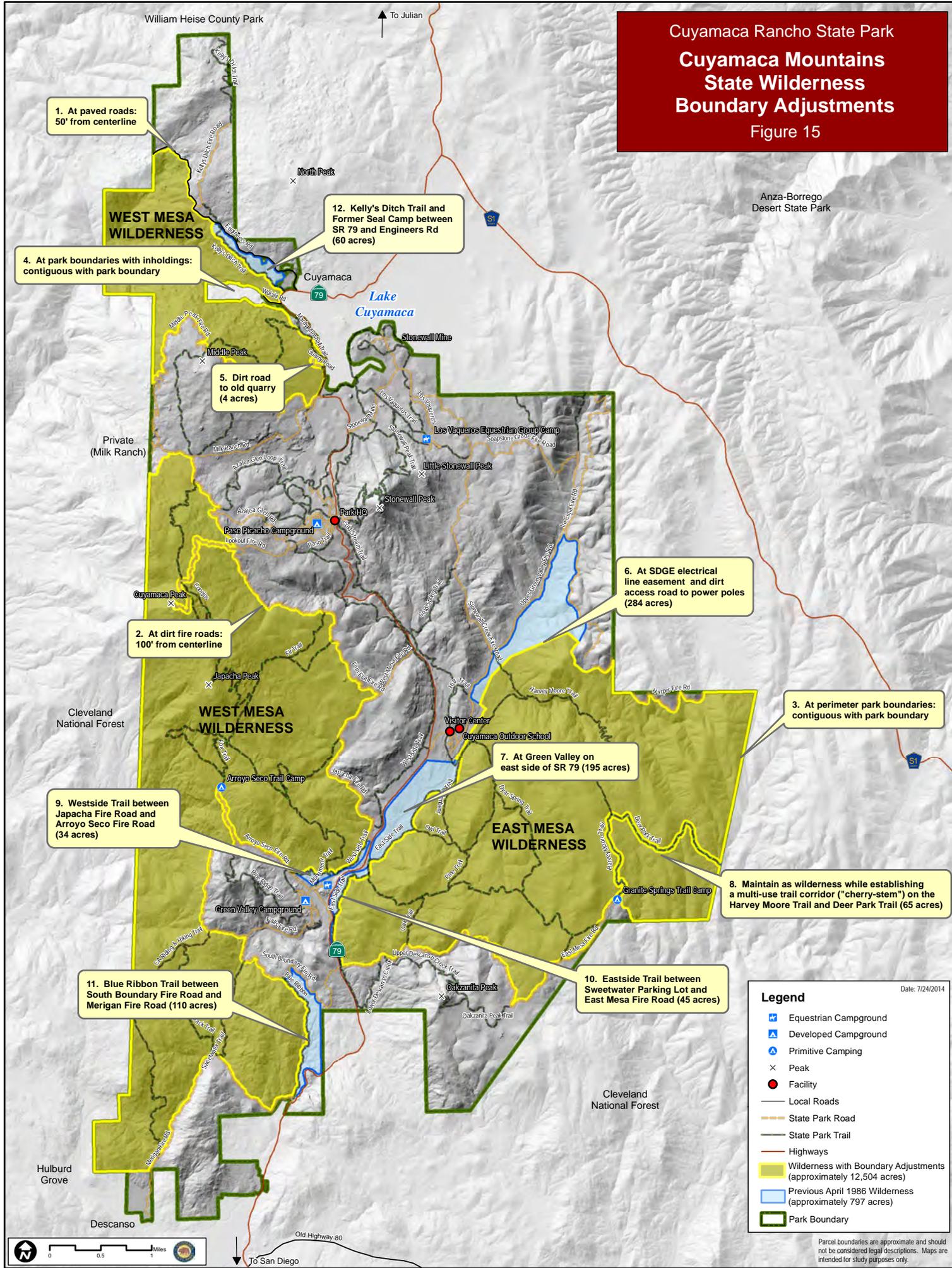
Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 11-14-14

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director  
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
**Cuyamaca Mountains  
 State Wilderness  
 Boundary Adjustments**

Figure 15





# *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

<i>Park Description</i>	<i>EX-3</i>
<i>Purpose of the General Plan</i>	<i>EX-4</i>
<i>Key Issues and Proposals</i>	<i>EX-5</i>
<i>Public Involvement</i>	<i>EX-8</i>
<i>Environmental Analysis</i>	<i>EX-9</i>



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## PARK DESCRIPTION

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP or the Park) was acquired for the California State Park System in 1933 and consists of more than 24,719 acres of forested mountains, grassy meadows, and chaparral-covered hills in east central San Diego County. The Park straddles the crest of the Cuyamaca Mountains in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® lying to the east and sharing a portion of its westernmost edge. The U.S./Mexico border lies 25 miles from the southernmost boundary of CRSP.

The Park is 40 miles east of the City of San Diego and can be accessed from Interstate Highway 8, via State Route 79 (SR-79), which traverses the central portion of the Park from north to south. The mountain town of Julian is six miles to the north and the rural community of Descanso lies at the southern boundary of the Park. Lake Cuyamaca, owned and operated by the Helix Water District, adjoins the northern CRSP boundary. The Cleveland National Forest (CNF) surrounds the Park on nearly all sides.

The Park is known for its beautiful, high-elevation meadows, excellent camping opportunities, expansive trail network, and roadside snow play areas. Although removed from urban life, it is only a short drive from the urban areas.

Green Valley Campground in the south, and Paso Picacho Campground in the north, offer developed equestrian, group, and family camping. These campgrounds also contain a majority of CRSP's administrative buildings and facilities. The National Park Service (NPS) designed and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built, a majority of the Park's buildings and structures during the Great Depression in what is now referred to as the *Park Rustic* style. Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground offers equestrian camping within the Park as does Green Valley Campground. Two primitive trail camps, Arroyo Seco and Granite Springs, are also available to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The Cuyamaca Outdoor School, operated by the San Diego County Office of Education, offers overnight outdoor education to about 12,000 sixth-grade students each year.

The Park holds a high concentration of significant natural and cultural resources. The isolated mountain forests, grasslands, streams, and meadows contain many sensitive and rare plants and animals including some that are endemic to the Park and/or immediate region. The Park also has hundreds of important Native



*Cabins at Paso Picacho Campground with Stonewall Peak in background February 2014*

American sites as well as many significant historic sites that reflect over 240 years of recorded history.

Throughout the Park, approximately 137 miles of trail are enjoyed by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Some of these trails lead to the tops of CRSP's



*Cuyamaca Outdoor School students gather under a large, shady oak tree September 2013 (photo courtesy of Cuyamaca Outdoor School)*

mountain peaks. From the tops of these peaks, most of which are over 5,000 feet in elevation, one can see the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Salton Sea to the east. The rocky Stonewall Peak is a picturesque and prominent feature in the north part of CRSP, visible from many locations within the Park.

The headwaters of both the San Diego and Sweetwater Rivers are also located within CRSP's boundaries, with the Sweetwater River bisecting the Park from north to south. Green Valley Falls, along the Sweetwater River, attracts many visitors to the water particularly during the spring and summer months.

Over half of CRSP is designated Wilderness. There are also four Cultural Preserves and one Natural Preserve located within the Park's boundaries.

In October 2003, the Cedar Fire burned over 98% of CRSP consuming most of the conifer forest and woodlands as well as causing extensive damage to several historic buildings and park facilities. In response to the fire, a Reforestation Project was initiated in 2007 with the goal of reestablishing some of the lost forest.

For a full description of Park resources, uses, facilities, and opportunities, see **Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions**.

## PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

This General Plan is a complete revision of the original General Plan that was approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in 1986, replacing and superseding it. A revised General Plan was prepared to address the following issues:

- The Cedar Fire resulted in extensive damage to many historic structures, visitor-serving facilities, and changes to the landscape which also impacted visitor-use patterns and significantly altered the Park's spatial and visual character.
- Greater protections are needed for sensitive natural and cultural resources within CRSP, based on increased understanding of the innate qualities and extent of these resources.

- Proposals in the original General Plan are outdated and/or do not reflect current conditions, visitor demand, or the vision for CRSP.
- The doubling of the population of San Diego County and significant increase in diverse ethnic populations since 1986 has increased the demand for outdoor recreation and has created new desires/opportunities for recreational use.

These reasons triggered reevaluation and the need for recommendations to:

- Articulate the long-term purpose of and vision for CRSP.
- Clearly define desired resource conditions, determine appropriate visitor uses, and identify potential visitor experiences within CRSP.
- Provide a framework for managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect the Park’s resources, how to provide quality visitor experiences, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of facilities to develop in CRSP, as well as identifying general zones where those facilities may be placed.

## KEY ISSUES AND PROPOSALS

The following are key planning issues and corresponding proposals found to be of primary concern during the planning process for this General Plan:

- **Public Use** - The Park offers many opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Camping in the mountains with family and friends, observing wildlife, hiking the mountain peaks, horseback riding and mountain biking on the Park’s trails, playing in the snow, and sightseeing are popular activities. But more opportunities could be made available to the public and to a wider demographic of visitor while still protecting CRSP’s resources. The General Plan provides goals for increasing public use of the Park by providing for additional day use and overnight facilities; developing non-peak-season program opportunities and facilities; encouraging organized events; increasing the amount of multi-use trails; and improving trail experiences. In addition, the General Plan encourages use of the Park by diverse and underrepresented visitors who typically have not used state parks, through enhanced activities and program offerings, and prescribes a Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) to determine uses for specific trails.

**PUBLIC USE**

## FACILITIES

- **Facilities** - The Cedar Fire extensively damaged the historic buildings built by the CCC at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, and gutted the historic Dyar House which once contained a permanent visitor center, museum collection storage, and staff offices. The loss of these structures caused a need to re-evaluate these areas, determining the most suitable locations for a park headquarters, visitor center, and other public use and park operations. The General Plan calls for reconstruction and adaptive reuse of such facilities and proposes appropriate, general locations for public and park operations facilities.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- **Archaeological Resources** - The Park contains a high concentration of significant and sensitive Native American sites, some of which have incurred recent looting and damages. In some cases, the cultural preserves established to provide additional protections for these resources do not encompass the most significant and sensitive sites. The General Plan increases the size of two of the four existing cultural preserves to provide additional protection, and establishes new guidelines for preserving and protecting archaeological resources at the Park.

## HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- **Historical Resources** - The Park has many examples of historic Park Rustic style buildings and features built by the CCC during the 1930s. These resources have been used through the years by the public, California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) staff, a cooperating association, and the Boy Scouts of America. The Cedar Fire caused extensive damage to many of these historic structures. The General Plan calls for rebuilding and adaptively reusing these buildings, establishing additional recognition of historic districts, and further protection of the significant historic resources.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Natural Resources** - With its montane meadows and isolated mountain forest (*Sky Island Forest*), CRSP contains many sensitive and rare plants such as the state endangered Cuyamaca Lake downingia, Parish's meadowfoam, and state rare Cuyamaca larkspur, as well as significant stands of Jeffrey pine, coast live oak, and the endemic Cuyamaca cypress. Many of the habitats that contain these species are protected through the Park's designation as a State Park, and in some cases, through additional protections within a state Natural Preserve. However, not all of the sensitive and rare plant habitats are located within Natural Preserve lands and therefore are not protected to a level commensurate with their significance. The General Plan increases the size of the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve to expand protection of this sensitive and rare plant community. In addition, the General Plan provides new goals for managing wildfire events, preventing the spread of invasive exotic plant and animal species, promoting the survival and

resiliency of the Sky Island Forest and oak woodlands, providing additional protection for meadows, grasslands, and Cuyamaca cypress as well as promoting biodiversity and protecting biocorridors.

- **Education and Interpretation** - Due to limited budgets and staffing, inadequate or outdated facilities, interpretive and educational programs and offerings at the Park are insufficient. Therefore, CRSP misses the opportunity to connect its hundreds of thousands of visitors to its diverse history and resources. In particular, current interpretation of the Park’s highly significant archaeological and historical resources, Native American history, role of the CCC, and Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City is insufficient to reflect their importance within the context of the Park and the region. In addition, with more than three million people living within a one hour drive of the Park, there is a great potential to expand education and outreach opportunities to urban communities in the region. The General Plan provides new goals for improving the breadth and scope of educational and interpretive offerings; it establishes guidelines for connecting more visitors to the Park’s significant natural, cultural, and historic resources; and provides for better interpretation of Native American culture and values.
- **Wilderness** - Since the two wilderness areas in the Park were established in 1982, several conflicts with their boundaries have been discovered, causing confusion with trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utility corridors in lands designated as wilderness, as well as wilderness boundaries adjacent to fire roads, trails, and Park boundaries that have arbitrary set-backs/ buffers and are not based on consistent or scientific standards. This has precipitated the need to establish consistent wilderness boundary standards and an adjustment of some wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and visitor uses. Guidelines are presented in the General Plan that establish viable standards for wilderness boundaries, adjust wilderness boundaries to exclude utility corridors and existing multi-use trails, and make possible future multi-use trail connections.
- **Park Support** - Many volunteer groups support the Park in various, crucial ways. The Volunteers-in-Parks Program includes the Mountain Bike Assistance Unit (MBAU), Equestrian Assistance Unit (EAU), Interpreters Assistance Unit (IAU), and Trails Maintenance Unit (TMU). These programs provide much needed trail patrol, visitor safety, interpretive program, and trail maintenance functions. The Colorado Desert District

**EDUCATION AND  
INTERPRETATION**

**WILDERNESS**

**PARK SUPPORT**

## PARK SUPPORT

*CONT'D.*

Archaeological Site Stewards monitor conditions and damages at sensitive archaeological sites throughout CRSP. Camp Hosts provide visitor information, sell firewood, carry out light housekeeping duties, and help educate visitors about park regulations. The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) has a cooperating association agreement with CRSP, raising funds for Park interpretation. The Park relies heavily on these groups to provide support in these areas. Greater partnerships with these and potentially new Park support groups will likely be a growing need of the Park in the future. Consequently, the General Plan provides support and direction for this.

## HISTORIC ZONES

- **Historic Zones** - The former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish and Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City historic sites are highly significant yet underutilized and under-interpreted. The Park is missing an opportunity to make these historically significant areas available to the public for their use, education, and enjoyment. The General Plan establishes Historic Zones as management tools for these areas to support their restoration, adaptive reuse, and potential operation by a concessionaire for additional overnight and/or visitor serving use while continuing to protect resources.
- **Sustainability** - Greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, water, and energy supplies are ongoing issues for CRSP and the region. Goals and guidelines in the General Plan provide direction toward more sustainable operations.

For additional discussion of park issues and proposals, see **Chapter 3 - Issues Analysis** and **Chapter 4 - The Plan**.

## SUSTAINABILITY

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The General Plan process included comprehensive public involvement with the purpose of informing Park users and stakeholders throughout the planning process as well as gathering their input about issues and proposals for CRSP. A goal of the public involvement process was to create a transparent exchange of information and ideas which would lead to a more informed, long-term vision and plan for the Park. The public involvement process included the following methods to offer information and gather input:

- Three general public meetings
- Several stakeholder meetings
- An online visitor survey
- Periodic informational emails
- Telephone and email correspondence with stakeholders
- Updates via a project webpage dedicated to the CRSP General Plan

- A 45-day public review period of the **Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report** required by the California Environmental Quality Act.
- One State Park and Recreation Commission hearing

Stakeholders included park user groups such as campers, hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, Native American tribes, adjoining land owners, affected public agencies and jurisdictions, and organizations concerned with natural and/or cultural resource protection.



**Mountain bike user group meeting, (L-R) Kirk Bennett, Steve Boland, Bob Patterson (CDPR), Evan Sollberger, District Superintendent Dan Falat (CDPR) August 2013**

Involvement and input from these stakeholders was integral to defining the General Plan’s issues and shaping its proposals.

For additional discussion of public input, see **Section 2.7.4 - Public Concerns, Interests, and Opportunities**.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The environmental analysis and the consideration of alternatives in the General Plan were prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Analysis and disclosure of the potential environmental effects of the General Plan’s proposed actions are required under CEQA. The environmental analysis is programmatic in scope and serves as a first tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The environmental analysis in this General Plan evaluates broad environmental matters and does not contain project-specific analysis for the facilities that are considered in the Plan. It is a starting point for future environmental documents that will provide more detailed information and analysis for site-specific developments and projects.

The General Plan includes guidelines that direct future, project-level environmental review of site-specific projects to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to resources during construction or operation of the facilities. Specific projects would also undergo subsequent environmental review as appropriate. Because the General Plan contains goals and guidelines that are designed to avoid or minimize potential adverse environmental effects, no significant impacts were identified.

For the analysis and a summary of potential environmental effects that may result from implementing the actions described in the General Plan, see **Chapter 5 - Environmental Analysis**.

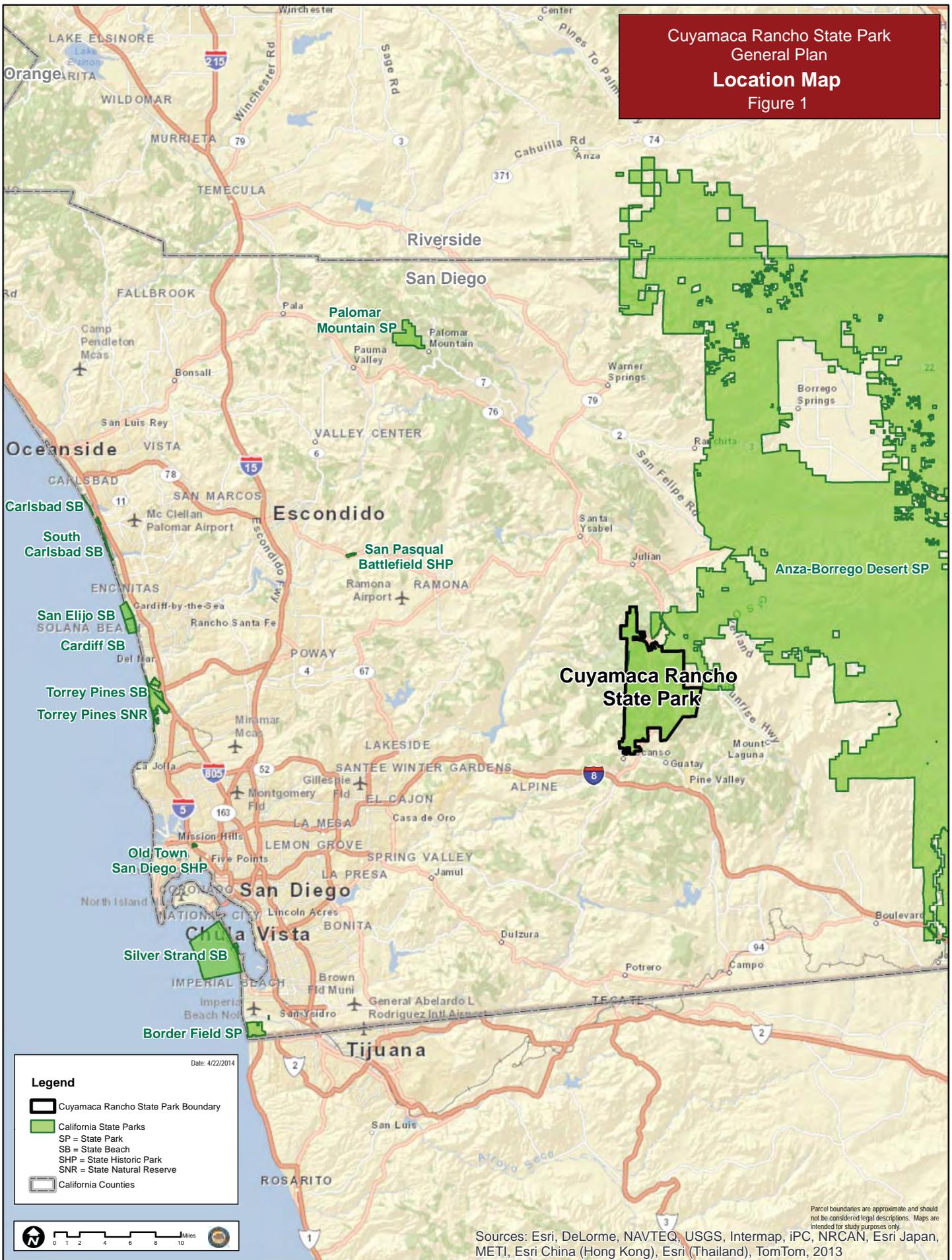


*Students from the Cuyamaca Outdoor School exploring the shoreline of Lake Cuyamaca  
September 2013  
(photo courtesy of Cuyamaca Outdoor School)*

# Chapter 1 - INTRODUCTION

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Location Map**  
 Figure 1



# Chapter 1 - INTRODUCTION



*Eastward view of downtown San Diego with snowcapped Cuyamaca Mountains in background*

## 1.1 LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP) is located in east central San Diego County, along the crest of the Cuyamaca Mountains in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) lies to the east and shares a portion of CRSP’s westernmost edge. The United States/Mexico international border lies approximately 25 miles to the south of the Park.

The Park is approximately 40 miles from San Diego via Interstate Highway 8 (I-8) to Descanso and then north on State Route 79 (SR-79), which traverses the central portion of the Park. The Park is less than six miles south from the town of Julian, while the community of Descanso lies at the southwestern boundary of CRSP. Lake Cuyamaca, owned and managed by the Helix Water District, is located near the northern boundary of the Park and is almost entirely surrounded by State Park land, except for its northern boundary which is the small residential community of Cuyamaca.

The Cleveland National Forest (CNF) surrounds CRSP on nearly all sides, with the exception of private parcels in Descanso Valley and along SR- 79 in the community of Cuyamaca. However, a narrow inholding along upper Boulder Creek, comprised of various parcels, is surrounded on three sides by the Park.



*The summit of Stonewall Peak*

## 1.2 SITE CHARACTERISTICS



*An incised potsherd from one of the Park's many archaeological sites.*

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park consists of more than 24,719 acres and contains a wealth of resources including natural, cultural, geographical, aesthetic, and ephemeral. Topography, vegetation, and vistas of meadows and mountain peaks contribute to the overall appeal of the Park. Stonewall Peak in the northern region of the Park is the most prominent visual feature, standing as a rocky sentinel and sacred Native American landscape feature. The Sweetwater River winds its way from the north to south through the middle of the Park, framed by the tall slopes of the Cuyamaca Mountains to the west and the Laguna Mountains just outside the Park to the east. It is within this landscape collage that many creatures can be seen soaring, slithering, hopping, crawling, and running. There are also the traces of people who once lived, hunted, gathered from, mined, and

farmed this land, long before it was classified as a State Park. The National Park Service (NPS), using the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), made significant physical contributions to CRSP during the Great Depression of the 1930s, designing and building the majority of park buildings, trails, and campground features in what is now referred to as the *Park Rustic* style.



*Flames from the Cedar Fire  
October 2003*

From the tops of the mountain peaks one can see the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Salton Sea to the east, and on clear days even the Kofa Mountains of Arizona, as well as distant peaks in Mexico, to the south. The five main vegetative communities that are represented in the Park include: conifer forest, oak woodland, riparian woodland, chaparral, and montane meadow and grassland. Although altered by the 2003 Cedar Fire, much of the vegetation has slowly reemerged from the charred landscape including many oaks and willows which have sprung back to life. In response to the changed vegetation, a change in the wildlife species present may also be noticed. However, mule deer, mountain lions, woodpeckers, and chickadees are still present along with king snakes, horned lizards, and many others.

The rarity within the region of CRSP's natural characteristics and resources add to their significance and contrast to the low-lying regions of San Diego to the west and the Colorado Desert to the east.

## 1.3 PURPOSE ACQUIRED

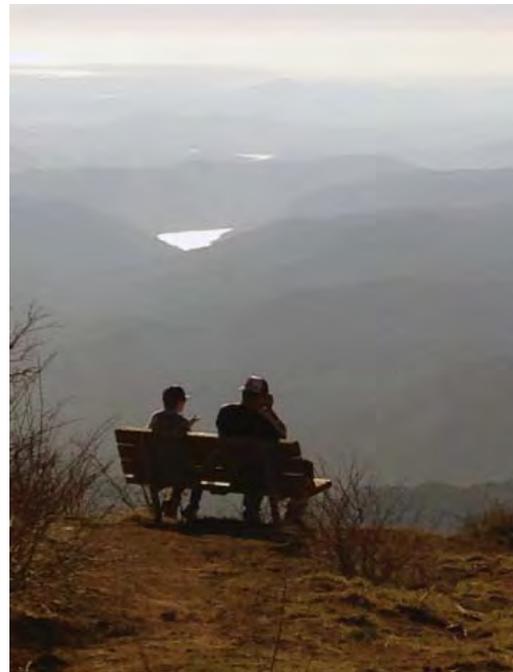
In November 1932, Newton B. Drury [investigating and acquisition officer for the California State Park Commission and later Chief of the California Department of Beaches and Parks (1951-59)], completed a report to the California State Park Commission which outlined some of the reasons the Commission should acquire the “Cuyamaca Rancho” as a State Park. Following are excerpts from the Drury report:

*I believe that [the Cuyamaca Rancho] represents an important opportunity.... In its essence, the property is intact in much the same character and extent that it had when the first grant was made by the Mexican Government. Unspoiled by development, there is about it the atmosphere of early days...an expansiveness and scope not possessed by many of the parks thus far acquired...*

*[Further, the] Outstanding Landscape Qualities,...notable scenic regions [such as] ‘woodlands’...and... ‘Pine Forests’... confined to relatively limited areas...in Southern California [add to the] recreational...Scientific, Educational, and Inspirational [possibilities as well as], accessibility to large centers of population... [and] revenue producing possibilities [are of great value as a State Park]*

Looking at Drury’s report to the California State Park Commission in hindsight, the reasons for CRSP’s acquisition in 1933 are still relevant today:

The property in itself constitutes an “extremely valuable State Park,” if it remains “preserved in substantially its present condition.” CRSP’s size and elevation lend themselves towards the preservation and scientific study of the local flora and fauna. Indeed, the property still reflects an expansiveness and scope reminiscent of California’s early rancho days. Much of the area’s charm lies in the striking transition from oak woodland to coniferous forest. In addition, its grassy meadows and chaparral-covered hills are still regarded as “among the most charming and characteristic elements of California scenery.” The top of the CRSP mountain peaks continue to offer visitors “a magnificent panorama of mountainous country clear to the ocean.” In addition, there is enough ‘elbow room’ in its valleys and meadows for the “placement of several recreational centers without compromising the surrounding natural landscapes.” Linked to the regional highway system, the Park’s existing road and trail network offer recreational opportunities year round that visitors continue to appreciate. Situated at an elevation ranging from 4,500 to 6,500 feet above sea level,



**Hikers enjoying the westward view from Lookout Fire Road just below Cuyamaca Peak February 2014**

the Park also offers winter-related activities within a relatively short drive from populated urban centers as far as Los Angeles, Riverside, and Imperial counties. While it is still true that “the northern [California] forests are on a grander scale,” forested mountains “are at a premium... and will be increasingly valuable for recreation in the years to come.”



*Park visitors sledding down a hill at Green Valley  
February 2013*

## 1.4 PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Significance statements express why a park’s resources and values are important enough to warrant the *State Park* classification (see **Appendix M - Unit Classifications** for definition of a State Park). These statements describe why a park is important within a regional and statewide context and are directly linked to the Purpose of the park. A park’s Significance Statement is substantiated by data or consensus which reflects the most current scientific information or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the establishment of the Park.

The following statements describe the significance of CRSP:

- Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and the Wilderness areas within, protect the natural character and scenic vistas of the Cuyamaca Mountains of eastern San Diego County and provide opportunities for people to experience wildness in a region of rapid urbanization.
- With more than 137 miles of trails, the Park offers one of the most extensive trail systems in one location within the region and provides highly accessible recreational opportunities for nearly 3 million San Diego County and nearby residents.
- Intact ecological processes and communities of CRSP include: oak woodland, montane meadows, vernal wet areas with State-endangered and rare plants, *Sky Island Forests*, and the endemic Cuyamaca Cypress, which all provide a refuge for the diverse native flora and fauna of the Cuyamaca Mountains.
- The history of CRSP includes mining, ranching, timber production, significant grassroots conservation efforts by local residents, use of the property for training purposes by the U.S. military, and the work of federal unemployment relief programs such as the CCC which has contributed to the rustic environment at the Park.
- The Native American archaeological and cultural resources of CRSP are preserved within their ecological and geographical context and provide opportunities to study and continue traditional practices and resource management.
- The Park contains one of the densest assemblages of Native American archaeological sites and features within the California State Park System.

## 1.5 SENSE OF PLACE

The following Sense of Place was adapted from an essay written by Leland Fetzter, long-time resident of the community of Cuyamaca and author of *The Cuyamacas - The Story of San Diego's High Country*:

*Every corner, every scene, every vista on our planet has its spirit, something we sense, not knowing why, but feeling it deeply. We don't analyze what is around us to see its elements, to add up its parts, to count its portions. All of us, we sense the mood of the place.*

*The spirit of the Cuyamacas speaks to us in a loud voice. Its solitary triad of peaks, one mile high, can be seen from anywhere in San Diego County. From their heights a searcher can discern the sandal in the sea that is San Clemente Island, hunched Santa Catalina Island, the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains, and Mount San Jacinto. To the south, Mexico's Table Mountain blocks the southern prospect. Cuyamaca's peaks are pines, oaks, and hazy chaparral.*

*Water flows year round, quiet but determined, the Sweetwater River, Boulder Creek, and lesser brooks like Azalea Creek and Cold Stream. Here and there lie grasslands open to the sun. Protected in the Park, wildlife flourishes. The landscape speaks in harmony because here nature rules and man's works, while they may intrude, are muted in the larger scene. Man visits here. His presence does not declare itself.*

*For 250 years since Pedro Fages first traversed the Cuyamacas the place has preserved its integrity nearly free of commercialization and human intrusion. The spirit of the place, uplifting as only mountains can, a haven of nature and far views, has persisted in a developing county with more than three-million inhabitants. It is something less than a miracle that the original unique spirit of the Cuyamacas has mostly survived for us to savor today.*

### **Sense of Place is:**

- A unique 'reason' for or relationship with a place.
- Non-quantifiable characteristics of a place; a feeling or idea generated for each person that visits a place
- Elusive intangible - the goal that those drawn to a place continue to seek

## 1.6 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE GENERAL PLAN

### 1.6.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

A general plan is the primary management document for a park within the California State Park System, establishing its purpose and a management



*Snowcapped Cuyamaca Peak*

direction for the foreseeable future. By providing a defined purpose and vision with long-term goals and guidelines, it provides the framework for a park’s resource stewardship, interpretation, visitor use, operation, and development. Subsequently, this established framework helps guide daily decision-making and serves as the basis for developing more detailed management and site-specific project plans.

The general plan is primarily a “goal-based,” as opposed to an “objective-based,” document. General plan goals and associated guidelines define the ultimate purpose and intention for park managers, but stop short of defining a specific accomplishment and time-frame for accomplishing those goals.

Within this General Plan, “**GOAL**” refers to a general, overall, and ultimate purpose, aim or intent toward which management will direct effort.

“**GUIDELINE**” refers to a general set of parameters that provide direction for accomplishing goals. These are the strategies used to achieve the goal.

The objectives of this General Plan are to:

- Establish the purpose, significance, and vision of CRSP,
- Clearly define resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved at the Park,

- Provide a framework for managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect and interpret the Park’s resources,
- Establish how to provide quality visitor uses and experiences as well as manage visitor use,
- Determine the kinds of facilities to develop in the Park and establish general zones where those facilities may be placed.

This document does not attempt to provide a detailed master plan, but rather provides conceptual direction and parameters for future management, development, and appropriate uses. Specific objectives and strategies for implementation of the General Plan are intended to be developed in subsequent planning efforts as they are needed, including the preparation of management plans and specific project plans.

This General Plan document was prepared by the CDPR to satisfy the requirements of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5002.2. The PRC specifies that a general plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed management of resources, land uses, facilities, concessions, operations, and any environmental impacts. The CRSP Preliminary General Plan will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for approval.

### 1.6.2 NEED FOR THE PLAN

The last comprehensive planning effort for CRSP occurred during the original General Plan which was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission in 1986. The original General Plan contained inconsistent direction in which development proposals conflicted with resource protection mandates. In addition, it called for several new campgrounds to be developed, but this proposal does not reflect today’s demand for camping or current knowledge of the sensitive natural and cultural resources in the proposed areas and mandates for their protection.

In addition, since the original General Plan, the population of San Diego County, where a majority of Park visitors reside, has increased by more than



*Meeting participants reviewing maps at the first public meeting - Alpine, CA October 3, 2012*



*Ernie Smith, Suzanne Kirkwood, and Walter Kirkwood looking over General Plan proposals at the third public meeting November 2013*

70% [1980 Census: 1,861,846 and 2012 Census (est.): 3,177,063] and the percentage of minorities has risen about 30%. The revised General Plan is needed to address current issues in light of this changing demographic.

### 1.6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) established a requirement for state agencies to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed action. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by state and local governments is usually a freestanding document intended to meet the requirements of CEQA. However, CEQA also encourages *streamlining* by using combined general plans and EIRs (CEQA Guidelines § 15166) as well as the use of tiering. Tiering is a process where a lead agency prepares a series of environmental assessments, progressing from general concerns at a programmatic level to more site-specific evaluations, with the preparation of subsequent environmental documents for detailed projects (CEQA Guidelines § 15152). When the lead agency combines a general plan and an EIR, all CEQA requirements must be covered and documents must identify where the requirements are met.



**Bob and Irma from N. Carolina camping at Paso Picacho Campground February 2014**

This General Plan serves as a first-tier EIR as defined in § 15166 of the CEQA guidelines. The analysis of broad environmental matters found within **Chapter 5 - Environmental Analysis** will be a reference for future environmental documents that will provide more detailed information and analysis for site-specific developments and projects.

## 1.7 PLANNING CONTEXT

General plans are influenced and shaped by existing state and federal laws, such as the Federal Endangered Species Act, the PRC, the California Code of Regulations (CCR), as well as California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) policies. In addition, general plans fall within a planning hierarchy established by CDPR. The following describes how CDPR adheres to existing laws and mandates in park management and how general planning fits into the CDPR overall planning structure.

### 1.7.1 EXISTING LAWS, CODES, AND POLICIES

To understand the implications of the actions prescribed in the General Plan, it is important to describe the laws, codes, and policies that underlie the management actions. Many management actions for the Park are required based on law and/or policy and are therefore not

affected by the General Plan. A general plan is not needed to decide, for instance, that it is appropriate to protect endangered species, control non-native invasive species, protect archaeological sites, conserve artifacts, or provide for universal access – laws and policies already require the CDPR to fulfill these mandates. CDPR would continue to implement the requirements mandated in these laws, codes, and policies with or without a general plan.

**Appendix A - Existing Laws, Codes, and Policies** lists some of the existing federal and state laws and CDPR policies that provide guidance for management actions at the Park. CDPR must comply with these mandates and will continue to implement their requirements whether or not there is a general plan in place for the Park. Furthermore, the CRSP General Plan does not have the authority to change or affect laws, codes, and policies that translate into required management actions at the Park. Therefore, to avoid redundancy, the CRSP General Plan goals and guidelines do not restate current management actions prescribed by these laws, codes, and policies.

### 1.7.2 CDPR PLANNING HIERARCHY

General plans are just one of the many mandates that guide management actions at a state park. State and Federal laws developed outside the CDPR and policies derived from within CDPR, but not specific to the General Plan, also help to direct park management. Some of the state and federal laws developed outside the CDPR include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), CEQA, as well as State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. Examples of policies derived from within CDPR include its *Mission Statement* and DOM Chapters 0300 and 0400. CDPR maintains a planning and policy hierarchy to ensure that all laws are followed and policies within CDPR remain consistent with those laws (see **Figure 2 - Planning and Policy Hierarchy** and **Appendix B - CDPR Planning Hierarchy**).



**CDPR staff discussing park issues at first General Plan team meeting - CRSP July 2012**

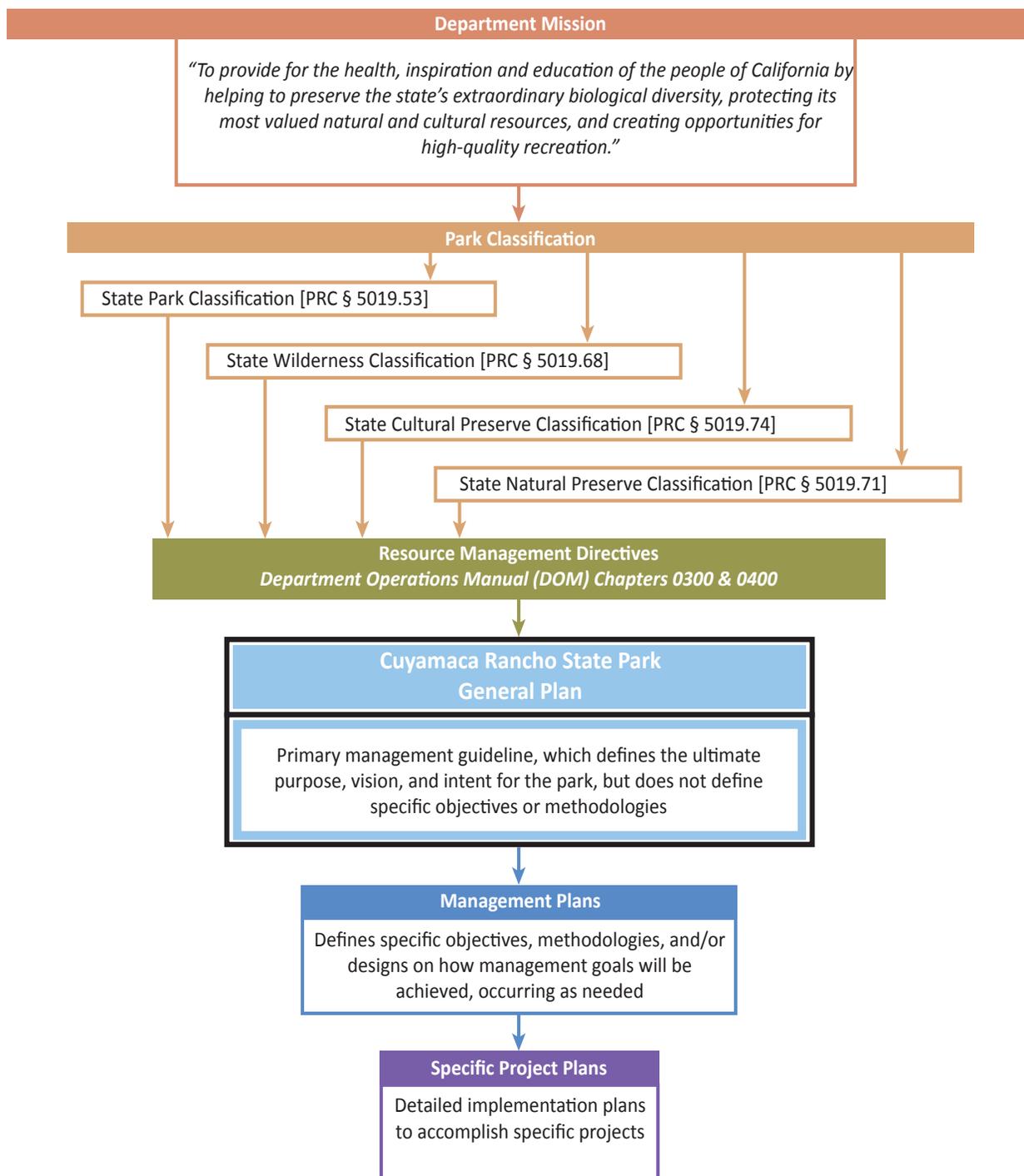
## 1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN

This General Plan is presented in five chapters that introduce CRSP and this planning effort, existing land use and resource conditions, planning issues, goals and guidelines, and an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The content of each chapter is summarized below:

**Figure 2**

## Planning and Policy Hierarchy

Following is a Hierarchy of mandates that directs management and use of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.



- **Chapter 1: *Introduction*** gives an overview of the Park’s location and regional context, characteristics and significance, purpose acquired, General Plan purpose, inter-agency and stakeholder involvement, planning context and process, and subsequent planning efforts.
- **Chapter 2: *Existing Conditions*** identifies the natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of CRSP, including a discussion of the demographic trends in the San Diego region that are relevant to the planning process. This information provides a foundation to understand the specific park issues.
- **Chapter 3: *Issues Analysis*** describes current challenges and major issues facing the Park, which helps to define the General Plan scope for planning purposes.
- **Chapter 4: *The Plan*** presents a statement of purpose and vision for CRSP’s future. Management-zones are defined by their geographic location, similar resource characteristics, and/or associated land use. Parkwide, area-specific, and management-zone-specific goals and guidelines are presented to guide park management and facility use and development, as well as describe the future desired conditions and considerations for subsequent planning and General Plan implementation. This section also includes a description of the adaptive management process that will be used to sustain resources and provide for positive visitor experiences at the Park. For planning and CEQA consideration, **Chapter 4 - *The Plan*** is considered the preferred alternative, or proposed project.
- **Chapter 5: *Environmental Analysis*** discloses the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, including any significant and potentially significant effects that may result from implementing the General Plan. Potential mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed project are also discussed in this section. This General Plan is considered to be a Programmatic EIR which will inform decision-makers and the public about the environmental consequences of the adoption of the preferred alternative, consistent with the requirements of CEQA and its guidelines.
- ***Figures, Tables, and Appendices*** provide background information that is pertinent to the main document text, but too lengthy to be included in the main body of the document. The appendices may also contain documents with background data.

General Planning is holistic in approach, considering both internal and external influences, the multiple aspects of the Department’s mission, and the inherent resource values and facilities of the Park.

## 1.9 SUBSEQUENT PLANNING

Major programs and projects implemented during the lifespan of the General Plan will require additional planning. This planning will take the form of management plans or specific project plans. Management plans define

the specific objectives, methodologies, and/or designs for accomplishing management goals. Occurring on an as-needed basis, they typically focus on specific management topics, goals, or issues.

Management plans can apply to all, or part, of a park unit. They usually include program level decisions that describe how and when management actions are appropriate and necessary; also, they are often based on funding and staffing capabilities. Typical examples of management plans include resource management plans, operations plans, interpretive plans, concession plans, and facility development plans.

Specific project plans are detailed implementation plans. For example, specific project plans could include design concepts, site plans, construction drawings, details and specifications for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic structures, development of public visitor facilities, and accessibility improvements to camping facilities. Future planning efforts may include the preparation of specific resource management plans, Historic Structure Reports (HSRs), etc., to protect sensitive resources, or the development of site-specific plans for new facilities to determine how they will relate to their surroundings.



*Northward view from Cuyamaca Peak toward  
Lake Cuyamaca  
February 2014*

Future planning efforts also include the preparation of project-specific environmental compliance documents for implementation of management plans and subsequent development projects. These documents should tier off and be consistent with the General Plan's Environmental Impact Report. Securing any permits required for future implementation projects would also be a part of subsequent planning actions. Finally, a general plan may need to be amended if significant new acquisitions are added to the existing park or if any other circumstances render parts of the general plan inapplicable.

A summary of proposed future planning efforts, including management plans and future specific project plans outlined in this General Plan, are described in **Section 4.5 - Continued Planning and Issue Resolution**.

## 1.10 PLANNING PROCESS

The following summarizes the planning process typically used by CDPR and used by the planning team for this CRSP General Plan:

### **Establish Project Agreement and Form Planning Team**

The CRSP General Plan process began with the completion of a project agreement which established the scope and schedule of the planning effort,

as well as the formation of an interdisciplinary planning team from CDPR's Southern Service Center and representatives from the Colorado Desert District and Montane Sector. The project team consisted of staff knowledgeable in natural, cultural, and recreational resource management, interpretation and education, public safety, maintenance, facilities and land use planning, geographic information systems, and environmental impact analysis.

### **Research and Describe Existing Conditions**

During this phase, the planning team gathered and became familiar with the known information about CRSP as it related to the scope of work. In some cases, the planning team conducted research and/or field surveys to clarify knowledge of the existing conditions. In order to understand their needs and concerns about the current conditions and future of the Park, the planning team also gathered information from the public and other concerned parties. This process included corresponding with other agencies, consulting with Native American representatives, a user survey, public and stakeholder meetings, and responding to correspondence from interested park users. The first public meeting was held October 3, 2012 in Alpine, California to present existing conditions as well as gather information from the public about current Park conditions and public perceptions, issues, and ideas. A Resource Inventory was completed during this phase which summarized the known resources at the Park.



*Eastward view toward Stonewall Peak and Little Stonewall Peak from Middle Peak Fire Road  
May 2014*

### **Identify and Analyze Issues, Opportunities and Constraints**

Next, the planning team identified and analyzed known issues and determined possible causes. During this time, the planning team took into account local and regional demographic and recreation trends that have an influence on the Park environment, and utilized insights gained from the visitor survey and first public meeting. Resource sensitivities and constraints were identified through analysis of natural and cultural resource conditions, and possible opportunities to solve identified issues and improve Park conditions were evaluated.

### **Prepare Planning Alternatives and Preferred Plan**

Upon completion of the issues, opportunities, and constraints analysis, the planning team developed a matrix of seven management-zones along with three corresponding alternative management-zone maps. These included one depicting the existing condition (no project alternative); one showing a configuration of management-zones that maximized protection of resources while providing for current recreational uses, and another showing a configuration that increased visitor-use opportunities while still protecting resources. In addition, the planning team generated draft written statements of

the “purpose” and “vision” of the Park as well as potential General Plan proposals. The team then presented these to CDPR executive staff for consideration and to the public at the second public meeting held May 23, 2013 in San Diego.

Following input from executive staff and the public, the three alternatives were analyzed to determine which combination of options best served the State Park mission, Park purpose and vision, and General Plan objectives. In addition, the alternatives were developed to resolve the identified issues as well as address

the public's interests in the future of the Park. A “preferred plan” was then developed which involved an informed synthesis of the alternatives. The “preferred plan” and draft General Plan proposals were presented to the public at a third public meeting which occurred November 12, 2013 in San Diego.



**CDPR staff reviewing Park resource maps at the first General Plan team meeting - CRSP July 10, 2012**

As required by the *California Environmental Quality Act of 1970* (CEQA), an Initial Study CEQA checklist and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) were generated and posted on April 9, 2013 to the General Plan webpage as well as submitted to the required agencies and interested organizations through the State Clearinghouse.

### **Prepare General Plan and EIR Document**

The Draft General Plan and EIR document was written and distributed through an administrative review as the first opportunity for the planning team and CDPR to

review the proposed assemblage of text and graphics in a single package. Upon incorporation of the resulting revisions, a Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR was completed for the required CEQA 45-day public review period. Responses to public comments were prepared at the end of the review period and included with the Final General Plan/EIR; some of which resulted in changes to the General Plan.

### **General Plan and EIR Approval**

Key CDPR staff and the State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) members will be given an overview of the General Plan and a brief field review of the Park. Finally, a presentation of the General Plan and a public comment period will occur during a regular meeting of the Commission in San Diego on November 14, 2014 where the General Plan may be approved and formally adopted. Upon approval, the Final General Plan/EIR has been printed with all changes prescribed by the Commission, and has been made available to the public via CDPR's General Plan webpage.

### **Prioritization and Implementation**

The General Plan does not describe how particular programs or projects should be prioritized or implemented. Those decisions will be addressed in future, more

detailed planning and design efforts. All future plans will strive to be consistent with the approved General Plan.

Actions directed by general plans or in subsequent management or project plans are accomplished over time. Budget restrictions, requirements for additional data or regulatory compliance, and competing priorities may delay implementation of many actions. The implementation of actions proposed in the General Plan will depend on future funding, CDPR priorities, and partnership efforts. The approval of the General Plan does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the Plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the General Plan could be many years into the future.

### **1.11 INTERAGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT**

Participation by pertinent agencies, organizations, and stakeholders was sought throughout the planning process to ensure a broad consideration of concerns, interests, and ideas as well as compliance or consistency with relevant policies, regulations, and plans. Early consultation with agencies on prominent issues such as sensitive habitats, endangered species, significant cultural resources, and recreation needs was conducted to ensure that their input would have timely consideration during the planning process. In addition, general public meetings, park user stakeholder group meetings, as well as a visitor survey were conducted to provide valuable insight into the needs, perceptions, concerns, and desires of Park users.

#### **Public Meetings**

Three public meetings were held for the discussion of general planning issues, alternatives, and proposals as well as to gather and understand the concerns, interests, and ideas of Park stakeholders:

- **First Public Meeting – October 3, 2012**  
Viejas Casino; Alpine, CA:  
The first meeting introduced the general planning team, the General Plan process, and a summary of known Park resources. The meeting also provided the opportunity to gather public perceptions, concerns and ideas about the future of the Park.
- **Second Public Meeting – May 23, 2013**  
San Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel;  
San Diego, CA:  
The second meeting presented alternative management-zone maps and potential General Plan proposals to meeting



*Grape Soda Lupine, a common perennial plant at CRSP, sits next to Milk Ranch Road. May 2014*



*During the third public meeting, participants raise hands to signify they have attended previous General Plan meetings Nov. 12, 2013*

participants, and gathered further comments and ideas from the public.

- **Third Public Meeting – November 12, 2013**

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel; San Diego, CA:

The third meeting explained the preferred alternative management-zone map and presented the draft General Plan goals and guidelines for further comment from the public.

### **General Plan Webpage and Informational E-mails**

A General Plan webpage was maintained throughout the project to provide the public and stakeholders a single source for information about the General Plan. The webpage contained maps, public and stakeholder meeting agendas, summaries, handouts, and CEQA notices. In addition, it contained an introduction to the General Plan process and timeline, a description of how to get involved in the General Plan process, the e-mail and standard mail addresses for the public to send correspondence, and a link to join the General Plan mailing list. The General Plan webpage was updated periodically as new information was available and added.

The planning team received many e-mails from interested persons that included questions, comments, concerns, and ideas to improve the Park. Every e-mail or letter received was responded to by the planning team.

E-mail “blasts” (periodic, informational e-mails) were sent to all stakeholders and agencies on the General Plan mailing list. These were sent when the project webpage was updated, prior to public meetings, after posting of meeting summaries and other General Plan information, and when CEQA notices were available.

### **Online Visitor Survey**

An Internet-based visitor survey was conducted to help gauge and understand current visitor demographics and use of the Park as well as perceptions and preferences about park facilities, activities, and programs. Additional visitor information was gathered at General Plan public meetings and by reviewing data such as visitor register entries and other CDPR visitor surveys. Together, this information was used to identify current issues and help formulate General Plan proposals.

The online visitor survey was open between September 7, 2012 and November 7, 2012. Invitations to participate in the survey were emailed to 3,416 CRSP campers who had registered on the ReserveAmerica camping reservation system between April 1, 2012 and August 31, 2012. Park stakeholders were also invited to take the survey via the General Plan webpage and at the October 3, 2012 General



*Begonia, a young Park visitor  
sledding at Green Valley  
February 2013*

Plan public meeting. A total of 83 people attended this meeting and were invited to either take the online survey during the break-out sessions or take the survey from home. The total number of survey respondents was 1,457, 80.4% were campers and 19.6% were day-trip visitors.

(See **Appendix C - Summary of Online Visitor Survey**)

### **Initial Public Outreach Summary**

An Initial Public Outreach Summary was completed in March 2013 which summarized the public input gathered at public meetings and public responses from the visitor survey. The Summary also included an explanation of the General Plan process and timeline as well as a summary of the hierarchy of mandates that direct management and use of the Park. The Initial Public Outreach Summary was posted to the General Plan webpage for public review and comment.

### **Agencies, Organizations, Partners, and Stakeholders**

Several associated agencies, interested organizations, CRSP partners, and involved stakeholders were engaged in the General Plan process through the general public meetings, user-specific stakeholder meetings, and direct correspondence. The following stakeholder meetings were conducted:

- **Equestrian stakeholder meetings**  
At the equestrian group meetings, eight representatives gathered to ask about allowance of trail use within natural and cultural Preserves. Also during the conversation, riders expressed the desire for family camps as well as staging areas, suggesting locations for both.
- **Mountain Biker stakeholder meetings**  
The mountain bike community was represented by four individuals whose concerns and/or ideas included the proposed expansion of natural and cultural preserves, trails management, trail loops, biking skills courses, trail patrols, multi-use trails, and trail connections.
- **Native American stakeholder meetings**  
The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) supplied a list of 20 Native American contacts for the area. Meetings were held with representatives of several tribal groups and organizations including the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy, the Intertribal Cultural Resource Protection Council, the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians, the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, the San Pasqual



***Mounted patrol volunteer Dana Anderson at the second public meeting - San Diego, CA May 2013***

Band of Mission Indians, the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. Discussions and comments focused on cultural resource protection and recordation, education and interpretation, partnerships and support opportunities, gathering permits, and potential campground options.

For a List of ***Agencies and Organizations Contacted*** during this planning effort, see ***Appendix D***.



*The golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) is a prominent bird of prey at CRSP*  
*(photo courtesy of Jeff Brown)*

# Chapter 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

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# Chapter 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

The **Existing Conditions** chapter identifies the natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of CRSP, including a discussion of the demographic trends in the San Diego Region that are relevant to the planning process. This information provides a foundation to understand issues at the Park.

## 2.1 REGIONAL LAND USE AND FACILITIES

Regional land uses surrounding CRSP allow for a transition from the Park to other low density rural land uses.

Land uses bordering the Park include:

- Low-density single family residential
- Small- to mid-sized farms and ranches
- Private recreational facilities
- ABDSP
- CNF

The mountainous, rugged nature of the private lands bordering the Park constrains development to homes with large lots as well as agricultural and/or ranching uses. Service and commercial areas in the community of Descanso neighbor the Park at the southern boundary, and a store/restaurant at Lake Cuyamaca lies near the northern boundary.



*Community of Cuyamaca near the shore of Lake Cuyamaca  
September 2013*

### Trail Connections to Adjacent Parks

There are approximately seven trail connections between the Park and nearby public lands including the CNF and ABDSP. These include the Kelly’s Ditch Trail in the north portion of the Park which connects to William Heise County Park, the California Riding and Hiking Trail (CRHT) in the southwest area and north portion of the Park, the Deer Park trail in the east, the Upper Green Valley Fire Road and the CRHT in the north portion of the Park, and a trail to the “island” within Lake Cuyamaca (not part of CRSP) from the Stonewall Mine area. (See **Figure 4 - Existing Trail Use and Park Features.**)

See also **Appendix E - Regional Recreation Opportunities.**

## 2.2 PARK LAND USE AND FACILITIES

### 2.2.1 PARKWIDE LAND USE

The Park is a state park owned and operated by CDPR for the purpose of providing for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California. As such, the primary uses of the Park are public outdoor recreation, preservation of

natural open space, natural and cultural resource protection, as well as educational and interpretative program use. The Park is used by the public during the day and at night, and is open year round, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park includes several types of specific uses such as trail use, overnight use (e.g., camping), and day use (e.g., picnicking, hiking, snow play). In addition, a portion of the Park is used for outdoor education by the SDCOE (i.e., Cuyamaca Outdoor School). The Park is also a location for scientific study by several public agencies, public and private colleges, and resource based organizations (see **Figure 3 - Existing Conditions map**).

The Park includes those uses which support public outdoor recreation, such as visitor support, park administration, park-staff housing, maintenance, and operations. The Park also contains corridors used for public transportation (SR-79) and utility transmission. In addition, a portion of the Park is used by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) as La Cima Conservation (Fire) Camp. The purpose of this camp is to house and support a 90-person inmate fire crew with primary responsibility for fire suppression in San Diego County, and statewide where resources are needed.

**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains one State Park classification and three sub-unit classifications which determine specific land use:**

***State Park*** (entire park unit)

***State Wilderness*** (sub-unit)

***State Cultural Preserve*** (sub-unit)

***State Natural Preserve*** (sub-unit)

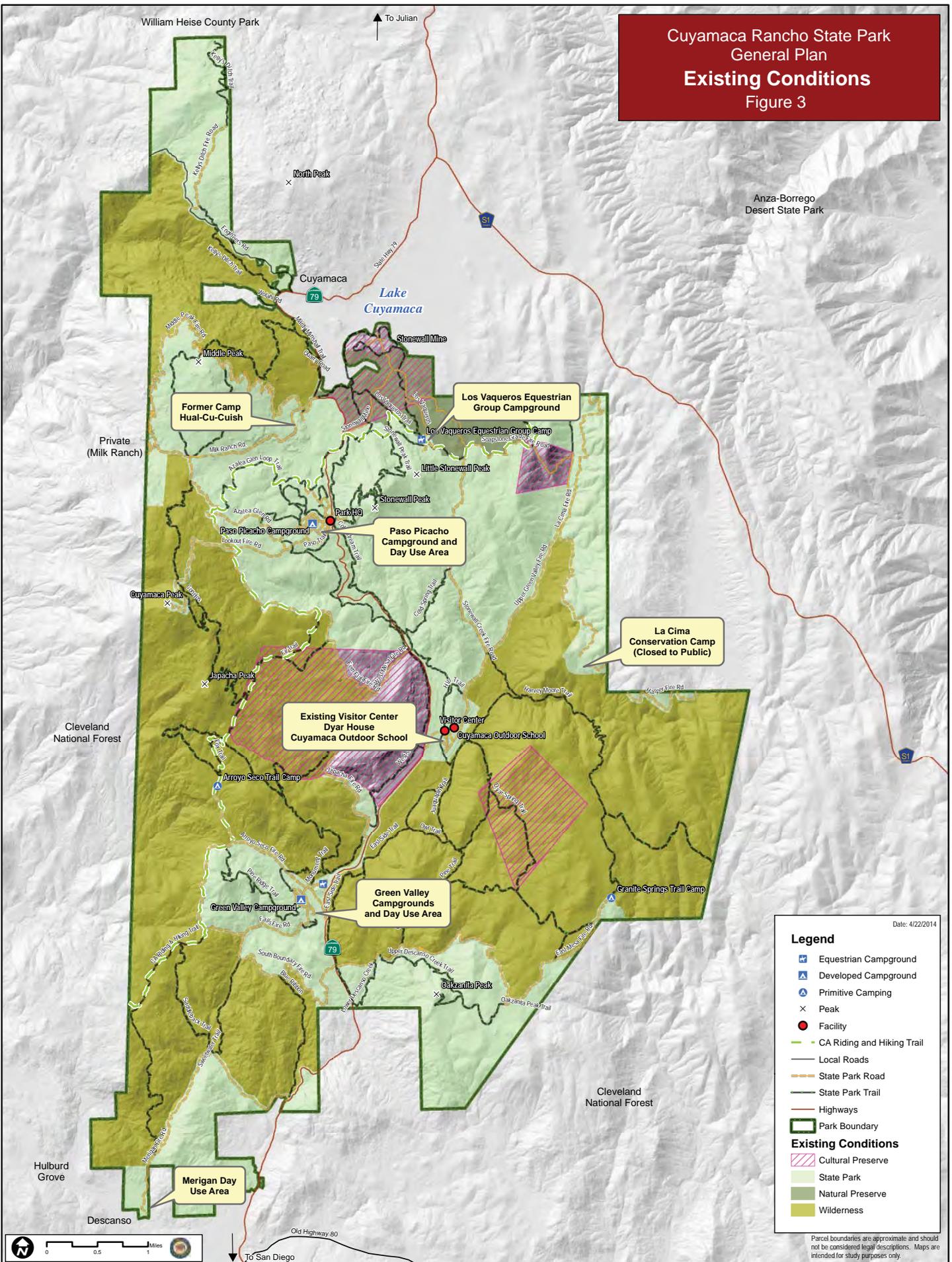
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains one State Park classification and three sub-unit classifications which determine specific land use: *State Park* (entire park unit), *State Wilderness*, *Cultural Preserve*, and *Natural Preserve* (sub-units). The types of use under these classifications vary slightly but remain generally consistent with the overall parkwide land use.

Former land uses that are no longer permitted at CRSP due to its *State Park* classification include Native American habitation, rangeland (grazing), hunting, logging, mining, ranching, private residential, military training, and use of former fire prevention/lookout stations.

### 2.2.2 VISITOR USE AND RECREATION

The land that is now CRSP was purchased and designated a “State Park” by the State of California in 1933. It has been used continuously since then by the public as a destination for mountain recreation. Early uses were primarily camping, hiking, and horseback riding. Although a significant visitor use of the Park today, mountain biking did not make its start in the Park until the popularization of the mountain bike in the mid-1980s. Facilities developed through the years to support visitor uses have included family, group, equestrian, and primitive campgrounds, as well as a visitor center, trails, picnic and parking areas, cabins, ski runs (no longer in operation), restrooms, and other visitor support facilities.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Existing Conditions**  
 Figure 3



Date: 4/22/2014

**Legend**

- Equestrian Campground
- Developed Campground
- Primitive Camping
- Peak
- Facility
- CA Riding and Hiking Trail
- Local Roads
- State Park Road
- State Park Trail
- Highways
- Park Boundary

**Existing Conditions**

- Cultural Preserve
- State Park
- Natural Preserve
- Wilderness

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

## Visitation

Between 1996 and 2011, the average annual attendance was 475,472 people [354,645 (75%) for day use and 120,828 (25%) for camping]. The visitation extremes during this period occurred in 2001 with a total attendance high of 659,381 visitors, and in 2004, a total attendance low of 141,610. The low attendance in 2004 resulted from a park closure following the Cedar Fire. Generally, seasonal attendance is highest from late spring to late fall and lowest in winter, with the occasional spike occurring with periods of snowfall. The

majority of visitors, who camp do so during the summer “peak” season. With its favorable climate, day use of the Park remains relatively consistent throughout the year except during infrequent inclement weather.

*See Appendix F - Visitor Profile.*

### Visitor Access

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has good road access from the surrounding region via paved highways and roads. Park visitors from the east or west can access the Park by use of Interstate 8 which runs between San Diego and Casa Grande, Arizona. The southern Park entrance is accessed via SR-79 approximately 6 miles north of Interstate 8. SR-79 runs through the Park for another nine miles to the northern Park entrance.

Visitors from the north can access the northern Park entrance via SR-79 by way of SR-76 or SR-78, traveling through the community of Julian. The intersection of County Road S1 (Sunrise Highway) and SR-79 occurs two miles north of the northern Park entrance. The northernmost portion of the Park can be accessed via Engineers Road off SR-79 at Lake Cuyamaca. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the majority of visitors enter the Park from the south although the percentage of vehicles is unknown.

A day-use parking lot (Merigan Day-Use Parking) with trail access into the Park can be found at the southernmost

Park boundary along Viejas Boulevard in the town of Descanso. In addition, nine roadside, day-use only parking areas occur along SR-79 within the Park and most locations offer trail access. The large day-use parking area called “Sweetwater” serves as a staging area for equestrians as well as parking for all visitors.

Additional day-use parking is available at the campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor center, Stonewall Mine, the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, and Margaret Minshall Trail/SR-79.

Unpaved fire roads occur throughout the Park and are used as authorized, multi-use trails by the public. Many cross Park boundaries into adjacent public lands



*Winter snowfall at Paso Picacho Campground with Stonewall Peak in background February 2013*

but public vehicle access and parking is not permitted at these locations or on these trails.

No general public transportation is currently available to or within the Park. However, public school buses transport school children to and from the Cuyamaca Outdoor School.

## Visitor Opportunities

### *Primary Visitor Destinations*

When asked which areas of the Park they typically visit most, the respondents of the 2012 CRSP – General Plan Visitor Survey (**Appendix C - Summary of Online Visitor Survey**) indicated that the south area of the Park at or near Green Valley Campground was most popular (57.7%), at or near Paso Picacho Campground was second most popular (53.9%), the north area by Lake Cuyamaca was third most popular (38.8%), and mountain peaks were fourth most popular (29.8%). Only 12.9% of respondents indicated the southern-most area of the Park near Descanso was the most popular. The very northern portion of the Park along Engineers Road is also not a frequent destination due to few parking areas and trail access points.



*Cousins, Eric (L) and Joaquin Jr. (R) playing in the snow at Green Valley  
February 2013*

A particularly popular destination, especially during warm weather, is the Green Valley Falls, which is located on the Sweetwater River just south of Green Valley Campground. The easy access, adequate parking, and allure of the water make this an attractive locale for many campers and day-use visitors. Crowds can form at this location during warm spring and summer days, especially on weekends and holidays.

During winter, the Park is a prime destination for people who want to visit the snow. Visitors typically access the snow in the northern portions of the Park along SR-79 at the “Meadow” and “Trout Pond” day-use parking areas, as well as at the Paso Picacho Campground day-use parking area. These areas have the easiest and most direct access to snow, adequate parking, the heaviest snowfall within accessible areas in the Park, and small hills to sled and play on.

During snowfall, visitation can be very concentrated in these areas, and nearby roadways and parking areas can become congested.

### ***Primary Visitor Activities***

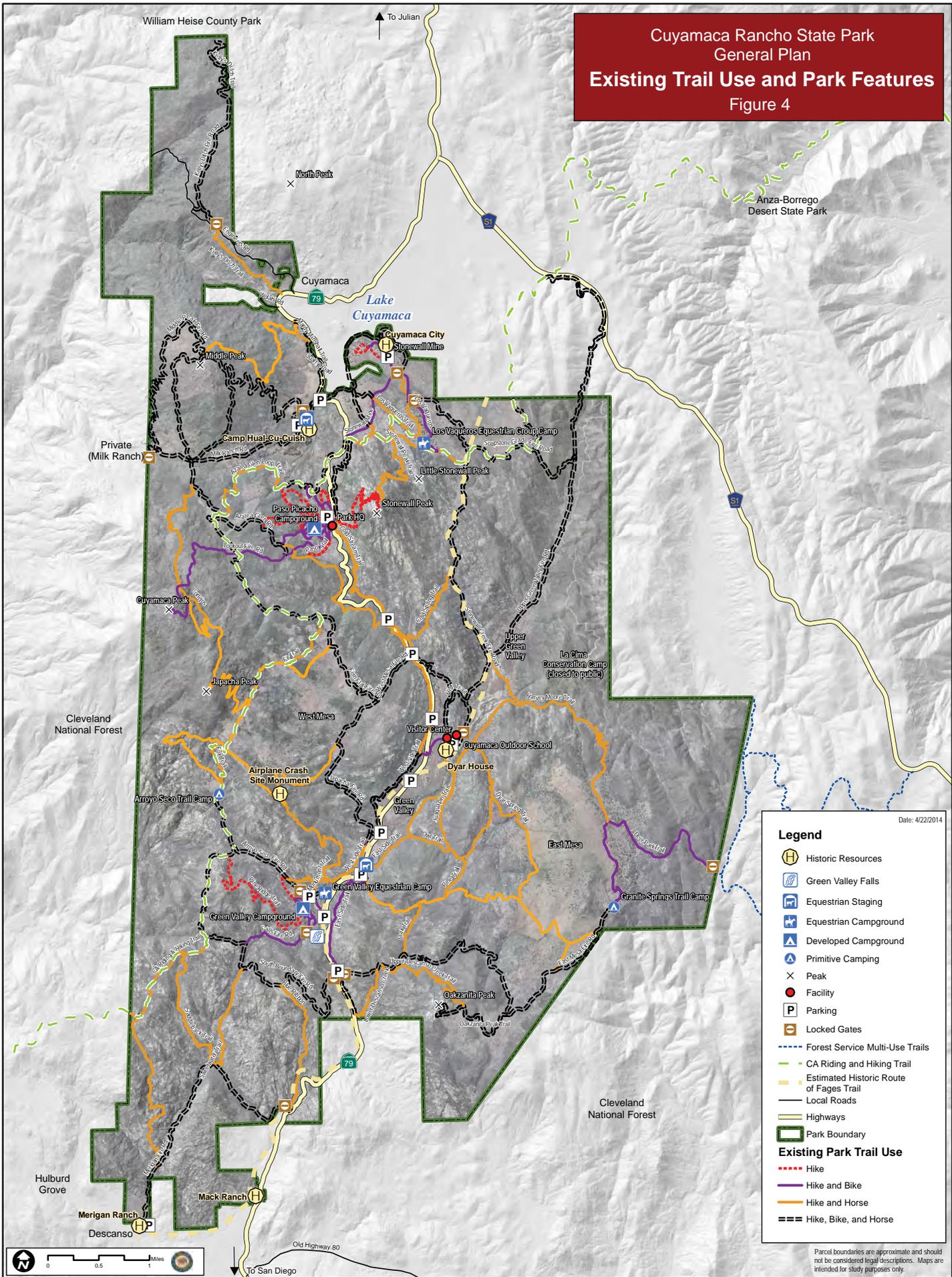
Visitors who come to CRSP are generally interested in camping and outdoor recreational experiences in a mountain setting. Roughly two-thirds of all visitors to the Park are day users and one-third are campers. They generally like traditional Park activities such as camping with family and/or friends, hiking or walking, relaxing outdoors, picnicking, horseback riding, mountain biking, watching wildlife, photography, and sightseeing. A majority of Park visitors come to camp, picnic, use the trails (i.e., hike, ride horses or bikes, summit a mountain peak, etc.), and/or visit Green Valley Falls, although many other park activities are available and popular with visitors. Fishing in Lake Cuyamaca is an activity that some visitors also enjoy, although the lake is owned and operated by the Helix Water District and managed by the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District.

### ***Trail Use***

The trail system is very popular with hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians because it provides good access to the diverse terrain and varied scenery of the Park as well as access to surrounding mountain peaks. There are 65 designated trails totaling approximately 137 miles, either designated as hiking only, hiking and horses only, hiking and biking only, or multi-use (hiking, horses, and biking). Multi-use trail designations occur mostly on dirt fire roads. All of the approximately 137 miles of trail is available for hiking, 126 miles are open to equestrians, and approximately 61 miles are open to bikers. The CRHT goes through the Park and enters at the south-western boundary with the CNF and at the northern Park boundary with ABDSP, just east of Lake Cuyamaca. The CRHT overlaps many other park trails, and intersects with the Pacific Crest Trail about three miles north of the northern Park boundary. While there are many regional trail connections beyond Park boundaries, most visitors access Park trails from within CRSP. In general, the most popular Park trails are those easily accessed from campgrounds, parking areas, and SR-79, as well as those that lead to mountain peaks, meadows, and other popular destinations such as Green Valley Falls.

***See Appendix G - Roads and Trails Inventory and Figure 4 - Existing Trail Use and Park Features map***

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Existing Trail Use and Park Features**  
 Figure 4





**Typical campsite at Paso Picacho Campground  
February 2014**

*Camping*

Camping is a primary activity at the Park. On average, one out of every four visitors stays overnight in one of the Park campgrounds. The Park has two family campgrounds, Green Valley Campground and Paso Picacho Campground, which provide tent, RV, and cabin camping. These are available for reservation through ReserveAmerica from March through November. From December through February they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Green Valley Campground has 81 campsites (individual, family, and equestrian sites) and Paso Picacho Campground has 85 campsites and five rustic cabins. There is also a group camp at Paso Picacho Campground that was closed due to damage from the Cedar Fire but is being rebuilt and is planned for reopening.

Equestrian campgrounds are available at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros (group camp). There are two primitive trail camps: Arroyo Seco Trail Camp and Granite Springs Trail Camp. Neither trail camp permits campfires, however, each contain four campsites, three horse corrals, non-potable water, vault toilets, and trash cans. Both trail camps are open to all hike-in, bike-in, and ride-in campers and are available for reservation or on a first-come-first-served basis when not on the reservation system.



**Typical campsite at  
Green Valley Equestrian Campground  
September 2013**

*Equestrian Use*

Horseback riding and equestrian camping are popular uses and have been a recreation attraction at the Park since its inception. The Park offers one of the few developed public equestrian campgrounds in the region as well as at least 127 miles of trail open to horseback riding. The Park also has easily accessible equestrian staging areas close to SR-79. Established in 2010, there is one equestrian campground which is located in the southern area of the Park called the Green Valley Equestrian Campground. Fourteen campsites are available spring through fall, two of which are accessible.

An equestrian group camp is available for overnight use, spring through fall, at the Los Vaqueros Group Equestrian Campground, which is located in the northern portion of the Park off Los Caballos Road about two miles east of SR-79. This well-equipped, developed group campground offers a large paved parking lot, combination restroom and shower building, group picnic area with barbeques, shade ramada, group fire ring, pipe horse corrals, and water faucets. The campground can accommodate horse trailers (30' maximum length) or about 50 automobiles, groups up to 80 people as well as 45 horses. Tent camping is allowed at the equestrian campground and all other campers must stay in a self-contained camping unit such as an RV or trailer.

Trails are available to equestrians in all areas of the Park. There are 32 trails designated for hiking and horses only as well as 22 multi-use trails that allow horseback riding along with hiking and mountain biking. Only five of the Park's 59 trails are off limits to equestrians – two hiking and biking only trails and three hiking only trails. Connections to the regional trail system are available on many park trails, including the CRHT, and connections to the Pacific Crest Trail with access to the nearby Laguna Mountains, CNF, and points beyond.

Within CRSP there are three day-use parking areas that also accommodate equestrians and horse trailers: the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, the Sweetwater parking area, and the Merigan Day Use Area.

#### *Mountain Bike Use*

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is an attractive destination for mountain bikers in the region looking for a scenic ride in the mountains. The Park offers a few singletrack trails and many fire roads for riding. Twenty two multi-use trails and two hiking and biking only trails are available.

#### *Natural and Cultural Activities*

Of the different types of natural and cultural oriented activities at the Park, a majority of visitors enjoy taking guided or self-guided nature walks, bird-watching, participating in interpretive programs (such as Junior Rangers), visiting Park historic sites or buildings, and/or touring the visitor center.



**Mountain bikers on Upper Green Valley Fire Road**

### **Degree of Social Interaction**

The degree of social interaction varies greatly between different destinations, areas of the Park, as well as time of week and year. Typically, visitors are more likely to encounter people close to public facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, etc. These areas at times can be crowded and noisy, especially during the summer and holiday weekends. Likewise, winter snow can bring crowds to the best snow access areas: Paso Picacho Campground day-use parking, and "Meadow" and "Trout Pond" day-use parking areas adjacent to



*CDPR Landscape Architect intern  
Jamie Yousten capturing the view  
from Stonewall Peak  
January 2013*

SR-79. Popular destinations such as Stonewall Peak, Stonewall Mine, Green Valley Falls, and the visitor center are sometimes busy, especially on weekends and holidays during warm weather. By contrast, visitors are more likely to experience quiet and solitude in remote locations such as on trails in the eastern and western flanks of the Park, and on weekdays or during cold weather. The high-use season at the Park, spring through summer, brings the greatest number of campers and day-use visitors, although peaks in visitation do occur during periods of snowfall. The high-use season is also when the majority of visitor services and programs are offered to coincide with the greatest number of visitors.

### **Compatibility of Recreational Uses**

Current recreational use of the Park, in particular camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, is generally consistent with the protection of important natural and cultural resources at the Park. This is due, in part, to the large acreage held as wilderness and the siting of recreation facilities away from sensitive resource areas. As such, the current recreational use is consistent with CRSP’s classification as a “State Park.”

In addition, CRSP generally has compatible trail users. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians typically do not infringe on each other’s enjoyable use of the Park or cause conflicts. This is because CRSP has many available parking and staging areas, a wide variety of trail types and terrain including wide fire roads, and many miles of trail throughout the Park with which to spread out. Trail user groups at the Park are also credited with showing respect for the needs and desires of others.

### **Wilderness Values and Experiences**

Wilderness constitutes approximately 53% of CRSP (13,073 acres) of the Park’s 24,719 acres. On April 9, 1982, two state wildernesses were established in the Park by the State Park and Recreation Commission, in conformance with the Wilderness Act passed by the legislature in 1974. The two wildernesses, known collectively as the *Cuyamaca Mountain State Wilderness* are on East Mesa (approximately 7,500 acres) and West Mesa (approximately 5,500 acres). These wildernesses make up many of the higher elevation locations in the Park such as the north flank of Middle Peak, surrounding Cuyamaca Peak and Japacha Peak, East Mesa and West Mesa, as well as remote areas in the southwestern portion of the CRSP. Wilderness areas are not typically located in the valleys, meadows, or developed areas of the Park such as Green Valley, Cuyamaca Meadow, and the Paso Picacho Campground, nor the central or northeastern quadrants of the Park.

The original purpose of designating the wildernesses at CRSP was to provide maximum resource protection of the forested slopes and peaks, and preserve

the wilderness experience of visitors in these areas. The designated Wilderness areas at the Park, per the PRC (Div. 5 ch. 1.3 § 5093), does not allow for motorized vehicle use or mechanical conveyance access. The only semi-developed areas surrounded by wilderness are the Arroyo Seco Trail Camp and the Granite Springs Trail Camp, yet these are not within wilderness themselves.

The wilderness areas restrict development and allow natural processes and scenic values to remain dominant. These include the forested slopes and peaks, and remote wooded valleys that are accessible only by trail through hiking or horseback riding. Wilderness prohibits roads, thereby helping to protect the natural quiet and scenic value of these areas. Primitive recreation in wilderness includes hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and photography. In general, wilderness areas have sparse numbers of visitors due to the remote and steep nature of the terrain, lack of vehicles to facilitate access, and distance away from parking and other developments. As such, wilderness at the Park offers many opportunities for quiet and solitude.



*Runners entering the southern end of the Park via Merigan Fire Road  
November 2012*

### **2.2.3 RECREATION TRENDS**

Average annual attendance at the Park between 1996 and 2011 remained relatively stable at approximately 475,500 visitors. During that time, there was a low of approximately 141,000 visitors in 2004 (due to Park closure following the Cedar Fire) and a high of approximately 660,000 visitors in 2001. Despite these high and low figures, no discernible upward or downward trend in visitation during this time period is apparent. The major recreational activities occurring in CRSP are hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, overnight camping, picnicking, and sightseeing. According to the Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation (SPOA) that the CDPR conducted in 2009, California's most popular activities are walking, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and beach activities, three of which are available in CRSP. The most common activities occurring inside state parks are relaxing in the outdoors, walking for pleasure, hiking, camping, and photography, all of which are popular in CRSP. The national trends also reflect the popularity of activities available at CRSP. In 2008, backpacking, mountain biking and trail running all doubled in participants, while hiking and camping showed increases as well. Fourteen of the top 25 activities people throughout the country like to participate in can and do occur in CRSP, and all showed growth in participation from 2001 to 2009. They include walking for pleasure, gathering with friends/family, viewing natural scenery, sightseeing, picnicking, viewing wildflowers/trees, driving for pleasure, viewing wildlife, visiting historic sites, bicycling, day hiking, visiting a wilderness, and developed camping. The activity with the highest rate of growth was viewing/photographing nature. While having lower participation rates than the

previously mentioned activities, visiting archaeological sites, primitive camping, backpacking, and horseback riding also showed increases in participation.

### Driving Forces Behind Trends

The increase in interest in photographing wildlife and nature may stem from the increasing accessibility and affordability of high-end digital cameras. The increases in physical activities such as hiking, mountain biking, trail running, and horseback riding may be the result of increasing emphasis on public health promotion in America as an antidote to growing obesity rates. A decrease in adolescent involvement in the outdoors up to 2009 is due to the increasing interest and emphasis on technological aspects of our culture, replacing outdoor activities with indoor interests. With the aging of the baby boomers, who participated in outdoor activity regularly, the later generations are showing less interest in the same type of activities. While those who participate in outdoor activities do so regularly and frequently, the overall population that does so has decreased. However, youth participation in mountain biking, hiking, and backpacking has still increased over time.

### 2.2.4 FACILITIES

Because of the abundance of mountains and steep terrain within the Park, a majority of the facilities, both public and operational, are located in valleys where the terrain is relatively flat and accessible.

#### Utilities

Developed areas within CRSP contain utility infrastructure, operational facilities, and visitor facilities. In addition, various utility corridors cross the Park and antennas are located on Cuyamaca Peak. The Park's infrastructure, including water, sewer, electric, and telecommunications, is in relatively good condition. Potable water is obtained from gravity-fed springs throughout the Park which provide adequate amounts of drinking water. However, the holding tank at the Green Valley Campground holds only 50,000 gallons of water, making it one of the smallest water tanks in the Park for one of the most popular campgrounds. The electrical system in the Paso Picacho campground area is not adequate for current demand. With the administrative building and the shop building on the same circuitry, power is limited throughout the site.



*Former CAL FIRE station at Paso Picacho Campground September 2013*

#### Administration and Maintenance Facilities

Park operational facilities include employee housing, and administrative and maintenance buildings, most of which are in moderate condition. Many of the buildings built by the CCC in the 1930s are examples of the NPS-designed Park Rustic style of American architecture that continued within the Park into the postwar era. Due to their age, the buildings undergo occasional repairs made necessary by everyday wear-

and-tear in order to stay operational. Several current and potential residences are in poor condition and need renovations.

### **Visitor Facilities**

Visitor facilities include the Paso Picacho Campground and cabins, the Green Valley Campground and equestrian campground, the Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Camping area, a group campground at Paso Picacho, the Stonewall Mine and nearby facilities, the visitor center, the trail camps and the corresponding trail system, and the associated roads and parking areas.

#### **Visitor Center**

The visitor center is centrally located within the Park near SR-79. It is currently housed in a modular building after the previous visitor center, housed in the historic Dyar House, was gutted by the Cedar Fire.

#### **Overnight Facilities**

Campgrounds are spread throughout the Park, with Green Valley Campground being in the southern portion, and the Paso Picacho Campground and Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground in the northern portion. The campsites at both Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds are in good condition and renovations were recently completed for a new combination restroom and shower building at the Green Valley Equestrian Campground.



*View from summit of Stonewall Peak toward Lake Cuyamaca and North Peak  
June 2012*

#### **Roads and Trails System**

The trail system throughout the Park is in generally good condition with some areas needing vegetation clearance and installation of erosion prevention devices. The parking areas are generally in good condition. However, the access road to the current equestrian staging area at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish is in poor condition and needs repair or replacement.

*See Appendix G - Roads and Trails Inventory*

#### **Impact of the 2003 Cedar Fire on Park Facilities**

The Cedar Fire burned through a majority of the Park completely destroying the two group campgrounds at Paso Picacho; the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground had several structures damaged as well (the campground has since been closed and removed). Also severely damaged were the historic Dyar House and former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish buildings, storage buildings at the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground, well as several power lines throughout CRSP. In all, the fire destroyed or severely damaged 30 of the Park facilities. Repairs have included the replacement of two cabins at Paso Picacho Campground and the relocation and repair of power lines throughout the Park. The Dyar House's

outer concrete and stone walls were stabilized with structural supports to prevent collapse.

### **Acquisitions**

The former Mack Ranch property was purchased for CRSP in 2005 as the most recent addition. The former Lucky 5 Ranch and Tulloch Ranch parcels were purchased in 2001 and 2003 respectively (in part, by the Anza-Borrego Foundation) for inclusion into ABDSP, and join the two parks.

### **Private Lands Within Park Boundaries**

There are five privately-owned residential parcels within the boundary of CRSP, all of which are in the north portion of the Park and have road access. The largest is a 64-acre private inholding adjacent to SR-79 and immediately west of Lake Cuyamaca dam. Four other small private inholdings (totaling 7 acres) occur north of Lake Cuyamaca adjacent to Engineers Road.

## **2.3 SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE VALUES**

### **2.3.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

#### **Topography**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park lies within the northern portion of the Peninsular Ranges physiographic province, which extends over 800 miles from Mount San Jacinto in the north through the Baja peninsula in the south. The Park is located within the Cuyamaca Mountains and ranges in elevation from 3,400 feet near the south boundary to 6,512 feet at Cuyamaca Peak (*see Figure 5 - Topography map*). The area is characterized by large meadows surrounded by rolling hills with a few steep mountain escarpments, many with prominent granite outcroppings. These include Cuyamaca Peak (6,512 feet), Middle Peak (5,883 feet), Japacha Peak (5,825 feet), and Stonewall Peak (5,730 feet). These peaks are prominent landmarks throughout San Diego County and account for four of the 15 highest peaks in San Diego County; Cuyamaca Peak is the second highest peak in the County (Hot Springs Mountain being the highest).

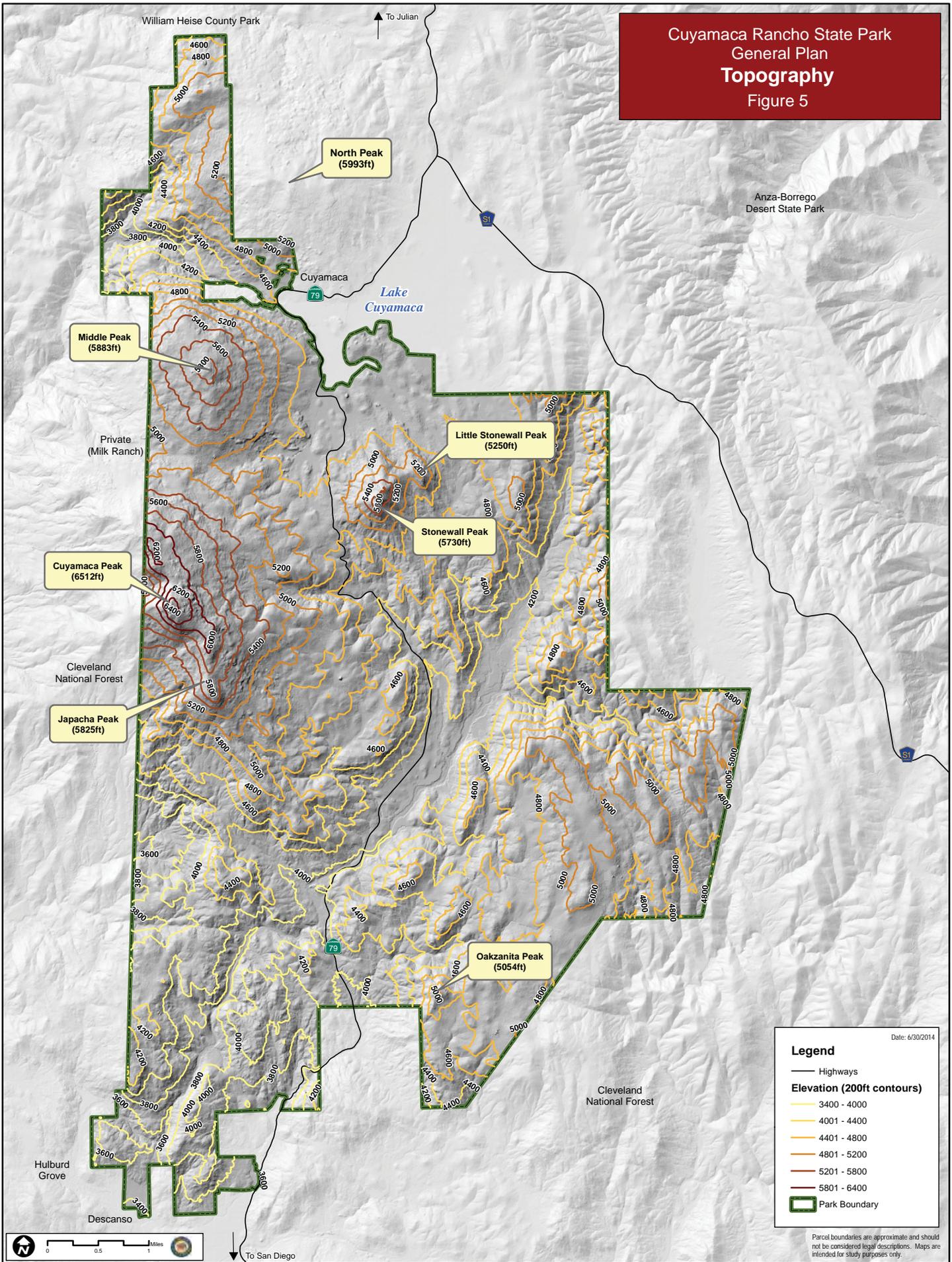
#### **Geology**

The Park is within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province and consists primarily of Mesozoic granite, schist, and gneiss. Most of the rocks in the region were formed from 110 to 240 million years ago.

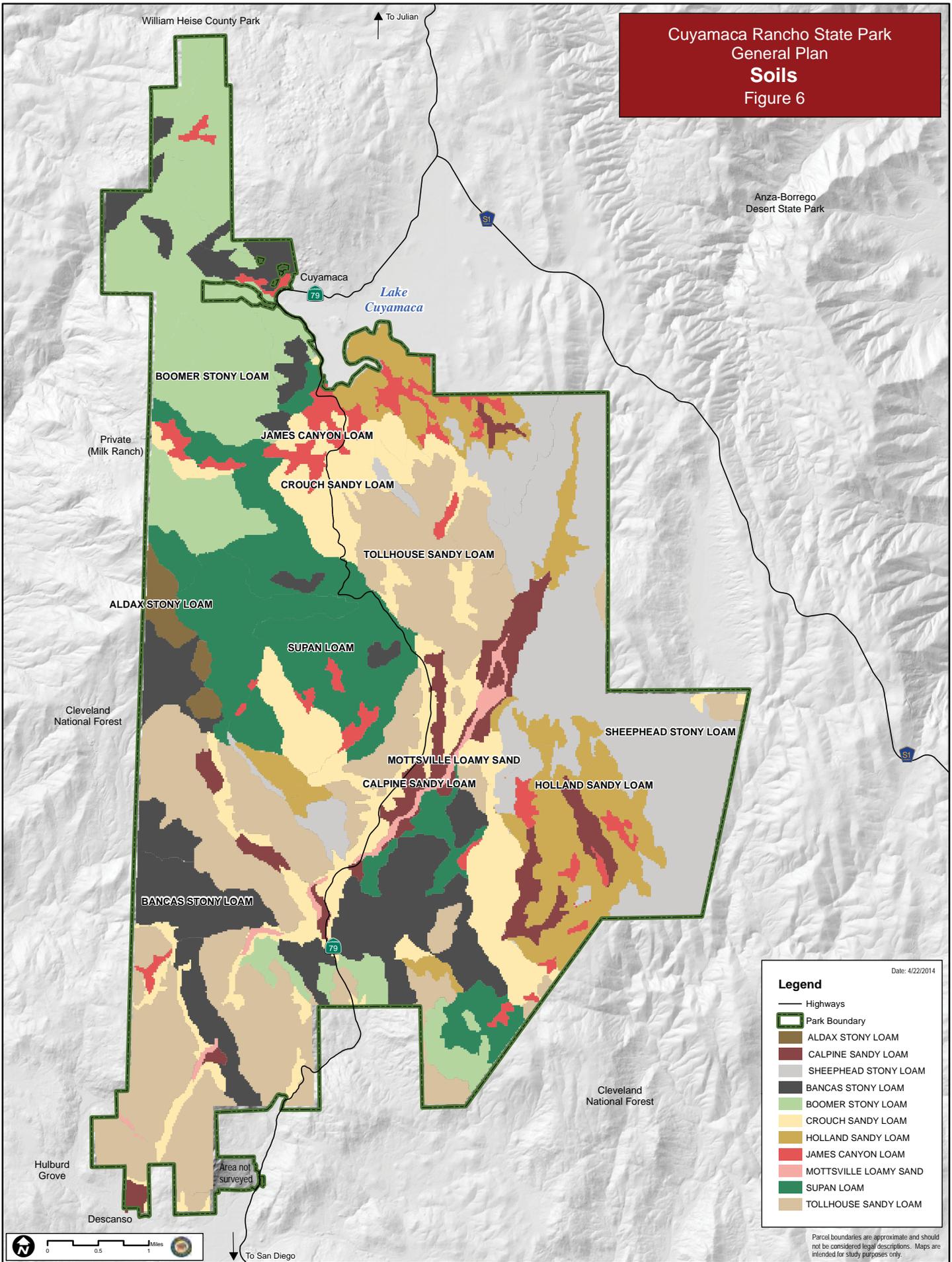
There are no seismic faults in the Park, the closest being the Elsinore Fault which is 4.4 miles to the northeast of the Park. Regional crust movements along the Elsinore Fault and the San Jacinto Fault (18.6 miles to the northwest) have influenced the structure of the region though.

Gold is a geologic component and was previously mined at Stonewall Mine in the north part of the Park. The gold from this area has been described as similar in character to the Mother Lode in the Sierra Nevada.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Topography**  
 Figure 5



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Soils**  
 Figure 6



## Soils

There is a diversity of soil within the Park (*see Figure 6 - Soils map*), ranging from skeletal, coarse, sandy loams to loams with clayey subsoil. These soils are generally highly erodible and vegetation provides stability. The soils can exhibit hydrophobic characteristics during the hot, dry summer months.

## Climate

The Cuyamaca Mountains are a transitional zone from the marine climate to the west and desert climate to the east. The western peaks average around 39 inches of precipitation per year while the lower elevations may receive as little as 21 inches during an average year. Much of this precipitation occurs in the form of winter rain and snow with some summer thundershowers. Summer daytime temperatures typically reach 90°F or higher while winter temperatures can periodically drop below freezing.

The current understanding of climate change means that the doctrine of restoring conditions that were present prior to European contact is no longer relevant. However, changes in the climate are occurring at an unprecedented rate due to world-wide human activities (i.e., fossil fuel combustion, cement production, deforestation, and other land use changes). As a result, increases in the concentration of the greenhouse gases, CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide), CH<sub>4</sub> (methane), and N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide) are occurring.

## Air Quality

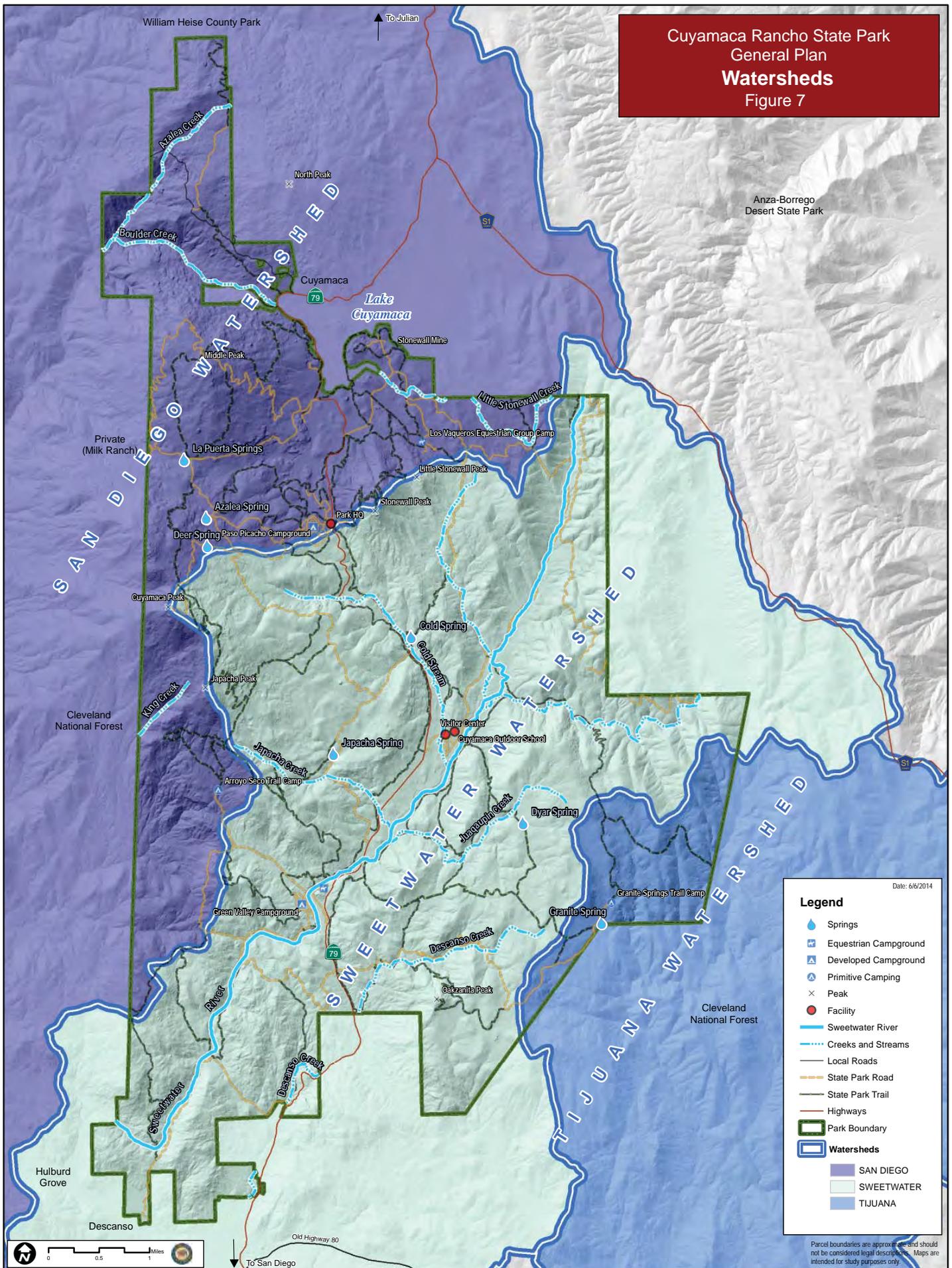
The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District encompasses most of San Diego County, including CRSP. The closest air monitoring station is located in Alpine, 15 miles to the southwest and 1,500 feet lower in elevation; it is the highest elevation monitoring station in the San Diego Air Basin. It is likely that air quality in CRSP is better than reported in the Air Basin since the Park is at a higher elevation than the monitoring stations. Pollutants are pushed against the foothills from onshore breezes then trapped there below the inversion layer, which occurs around 2,000 feet elevation.

The two major pollutant issues for this region are ozone and particulate matter. State non-attainment levels are reported for “Ozone one-hour” and “Ozone eight-hour” as well as particulate matter that measure within the “PM2.5” and “PM10” categories; however there has been a trend of overall improvement in these measurements since 1990.

## Hydrology

The hydrology of the Cuyamaca Mountains is directly related to precipitation (rain and snowfall) as that is the only source of surface runoff and groundwater. These amounts are variable and future flows are uncertain due to the potential for increased drought as a result of climate change. Most of the streams are currently intermittent, depending upon precipitation and natural upwelling of ground water for flow. There are 19 mapped springs in CRSP, of which 6 are named (*see Figure 7 - Watersheds map*). There are also numerous unmapped seeps.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
General Plan  
**Watersheds**  
Figure 7



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located within three watersheds: San Diego, Sweetwater, and Tijuana (see **Figure 7 - Watersheds map**). Almost two-thirds of the Park is located within the Sweetwater watershed which includes the headwaters of the Sweetwater River. The Sweetwater River flows from the northeast corner of CRSP to San Diego Bay before entering the Pacific Ocean. Many creeks join the Sweetwater River along its path, including Juaquapin, Japacha, and Cold Stream within the Park.

## 2.3.2 NATURAL RESOURCES

### Plant Life

#### **Vegetation Communities**

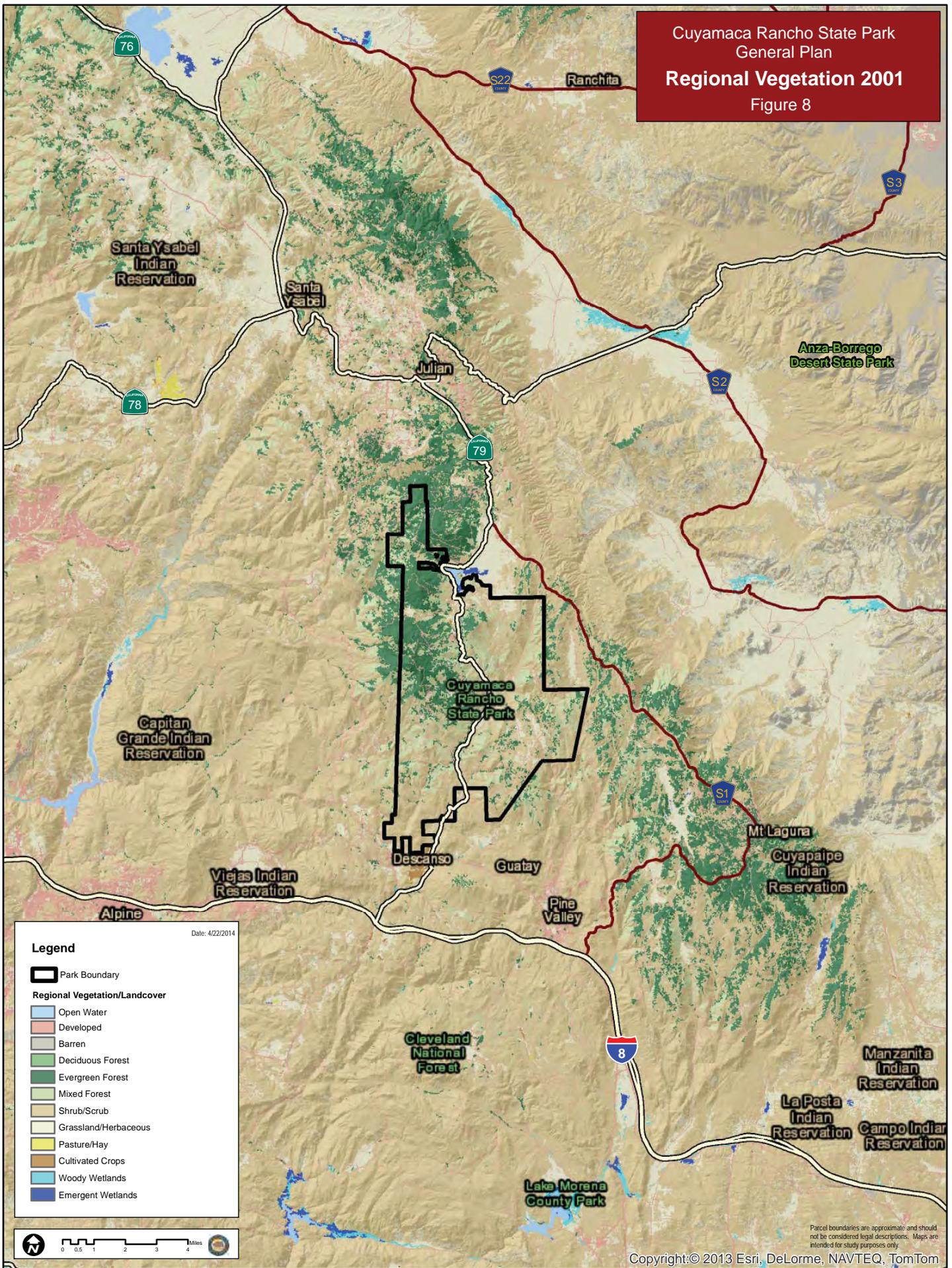
A diverse array of vegetation is present within CRSP as a result of the Park's location within a transition zone from coastal to desert ecotone and the elevational gradients, land use history, and fire history. There are currently 40 recorded vegetation alliances present which can be grouped into five main vegetation communities: conifer forest, oak woodland, riparian woodland, chaparral, as well as montane meadow and grassland. The current vegetation within CRSP still reflects a natural response to the Cedar Fire along with managed reforestation, and therefore is transitional in nature (see **Figure 10 - Pre-Cedar Fire Vegetation map**, **Figure 11 - Vegetation Surveyed 2011-13 map**, and **Appendix H - Vegetation Crosswalk**).

The conifer forest is present primarily on Cuyamaca Peak, between East Mesa and the eastern Park boundary, and within the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. The dominant species are Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), and incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). There is a Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) stand on the west slope of Cuyamaca Peak along with a sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) stand on Cuyamaca Peak. This sugar pine stand is the southern-most in California. The forested environment in the lower elevations is characterized by oak woodland, which is dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*).

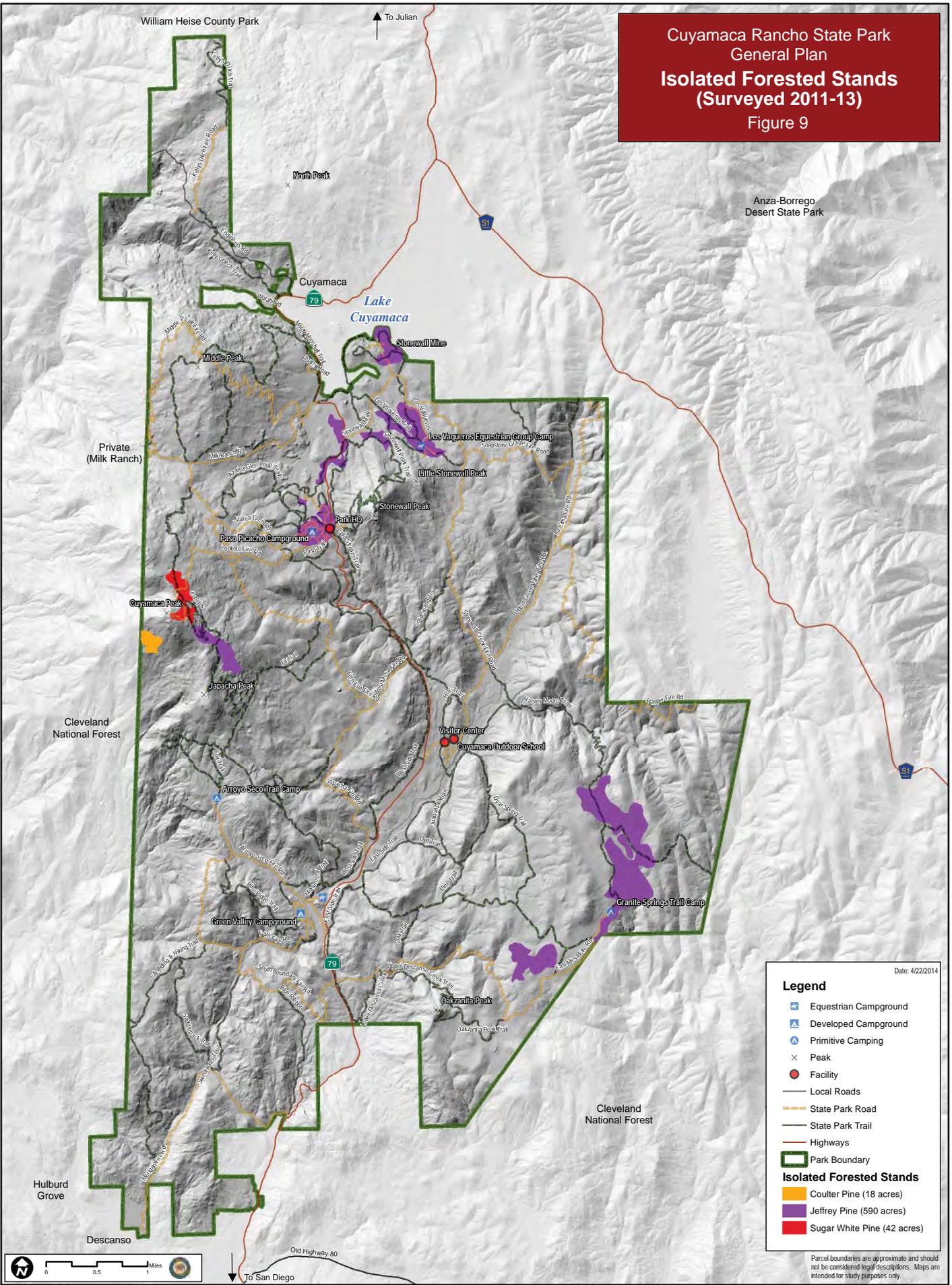
These assemblages are found throughout the Transverse Range and Sierra Nevada but within the Cuyamaca Mountains they are a Sky Island Forest, surrounded by desert and semi-arid desert vegetation (see **Figure 8 - Regional Vegetation 2001 map**). *Sky Island Forest* is a descriptive term from the field of Island Biogeography which equates the isolation of habitats, such as lowland vegetation surrounded by mountain forests, to geographic islands surrounded by water.

Along perennial watercourses and intermittent streams, riparian woodlands are present. They are characterized by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), western cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Chaparral is found throughout the Park. It is represented by drought-tolerant shrubs such as wild lilac species (*Ceanothus* sp.), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.).

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Regional Vegetation 2001**  
 Figure 8



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
**Isolated Forested Stands**  
 (Surveyed 2011-13)  
 Figure 9



Date: 4/22/2014

**Legend**

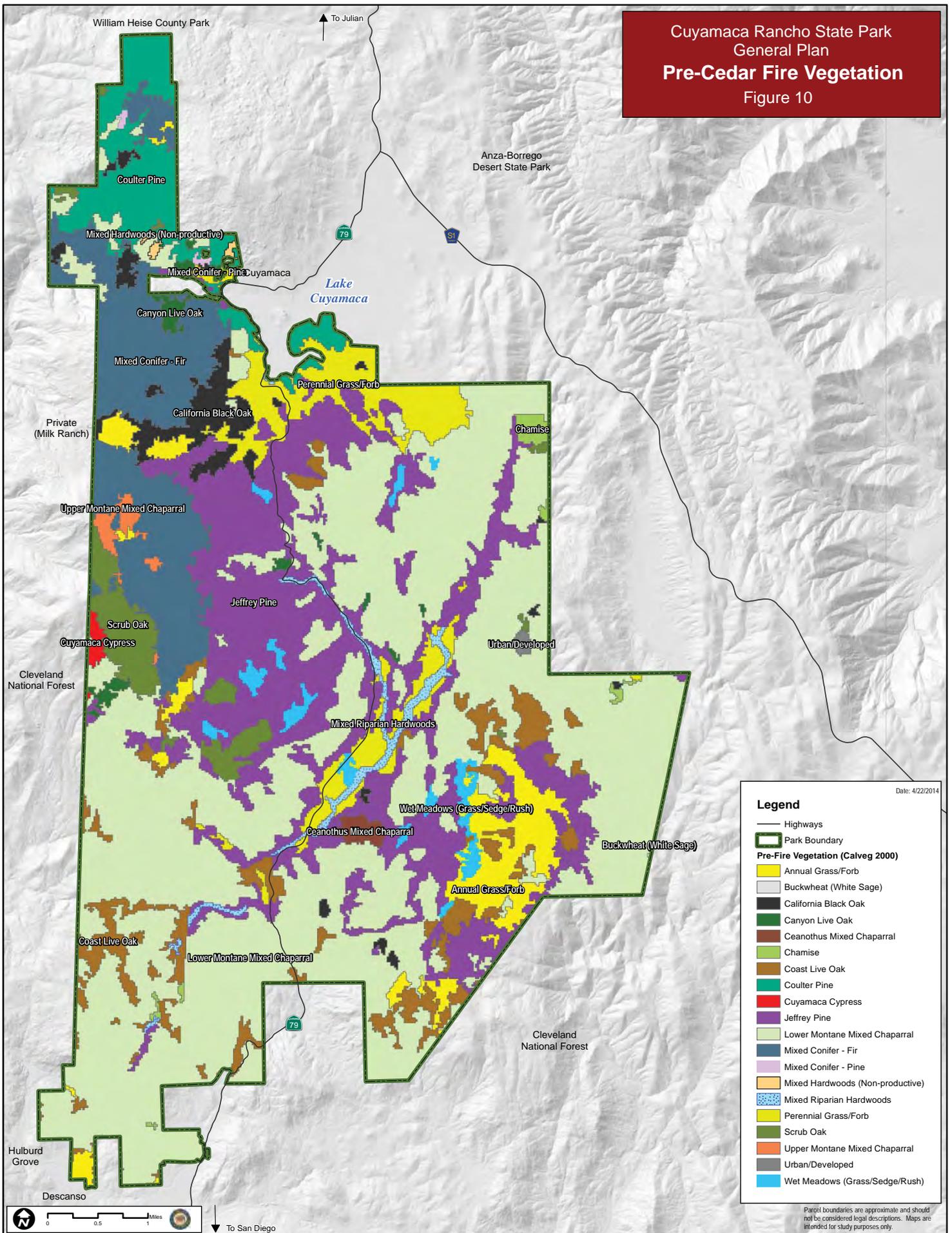
- Equestrian Campground
- Developed Campground
- Primitive Camping
- Peak
- Facility
- Local Roads
- State Park Road
- State Park Trail
- Highways
- Park Boundary

**Isolated Forested Stands**

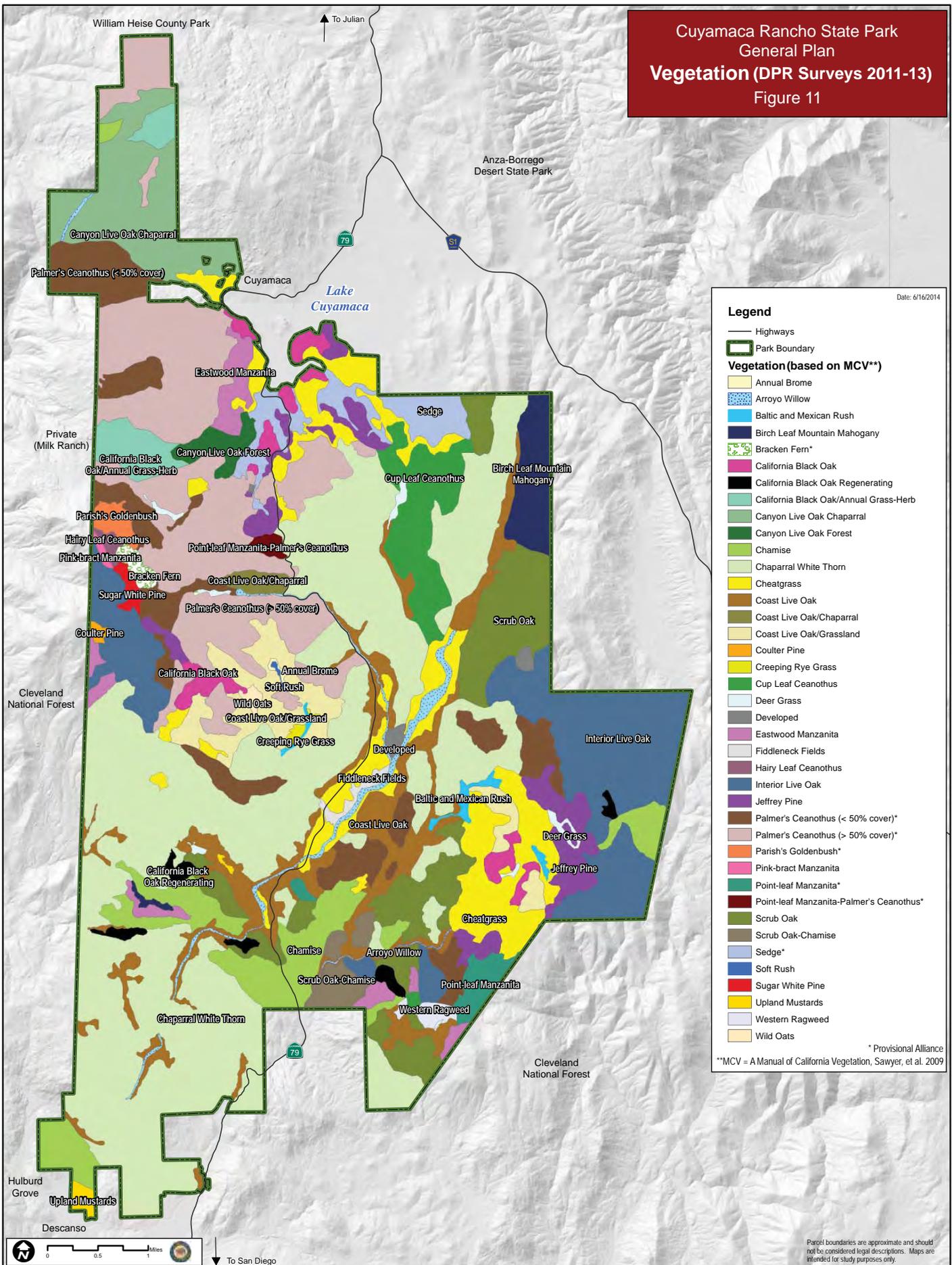
- Coulter Pine (18 acres)
- Jeffrey Pine (590 acres)
- Sugar White Pine (42 acres)

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
 Pre-Cedar Fire Vegetation  
 Figure 10



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan  
 Vegetation (DPR Surveys 2011-13)  
 Figure 11



The montane meadow and grassland vegetative communities intergrade or merge with each other and therefore are described as one since it is difficult to define a boundary between them. Montane meadows are described as being seasonally wet, occurring in low-lying areas dominated by annual plant species. In contrast, grasslands are drier and are dominated by perennial plants and non-native grasses.

### ***Fire and the Landscape***

Fire is a natural feature within the southern California landscape, with much of the environment within CRSP adapted to and dependent upon fire. Low intensity lightning strike fires were present prior to human occupation. These were then supplemented by Native American ignition patterns, primarily within grasslands. Fire suppression began in the Cuyamaca Mountains in 1910 by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and was fully implemented by the 1930s as the CCC-built roads to fight fires and contributed fire fighting crews. These suppression actions, coupled with the history of logging, cessation of grazing, and more recently, prolonged drought, has led to an increase in fuel loads which has resulted in larger, hotter, and faster burning wildfires.



***Charred conifer trees on Middle Peak display the destructive force of the 2003 Cedar Fire. May 2014***

Numerous wildfires have burned within CRSP, including two of the largest fires on record (post 1910) for San Diego County (see ***Figure 12 - Wildfires map***). In 2003, the Cedar Fire, which is the largest mapped fire in California history, burned over 270,000 acres including over 98% of the Park. As a result, the majority of the vegetation in the Park is relatively young and therefore in transition.

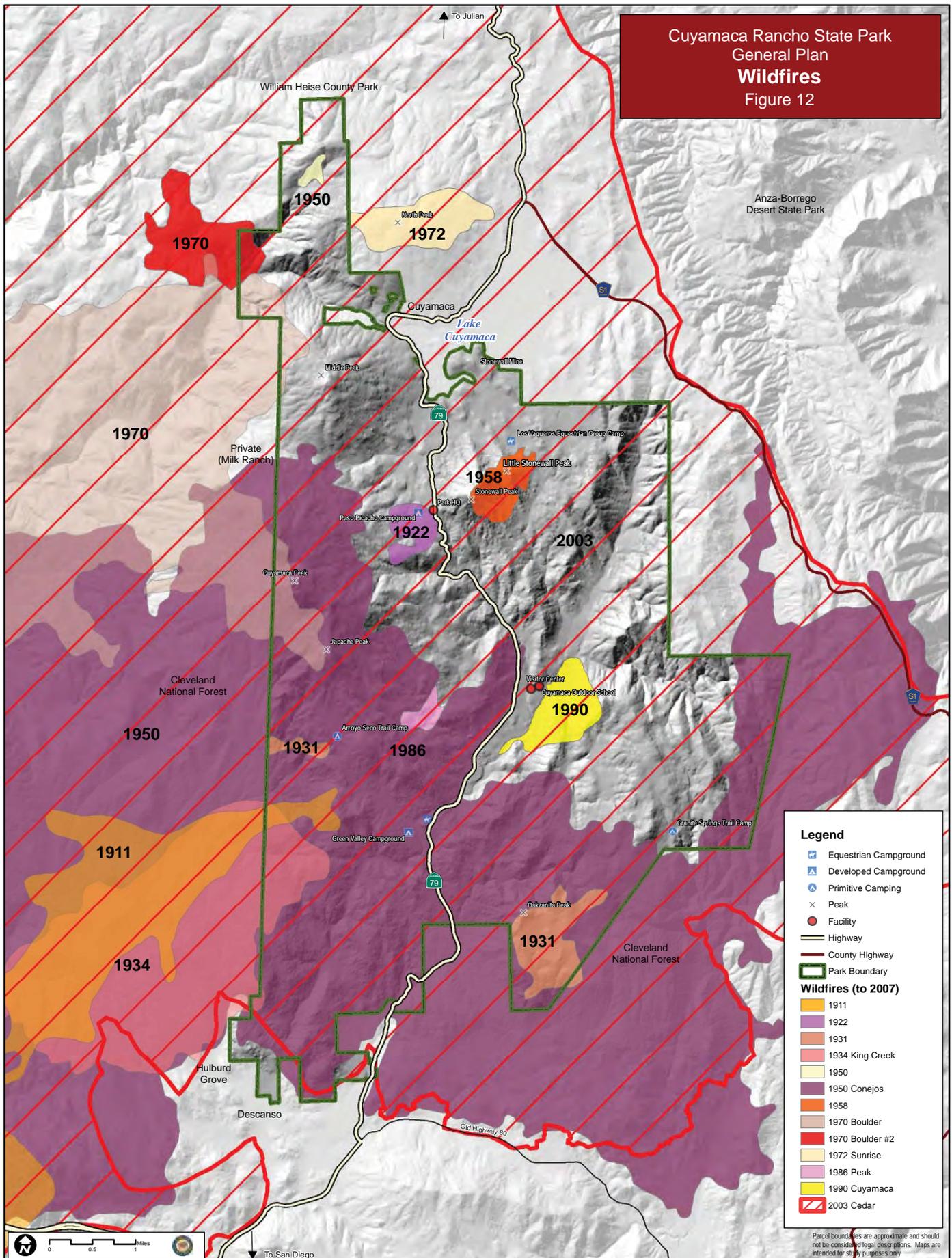
The Sky Island Forest has been slow to recover following the Cedar Fire, becoming more fragmented and isolated [see ***Figure 9 - Isolated Forested Stands (Surveyed 2011-2013) map***]. A Reforestation Project was initiated in 2007 to accelerate recovery by replanting 2,530 acres of previous conifer forest and oak woodland. The long-term goal of the reforestation effort is to restore the biodiversity and ecosystem function of the Sky Island Forest, which includes natural resilience to wildfire, disease, insects, and invasive exotics species. Natural post-fire regeneration is mimicked through a patchy distribution which, once the trees mature, will act as centers of seed dispersal for recolonization of the remaining previously forested areas.

Prescribed burning as a proactive fire management tool is a relatively new concept, introduced in the 1950s and 1960s by Harold Biswell. Much of his early research was conducted in the CDPR, including CRSP. Areas that received prescribed fire treatment, such as portions of East Mesa, had a lower oak and conifer mortality during the Cedar Fire than the rest of the Park.

### ***Sensitive Botanical Resources***

A total of 61 sensitive plants have been documented to occur in the Park. Of these, half are identified as Locally Limited Distribution. Of the remaining 25,

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
General Plan  
**Wildfires**  
Figure 12



three are State Endangered, two are State Rare, one Federal Endangered, ten Federal Species of Concern, nineteen California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B, two CNPS List 2, and ten CNPS List 4. Numerous plants occur on more than one list.

Sensitive plants are disproportionately found in the montane meadow and grassland community, particularly in vernal wet areas. These include the State Endangered Parish's meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba* ssp. *parishii*) and Lake Cuyamaca downingia ( var. *brevior*). In addition, Cuyamaca larkspur (*delphinium hesperium* ssp. *cuyamacae*), a state rare species, is found in this habitat.



**Small herd of Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) foraging near Upper Green Valley Fire Road January 2014**

The State Endangered interior rose (*Rosa woodsii* var. *ultramontane*) is found in the conifer forest. Cuyamaca cypress (*Hesperocyparis stephensonii*), which is part of the conifer forest, is also a CNPS recognized Rare Natural Community.

### Animal Life

As the vegetation has changed post-Cedar Fire, so have some of the wildlife present in the Park. The California spotted owl, which was previously known to nest in the CRSP, has not been detected since the fire. However, a rich faunal assemblage is still present.

The Park is home to one Federally Endangered amphibian: arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*). Large mammalian residents include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and southern mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *fuliginatus*). Numerous bat species have been detected including Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). Common birds include the red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), and mountain chickadee (*Poecille gambeli*).

The Park is also host to the California mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Several rare butterfly species, such as the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and Hermes copper (*Lycaena hermes*), have the potential to be present.

### 2.3.3 NON-NATIVE SPECIES

The environment has been impacted by the presence of both plant and animal non-native species. Plants such as Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and greater periwinkle (*Vinca major*) were introduced historically as ornamental species. Species such as Maltese star-thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and Turkish wheatgrass (*Elytrigia pontica* ssp. *pontica*) were also introduced.

Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) were introduced to California for hunting purposes, starting as early as 1877 and continuing through 1999. They have been documented having a negative impact on the environment as a result of their foraging habits.



*Flock of wild turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo) forage near Granite Spring - A common sight at CRSP September 2013*

The newest detected pest is the goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) (*Agrilus auroguttatus*). It is native to southeastern Arizona, has been the cause of extensive oak mortality, and may have been introduced through the movement of firewood.

### 2.3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resources of CRSP include archaeological artifacts, features, and sites of both the Native American and historic periods, as well as traditional cultural places and resources; sacred sites; and historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and sites. These resources have been researched, documented, and inventoried by CDPR archaeologists and historians and are included in the resources inventory (under a separate cover) for the Park. Threats to both the known and undocumented archaeological sites include erosion, fire, construction, unauthorized trails, illegal camping, and vandalism including graffiti and artifact collecting.

#### Archaeological and Ethnographic Overview

The cultural story of the land that is now CRSP starts in the distant past. The creation accounts of the Kumeyaay and Kwaaymii peoples of the region tell them that their ancestors were placed in this area by the creator, and they have been here since time began. Scientific evidence, such as radiocarbon dating, indicates that people have been living in southern California for more than 9,000 years, with some evidence from the Channel Islands pushing the date back to at least 13,000 years. The resources of the Cuyamaca Mountains, including ample wildlife, plants, water sources, and stones that could be shaped into tools, made this area ideal for habitation and procurement activities.

At the time the first Europeans started visiting the eastern mountains of San Diego, there were eight major Villages or village complexes identified within what would become the Park boundaries, including Ah-ha' Kwe-a-mac', the village site that is the namesake for the mountains, rancho, and the current State Park. Most of these villages were shown on the map that was drawn for the original Rancho de Cuyamaca land grant in approximately 1846. Besides Ah-ha' Kwe-a-mac' they include Hual-cu-cuish (Hal-kwo-kwilsh), Mesa de Huacupin (Juacupin), Pisclim, Mitaragui, Pilcha, Japatai, and Pam-mum Ah-wah. In addition, the villages of Jamatyume, Yguai (Iguai), and Hum-poo' Ar-rup'ma were just outside what are now the boundaries of the Park, but satellite camps, procurement areas, and other use areas associated with these villages are within the current Park boundary.



*Bedrock mortars*

## Archaeological Resources



*An arrowshaft straightener from the Stonewall Mine area  
2008*

The archaeological investigations of these earlier people and cultures began in the Cuyamaca region in the 1930s and 40s with site documentation and excavations directed by Malcolm Rogers, an early San Diego archaeologist who was affiliated with the San Diego Museum of Man. Over the years there have been a number of other archaeological excavations and surveys within the Park, many following wildfire events such as the 1986 Peak Fire and the 2003 Cedar Fire. These studies have resulted in the identification and recordation of over 920 archaeological sites and isolates. Of these, most (approximately 80%) are Native American sites such as villages, camps, grinding features, rock shelters, rock art sites, burial locations, caches, procurement areas, quarries, and work stations. Archaeological surveys of the Park have only examined about 55% of the total Park acreage, indicating that there is a high probability that additional Native American sites exist

within those areas of the Park that were not examined prior to or during the resources inventory phase of this General Plan.

Sacred sites and traditional use areas, which continue to hold significance to the Native Americans of the region, have also been identified within the Park. There are four designated Cultural Preserves within CRSP: Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa), Pilcha (West Mesa), Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine, and Kumeyaay Soapstone.

## Historic Archaeological Resources

The Park also contains more than 175 documented historic archaeological sites and isolates, dating from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s. These include a town site, cabin and home sites, mining sites, trash dumps, work camps, recreational features, bridges and trails, a cemetery, and an airplane crash site, as well as assorted features and artifacts of the more recent past. It is presumed that additional historic archaeological sites also exist within unexamined areas of the Park.

## Historical Land Use and Resources

Strategically located between San Diego's coastal and desert regions, the Park's rugged mountainous landscape has played a key role in its historical development and land use. The Park's surviving historical resources reflect over 240 years of recorded history: from the early days of Spanish exploration; through various attempts to exploit its natural resources for profit and pleasure; to



*Park visitor Patty Bevil from San Diego  
at the Airplane Crash Site Monument  
December 2008*

the present efforts to protect its unique resources and promote its outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Park's historical development can be divided into several historical periods that closely parallel the overall development of San Diego County's mountainous backcountry. Within the Park are numerous sites, buildings, structures, and objects associated with these historical periods.

### ***European Exploration and Settlement***

The Park's first recorded historical period is associated with the expansion of European exploration and settlement along North America's west coast from 1769 to 1825. Using a military fort (*presidio*) and ecclesiastical mission at San Diego as its base, Imperial Spain sought to enforce its colonial power over the region and the Native American population through several forays eastwards into the mountainous hinterland. The first reported incursions occurred between 1772 and 1785, when Captain Pedro Fages, following existing Native American trails, established the first overland link between San Diego and the interior. Fages' April 19, 1782 diary entry described the area as containing "well-grassed hills covered with trees of many kinds, good water, and plenty of pasture." In 1825, Sub-lieutenant Santiago Argüello "rediscovered" the Fages Trail, reestablishing a direct and official overland mail and immigrant route between San Diego and settlements along the Colorado River and Sonora, Mexico.

### ***Mexican Rancho Period***

Argüello's accomplishments occurred during the Park's Mexican Rancho Period (1821-1848) when the land now known as CRSP was part of the newly formed Republic of Mexico. The key event during this period occurred in 1845, when Governor Pío Pico granted 11 square leagues, or over 83,900 acres of land in the Cuyamaca Mountains to Don Augustín Olvera of Los Angeles. An absentee landowner, Don Olvera was interested primarily in exploiting the rancho's timber resources. However, the local Kumeyaay were successful in forcing Don Olvera's agent, Cesario Walker to abandon his sawmill operations near the confluence of Cold Stream and the Sweetwater River. The Kumeyaay triumph was fleeting, though, and by 1848 geo-political forces were in place that would have a profound effect upon their ancestral homeland.

### ***Period of American Homesteading and Ranching***

As a result of the Mexican War, Rancho Cuyamaca entered a Period of American homesteading and ranching (1857 to 1890). During this period squatters eroded Don



***Merigan Ranch Stone Cabin at the southern end of CRSP August 2012***

Olvera’s claim to Rancho Cuyamaca. The most successful and influential was James Ruler Lassator, who “purchased” 160 acres of land in Green Valley from an alleged local Kumeyaay chief in 1857. Lassator used his Green Valley homestead, which included the first permanent stone house in the area near the site of the former Walker sawmill, to grow and harvest hay and barley, which he and his stepson John Mulkins hauled down the former Fages/Argüello Trail through Oriflamme Canyon to their sod cabin at Vallecito. Here they sold it to travelers along the Southern Emigrant Trail or to the *San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line*. The first federally subsidized southern overland mail route, between 1857 and 1860, the “Jackass Mail” utilized Lassator’s Vallecito and Green Valley homesteads as rest stops and *muladas*—areas to corral mules.

**Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City**

In 1869 when, in an attempt to hedge off squatters and to pay off legal debts, Don Olvera began selling off parcels of his original land grant to individuals. Unfortunately for Olvera, the 1870 discovery of gold in one of the parcels led to the Park’s fourth historical period: the operation of the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City between 1870 and 1917. Coinciding with the discovery

and exploitation of gold fields at Julian and Banner, the *Stonewall Jackson Mine* operated until 1876, when it closed down from a lack of capital. In 1886 San Bernardino mining expert and California Governor Robert W. Waterman purchased and infused capital into the mine, and placed his son Waldo as superintendent of the renamed *Stonewall Mine*. As a result, the Stonewall Mine would become one of the richest gold producing mines in San Diego County. In addition, Waldo Waterman oversaw the construction of *Cuyamaca City*, a “company town” to house miners and their families. Coinciding with mining operations were a number of sawmills in the surrounding mountains that provided timbers, lumber, and firewood for the community and mining operation.



***Hotel guests playing croquet in area between Cuyamaca City Hotel and superintendent’s cottage (in background) ca. 1895***

Concurrent with the Watermans’ development of the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City was the creation of the nearby Lake Cuyamaca reservoir. In 1887 the *San Diego Flume Company* erected an earthen dam to impound water that would eventually reach San Diego. While the dam is outside the Park’s boundaries, part of the Lake’s southern shoreline borders the Park. In addition, parts of Boulder Creek, Kelly’s Ditch, and the La Puerta Creek, which are within the Park west of the Lake’s dam, are associated with the historic flume system.

While the Lake Cuyamaca reservoir played an important role in San Diego’s early water supply history, subterranean lake waters invariably flooded the nearby Stonewall mine, leading to its eventual closure after 1891.

### **Road Development**

Gold mining, lumbering, water development, and an increase in small-scale ranching activities led to a period of pioneer road development within the ranch between 1870 and 1926. The first viable road through what is now CRSP was the “Old San Diego-Cuyamaca Stage Route,” which, beginning around 1870, provided passenger coach and freight wagon service between Lakeside and Julian via Cuyamaca City and the Stonewall Mine. By 1913 automobile traffic slowly began to supplant horse-drawn stages and freight wagons along the road, which, by 1926, had become SR-79. Besides attracting new farmers and ranchers, the road began to attract entrepreneurs who built and rented recreational cabins in nearby Descanso, Guatay, and Pine Valley communities to weekend automobile-oriented visitors.



**Scrapers moving mine tailings at  
Stonewall Mine  
ca. 1895**

### **Mountain Resort Development**

Improved road development facilitated the Park’s sixth historical period which saw a proliferation of mountain resort development in the Cuyamaca Mountains from 1884 to 1930. The increased visitation and use of the Cuyamaca Mountains for purely recreational purposes began around 1884 with the promotion of the nearby community of Descanso as a spiritual and recreational retreat. Soon a large number of rental cabins and semi-permanent vacation homes proliferated throughout the area. Although built for utility and economy, their stone and timber construction had a certain rustic charm that set a vernacular design and building standard throughout San Diego’s mountainous backcountry, including CRSP, for the next 50 years.

Three examples of historical resources from this period located within CRSP are the Ralph M. Dyar House, the Merigan Ranch Stone Cabin, and the Mack Ranch Complex. Erected in 1924, 1929, and 1930, respectively, they are associated with “Gentlemen Ranchers:” affluent upper-middle class property owners who built rustic mountain retreats in order to “realize the delights of a whole summer spent in the mountains or the advantages of having a place to run out to for weekends.”

### **Ralph M. Dyar and El Rancho Cuyamaca Development Period**

Los Angeles businessman and gentleman rancher Ralph M. Dyar purchased the Rancho Cuyamaca with plans for his own use and development of the property. From 1923 to 1933, Dyar built, lived in, and worked in his *House of Stone* while planning to develop the Stonewall Ranch’s northern section into *El Rancho Cuyamaca*. An up-scale mountain resort, it was to stretch from Lake Cuyamaca to Azalea Glen. However, it never left the planning stage.

### ***CDPR and the CCC Period***

The 1929 Stock Market Crash and ensuing Great Depression forced Dyar to abandon his plans and sell the ranch to CDPR in 1933 for half its estimated



***CCC camp buildings in Green Valley with Stonewall Peak in the background ca. 1934***

value. This led directly to the newly acquired CRSP's next, and arguably one of the Park's most influential periods of historical development: the California State Parks and the CCC Period. Between 1933 and 1942, in an attempt to provide jobs, the federal government cooperated with CDPR to improve the new Park's infrastructure, building recreation-oriented landscape features, and campground layouts. As a result, CRSP contains some of the best representational examples of the NPS-designed Park Rustic style buildings and landscapes in the State Park system.

Federally funded CCC crews, whose main state park work camp was located at the present Cuyamaca Outdoor School site, were also responsible for many of the Park's present fire roads and trails. One in particular, Monument Trail, leads from the Arroyo Seco Picnic Area up to the Airplane Crash Monument. The latter memorializes the site of the May 23, 1922 crash of a U.S. Army airplane, which, at the time, was

the focus of one the largest combined air and land search missions in U.S. military history.

During the latter phase of the CCC involvement, enrollees were responsible for improving two rustic-looking semi-private group camps for local Girl and Boy Scouts at Tapawingo and Hual-Cu-Cuish, respectively, in the Park's northern area southwest of Lake Cuyamaca. The Girl Scout Camp, located on the Stonewall Mine site, was removed in the 1970s, the Boy Scout Camp at Hual-Cu-Cuish was damaged in the Cedar Fire.

Despite the loss of Camp Tapawingo and damage to Hual-Cu-Cuish, CRSP staff and visitors are still using many of the surviving, nearly 80-year-old, NPS-designed, and CCC-constructed buildings and landscape improvements throughout the Park.



***CCC crewmen posing with axes - Stonewall Peak in background January 1934***

### ***Military Use and Training Exercises***

For all practical purposes, the NPS/CCC's influence ended in the few months prior to the United States' entry into World War II, when the Park entered a period of sporadic military use and training exercises by elements of both the United States Army and Marines between 1940 and 1941.

### ***Postwar Improvements Period***

After the war, CRSP experienced a period of postwar improvements between 1946 and 1970. The CDPR-wide facilities improvement program, it was in direct response to the need to repair,

replace, or add modern administrative and public-use facilities due to an overwhelming influx of automobile-oriented park visitors. Increased building material and labor costs, however, necessitated a more “stripped-down” design solution utilizing regionally available standardized building materials. Nevertheless, the surviving Postwar-era buildings and landscape improvements are, in general, still compatible with and complement the Park’s rustic environment.

***Expansion of the Park’s Boundaries***

The three decades following the Postwar Improvements Period saw the gradual expansion of the Park outside its original 1933 acquisition boundaries. Of the five major land acquisitions between 1971 and 2001, the three that contain potentially significant historical resources are the previously mentioned Mack and Merigan Ranches and “Camp Billy Machen.” During the Vietnam War era, the United States Navy leased the parcel along Engineers Road for use as an advanced SEALs training camp.

Perhaps the single most important recent event to occur within CRSP was the Cedar Fire. While several large wildfires had burned through the Park during the pre- and postwar periods, the Cedar Fire was one of the largest in California’s recorded fire history. The wildfire charred over 98% of the Park’s forest, vegetation, and meadow land, and gutted the historic Dyar House, as well as the CCC-built Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, and other historic landscape features. Ten years later, changes the fire brought upon the Park’s architectural, historic, and natural landscapes are still evident.

**2.3.5 AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

**Scenic Resources**

The abundance and quality of scenic resources at CRSP are outstanding. Factors contributing to this quality include the diversity of topography and vegetation,



*Western panorama from Cuyamaca Peak  
February 2014*

open vistas of meadows and mountain peaks, the presence of water in the landscape, periods of snowfall, and conspicuous wildlife populations. The value and significance of the scenic resources is derived from their aesthetic beauty, rarity within the region, and pleasant contrast from lower elevation topography and landscapes of San Diego County.

Current threats that impact these resources are from man-made structures such as radio transmission towers, power lines, roads, buildings, etc., as well as temporary fire scars.

The Cedar Fire significantly changed the scenery of CRSP. Nearly all of the roughly 40% of the Park that was made up of conifer forest and/or oak woodland was burned. This resulted in vast areas of fire scars, burnt trees, and transitional vegetation. For many, this has reduced the quality of what were considered favorable views of conifer forest and oak woodland.

***Vistas***

Several high quality viewpoints are available in the Park. On clear days, one can see from the higher peaks west to the Pacific Ocean, east to the Salton Sea, and occasionally to the Kofa Mountains of Arizona and the peaks far into Mexico. Other outstanding vistas within CRSP are available from Stonewall Peak, Engineers Road on the southern flank of North Peak, as well as Oakzanita Peak. Significant scenic resources within the interior of the Park include Green Valley Meadow, Cuyamaca Meadow, Green Valley Falls, and Lake Cuyamaca. Stonewall Peak, with its exposed rock outcroppings, is a prominent landmark within the Park and is considered a special scenic feature. It should be noted that the Cuyamaca Mountains, as represented by the combined profile of Cuyamaca Peak, Middle Peak, and Japacha Peak, are a prominent visual feature in eastward views from most areas of northern, western, and southern San Diego County on clear days.



***Sunset from East Mesa  
November 2013***

***Other Scenic Resources***

Other factors that contribute to the scenic quality at CRSP are ephemeral conditions such as fallen snow, clear night skies, and wildlife sightings. The rustic nature of Park Rustic buildings, structures, and landscapes within the Park is often viewed as complementary to the natural setting at CRSP.

### **State Route 79 (SR-79)**

SR-79, which traverses the length of the Park, provides several vantage points within the Park. These include the pull-out parking area named “Meadow” along Green Valley Meadow, traveling by Lake Cuyamaca, and near Paso Picacho Campground while viewing southward down the valley formed by Cold Spring.

As part of the Scenic Highway Program administered by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), SR-79 is listed as “eligible” for the State Scenic Highway System [although it is not officially designated as a *scenic highway* as identified in the Streets and Highways Code (§ 263)].



**Stone Drill - Merigan Ranch Area  
August 2008**

### **2.3.6 COLLECTIONS RESOURCES**

The Park’s collections resources are comprised of five primary types: architectural features, archival materials, cultural artifacts, historical objects, and natural history specimens. For a **Description of Collections Resources**, see **Appendix I**.

## **2.4 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNCTIONS**

### **2.4.1 UTILITY SYSTEMS AND TRASH COLLECTION**

Natural springs and wells are the primary sources for potable water at the Park. Japacha Spring serves the Green Valley Campground and Azalea Spring supplies the Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area along with a supplemental well near the Paso Picacho Group Campground. Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground is served by the same system as Paso Picacho. There is also a small water system for the two, former California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) residences just south of Green Valley that is now utilized by the Park. The Dyar House Area is supplied by two wells on the site of the Cuyamaca Outdoor School and serves the School, Dyar House Area, and nearby employee residence area. This system is regulated by San Diego County Environmental Health. The Mack Ranch has an old, non-permitted well that could be used for non-potable purposes only. Water for the Merigan Ranch area is supplied by the Descanso Community Water District. A water system that serves the La Cima Conservation Camp is regulated by the California Department of Public Health.

The Park uses septic tanks and leach fields for its sewer system. The systems are currently adequately sized and in good condition.

Electricity is provided by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) by way of a high voltage service line that runs through the Park. After the Cedar Fire, many segments of this line that previously ran through meadows or other sensitive locations were moved to run along SR-79. The voltage available at Green Valley



*Communications tower on  
Cuyamaca Peak  
February 2014*

is currently adequate to service the needs of the Park in that area. However, electrical service at Paso Picacho is undersized for current uses. Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground is served by solar power.

Trash is collected by CDPR staff in various locations of the Park and hauled by truck to the Sycamore Landfill in Santee.

#### **2.4.2 TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Telephone service is provided by an AT&T trunk line that runs along SR-79. Cell phone service is available in some areas of the Park and is most available at Paso Picacho and areas north. Internet service to park operations facilities such as the Park headquarters and visitor center is provided by a T1 line. Radio communications are available through two radio repeater stations, one atop Cuyamaca Peak (within CRSP boundaries) and another atop North Peak (outside Park boundaries). Radio frequency coverage is good throughout all areas of the Park.

#### **2.4.3 PUBLIC SAFETY**

Since the Park is in a rural environment and does not border an urban area, crimes that occur in the city generally do not spill over into CRSP. The most typical law enforcement cases are vandalism, traffic control, and campground noise or other park rule violations. Marijuana farms within Park boundaries pose a significant and growing threat to CRSP resources as well as require increased law enforcement activities. Marijuana farmers often tap or divert fresh water sources, start fires, poach wildlife, as well as leave trash and debris. Geocaching is not a significant activity or problem at the Park.

#### **Agreements and Emergency Action Plans**

CDPR currently maintains an interagency agreement with CAL FIRE for fire protection on state park lands. This agreement applies to CRSP, where CAL FIRE has the responsibility to respond to all wildland fires and serve as incident command.

There is an Employee and Facility Emergency Protection and Notification Plan in place for the Park. It stipulates immediate action procedures for several types of emergencies, including medical, accident rescues, structural fires, wildfires, evacuation, earthquake, bomb threats, demonstrations, and law enforcement problems. The responding agencies are as follows:

- Fire: Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Department/CAL FIRE
- Sheriff: San Diego County Sheriff's Office
- Highway Patrol: California Highway Patrol (CHP)
- Ambulance: Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Department
- Bomb Team: San Diego County Sheriff's Office
- Utility Companies: SDG&E

## Emergency Routes

The only identified emergency access route is SR-79. All fire roads and trails are too remote and rugged to serve as reliable emergency routes.

### 2.4.4 CONCESSIONS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) operates the Cuyamaca Outdoor School property within the Park for the purpose of providing an environmental camp for school age youth. The SDCOE has used the property at CRSP for this purpose since 1947. During the school year, 6th-grade students come to learn subjects related to outdoor education, staying between four and five days. On campus there are several dormitory facilities, a dining hall, multipurpose room, activity building, and infirmary. The most recent Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between CDPR and the SDCOE was entered into on June 1, 2009. The JPA stipulates a 35-year term on use of the property on a “rent free” basis for this purpose.



*Cuyamaca Outdoor School -  
overview of new dorms and lodge  
2010*

In addition to operating the Cuyamaca Outdoor School, the SDCOE has an agreement with a private concessionaire, Sage and Sky Retreat Centers, to provide a mountain retreat center to the public during the summer. The Cuyamaca Retreat Center offers public group lodging, meeting spaces, food services, and self-guided or staff-led activities.

### 2.4.5 ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES AND CONDITIONS

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is a priority Level 1 park. There are five priority levels. The Level 1 parks represent varied park environmental settings and high level of use due to relatively short driving times from high population areas. These parks were also chosen due to the number of activities they offer and, in some cases, the uniqueness of programs or experiences available. Lower level parks typically have lower visitation and fewer activities than Level 1 parks. The goal is that every type of facility-supported activity offered at each Level 1 park, or each unique experience that is part of that activity, is made accessible.

At the Park, CDPR is mandated to provide at least three accessible trails as follows: (a) one accessible trail will be at least 1 ½ miles long, and (b) two additional trails will be at least ½ mile long.

**The Park offers the following accessible trails as of July 2014:**

- **The Paso Picacho Loop Trail** - An approximately 1 ½-mile long gravel and compacted soil surfaced loop trail. The trail is located near the entrance kiosk to the Paso Picacho Campground
- **The Stonewall Mine Trail** - An approximately ½-mile gravel and compacted soil surfaced loop trail located at the Stonewall Mine day-use parking area.

The Paso Picacho area has four designated accessible picnic sites, each with accessible picnic tables. Routes of travel from parking to restrooms are accessible. Restrooms #2 and #3 have unisex toilet rooms that are accessibly designated. Green Valley Equestrian Campground has two accessible campsites, Paso Picacho has four accessible campsites, and Green Valley Campground has accessible campsites.

There are 38 identified projects on the barrier removal work plan for the Park, and 30 identified projects for the Cuyamaca Outdoor School property. The SDCOE is responsible for implementing and funding barrier removal at the School property. The schedule for completing all barrier removal at the Park is 2016.

## 2.5 INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

This section includes descriptions of previous and current interpretive facilities and programming, which establishes a baseline for proposed changes. An assessment of the Park's interpretation on a local, regional, and statewide basis follows.



*The Nature Den at Paso Picacho Campground  
September 2012*

### 2.5.1 PREVIOUS INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Reaching youth through overnight experiences has been an important part of the Park since its formative years. Camp Tapawingo (1938-1975) provided a group camp for the San Diego/Ventura County Girl Scout Councils. Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish (1940-1998) provided a group campground and support facilities for the Boy Scouts of America, San Diego County Council. Both offered a variety of outdoor activities including hikes and nature studies.

The historic Dyar House functioned as the Park's visitor center for several decades prior to the 2003 Cedar Fire. Interpretive panels, artifacts, and dioramas related to the topics of Euro-american Era history and Native American history were among the visitor center exhibits. The historic Campground Store, located on SR-79 at the entrance to Paso Picacho Campground, has previously been used as a small natural history interpretive center. The Nature Den, located within the Paso Picacho Campground, has periodically served as a space for summer Junior Ranger programs.

A special program focusing on the Park's Reforestation Project was presented during the spring of 2012 and 2014 to sixth grade students. A CDPR park interpreter used the Colorado Desert District's distance learning vehicle and equipment to present information about the Park to science classrooms throughout California.

## 2.5.2 INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION FACILITIES

Current Interpretive and Educational Facilities are located in six primary areas of the Park:

### ***Green Valley Campground***

Nestled among oak trees and within steps of the Sweetwater River, the campfire center is the primary interpretive facility in the Green Valley Campground. Wayside exhibits are located in the picnic area, at the Green Valley Falls parking area, and near the campfire center. Topics include “Inhabitants and their Habitats” (velvet ants, hummingbirds, monkeyflower) and mountain lions.

### ***Visitor Center/Cuyamaca Outdoor School Area***

The 2003 Cedar Fire required that exhibit plans being developed for the Dyar House visitor center be modified, and a modular building was installed to serve as a temporary visitor center. The current exhibits interpret diverse park-related topics, including Kumeyaay heritage, natural history, the Stonewall Mine, the CCC, and fire management. An interpretive panel located near the temporary visitor center entrance interprets the Cedar Fire. A small panel at the nearby Cold Stream trailhead addresses the topic of archaeological site protection. The Kumeyaay Nature Trail includes a self-guiding brochure highlighting native plants used by the Kumeyaay.

Cuyamaca Outdoor School has been serving San Diego youth since 1947. Operated by the SDCOE, approximately 400 sixth-grade students attend the camp every week during the school year. Students participate in hikes throughout the Park as part of their natural science-based curriculum. About half of the students learn about the Park’s resources at the visitor center.

### ***Paso Picacho Campground***

A variety of interpretive facilities are located at Paso Picacho Campground, including a campfire center, a nature trail, and wayside exhibits. The self-guiding Nature Trail helps visitors discover the Park’s dynamic environment. Vistas along this half-mile trail include Stonewall Peak and Lake Cuyamaca. Wayside exhibits throughout the campground interpret diverse topics such as mountain lion, acorn woodpecker, riparian habitat, voices of the woods, and nocturnal animals.

### ***Stonewall Mine***

The Stonewall Mine site is a historic district that includes the Mine ruins and a reconstructed miner’s cabin. Some of the ruins are surrounded by modern chain-link fencing which provides limited views of the mining shaft and related equipment. Interpretive displays are featured inside the reconstructed miner’s cabin, which is open during park hours. Topics include Stonewall Mine ownership, mining operations, daily life, and Cuyamaca



***Interpretive panel at Stonewall Mine  
September 2012***

City, a company town established for the mine workers. The Cuyamaca City site is located just north of the mine site.

### ***Stonewall Peak Trail***

Stonewall Peak Trail provides visitors with a panoramic vista of the Park's boundaries and beyond. Interpretive panel topics include: trail safety; views and geographic features from the summit of Stonewall Peak (Salton Sea, Palomar Mountain, ABDSP, Laguna Mountains, and Mexico); thermal columns; geology of the Cuyamaca Mountains; and the Sweetwater River watershed.



*Visitors parking at the Meadow Parking area to enjoy the snow  
February 2013*

### ***SR-79 Pull-Outs/Parking Areas***

Nine pull-outs located along SR-79 provide parking, trail access, and vistas of the Park. Three of these pull-outs include interpretive wayside exhibits (Sweetwater, Trout Pond, and Milk Ranch). Topics include: "Inhabitants and their Habitats" (interrelationships, fire management, and the Kumeyaay village site of Hual-Cu-Cuish) and birds of prey.

### **2.5.3 CURRENT PROGRAMS/ PERSONAL INTERPRETATION**

Most of the Park's current interpretive programs are offered on weekends during the peak season of June through September. During this period, campgrounds are typically full on weekends, with most visitors arriving on Friday and leaving on Sunday. The Junior

Ranger and Summer Interpretive Programs are presented on an alternate basis at the Green Valley and Paso Picacho campgrounds. *See Appendix J - Interpretive Programs and Facilities.*

### **2.5.4 PRINT PUBLICATIONS**

Six print publications, provided at no cost, are available at the Park: *Animal Tracks of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Museum and Indian Village Activity Booklet, Kumeyaay Nature Trail, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project: Restoring a Vanishing Habitat, Paso Picacho Nature Trail, and Park Brochure/Park Map.*

### **2.5.5 ELECTRONIC INTERPRETATION**

The CDPR website includes a page for CRSP. This webpage contains little interpretive content, although it includes an electronic version of the Park brochure, providing information on the CRSP's interpretive facilities and programs. The Park webpage also includes links to volunteer opportunities,

such as the IAU, and to the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA).

Two audio-visual programs are provided at the Park visitor center. A program highlighting the birds of Cuyamaca is shown in the theater. An exhibit interpreting the CCC includes historic footage taken during the Park's early development.

## 2.5.6 UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY OF PARK INTERPRETATION

Accessibility at the visitor center includes a ramp to provide access to people with mobility impairments. However, neither of the visitor center's audio-visual programs includes captions to assist those with hearing impairments. The Park's other interpretive facilities and media (interpretive trails and wayside exhibits) are not accessible for people with mobility impairments.

All of the Park's interpretive programs and text (e.g., print publications, wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, and interpretive panels) are presented in English only, with one exception. A bilingual (English and Spanish) panel addressing safety along the Stonewall Peak Trail is accessible to those with limited English proficiency.



*Native American Mataayuum event  
at Los Vaqueros Group Camp  
October 2013*

## 2.5.7 INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PLANNING

Higher-level interpretation and education planning that has been completed for the Park include the following:

### ***Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Prospectus (June 1986)***

This document was developed as a part of the background information for the original *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan* (June 1986), including descriptions of the Park's existing conditions, interpretive themes, and recommendations for improvements. A new museum with exhibits, archives, library, theater, and artifact laboratory/studio was proposed, with a suggestion that it be located near the 1986 Park headquarters along SR-79, where a view of Stonewall Peak could be seen. The plan also recommended expansion and improvement of interpretive facilities and programs at the Stonewall Mine site to provide a quality recreational and educational experience for visitors.

### ***Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Museum Feasibility Study (September 1994)***

This 29-page study was completed by a committee comprised of staff from the CDPR's Montane Sector, Colorado Desert District, and Southern Service Center, and two members of the CRSPIA. The study included Target Visitors, Issues and Considerations, Options (Program, Site, Facility, and Staffing), Priorities, and Recommendations. A wide range of options were presented, with a recommendation that in the short term (1-5 years), the entire lower floor of the Dyar House be used as a museum.

### **2.5.8 INTERPRETIVE COLLECTIONS**

The Park's Interpretive Collections are comprised of four primary types: historic objects, images, cultural artifacts, and natural history specimens. Historic objects, including a logging sled, are displayed at Stonewall Mine. More than 800 images in photograph, negative, and slide format document CRSP's history and resources. Cultural artifacts are primarily associated with archaeological excavations that have been conducted at the Park. Natural history specimens such as mountain lion and coyote are displayed in the Park's visitor center.

### **2.5.9 INTERPRETATION AUDIENCE DEMOGRAPHICS**

At least three key audiences participate in the Park's interpretation and education programs. Nature Walks and Campfire Programs are mostly attended by the Park's overnight campers. The Visitor Center audience is primarily comprised of San Diego and Imperial Valley residents. A third key audience is the sixth grade students who attend Cuyamaca Outdoor School.

Another demographic group is Spanish-speaking visitors, which Park management staff estimates to be between 3% and 5% of the total park visitors. This percentage can be higher on weekends and holidays.

### **2.5.10 SUPPORT FOR INTERPRETATION**

Park staff provides an important role in supporting interpretation by managing the Park's volunteer program. Those who volunteer in the IAU-lead nature walks, staff the visitor center, and present campfire talks. An annual average of 3,213 hours is donated by volunteers for the Park's interpretive programs. The CRSPIA supports interpretation through its fundraising efforts.

See *Section 2.6 - Park Support* for related information.

### **2.5.11 LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATEWIDE CONTEXT**

#### ***Significance of the Park's Resources on a Local, Regional, and Statewide Basis***

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park holds an array of significant cultural, historic, and natural resources. Cultural resources include more than 850 known archaeological properties, and eight ethnographic villages. One site, Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac,' is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Among the historic resources are the sites of the once-thriving Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City, the Dyar House ruins, former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, and other remnants of early Park development constructed by the CCC. Significant natural resources include the Sky Island Forest and montane meadows. The Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*), known to occur only within an isolated area of the Park and adjacent CNF, is a highly specialized remnant of the last ice age.

#### ***Importance of the Park in Meeting Interpretation and Education Needs***

Although it has extensive cultural, historic, and natural resources, recreational use is the primary reason people come to the Park. However, visitor surveys have identified a need for more interpretation and education at the Park. More

campfire programs, children’s programs, and additional visitor center hours/days are among the desires of park visitors. Providing interpretation and educational programs to students attending the Cuyamaca Outdoor School is another important need that has not been met in the recent past due primarily to limited staffing.

***Interpretive Programs in the Surrounding Community***  
*See Appendix J - Interpretive Programs and Facilities.*

## **2.6 PARK SUPPORT**

### **2.6.1 VOLUNTEERS**

The Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program at CRSP is organized into five units:

**Camp Hosts** live in the Park, greeting and assisting campers, helping with the recycling program, and preparing firewood for sale in the campgrounds.

**Interpreters Assistance Unit** staffs the Visitor Center and the Park Stores, and leads interpretive activities such as campfire talks and nature hikes.

**Mountain Bike Assistance Unit (MBAU)** patrols the Park’s multi-use trails, educates other riders, repairs trails, and stages the annual Mountain Bike Benefit Ride.

**Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU)** patrols equestrian trails, assists and educates visitors, reports trail hazards, and stages the annual Equestrian Benefit Ride.

**San Diego Ultra Running Friends (SURF)**, through their program called TrailFit, coordinates volunteers to restore and maintain trails, especially focusing on the more remote routes.

**Trails Maintenance Unit (TMU)** clears and repairs trails; some receive special training in the use of equipment. Others help with resource protection.

Other organizations that regularly assist the Park include:

**Boy Scouts of America** send scouts to the Park once or twice a year, usually for an Eagle Scout project. Previous projects have included sanding and painting the outside of the reconstructed miner’s cabin, and refurbishing wayside panels.

**REI** sponsors trail day type projects for its employees to assist the Park with trail work and other park clean-up activities.

**Equestrian and mountain bike groups** from nearby communities help with trail maintenance and clean-up projects.



***Park volunteer Dennis Dezur hiking on the Lookout Fire Road February 2014***

**Native American groups and individuals** assist with tours and events in addition to providing educational information.

## 2.6.2 COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS

Cooperating Associations are nonprofit charitable organizations that raise money for interpretation and education in a section of a park, an entire park, or a group of parks.



**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA)** has been a Park partner since 1977. This cooperating association raises funds through membership dues and its sale of museum store items, firewood, and ice. Among the support for interpretation that CRSPIA has provided over the years are funds for the Junior Ranger and Nature Walk programs, temporary visitor center exhibits, scanning equipment to convert historic Park photographs and slides into digital format, and new interpretive panels.

## 2.6.3 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations have generously contributed time, funds, or resources that support the Park:

**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)** jointly manages conservation camps with the CAL FIRE. Hand crews from these camps work to fulfill a contractual obligation to provide 50 days per fiscal year of work in the Park. The crews work to clear trails and fire access roads, build and repair fences, remove dead/dying trees, and other similar types of work.

**CAL FIRE** is a state agency dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. CAL FIRE was instrumental in initiating restoration work in the Park after the Cedar Fire. In addition to providing oversight of the conservation crews, they participate in planning and conducting prescribed burns as a supporting agency.

**California State Parks Foundation (CSPF)** is the only statewide independent nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and advocating for the State's parks. CSPF was one of the first organizations to provide assistance in the form of emergency housing funds to CRSP personnel who had lost their State Park residences in the Cedar Fire. They provide ongoing grant and fiduciary support for restoration work in the Park.

**Cuyamaca Rancho Foundation (CRF)** was founded in 2000 to raise funds and acquire property for the Park. This 501(c) (3) organization purchased the 76-acre Mack Ranch property as an addition to the Park in 2005. CRF has also provided general operating grants and approximately \$46,000 in post-Cedar Fire Recovery grants.

**American Forests/ConocoPhillips, Arbor Day Foundation, Coca-Cola®, Disney®, Odwalla® Inc., Poseidon Resources LP, and Stater Bros.®** are funding partners for the Park’s multi-year Reforestation Project that began in 2007.

## **2.7 PLANNING INFLUENCES**

The CDPR has a range of planning documents, data regarding the diversity of park users, and input received from the public. This data creates the framework for preparation of the CRSP General Plan. Some of the documents and data that are most influential in guiding the development of CRSP follow:

### **2.7.1 SYSTEMWIDE PLANNING INFLUENCES**

Systemwide planning influences are those that may be applied throughout the entirety of the State of California’s park units. Despite the great variety of resources that CDPR is entrusted to protect, many of the principles that help protect the resources within CDPR can be applied to all park units across California. Specific areas of park management have planning tools found in the areas of recreation planning, resource management, interpretation, and operations that can be utilized in preparing a General Plan. Systemwide planning also enables CDPR to apply a more consistent approach and implementation to the various aspects of park planning, preservation, development, and operation throughout the park system. Additionally, CDPR is responsible to coordinate with numerous other state agencies that have planning tools that CDPR should make an effort to follow in planning for the future of CRSP. Some of those agencies that have information applicable to CRSP’s General Planning include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Water Quality Control Board.

*See Appendix K - List and Description of Systemwide Planning Influences.*

### **2.7.2 REGIONAL PLANNING INFLUENCES**

Numerous planning influences that are specific to the region where CRSP is located will help shape the General Plan for the Park. These include planning efforts by nearby jurisdictions including City and County General Plans, wildfire management planning, trail management planning, natural community conservation planning, general plans for nearby park units, and planning for neighboring public lands.

*See Appendix L - List and Description of Regional Planning Influences*

### **2.7.3 DEMOGRAPHICS, TRENDS, AND PROJECTIONS**

The demographics of visitors to CRSP is useful for determining the goals and guidelines for the future management of the Park. Visitor demographics can be analyzed in order to bring a greater diversity of visitors to the Park. Data on how the Park is being used can inform CDPR staff as to whether CRSP is being used to its full potential and if recreational activities are diverse enough for the range of visitor interests. The following provides the data acquired through the planning process to support the planning decisions made for this General Plan.

## Visitor Survey

An online visitor survey was conducted between September 7, 2012 and November 7, 2012. The purpose of the survey was to help gauge and understand current visitor demographics and use of CRSP, as well as provide perceptions and preferences about park facilities, activities, and programs. An invitation was sent out to 3,416 recent campers at CRSP and taken from the ReserveAmerica reservation list. Out of these, 1,457 visitors responded: 80.4% were campers and 19.6% were day-trip visitors. Although these respondents were a small sampling and not necessarily a representational sample of Park visitors, the responses were very valuable, gaining insight into public impressions, needs, and desires.

*See Appendix C - Summary of Online Visitor Survey*

### 2.7.4 PUBLIC CONCERNS, INTERESTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

During the General Plan process, the public shared their concerns and aspirations for the future of CRSP. The planning team received many comments at public and stakeholder meetings, through an e-mail account set up to receive input, from an online visitor survey, and through general correspondence. Such comments were crucial to understanding public perceptions, concerns, and desires for the Park, as well as influential in the development of General Plan proposals.



*Equestrian Lynda Sterns addresses the public with CDPR Landscape Architect Bob Patterson at the second public meeting - San Diego May 2013*

#### Summary of Comments

In general, users enjoy the Park's extensive trail system, its accessibility and close proximity to San Diego, its educational opportunities, and its natural setting. One of the aspects of the Park that was mentioned repeatedly was its importance as a peaceful escape from the city. With about half of the Park in wilderness, many people voiced their appreciation for the natural, wild, and quiet feeling of the Park, allowing them to feel immersed in the natural setting.

Many park users mentioned their appreciation of the Park serving as a place for children to learn about the outdoors and wanted to see more opportunities for getting youths involved in nature. Several people expressed a desire for more campfire activities, nature walks, and junior rangers programs.

Many visitors expressed their appreciation of the abundance and availability of trails as well as their generally good condition. There was a desire for more multi-use trails throughout the Park for everyone to use. Relating to the trail system and there were several suggestions to increase connectivity throughout the Park, thus making the Park's diverse areas more accessible. These suggestions were typical for trail connections to ABDSP, William Heise County

Park, and especially a bike-accessible route from the south end of the Park to the central trails to eliminate the need to ride on SR-79.

Additional cultural resource protection and recordation was requested by some individuals and groups. Some requested that archaeological sites and districts be nominated to the National Register, as well as further expansion of cultural preserves and expressed a desire for increased education and interpretation regarding cultural resources. Still others conveyed a concern about the lack of an adequate amount of CDPR staff presence in the Park, especially in regards to cultural and interpretive resources specialists. Further, concern was raised over siting of trails, campgrounds, and other facilities in close proximity to, or within cultural resource sites.

The methods taken to protect natural and cultural resources are of concern for some users. Some people dislike having sensitive resource areas closed to public use and would rather see them have limited public access with more informational panels educating users, resulting in both protection and recreational use. Others expressed their desire for all preserved areas to be fully open to public use. On the other hand, some people stated that the primary purpose of the Park was to preserve the native habitat and expressed concern that the natural environment was not being protected enough, requesting that more protective measures be established.

While users are generally content with the condition of the existing facilities, there were requests for additional facilities for all recreation types, including, but not limited to, a horse camp in the north part of the Park, horse staging areas, bike-only trails, bike maintenance stations, snow play areas, trail benches/rest stops, and multi-use trails.

Overall, park users are generally in favor of current recreational opportunities, facilities, and management, with minor improvements needed in specific areas, including, but not limited to, additional equestrian staging and camping facilities in the north part of the Park, additional mountain biking trails, educational and informational opportunities, and camping availability.

Additional public concerns and interests are discussed in **Chapter 3 - Issues Analysis**.

### **Community Interests and Local Planning**

The Park has a long history of strong community partnerships, volunteer groups, and local planning support. Because the Park is bordered by the community of Descanso, as well as near the towns of Alpine and Julian, citizen groups within and around each of these communities are interested and active in the Park.

Some of the local planning groups include a representative from the County of San Diego and the Descanso Planning Group. Associated public agencies include



*First public meeting -  
Alpine, CA  
October 2012*

the CNF, CAL FIRE, Cuyamaca Lake Recreation District, and the Cuyamaca Water District. Additional community interests include such groups as the Backcountry Horseman of California, San Diego Mountain Bike Association, and the Cuyamaca Equestrian Association.

*See Section 2.6 - Park Support for more information.*



*Towering Black Oaks cast dappled shade  
on Milk Ranch Road.  
May 2014*

# Chapter 3 - ISSUES ANALYSIS

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# Chapter 3 - ISSUES ANALYSIS

The **Issues Analysis** chapter identifies planning assumptions, key parkwide issues, and significant specific-area issues that were identified during the planning team’s analysis of natural, cultural, and recreational resources, visitor surveys, public and stakeholder meeting input, and public comments. These issues are influenced, in part, by factors described in **Section 2.7 - Planning Influences**.

## 3.1 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

During the planning process, the planning team has taken into account existing mandates and constraints while formulating General Plan proposals. All proposals must ultimately comply with and be complementary to these existing mandates and constraints, which are outlined in this section.

The following primary planning assumptions are based on current state and federal laws, regulations, and CDPR policy, which form a basis for planning and set the parameters for addressing general planning issues for CRSP. Additional planning assumptions can be found in **Appendix A - Existing Laws, Codes, and Policies**.

CDPR will:

1. Continue to manage CRSP, which is classified as a State Park (PRC § 5019.53), to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, and manage its use compatible with the primary purpose for which the Park was established. Management will also follow the requirements for Natural Preserve, State Wilderness, and Cultural Preserve sub-classifications that are contained within the state park boundaries, as defined in the PRC (§§ 5019.68, 5019.71, and 5019.74 respectively).
2. Manage and protect rare, threatened, and endangered species and sensitive wildlife habitats, including the Sky Island Forest, montane meadow, riverine, and Cuyamaca cypress habitats as required by federal and state laws.
3. Preserve the Park’s cultural resources, including Native American sites, historic structures and landscapes, following the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* in order to achieve compliance with CEQA and PRC § 5024.5.
4. Consider the issues and concerns of adjacent land owners and residents during



**CCC crewmen constructing trail  
with picks and shovels  
September 1934**

the planning and project implementation process; seek input from local, regional, and statewide interests.

5. Coordinate with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of state park recreational opportunities and resource management programs with surrounding land uses.
6. Continue to provide vehicle access from SR-79 to the Park.
7. Follow all applicable laws, codes, and policies (*See Appendix A - Existing Laws, Codes, and Policies*).

## 3.2 PARKWIDE ISSUES

CDPR staff, park stakeholders, the general public, and representatives from various organizations and agencies identified issues and concerns about the Park during the initial stages of the General Plan. Issues and concerns included management actions, public uses, and facilities. Issues and concerns raised by the public generally involved suggestions for the types of recreational use and facilities offered at the Park, particularly trail use and equestrian camping opportunities. Many identified a desire to ensure a high degree of protection of the Park’s sensitive resources, wilderness character and scenery, as well as continued access to park trails, facilities, and activities.

*An ISSUE is an opportunity, conflict, or problem regarding the use or management of the Park.*

Following is a summary of issues relevant to the entire Park. The order presented does not signify importance or designate a chronological order for resolution of the issue.

### 3.2.1 RECREATION

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park offers many high quality recreational opportunities. In particular, the 137 miles of fire roads and trails allow hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders to traverse nearly all major areas of the Park.

Despite the Park’s proximity to the City of San Diego, where approximately 29% of residents are Hispanic or Latino, only approximately 8% of Park visitors are Hispanic or Latino. Also, a great potential exists to provide more recreational opportunities for diverse and underrepresented populations in San Diego and the region.

**Horseback Riding:** Following the 2003 Cedar Fire, the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site. After many years and multiple efforts to find a suitable replacement for the campground, a location could not be agreed upon. Later in 2010, “Loop A” or “Sweetwater Loop” at the Green

Valley Campground was converted into a permanent equestrian campground. The campground is appreciated by the equestrian community, but it did not fully replace the number of campsites with proximity to trails and scenery in the north part of the Park that exemplified the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground. For these reasons, equestrians have a strong desire to establish a new campground in the north region of CRSP. A permanent equestrian staging area within this region is also desired.

**Mountain bikers:** In general, mountain bikers would like more multi-use trails (which allow mountain bike access), more varied trail types (i.e., more single track trails, challenging terrain), more trail loops and connectors, and north-south trail connections to avoid having to ride on SR-79.

### **3.2.2 FACILITIES**

Following the 2003 Cedar Fire, the Park headquarters and administrative offices were moved from the Dyar House to the park offices at Paso Picacho. This led to a major consolidation of staff and equipment into a much smaller facility. In addition, in 2013, CAL FIRE vacated the CCC-built fire station at Paso Picacho and moved to a new facility just outside the Park, returning the building to C DPR. These changes have precipitated a need to evaluate current Park office requirements and determine which buildings and facilities are most appropriate for a permanent Park headquarters and administrative offices. In addition, use of historic buildings such as the Dyar House and those at Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish needs to be determined.

The Park lacks a permanent facility for visitor orientation, interpretation, and museum collections care. There is a need to determine an appropriate area in CRSP where such a permanent facility can be located. In addition to visitor orientation and exhibit space, the permanent facility would require dedicated, secure, and climate-controlled space for artifact curation, collections storage, museum records management, and research for the Park's collections.

Despite their popularity, the campgrounds could be improved to create even better experiences for campers. Some campsites are too close together, too small, not level, or not big enough to accommodate large recreational vehicles.

### **3.2.3 PARK OPERATIONS**

With the trend toward dwindling State General Fund dollars available for C DPR and the corresponding reduction in funds being available for operations, the Park needs to be open to alternative funding sources and ways to accomplish the required tasks necessary to keep the Park operating, and continuing to provide service and programs to the public.

There are electrical power poles in the Park that travel through meadows or preserves and/or no longer supply electrical power. In some cases, these poles cause unsightly views and impact cultural or natural resources. Removal of these poles would restore viewsheds and protect or remove impacts from natural and cultural resources. However, alternatives such as relocating poles

or installing solar panel, may need to be explored in areas where power supply is necessary

Utility services at key locations within the Park are not adequate for current and projected operations and should be improved to reduce energy consumption and costs. Water storage systems in Green Valley and the Mack Ranch are dysfunctional, as is the electrical system at Paso Picacho and Green Valley campgrounds.

### 3.2.4 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

#### Climate Change

Climate change is a world-wide issue that has been amplified by human-created emissions of greenhouse gases. World-wide impacts are diverse, however, climate change will have localized impacts on resources within CRSP. Models for the San Diego region show it will continue to be subject to a warming trend; precipitation modeling does not show a trend of increase or decrease. These changes in climate may cause management issues including reduced water availability, increased wildfire risk, changes in the distribution of flora and fauna, and the further proliferation of non-native species.



*Parish's meadowfoam  
(Limnanthes alba var. parishii)  
near Stonewall Mine  
2005*

### 3.2.5 NATURAL RESOURCES

With its Sky Island Forest and rare montane meadows, CRSP contains many sensitive and rare plants such as the state endangered Cuyamaca Lake downingia, Parish's meadowfoam, and state rare Cuyamaca larkspur, as well as significant forest stands including sugar pine, California black oak, and the endemic Cuyamaca cypress. Many of the habitats that hold these species are protected through CRSP's designation as a State Park, and in some cases, through additional protections within a State Natural Preserve. However, not all of the sensitive and rare plant habitats are located within the Park's Natural Preserve and therefore are not protected to a level commensurate with their significance and in a manner which would better ensure their protection. In addition, some current park management activities and visitor uses, such as trails in meadows, may negatively affect these natural resources.

### 3.2.6 WILDERNESS

Since the two wilderness areas in the Park were established in 1982, several conflicts with their boundaries have been discovered, causing confusion with trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utility corridors in lands designated as wilderness, as well as wilderness boundaries adjacent to fire roads, trails, and Park boundaries that are not based on any consistent standards. This has precipitated the need

to establish consistent wilderness boundary standards and an adjustment of some wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and visitor uses.

### 3.2.7 CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

The Park contains many highly significant and sensitive Native American sites as well as fine examples of Park Rustic style buildings. These resources are afforded some protections by being located within a state park, but in some cases, greater protection is needed to ensure their perpetuation.

Certain trail names do not properly represent and interpret the Park’s historic landscape and need to be renamed.

#### Cultural Preserve Boundaries

The current boundaries of the Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’/ Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve do not encompass the entirety of the Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’ Village site or the equally sensitive archaeological resources outside and adjacent to the Preserve which are around the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground and Stonewall Peak area. Without the additional protections afforded a Cultural Preserve, these sensitive resources may be lost or irreparably impacted. Likewise, the current boundaries of the Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve do not include the largest village site within the Park: “Dripping Springs” (CA-SDI-860), the Archaeological Type Site (model) for the Cuyamaca Complex. Without extending the preserve boundaries to include this site, the sensitive and significant resources therein are more likely to be subjected to loss or damage.



*A pottery pipe fragment from the West Mesa area*

### 3.2.8 INTERPRETATION

#### Cultural Resources Interpretation

Current interpretation of archaeological and historical resources, Native American history, the role of the CCC at the Park, and Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City is inadequate to reflect their importance within the context of the Park and region and needs to be greatly improved.

#### Reaching Diverse Audiences

A key issue is the need to reach diverse audiences. These include Native American groups, Spanish-speakers with limited English proficiency, people who drive through the Park via SR-79, and students attending Cuyamaca Outdoor School. Accurate cultural resources educational materials and related training to Cuyamaca Outdoor School teachers is needed. Materials, programs, and educational modules regarding natural, cultural, and historic resources also need to be developed.

## Lack of Resource-Protection Related Programs



**CDPR Regional Interpretive Specialist  
Nancy Mendez evaluating interpretive kiosks  
on the Margaret Minshall Trail  
August 2012**

Incorporating resource protection messages into existing interpretive programs, providing teacher training, developing printed materials, and use of technology to inform the public of critical resource issues are among the issues that need to be addressed. Limitations with existing park staff time and lack of interpretive full-time staff at the Park are among the biggest constraints.

### Utilizing Technology

The Park needs to capitalize on advances in technology to improve the means and methods of interpretation. Opportunities include reaching a wider audience via the Park website and social media, and use of personal mobile devices to enhance awareness of the Park's significant resources via media such as cell phone tours or development of interpretive and educational applications (apps) for mobile devices.

## 3.3 AREA-SPECIFIC ISSUES

The following is a summary of issues relevant to specific areas of the Park. The order does not signify importance or designate a chronological order for resolution of the issue. Issues relevant to non-specific areas of the Park, or to the entire Park, are listed in the **Section 3.2 - Parkwide Issues**.

### 3.3.1 AH-HA' KWE-AH-MAC'/STONEWALL MINE CULTURAL PRESERVE

The Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve currently contains only a portion of the Kumeyaay village site for which the mountains and the Park were named (Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/CA-SDI-9538). The village site was not wholly included within the Cultural Preserve when it was originally designated due to the presence of the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground overlapping a portion of the site. The campground has since been removed. There are also other highly significant archaeological sites and sacred areas adjacent to the existing cultural preserve that warrant greater protection and recognition.

### 3.3.2 CUIISH-CUIISH (EAST MESA) CULTURAL PRESERVE

The current Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve does not incorporate the largest recorded Native American site within the Park – a village that is called *Dripping Springs* (CA-SDI-860). Greater protection of Dripping Springs is needed.

### 3.3.3 STONEWALL MINE/CUYAMACA CITY

The Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City site, which lies within the Ah- ha' Kwe- ah- mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, is a highly significant historic resource that is not adequately protected or interpreted. It would provide an excellent location for administrative, interpretive, and/or additional public use. Remnants of the Stonewall Mine are immediately apparent from the parking lot, however little is available to entice the public to explore further. The area lacks visitor orientation, prominent/appropriate signage, and has minimal interpretation.

#### ***Material Stockpile at Stonewall Mine***

The current maintenance material stockpile at Stonewall Mine is located within a Cultural Preserve, is unsightly, detracts from the historic setting, and is open to potential vandalism and theft. A more suitable location needs to be found within the Park that still remains easily accessible by park maintenance staff, is out of sensitive areas and primary views, and can be secured from potential vandalism or theft.

### 3.3.4 DYAR HOUSE AREA

The Dyar House Area is a hub of activity and key location for operations, public use, archaeological and historic resources, and interpretation within the central portion of the Park. Features include the stabilized ruins of the historic Dyar House, a temporary Visitor Center, an interpretive "Indian Village", public parking, trail access, and the nearby Cuyamaca Outdoor School. The ultimate and best use of the Dyar House needs to be determined; whether it's to interpret the existing ruins, reconstruct and adaptively reuse the structure, or some other alternative, keeping in mind that the Park is in need of a permanent visitor center and adequate space for Park administrative and volunteer use. Another issue is that interpretation within the Area needs to be significantly increased and improved. For example, exhibits, audio visual presentations, and maps in the temporary Visitor Center need to be updated with accurate information. Also, facilities and interpretation at the "Indian Village", Dyar House, and nearby interpretive trail needs to be corrected and expanded to be at a level commensurate with their significance and to take advantage of the Area's resources and key location within the Park.



***The Ralph Dyar House - post-Cedar Fire  
structural stabilization completed  
September 2013***

### 3.3.5 CAMP HUAL-CU-CUISH AREA

The former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish is historically significant and contains important archaeological and natural resources. Before the Cedar Fire, Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish featured some of the best examples of NPS/CCC Park Rustic style buildings in southern California state parks. The site also has sensitive archaeological sites and includes the most extensive oak woodland in the Park. In addition, its scenic and strategic location within the north part of the Park makes the Camp a potentially attractive and popular public use area. With this in mind, the issue at Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish is to determine what its ultimate purpose and best use should be; whether to reconstruct and adaptively reuse the Camp for some type of structured public use such as a campground, small conference center, research facility, etc., utilize the existing parking lot and interpret the Camp's history and associated ruins, or some other uses, while also protecting the significant resources at the site. In addition, the extent and means of interpretation needs to be improved at the Camp so that the area's rich history and resources are adequately portrayed.

### 3.3.6 PASO PICACHO CAMPGROUND/ADMINISTRATION AREA

Paso Picacho Group Camps A and B were severely damaged in the Cedar Fire and have remained closed since 2003. This closure plus the conversion of the group camp at Green Valley ("Loop A") to an equestrian campground in 2010 has left no facilities for group camping at the Park - and they are needed due to strong demand. Also, additional cabins (or other weather-resistant shelters) in both Green Valley Campground and Paso Picacho Campground are needed to accommodate visitors that do not have the desire or equipment for RV or tent camping, but would like to have an overnight experience in the Park.

Although interpretation at the Paso Picacho Campground addresses a variety of natural history topics, there is no interpretation of the campground's significance related to early Park development, architectural history, and outdoor recreation. Also, despite the high concentration of park visitors and rich history, the area lacks a permanent interpretive facility where related exhibits can be displayed.



*Front door of former Mack Ranch House  
November 2013*

### 3.3.7 MACK RANCH

The CDPR acquired the 76-acre former Mack Ranch parcel in 2005. The property is located in the community of Descanso and lies adjacent to SR-79 on its east frontage while private parcels sit to the north and south. The property contains a residence, garage and some outbuildings that were likely built in the 1930s. Vehicle access into this parcel off SR-79 can be potentially dangerous due to reduced sight lines and high speed vehicles. In addition, access into the Park is difficult since there are no current fire roads or trails linking this parcel with the rest of the Park. Because of these issues, it is not advisable to open the parcel to public use. The issue is how to best utilize this parcel for park operations given its constraints and opportunities.

### 3.3.8 CUYAMACA MEADOW NATURAL PRESERVE

The original preserve boundary does not fully encompass the resources for which it was designated to protect. The original southern boundary is located within the montane meadow habitat and the original northern boundary includes only a portion of the conifer forest. The preserve is only located east of SR-79 yet the meadow also extends west of SR-79. Finally, when the Natural Preserve was created the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was located within this sensitive habitat and therefore the Natural Preserve boundary did not include that area. The campground was closed following the Cedar Fire and has since been removed.



*Cuyamaca Lake downingia (Downingia concolor var. brevior) near Lake Cuyamaca  
June 2011*

### 3.4 ISSUES AND CONCERNS NOT ADDRESSED IN THE GENERAL PLAN

Not all of the issues and concerns raised by the public will be addressed in this General Plan. Some issues raised by CDPR staff and the public were not considered because they are already prescribed by law, regulation, or policy; would be in violation of laws, regulations, or policies; or were at a level that was too detailed for this General Plan and are more appropriately addressed in subsequent planning documents. For example, during public meetings, some commentors provided detailed suggestions for new trail alignments. While the General Plan does not address this level of detail, such comments, for example, led to the guideline of developing a RTMP and can be considered by CDPR when implementing the General Plan and during a subsequent RTMP.



# Chapter 4 - THE PLAN

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*Visitors enjoying the view from Stonewall Peak summit  
January 2014*

# Chapter 4 - THE PLAN

**T**he *Plan* chapter presents a statement of purpose and vision for the future of CRSP, and defines management-zones by their geographic location, similar resource characteristics, and/or associated land use. Parkwide, management-zone-specific, and area-specific goals and guidelines are presented to guide park management, facility use, development, as well as considerations for subsequent planning.

## 4.1 PURPOSE AND VISION

### 4.1.1 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

A foundation for planning and management for units of the California State Park System is found in its declaration of purpose. The declaration of purpose is a formal statement of a park unit's core purpose and significance. This purpose statement provides a basis for decisions made about a park unit, and provides some of the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and management actions are measured. A declaration of purpose states why the park was established, and the park's most important or fundamental resources and values. The purpose is based on CDPR and public values at the time it is written. The declaration of purpose for each state park is required by PRC [§ 5002.2 (b)].

***The DECLARATION OF PURPOSE is a formal statement of the park unit's core purpose and significance.***

The Declaration of Purpose for CRSP is based upon: 1) its establishment as a California *State Park* in 1933; 2) the Declaration of Purpose approved by the Park Recreation Commission on April 22, 1966; and 3) the Declaration of Purpose established in the original 1986 General Plan.

In addition, it was formulated to reflect up-to-date CDPR policies, management intent and practices for units of the state park system, as well as attitudes and desires of the public.

The purpose of CRSP is as follows:

*The purpose of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is to preserve and provide access to the Cuyamaca and western Laguna Mountains of eastern San Diego County; protect the native plant and wildlife populations throughout the Park's beautiful, yet fragile mountain meadows and other sensitive habitats; recognize, honor, preserve, and interpret the culture and traditions of people who once called the Park home; offer visitors ways to learn about the Park's natural and cultural history; and support opportunities for active and passive outdoor recreational activities, including accommodations for overnight experiences.*

*The Park shall also foster community involvement, volunteerism, and park stewardship for the ongoing betterment of the Park and enlightenment of visitors; connect with neighboring lands to preserve regional open space, biocorridors, habitats, and backcountry recreational experiences; as well as implement the Department's Mission Statement to provide for the appropriate use, education, inspiration, and enjoyment of the Park by all people.*



***Southern panorama from Stonewall Peak Trail  
January 2014***

#### **4.1.2 VISION**

In addition to the Declaration of Purpose, another foundation for planning and management of units within the California State Park System is found in the vision statement. The vision is a statement of what the park unit will ultimately strive to become, fulfilling its highest purpose and ultimate public value.

The vision of CRSP is based upon current and foreseen CDPR management intent, desires of the public, and opportunities perceived by the General Planning team.

***The VISION is a statement of what the park unit will ultimately strive to become, fulfilling its highest purpose and public value.***

The original, 1986 CRSP General Plan did not contain a vision statement. The vision statement for CRSP is as follows:

*Cuyamaca Rancho State Park will provide visitors the opportunity to experience a diversity of scenic, natural, and cultural resources, all within about 50 miles of the eighth-largest city in the US.*

*The Park will continue to be a place where visitors can enjoy a mountain wilderness setting; see and hear native wildlife; hike or ride the trails; experience*

*the breathtaking views from a mountain peak; delight in a campfire with family or friends; play in the snow; and learn about past cultures and events.*

*In the face of encroaching urbanization, the Park will be an increasingly important location for preserving the region's open space, trails, and biological linkages.*

*Likewise, the Park will be a premier destination for local children to experience a highly accessible mountain environment where they can learn first-hand about the Park's values, natural resources, and cultural heritage.*

*The Park will continue to encourage and promote an active and vibrant volunteer community that will assist in helping to operate, maintain, fund, and protect its natural and cultural resources; as well as to reach out to current and prospective visitors.*

*The Park will honor, interpret, preserve, and protect the traditions, stories, lives, and evidence of past people and cultures so that their memories and legacies are not forgotten by future generations of Park visitors as well as recognize and provide for living tribal communities at the Park.*

*In addition to traditional users, the Park will strive to reach out to an increasing number of under-served, diverse, and non-traditional visitors to enrich their lives, as well as to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of this special place.*

## 4.2 UNIT CLASSIFICATION

In addition to CDPR's Mission Statement, and Declaration of Purpose and Vision statements, park management and development is further directed by park unit classification as specified by the PRC. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is classified a "State Park" (see **Appendix M - Unit Classifications**).

The PRC also establishes several categories of sub-classification that may be included within the boundaries of a unit of the State Park System. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains three of these sub-classifications:

- **State Wilderness:** Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness (CMSW) (East Mesa Wilderness and West Mesa Wilderness)
- **Natural Preserve:** Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve
- **Cultural Preserves:** Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, Kumeyaay Soapstone Cultural Preserve, Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserve, and Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve

See **Appendix M - Unit Classifications** for PRC definitions of the state Wilderness, Natural Preserve, and Cultural Preserve sub-classifications.

### **4.3 LAND USE MANAGEMENT**

#### **4.3.1 MANAGEMENT-ZONES**

In this General Plan, management-zones act as an additional foundation for planning and management of the Park. They describe a range of desired conditions for resources and visitor experiences and/or management approaches to be achieved and maintained in particular areas of CRSP. They are the most general means to spatially define the management concept for the park unit. Each zone includes a description of the desired conditions for resources and the types of activities and facilities that are appropriate in the management-zone. In addition, the management-zones include goals and guidelines which further prescribe management intent and actions to achieve the desired conditions. The management-zones are consistent with CDPR's mission as well as the Park's classifications, purpose, and vision.



***View toward Lake Cuyamaca  
January 2005***

Seven management-zones have been identified for CRSP: Gateway, Front-country, Back-country, Wilderness, Natural Preserve, Cultural Preserve, and Historic. These zones are primarily based upon the purpose and focus of the zone as well as degree of public use and facility development. Collectively, the zones represent a gradient in the level of public use with the intent to provide for a wide range of visitor experiences. For example, the Front-Country Zone affords the most intensive level of use while the Wilderness Zone offers a lower intensity, with the Back-country Zone falling in between.

Each of the following zone descriptions includes a summary of desired resource character and management, typical visitor uses, range of appropriate facilities, and goals and guidelines which further define management direction and

actions. Appropriate facilities and activities of some key user groups such as hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers are also addressed. See **Figure 13 - Preferred Alternative map** which depicts the location of management-zones within the Park. A matrix summarizing the management-zones is presented in **Table 2 - Management-Zones Matrix**.

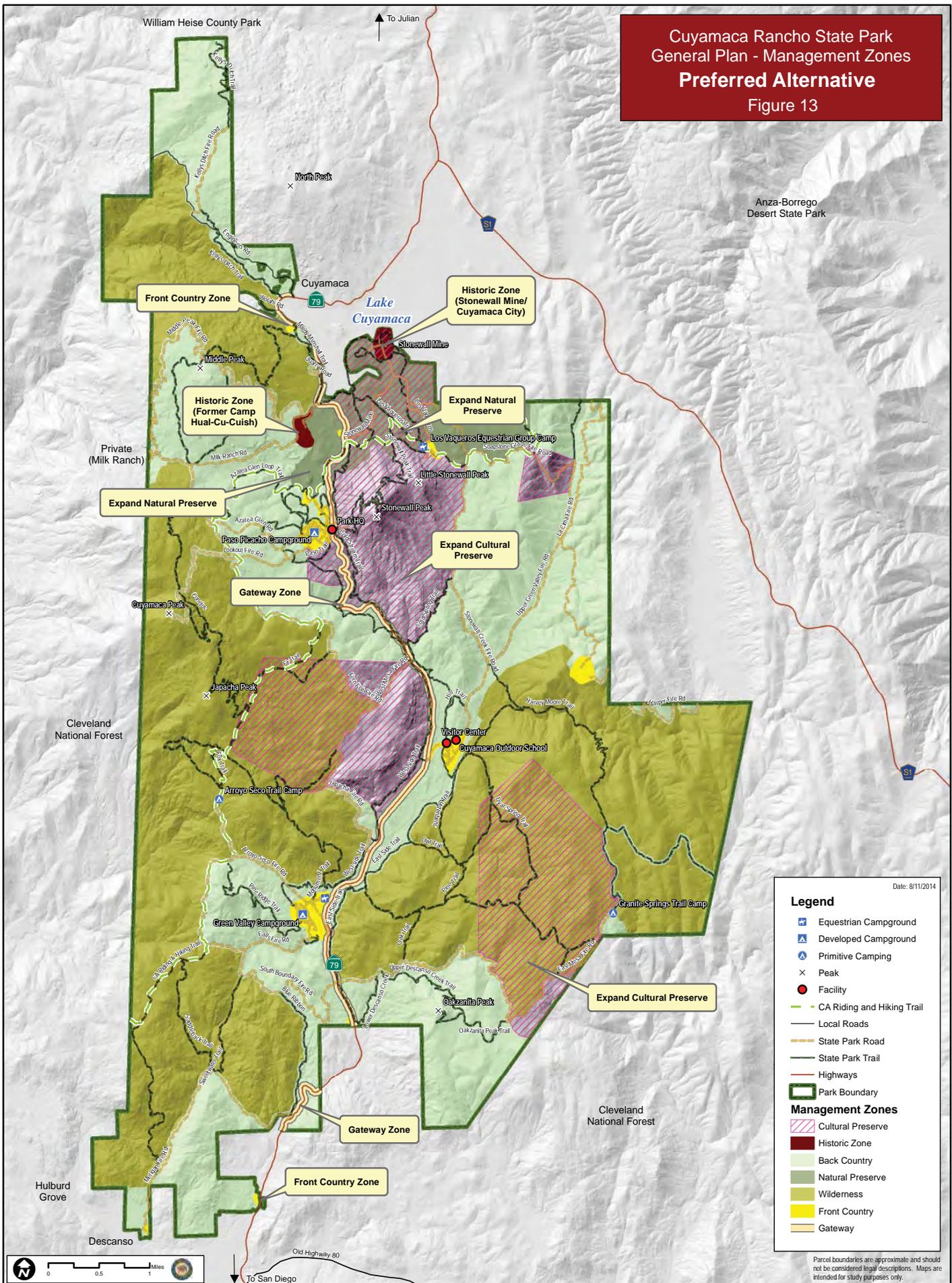
### **Gateway Zone**

The Gateway Zone includes the portion of the SR-79 right-of-way that runs through the Park, including eight existing day-use parking areas/pull outs. The intent of the zone is to serve as a gateway to the Park and is focused on providing vehicle access, sightseeing, day-use parking, park orientation, and trail access. The Gateway Zone falls within the “State Park” land classification as designated by the PRC (§ 5019.53). Also see **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**.



***Campsite at the Green Valley Equestrian Campground  
September 2012***

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
 General Plan - Management Zones  
**Preferred Alternative**  
 Figure 13



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

**TABLE 1 - Management-Zones Matrix**

(note: CDPR will follow all applicable laws, policies, and procedures to avoid significant impacts to cultural and natural resources.)

Zones:	Gateway	Front-Country	Back-Country	Wilderness
<b>Zone Description</b>	This zone includes the portion of State Route 79 right-of-way that runs through the Park including eight (8) existing day-use parking areas/pull-outs. This zone will serve as a gateway to the park and is focused on vehicle access, sightseeing, day use parking, park orientation, and trail access.	This zone includes developed areas such as campgrounds, visitor centers, picnic areas, parking, and operations facilities as well as the historic Dyar House and Cuyamaca Outdoor School. This zone is managed for visitor access, orientation, education, and recreation as well as park operations.	This zone generally includes non-wilderness, central areas of the park adjacent to the Gateway Zone or Front-Country Zone. This zone represents a transition between the Front-Country or Gateway Zones and Wilderness	This zone includes existing and proposed State Wilderness, and is managed primarily to preserve the area's wilderness values such as natural, undeveloped, and expansive landscapes.
<b>Classification</b>	State Park	State Park	State Park	State Wilderness
<b>Resource Character and Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect scenic viewsheds</li> <li>- Provide for positive first impressions to the Park</li> <li>- Development includes facilities to provide vehicle access and parking, and interpretive elements to support orientation to the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development includes a diversity of facilities to support park operations, visitor use, and interpretation and education mixed with open space and natural settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No facilities or development other than fire roads, trails, minor interpretive elements, and primitive trail camps.</li> <li>- North end of Park: Developed Individual Campgrounds also permitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No facilities or development other than trails and minor interpretive elements</li> <li>- No mechanical conveyances allowed (Per Public Resources Code)</li> <li>- Natural resources are in as pristine a condition as possible and are minimally modified only for wilderness visitor use and resource protection</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Experiences (Carrying Capacity Objective - see §4.6 - Managing Visitor Capacity )</b>	<p>Visitors will gain access and be oriented to the Park, experience scenic vistas, and have the option to park their vehicles during the day and access the trail network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medium level of use</li> <li>- Moderate contact with others</li> <li>- Few opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>	<p>Visitors will have access to a wide variety of experiences within this zone, including camping, participation in group activities, enjoying the convenience of developed facilities, and introduction to the natural setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High level of use</li> <li>- Maximum contact with others</li> <li>- Few opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>	<p>Visitors will have the opportunity to transition from busier and noisier high use/developed areas to the relaxed and quieter wilderness areas of the Park via the trail system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low to moderate level of use</li> <li>- Minimal to moderate contact with others</li> <li>- Some opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>	<p>Within this zone, visitors will be immersed in an undeveloped and wild environment, as well as have the opportunity to experience solitude, natural sounds, a sense of remoteness, and self reliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low level of use</li> <li>- Minimal contact with others</li> <li>- Maximum opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>
<b>Time of Use</b>	Day use only	Day and overnight use	Day and overnight use	Day use only
<b>Typical Visitor Activities/Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enjoying scenic views</li> <li>- Accessing trailheads</li> <li>- Acquiring park information (maps, services and programs, rules, regulations)</li> <li>- Viewing interpretive and education displays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping in designated areas</li> <li>- Picnicking</li> <li>- Attending interpretive and educational programs</li> <li>- Hiking, biking, and equestrian use on designated trails</li> <li>- Snow play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping in designated areas</li> <li>- Hiking, biking, and equestrian use on designated trails</li> <li>- Interpretation and education through a range of methods that are complementary to the natural setting</li> <li>- Snow play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking and equestrian use on designated trails (roads are outside of Wilderness)</li> <li>- Interpretive and educational programs focused on wilderness values and are mostly self-directed</li> </ul>
<b>Range of Appropriate Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day use parking</li> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Trailhead features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campsites (group and individual)</li> <li>- Overnight facilities such as cabins</li> <li>- Parking lots</li> <li>- Picnic areas</li> <li>- Visitor serving facilities</li> <li>- Concession facilities</li> <li>- Operations facilities</li> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Roads, trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Park residences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed individual campgrounds (North end of Park only)</li> <li>- Isolated primitive campsites</li> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Parking</li> <li>- Trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Footbridges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilities are limited to those that protect or enhance resources and result in minimal intrusion to wilderness values.</li> <li>- Minor interpretive elements</li> <li>- Trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Footbridges</li> </ul>
<b>Camping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping not permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed group and individual campsites</li> <li>- Water typically provided</li> <li>- Flush toilets and showers may be available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed individual campsites (North end of Park only)</li> <li>- Isolated primitive campsites</li> <li>- Water typically provided in campgrounds</li> <li>- Flush or waterless toilets may be available in campgrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping not permitted</li> <li>- Water not provided</li> <li>- Waterless toilets not allowed</li> </ul>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day use parking of rigs and staging of horses allowed in designated areas</li> <li>- Hitching posts or corrals not allowed</li> <li>- Water typically not provided</li> <li>- Trail access allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated unpaved roads and trails only</li> <li>- Feeding and watering horses</li> <li>- Corrals and hitching posts</li> <li>- Water typically provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated unpaved roads and trails only</li> <li>- Feeding and watering horses in campgrounds</li> <li>- Corrals and hitching posts in campgrounds</li> <li>- Water may be provided in campgrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated trails only</li> <li>- Hitching posts not allowed</li> <li>- Water not provided</li> </ul>
<b>Mountain Biking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day use parking allowed</li> <li>- Trail access allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes allowed on designated roads and trails only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes allowed on designated roads and trails only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes not allowed (Per Public Resources Code)</li> </ul>
<b>Hiking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Day use parking allowed</li> <li>- Trail access allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking allowed</li> </ul>

**TABLE 1 - Management-Zones Matrix (cont.)**

(note: CDPR will follow all applicable laws, policies, and procedures to avoid significant impacts to cultural and natural resources.)

Zones:	Natural Preserve	Cultural Preserve	Historic
<b>Zone Description</b>	This zone includes existing and proposed Natural Preserves and contains significant, rare, and/or endangered natural resources. This zone is focused on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the area's natural resources.	This zone includes existing and proposed Cultural Preserves and contains a high concentration of significant cultural resources. This zone is focused on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the area's cultural resources.	This zone includes the Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City site which lies within the Ah-Ha Kwe-ah-mac/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve as well as the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish. This zone is focused on protecting, preserving, and interpreting the significant historic resources of the area.
<b>Classification</b>	State Natural Preserve	State Cultural Preserve	State Cultural Preserve (at Stonewall Mine) State Park (at former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish)
<b>Resource Character and Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No facilities or development other than fire roads and trails</li> <li>- Natural resources are in as pristine a condition as possible and the zone is managed foremost to protect identified natural resources</li> <li>+ Cuyamaca Lake downingia</li> <li>+ Parish's meadowfoam</li> <li>+ Cuyamaca larkspur</li> <li>+ Jeffrey Pine forest</li> <li>+ Montane hardwood conifer forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No facilities or development other than fire roads and trails</li> <li>- Zone is managed foremost to protect cultural resources</li> <li>- Where Historic Zone overlaps the Cultural Preserve, only facilities or development that do not conflict with the integrity of the Cultural Preserve are allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development in this zone consists primarily of restoration/reconstruction of key historic structures and additional facilities necessary for adaptive reuse, and/or public education and enjoyment.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor Experiences (Carrying Capacity Objective - see §4.6 - Managing Visitor Capacity )</b>	<p>Visitors will have the opportunity to become familiar with sensitive natural resources, natural processes, and the protections required. Visitor experiences will be compatible with this goal and only facilities which enhance this will be present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low to moderate level of use</li> <li>- Minimal to moderate contact with others</li> <li>- Some opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>	<p>Visitors will have the opportunity to become aware of the importance, sensitivity, and fragility of the area's cultural resources and protections required. Visitor experiences will be compatible with this goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low level of use</li> <li>- Minimal contact with others</li> <li>- Some opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>	<p>Visitors will be able to learn about a historic mine and company town, and also about the CCC and late-1930s to early-1940s Park Rustic architecture. Interpretational and educational facilities and programs for cultural resources will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moderate level of use</li> <li>- Moderate contact with others</li> <li>- Some opportunities for quiet and solitude</li> </ul>
<b>Time of Use</b>	Day use only	Day use only (except where Historic Zone overlaps Cultural Preserve)	Day and overnight use
<b>Typical Visitor Activities/Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking on designated trails only</li> <li>- Interpretive and educational programs focused on natural resource values, preservation and protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking, Mountain Biking, and equestrian use on designated trails</li> <li>- Interpretive and educational programs focused on cultural resource values, preservation and protection</li> <li>- Native American uses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking and equestrian use on designated trails</li> <li>- Interpretive and educational opportunities focused on historic resource interpretation and preservation.</li> </ul>
<b>Range of Appropriate Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Footbridges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Footbridges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpretive elements</li> <li>- Trails and trailhead features</li> <li>- Restored and reconstructed historically significant structures and landscape features</li> <li>- Reconstructed cabins (at Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City)</li> <li>- Add rustic cabins (at former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish)</li> </ul>
<b>Camping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping not permitted</li> <li>- Water not provided</li> <li>- Waterless toilets not allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping not permitted</li> <li>- Water typically not provided</li> <li>- Waterless toilets not allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camping permitted in designated areas</li> <li>- Overnight accommodations such as cabins may be available</li> <li>- Flush and waterless toilets may be available</li> </ul>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated trails only</li> <li>- Hitching posts not allowed</li> <li>- Water not provided</li> <li>- Trails may be re-routed to minimize impacts</li> <li>- No new trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated trails only</li> <li>- Hitching posts may be allowed</li> <li>- Water not provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding allowed on designated trails only</li> <li>- Hitching posts may be allowed</li> <li>- Water typically not provided</li> </ul>
<b>Mountain Biking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes on designated trails only</li> <li>- Trails may be re-routed to minimize impacts</li> <li>- No new trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes on designated roads and trails only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mountain bikes on paved roads only</li> </ul>
<b>Hiking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking on designated trails only</li> <li>- Trails may be re-routed to minimize impacts</li> <li>- No new trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking allowed on designated trails only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiking allowed</li> </ul>

Development allowed in the Gateway Zone may include facilities to provide vehicle access and parking, trail access, and interpretive elements designed to support orientation to CRSP. The Gateway Zone will provide for positive first impressions of the Park, and scenic views from the zone should be protected. Examples of appropriate facilities in the Gateway Zone include paved roads, day-use parking, trailhead features, and interpretive and educational elements. Camping and other overnight use is not permitted in the Gateway Zone.

The Gateway Zone serves as the main access point for park experiences and provides capacity for a medium level of visitor use, moderate level of contact with other visitors, and few opportunities for quiet and solitude. Typical visitor activities will include driving into and through the Park, viewing and photographing park scenery, accessing trailheads and other visitor use areas within CRSP, becoming oriented to the Park, and viewing interpretive and educational displays. From this zone, visitors can also access some snow play areas adjacent to the Gateway Zone.

**Front-Country Zone**

The Front-Country Zone includes developed areas such as campgrounds, visitor centers, picnic areas, parking, and operations facilities. The zone includes the Green Valley Campground area, Paso Picacho Campground area, Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground area, Dyar House and Cuyamaca Outdoor School areas, Merigan Day-Use Parking, the former Mack Ranch parcel, the site of La Cima Conservation Camp, and three areas that serve as park employee residences. The intent of the Front-Country Zone is to provide for moderate levels of development, capacity for a large number of visitors, and higher intensity of uses than surrounding areas of the Park. The Front-Country Zone falls within the “State Park” land classification as designated by PRC § 5019.53 (See **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**)

Development allowed in the Front-Country Zone may include a diversity of facilities designed to support park operations, intensive visitor use, open space and natural settings. Examples of facilities appropriate in the Front-Country Zone include group and individual campsites, equestrian campsites, and cabins for overnight use. This zone may include restrooms with and without showers, parking lots, picnic areas, park headquarters, offices, maintenance buildings, visitor centers, concession facilities, park employee residences, interpretive elements, roads, trails, and trailhead features.

The Front-Country Zone provides facilities and capacity for large numbers of visitors, a high level of contact with others, and few opportunities for quiet and solitude. The Front-Country Zone provides for day and overnight experiences,



*Entrance sign to Paso Picacho Campground and Day-Use Area  
February 2013*

serves as the main public-use area, and the administrative area within the Park. Visitors will be offered a wide variety of experiences within this zone, including camping, participation in group activities, enjoying the convenience of developed facilities, and an introduction to the natural setting. Typical visitor activities will include individual and group camping in designated areas, picnicking, attending interpretive and educational programs, snow play, hiking, biking, and horseback riding on designated trails.

### **Back-Country Zone**

The Back-Country Zone includes central areas of the Park adjacent to the Gateway Zone and Front-Country Zones that are not designated as Wilderness. The Back-Country Zone represents a transition in use intensity between the high-use Front-Country Zone and low-use Wilderness Zone. The Back-Country Zone falls within the “State Park” land classification as designated by the PRC (§ 5019.53) (*see Section 4.2 - Unit Classification*).

Within the Back-Country Zone, no facilities or development are permitted except for fire roads, trails, primitive camps, and minor interpretive elements; with the exception of areas in the north end of the Park which allow the potential for developed individual campgrounds. Examples of facilities could include isolated primitive campsites, waterless toilets, trails and trailhead features, footbridges, and small interpretive panels or regulatory signs. In the north end of the Park, additional facilities could include developed individual campsites and accompanying facilities such as restrooms and showers, water, roads, and parking.

The level of use in the Back-Country Zone is low to moderate with minimal to moderate possibility of contact with others. Some opportunities for quiet and solitude will be possible in the Back-Country Zone albeit not as many as in the Wilderness Zone but more so than the Front-Country Zone. In the Back-Country Zone, visitors will have the opportunity to transition from the crowded and noisier high-use areas to the dispersed and quieter wilderness areas of the Park via the trail system. The Back-Country Zone will be primarily for daytime experiences such as sightseeing, hiking, mountain bike riding, and horseback riding on designated trails; however, overnight use in primitive trail camps and developed individual campsites in the north end of the Park will also be possible.

### **Wilderness Zone**

At CRSP, the Wilderness Zone includes existing State Wilderness areas which mainly occur in the higher elevation and remote areas of the Park. The existing wilderness is called the Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness (CMSW) which is comprised of East Mesa and West Mesa Wildernesses. The intent of the Wilderness Zone is to preserve the area’s wilderness values such as naturalness, undeveloped, and expansive landscapes, as well as allow for maximum opportunities for quiet and solitude. The Wilderness Zone falls within the “Wilderness” land sub-classification as designated by the PRC (§ 5019.68). Also *see Section 4.2 - Unit Classification*. The CMSM overlaps portions of the Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserve and Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve.

For a description of overlapping preserves and wilderness, see **Section 4.3.2 - Compound Sub-unit Classifications - Description and Management Objectives**.

Within the Wilderness Zone, no facilities or development are permitted other than those that protect or enhance natural and/or cultural resources and result in minimal intrusion into wilderness values. Examples of allowable facilities could include unpaved trails and trailhead features, footbridges, and small interpretive panels or regulatory signs. Per the PRC, no mechanical conveyances are allowed in State Wilderness.

The Wilderness Zone has a low level of use and offers minimal contact with others. Typical visitor activities in the Wilderness Zone include hiking and horseback riding on designated trails, nature observation, and viewing scenery from mountain peaks. Bicycles are considered a mechanical conveyance, therefore, per the PRC 5019.68, mountain biking is a prohibited activity in wilderness and is not allowed in the Wilderness Zone. Interpretive and educational programs are allowed in wilderness yet are mostly self-directed and focused on wilderness resources and values. The Wilderness Zone will be solely for day-use experiences with no camping or other overnight opportunities allowed.

### **Natural Preserve Zone**

The Natural Preserve Zone includes existing Natural Preserves in the Park and contains areas of rare, sensitive, threatened and/or endangered natural resources. This zone is focused on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the zone’s significant natural resources. The Natural Preserve Zone falls within the “Natural Preserve” land sub-classification as designated by PRC § 5019.71 (see **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**).

Within the Natural Preserve Zone, no facilities or development are permitted other than unpaved fire roads, trails, footbridges, and minor interpretive elements. Paved roads that run through the Natural Preserve Zone are excluded from the zone, and default to the underlying zone (in this case the Back-Country Zone). Natural resources in the zone are kept in as pristine a condition as possible and the zone is managed foremost to protect identified rare, sensitive, threatened, and/or endangered species of plants and their ecosystems, such as the Cuyamaca Lake downingia, Parish’s meadowfoam, Cuyamaca larkspur, Jeffrey pine forest, and oak woodland.



**Butterfly (Lycaenidae family)  
at West Mesa  
April 2014**

The Natural Preserve Zone has a low to moderate level of use and offers minimal to moderate contact with others, along with some opportunities for quiet and solitude. The Natural Preserve Zone allows only daytime activities with no camping or other overnight or night-time use. Sightseeing, nature observation, hiking, biking, and horseback riding are the typical visitor activities occurring within the Natural Preserve Zone. Interpretational and educational materials

and programs will be focused primarily on natural resource values, preservation, and protection.

The Park currently contains one Natural Preserve, the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve, established in 1990 to further protect and give recognition to the significant ecosystem south of Lake Cuyamaca. Portions of this Natural Preserve overlap the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve. It is proposed that an extension of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve be established to provide additional protection and interpretation of these sensitive habitats (see **Section 4.4 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines**). See **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification** for a description of the Natural Preserve (PRC § 5019.71). For a description of overlapping Preserves, see **Section 4.3.2 - Compound Sub-unit Classifications - Description and Management Objectives**.

### Cultural Preserve Zone

The Cultural Preserve Zone includes existing and proposed expansions of Cultural Preserves in the Park and contains a high concentration of significant cultural resources. The intent of this zone is to preserve, protect, and interpret the area's rich cultural resources. The Cultural Preserve Zone falls within the "Cultural Preserve" land sub-classification as designated by PRC § 5019.74 (see **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**). In the case of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, portions of the Cultural Preserve overlap the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve. In the case of the Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) and Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserves, portions of the Cultural Preserves overlap the CMSW. For a description of overlapping Preserves and Wilderness, see **Section 4.3.2 - Compound Sub-unit Classifications - Description and Management Objectives**.



**Bedrock mortar at West Mesa  
January 2014**

Within the Cultural Preserve Zone, no facilities or development are permitted other than unpaved fire roads and trails, footbridges, and minor interpretive elements (except where the Historic Zone overlaps the Cultural Preserve). Paved roads that run through the Cultural Preserve Zone are excluded from the zone and default to the underlying zone (Back-Country Zone). Management actions within the Cultural Preserve Zone are intended to protect cultural resources to the greatest extent possible.

The Cultural Preserve Zone has a low to moderate level of use and offers minimal to moderate contact with others, along with some opportunities for quiet and solitude. The Cultural Preserve Zone allows only daytime activities with no camping or other overnight use (except where the Historic Zone overlaps the Cultural Preserve). Sightseeing, nature observation, hiking, biking, and horseback riding are typical visitor activities occurring within the Cultural

Preserve Zone. Interpretational and educational materials and programs will be focused primarily on cultural resource values, preservation, and protection.

The Park currently contains four Cultural Preserves which were established in 1983: Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) (unit # 961), Pilcha (West Mesa) (unit # 959), Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/ Stonewall Mine (unit # 909), and Kumeyaay Soapstone (unit # 962). Based on the documentation prepared at the time of their establishment, the locations and extents of these preserves were selected to protect areas of significant cultural and archaeological importance including sacred places, concentrations of archaeological sites, named village sites, locations of significant historic habitation and use, sites important to the history and establishment of archaeological types and sequences in the region, sites containing notable artifact and feature types, and unique resource locations.

It is proposed that two of the four existing Cultural Preserves, the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine and Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserves, be expanded to incorporate previously unidentified, significant cultural resources. See **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification** for a description of the Cultural Preserve.

See **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines - Cultural Preserves** and **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines - Stonewall Mine Area** and **Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve** for goals and guidelines pertaining to Cultural Preserves that will further define the management objectives and desired future conditions of the Cultural Preserve Zone within CRSP.

### Historic Zone

This General Plan calls for the creation of two Historic Zones at CRSP. One includes the site of Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City and another, the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish site. The Historic Zone is intended to preserve significant historic resources within their boundaries. The Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City Historic Zone also falls within the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/ Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, which offers additional levels of protection and management. (see also **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**).

Allowable development within the Historic Zones may include the restoration/reconstruction of significant historical buildings, structures, and/or landscape features. These may also include additional, non-historic facilities necessary for public education and enjoyment. The latter could include paved or unpaved roads, parking, reconstructed cabins or dining halls, and improved trails and trailhead features containing interpretive elements.

Allowable management actions should focus on protecting and interpreting historic land use and events within the Historic Zone. At the same time, such actions should provide



*Re-created miners cabin at  
Stonewall Mine  
September 2012*

compatible public use, including day use and overnight camping in designated areas.



***Cuyamaca City Hotel (L) and General Store (R)  
at Stonewall Mine  
ca. 1925***

The Historic Zones provide facilities and capacity for a moderate number of visitors, contact level, and opportunities for quiet and solitude. Concurrently, they can also provide the potential for readily accessible day experiences, serve as significant public use, and educational experiences. These can provide visitors with outstanding educational and recreational opportunities focused on the historic resources, stories, and events that occurred during various periods of the Park's history.

Typical visitor activities within the Historic Zones may include guided or self-guided tours, picnicking, and overnight stays, in reconstructed historical cabins or other historic buildings, camping in designated areas, participation in retreats and other group activities, an introduction to the natural resources and setting of

the area, and attending interpretive and educational programs about historic resources and events. Snow play as well as hiking, biking, and horseback riding on designated roads and trails within the Historic Zone will also be allowed.

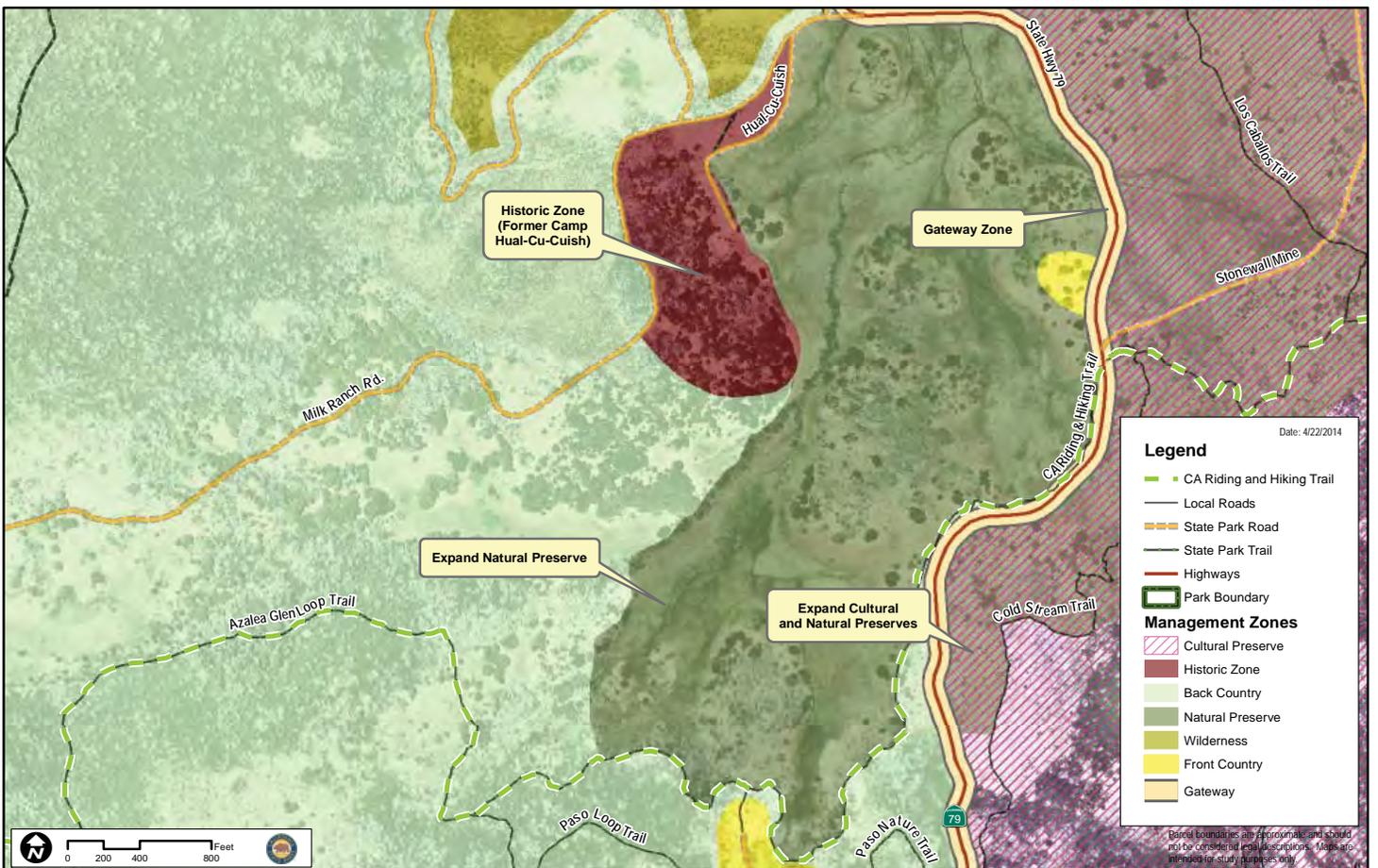
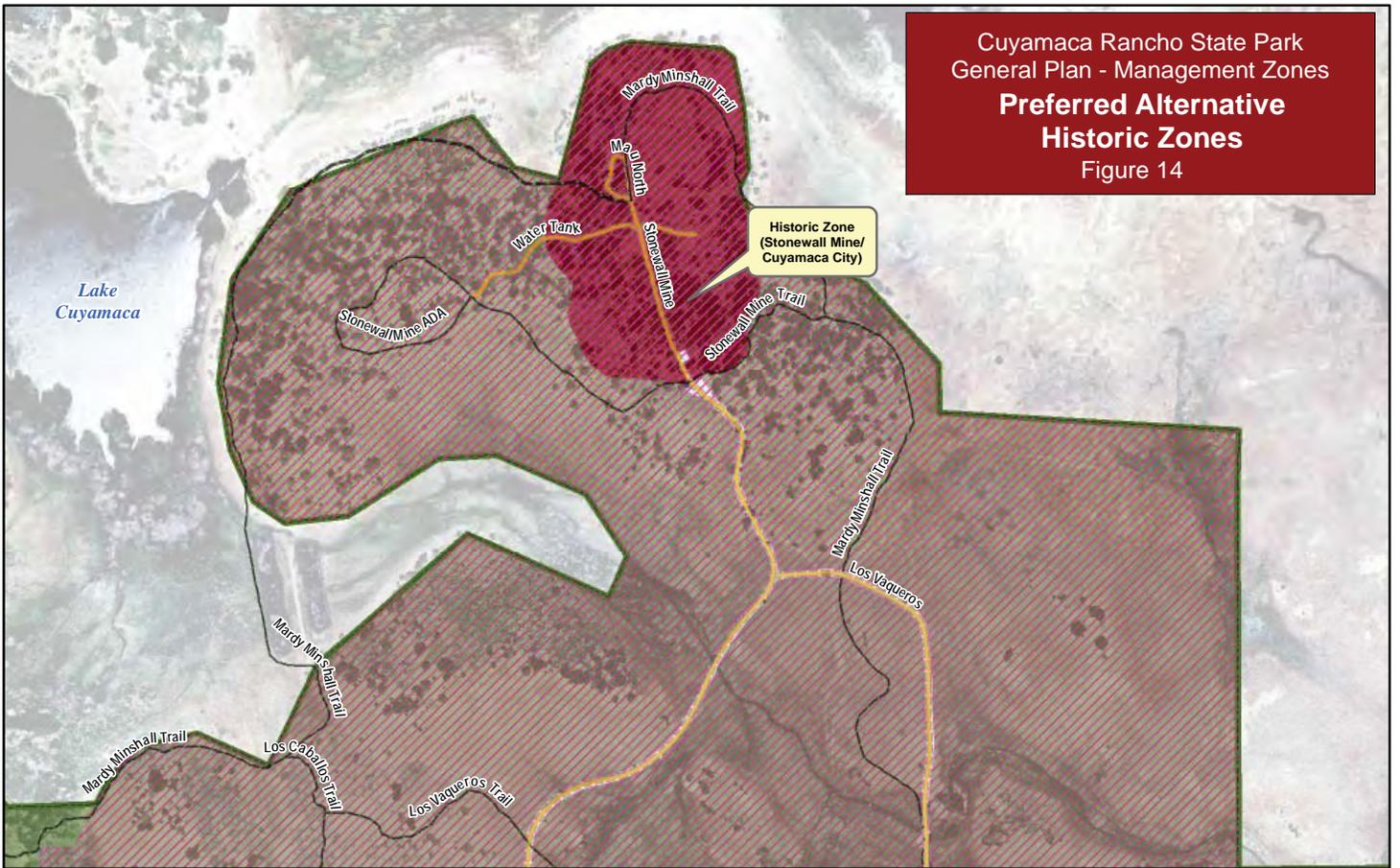
Management and operation of the facilities and programs within the Historic Zone may be considered for a volunteer organization and/or concession if feasible.

The facilities, activities, and uses described herein that are within the Historic Zone should remain compatible with the sub-unit classification of the cultural preserve. This is because they are consistent with the purpose for which the cultural preserve was originally designated. For additional description and justification of Historic Zone facilities, activities, and uses within the Cultural Preserve, see the end of this section.

See **Figure 14 - Preferred Alternative Historic Zones maps** for an enlarged view of the Historic Zones at Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City, and former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish.

**Preferred Alternative  
Historic Zones**

Figure 14



### 4.3.2 COMPOUND SUB-UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS - DESCRIPTION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

At CRSP, in some cases, the natural preserves, cultural preserves, and wilderness sub-unit classifications are compounded (overlap each other):

- The Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve and Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve overlap by approximately **530 acres**.
- The Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserve and CMSW overlap by about **750 acres**.
- The Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve and CMSW overlap by approximately **1,500 acres**.

These sub-units overlap because:

1. Significant natural and cultural resources, and/or land use classification qualities (State Wilderness) occupy the same specific geographic locations within the Park.
2. These significant natural and cultural resources, and visitor experience values are equally important, respected and worthy of the level of recognition and protection afforded by these sub-unit classifications, while being compatible with the land use management intent for these specific areas of the Park.
3. The resources justifying the cultural and natural preserve designations, and the character and quality of wilderness visitor experience, with somewhat similar, but slightly different management objectives, are not inherently hierarchical, and therefore are needed to justify the overall range of values to be managed within these specific land use zones.



*Majestic pine tree in Green Valley  
ca. 1934*

#### Purpose of Sub-Unit Classifications

##### *State Wilderness (PRC §5019.68)*

The State Wilderness sub-unit classification protects opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation within a landscape that has retained a primeval character. To accomplish this, wilderness prohibits the use of mechanized equipment such as vehicles, chainsaws, and mountain bikes, as well as permanent improvements and human habitation. However, the State Wilderness sub-unit classification does not stipulate HOW to manage resources within the wilderness or bring preservation of those resources to the forefront (that is accomplished, instead, through a Natural Preserve or Cultural Preserve).

### ***Natural Preserves (PRC §5019.71)***

The Natural Preserve sub-unit classification protects areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance by preserving rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, significant fossil occurrences, and representative or unique geologic and topographic features. Within Natural Preserves, management must be based upon scientific analysis and can only occur to protect and promote the resources for which the Preserve was established.

### ***Cultural Preserves (PRC §5019.74)***

The Cultural Preserve sub-unit classification provides protection for significant places and events in the flow of human history. Cultural Preserves provide clear direction that any active management of lands within the preserve shall be conducted solely for the purpose of protecting and/or sustaining the resources for which the preserve was established. Cultural Preserves allow for permanent structures and improvements only if they don't conflict with, and/or enhance and preserve, the integrity of the cultural resources for which the preserve was established.

## **Management Objectives**

Where compound sub-unit classifications occur in the Park, the area should be managed to protect ALL resources and values for which the sub-unit classifications were established, equally and without compromise. As park management actions occur that might produce potential conflicts between different resources or quality of visitor wilderness experiences, the Department should pursue solutions that best attempt to benefit and safeguard the full range of resource and use values within these overlapping land use zones. Should any conflicts occur whereby protecting one resource or value would potentially result in significant adverse impacts to another, and a non-impacting and mutually beneficial course of action cannot be found, such project actions should not be undertaken without implementation of appropriate mitigations, treatments and/or conditions to reduce such adverse impacts.

See **Figure 13 – Preferred Alternative** for a map showing where compound (overlapping) sub-units occur in the Park. Also, see **Appendix M – Unit Classifications** for the PRC definition of *State Parks, State Wilderness, Natural Preserves, and Cultural Preserves*.

## **4.4 GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

### **4.4.1 PARKWIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

The following parkwide goals and guidelines respond to existing issues and define an ultimate purpose and intention for park managers in order to achieve the long-term vision of the park. “**GOAL**” refers to an overall aim or intent toward which management will direct effort. “**GUIDELINE**” refers to a general set of parameters or strategies that provide direction for accomplishing the goal.

The parkwide goals and guidelines apply to the entire park, and are not management-zone- or area-specific. The following goals and guidelines address protecting, managing, and interpreting the Park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the Park.

## **VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This section describes the goals and guidelines that recommend enhanced visitor experiences, provide for new and improved visitor facilities and recreation opportunities, and respond to current issues and emerging trends in recreation identified in the Existing Conditions chapter. This section will address the needs of some specific user groups such as campers, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, and will describe how to best accommodate these uses.



*Visitors playing in the snow  
at Green Valley  
February 2013*

General visitor experiences and opportunities are also addressed in ***Section 4.3 - Management-Zones***.

### **Recreation**

The Park offers diverse, high-quality, year-round recreational opportunities for visitors. At the heart of all activities is the beautiful mountain setting, which can be accessed via the extensive trail network. Camping is most popular during the summer months, but due to its relatively mild fall, winter, and spring weather, the Park is also well suited for camping and other recreation during these times of year. The mountain location also provides the nearest access for snow play for many residents of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Demographics indicate that the potential exists to provide more recreation opportunities for diverse and underrepresented populations in San Diego.

### **RECREATION GOAL:**

Expand high-quality recreational opportunities that take advantage of the Park's varied mountain environments and extensive trail network while protecting resources.

### **RECREATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Provide for additional recreational and program opportunities in the spring, fall, and winter months to increase visitor use of the Park during the non-peak seasons. These could include activities such as snow play, snow shoeing, mountain biking, and overnight stays in cabins or other weather-resistant shelters.
2. Maintain existing camping opportunities for individuals and groups at Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds. Continue to provide horse camping at the Green Valley Equestrian Campground and Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground.

3. Evaluate new recreational opportunities as they arise to determine their appropriateness for the Park. Some factors to consider are if the new opportunity would complement CDPR’s Mission and the Purpose of the Park, continue to protect resources, and remain consistent with provisions of the General Plan. Some activities to consider are those that would increase use of trails without impacting positive user experiences or degrading resources, bring diverse and underrepresented populations to the Park, and increase use of CRSP during the fall, winter, and spring months (*see Recreation Guideline 1*).
4. Continue to seek a balance between providing high quality recreation and protecting the natural and cultural resources. Continue to evaluate the trail system in order to maintain connectivity for trail users within the Park and access to regional trail systems while minimizing fragmentation of habitat for plants and wildlife, while avoiding damages to cultural resources.

### Horseback Riding

Equestrians have enjoyed CRSP’s natural beauty and riding opportunities since the Park opened in 1933. Over the years, equestrian family and group campgrounds, and equestrian staging areas have been added to improve horseback rider experiences and provide overnight accommodations. Equestrian groups participate in maintaining and patrolling trails, educating new riders in proper horsemanship, trail and camping etiquette, as well as organizing benefit events for the Park.

Following the 2003 Cedar Fire, the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was permanently closed and removed to protect highly significant archaeological and natural resources at the site. After many years and multiple efforts to find a suitable replacement for the campground, a location has not yet been found that met all parties’ needs or did not have significant resource or infrastructure constraints. In 2010, “Loop A” at the Green Valley Campground was converted into a permanent equestrian campground. The campground has been generally well received and is appreciated by the equestrian community, but it did not fully replace the number of campsites, proximity to trails, and scenery in the north end of the Park where the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was located. For these reasons, equestrians have a strong desire to establish a new campground in the north region of the Park. A permanent equestrian staging area within this area is also desired.



*An equestrian readies her horses for a ride at the Sweetwater Parking Area August 2012*

### **HORSEBACK RIDING GOAL:**

Perpetuate and encourage equestrian use of the Park in cooperation with other trail user groups, and consistent with the protection of resources.

### **HORSEBACK RIDING GUIDELINES:**

1. Strive to maintain the Park as a foremost regional destination for equestrians by providing top quality trails, facilities, service, and opportunities for non-horse owners to ride.
2. The Park should continue to partner with affiliated equestrian groups to improve trail experiences, cooperate with other trail user groups, protect resources, define and participate in trail patrol and maintenance activities, and organize benefit events for the Park.
3. Working with equestrian groups, other stakeholders, and the general public, determine a suitable location for an equestrian campground and day-use staging area in the north end of the Park, within the Front-Country or Back-Country Zones. Establish and utilize appropriate criteria such as proximity to existing trail networks, number of campsites, shade canopy for temperature moderation, and amenities potentially available.
4. Improve Green Valley Equestrian Campground by enlarging turning radii, adding shade, water, and increasing the size of campsite spurs where possible. Consult with users when planning and designing improvements.

### **Mountain Biking**

Mountain bikers have enjoyed riding in CRSP since the 1980s when mountain bikes were popularized. They often like long rides and loops, not only for the challenge but to enjoy diverse areas of the Park. They also desire more multi-use and single track trails that allow additional mountain bike activity and provide diverse terrain.

Mountain bikers also desire additional access to the adjacent CNF and ABDSP from CRSP. Fortunately, CRSP already has many trail loops and connectors but could use more to improve trail experiences and satisfy current and anticipated future demand.

The Park is currently not one of the top three destinations for mountain bike riding in San Diego County because of the lack of single track trails open to bikes, lack of trail connectivity and available distance both within the Park and to adjacent areas which also limits route options and resulting low public awareness of riding opportunities. In addition, the Park could be a premier winter mountain bike riding location in the country because of the mild climate but it is not promoted as such. These deficiencies could be rectified by thoughtful development of additional, attractive riding opportunities, more trail connections, and improved promotion.



*Bikers on road to Stonewall Mine  
May 2014*

**MOUNTAIN BIKING GOAL:**

Foster and promote CRSP as a quality destination for mountain biking within and outside the region in cooperation with all trail user groups while continuing to protect resources.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING GUIDELINES:**

1. Working with mountain bikers and other stakeholder groups, develop a RTMP to assess the current trail system, make recommendations for individual trails, and address specific issues of concern to mountain bikers and other trail users (*See Section 4.5 - Continued Planning and Issue Resolution*).
2. Work toward converting strategic north-south and east-west trails to multi-use to allow better trail connections both inside and adjacent to the Park.
3. Where feasible and appropriate, convert select single track trails to multi-use to allow mountain bike use and a few, strategic trails to “bike only”.
4. Consider additional riding opportunities such as benefit rides, night rides, and skills courses while remaining consistent with the CDPR Mission, CRSP General Plan, and the protection of resources, as well as consideration of long-term trail damage and user safety.
5. Promote responsible mountain biking through appropriate trail design, mountain bike patrols, signage, and skills courses. Trail design could include installing natural obstacles (e.g., boulders, rocks, rock water bars, downed logs, etc.) to slow rider’s speed and add technical challenges where appropriate.
6. Improve promotion and marketing of the Park as a premier destination for mountain bike riding, in particular, winter riding.
7. Enhance trail connectivity with adjacent trail systems

**Hiking**

Hiking at CRSP is one of the most popular and important forms of recreation. It’s one of the foremost ways that visitors can access and experience the diverse natural environments offered at the Park while fostering greater understanding of Park values and promoting physical health and overall well-being. Hiking at CRSP takes on several forms. It can include through-hiking such as multi-day



*A hiker on Oakzanita Peak takes photo of Cuyamaca Peak  
May 2014*

backpacking excursions, hours-long hikes to the Park’s mountain peaks and other destinations, or short hikes/walks along nature or interpretive trails and to nearby destinations like Green Valley Falls and along campground roads. Regular trail maintenance is important for keeping trails open and available to hikers.

**HIKING GOAL:**

Perpetuate and encourage hiking within the Park in cooperation with other trail user groups, and consistent with the protection of resources.

**HIKING GUIDELINES:**

1. Provide and introduce a wide range of hiking options for a wide array of different hiker interests and abilities.
2. Hiking is limited to designated trails only. Special attention should be given to working with the Cuyamaca Outdoor School to ensure that camp hikes follow this rule, and periodically educate School staff and students to encourage and maintain this behavior.
3. Regularly maintain trails so that access to the Park’s diverse natural areas is sustained and the benefits of hiking at the Park are fostered.

**Snow Play**

Snow play is an infrequent, yet popular winter activity when weather conditions allow and may include sledding, tubing, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, etc. The Park offers some of the closest and most readily accessible public locations



for snow play in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Some issues involving snow play include traffic congestion on SR-79 and crowding at parking lots such as “Meadow”, “Trout Pond”, at the former Hual-Cu-Cuish, and the Paso Picacho Campground day-use area. It is important that snow play activities are monitored and managed so that the public remains safe and resources are protected. In addition, the Park can fulfill its role as a regional recreation provider by inviting more visitors to enjoy winter activities at the Park while continuing to protect resources.

*Joaquin (L) and Joaquin Jr. (R)  
at Green Valley  
February 2013*

**SNOW PLAY GOAL:**

Encourage and manage snow play at the Park so that visitors are informed and remain safe, resources are protected, and impacts to facilities are kept to a minimum.

**SNOW PLAY GUIDELINES:**

1. Manage traffic congestion on SR-79 and in parking lots by partnering with CRSPIA and/or other volunteers to help provide traffic control

through signage, foot patrols and/or public contact and awareness campaigns.

2. Work with Park partners to provide snow conditions, safety, and related Park information to the public through social media and other means.
3. If feasible, pursue a concession to rent snow play equipment to increase winter recreational opportunities as well as provide additional revenue for the Park. Consider partnering with volunteer groups for this service.

### **Family and Group Camping**

The Park provides one of the closest and most convenient mountain camping locations for San Diegans, Imperial County residents, and others around the region. Good facilities, friendly staff and volunteers, and beautiful scenery help make Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds some of the most popular in the area. Due to the popularity of camping during the summer and on weekends, campgrounds are typically full. With spring, winter, and fall weather being relatively mild at the Park, there is a good potential to increase camping opportunities during the “non-peak” seasons.



*RV camping at Paso Picacho  
Campground  
February 2014*

Despite their popularity, the campground facilities could be improved to create even better experiences for campers. Some campsites are too close together (increasing potential for noise disturbances), too small, not level, or not large enough to accommodate mid- to large-size recreational vehicles.

#### **FAMILY AND GROUP CAMPING GOAL:**

Maintain family and group camping opportunities at Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds and improve existing camping facilities.

#### **FAMILY AND GROUP CAMPING GUIDELINES:**

1. Redesign and renovate the Green Valley and Paso Picacho Campgrounds to increase space between close campsites, enlarge and/or level campsites that are deemed too small or steep to be practical, and provide an adequate number of campsites that have parking areas large enough to accommodate mid- to full-size recreational vehicles.
2. Where feasible, install electrical and water hook ups at campsites that accommodate recreational vehicles, to reduce generator noise, provide better service, and improve visitor experiences.
3. Monitor and help reduce potential conflicts between campers, in particular loud music and noise during quiet hours.

4. Where appropriate, install cabins and/or other weather-resistant shelters for overnight use at the existing campgrounds to increase off-season use.
5. Reconstruct Group Camp “A” at Paso Picacho and continue its use as group campground.

### Day-Use Parking



*Visitors park at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish for an orienteering event May 2014*

Day-use parking areas play a vital role at the Park in providing access to popular destinations as well as acting as a transition from visitor’s vehicles to the trail network for equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers. Besides their functional use as parking areas, day-use parking lots also serve as portals and first introductions to the Park. As such, they need to be well maintained and clean to promote a positive image and first impression of the Park. In addition, day-use parking areas are sometimes the only place where a visitor stops before accessing the trail network. This is especially true for the eight day-use parking lots along SR-79. Many times this is the only place a visitor traveling through the Park will stop, either for a photo opportunity, to take in the scenery, or to rest. Information at these locations is often very helpful to introduce these visitors to the key opportunities, information, and resources available at the Park.

#### **DAY-USE PARKING GOAL:**

Maintain and enhance day-use parking areas at the Park, in particular, those along SR-79.

#### **DAY-USE PARKING GUIDELINES:**

1. Keep day-use parking lots clean and well maintained.
2. Work with Caltrans, corporate donors, non-profit organizations, private vendors, and/or other park partners to install and maintain free electric vehicle charging stations at day-use parking areas, in particular, those along SR-79.
3. Develop an agreement with Caltrans for CDPR to operate and regulate the eight day-use parking areas along SR-79 within the Park. Working with CDPR headquarters staff, implement day-use parking fees where feasible and appropriate. Consider no parking fees for short-term parking to encourage through travelers to stop and learn about park resources and recreational and educational opportunities.

4. Provide information about the Park, including opportunities and resources, at day-use parking areas (See **Section 4.4.1 – Interpretation and Education Goals and Guidelines**).

### **Potential Park Visitors**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is a popular destination for mainly “traditional” state park visitors. “Traditional” meaning that these visitors participate in recreational activities traditionally offered at state parks such as hiking, camping, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Studies suggest that many “traditional” visitors are introduced to these forms of recreation at an early age through visits to state and national parks with family and friends. However, many people, particularly urban dwellers, do not get these early experiences and therefore have not become accustomed to “traditional” recreation activities or learned to appreciate a wilderness setting.

Many people experience the Park only while traveling SR-79. They may only stop briefly for a photograph, to rest, or to view the scenery. Although many have neither the time nor interest in exploring CRSP, a more thorough understanding and appreciation of the Park can be gained by hiking a trail, attending an interpretive presentation, reading an interpretive panel, etc. Additional methods need to be developed and put in place to engage and encourage these visitors to experience more of the Park so that visitors can gain a greater awareness and appreciation for park resources.

Picnicking is a very popular activity at CRSP, especially for family and/or friend groups on weekends and holidays. Many of these groups come to the Park specifically to spend time with family and friends in a mountain setting. They may not be familiar or comfortable with hiking, camping, mountain biking, or horseback riding, but being able to picnic is valuable to and greatly enjoyed by them. Additional and/or improved picnic sites could encourage more non-traditional visitors to visit the Park.



*Visitors enjoying a picnic at Paso Picacho Day-Use area February 2014*

#### **POTENTIAL PARK VISITORS GOAL:**

Encourage and foster use of the Park by diverse and underrepresented potential visitors.

#### **POTENTIAL PARK VISITORS GUIDELINES:**

1. Provide information and interpretive events at day-use parking lots and at parking pull-outs along SR-79 to encourage greater use of the Park by potential park users (see **Section 4.4.1 - Interpretation and Education Goals and Guidelines**).

2. Provide information in both English and Spanish language at the Park and in promotional materials to encourage diverse and under-represented populations.
3. Provide family and group activity areas.
4. Expand opportunities and facilities for picnicking in developed areas, while continuing to protect resources.
5. Engage volunteer programs, such as docents and mounted and trails maintenance assistance units, to interact with new park visitors and encourage underrepresented populations to join their group or program.
6. Encourage and provide ways for new park users to learn about the Park, engage in recreational activities, as well as learn about park resources, safe practices, and proper park etiquette.
7. Improve marketing of the Park to the millions of people living in urban areas around the region. Increase the presence of park staff and volunteers, and actively recruit for Park employment positions in urban schools, institutions, and organizations.

### **Organized Events**

Several organized events that are beneficial to the Park are held each year. Current events include those sponsored by cooperative groups such as CRSPIA, MBAU, and EAU, including the annual Mountain Bike Benefit Ride. Events like these bring needed funds to CRSPIA, promote recreational use of the Park, foster stronger relationships among users, and promote a greater stewardship, understanding, and appreciation of the Park. As long as organized events such as these are well supervised and do not impact significant resources, they can be beneficial for both the Park and participants.

#### **ORGANIZED EVENTS GOAL:**

Offer, encourage, and support organized events at the Park while continuing to protect resources.

#### **ORGANIZED EVENTS GUIDELINE:**

1. Work with CRSP’s cooperative groups and other partners to stage events that benefit the Park and its users.

### **Trails**

Trails are vital recreation facilities at CRSP providing the primary means for visitors to traverse the Park and reach points of interest such as mountain peaks, meadows and streams, campgrounds, and day-use areas. The Park offers about 137 miles of unpaved fire roads and trails that access most areas of CRSP. There are trails for hikers only, hikers and equestrians only, and for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers (multi-use trails).

There is generally an adequate quantity of existing trails within the Park reaching key areas and points of interest with little or no crowding or user conflicts. However, many mountain bikers would like certain existing fire roads and trails converted to multi-use so that they could be used by mountain bikers and provide for more trail loops and connections. Many potential multi-use trails are good candidates because little or no improvements would need to be made to convert them to multi-use. Additional short loop trails are needed in key areas to accommodate people of all abilities and those who could benefit from shorter trail experiences. In addition there is a desire for more single-track trails.

With better promotion of trails and conversion of more existing trails to multi-use, the Park has the potential to be a regional hub for trail use in the region. In some cases, existing trails intersect streams or the Sweetwater River causing trail users to have to travel through watercourses. This can cause damage to natural resources and diminishes trail user's experiences.

**TRAILS GOAL:**

Improve the trail system, trail conditions, and trail use while protecting park resources.

**TRAILS GUIDELINES:**

1. Working with trail user groups and other stakeholders, develop a RTMP that evaluates the Park's entire trail system, trail use, and user issues, makes recommendations for existing trails, and guides the placement and use of future trails while avoiding negative impacts to significant natural and cultural resources (*See Section 4.5 - Continued Planning and Issue Resolution*). The plan should help establish regional trail connections, recreation opportunities, and habitat linkages.
2. Promote the Park as a regional hub for multi-use trail connections and provide maps and information about trailhead parking and access points. Work with the National Forest Service (NFS) to create loop trails and trail connections with the CNF and Mount Laguna.
3. Convert single-use trails to multi-use when it is determined through consultation with user groups that the trail could provide for safe use with minimal or no changes and does not compromise resources.
4. Provide trail connections that avoid forcing hikers and riders to travel on or across SR-79.
5. Work with Caltrans, stakeholders, and user groups to develop bicycle infrastructure on SR-79 where feasible.



**Trail sign on Merigan Fire Road**



**Hikers taking a break on the Stonewall Peak Trail with Middle Peak in the background. January 2014**

6. Install bridges over streams and rivers, in particular the Sweetwater River, to protect sensitive natural resources and provide more reliable trail connections.
7. Develop trail loops of shorter length near popular attractions, visitor centers, day-use parking, and campgrounds to accommodate visitors of all abilities.
8. If resource impacts are occurring due to trail use, it is typically preferred to improve the trail design and/or re-route the trail as opposed to closing it. Any re-routes should be in place before the original trail is closed.
9. Maintain sufficient trail conditions for the allowable trail-use near Park boundaries.
10. Maintain proper trail signage near the edge of Park boundaries. Enhance trail signage to educate users about the differences between the various jurisdictions they are traveling between and help ensure they are not intruding on private property.
11. Communicate with neighboring land owners to improve trail safety and maintenance. Support federal, state, and local trail objectives and plans to ensure continuity between jurisdictions.
12. Maintain updated trail maps available to the public that show the continuation of trails beyond CRSP boundaries.

## PARK OPERATIONS

For purposes of this General Plan, “park operations” should be interpreted as all facilities and functions necessary to operate and maintain the Park, as well as provide for public safety, visitor services, and concessions. This includes implementation of sustainable practices to reduce the Park’s contribution to climate change.



*Entrance station at Paso Picacho Campground*

Park operations are an integral and important part of the Park. Rangers are responsible for public safety and enforcing park regulations. Administrative staff and park aides handle public inquiries, collect fees, and take care of other park business. Maintenance staff provides cleaning services and repairs and maintains park facilities and infrastructure.

There has been a trend toward dwindling State General Fund money going to CDPR, which has led to a corresponding reduction in funds available for operations. As a result, the Park needs to be open to alternative funding sources and methods for operating CRSP, including

conservation methods, in order to continue to provide excellent services and programs to the public. Further, the implementation of sustainability measures and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by Park operations and visitors should be consistent with the CDPR Cool Parks Strategic Initiative and others as they are developed.

## **Operations Support**

Many volunteer groups support the Park in various, crucial ways. CRSPIA is the fundraising arm of the Park. The MBAU and EAU provide much needed trail patrol, visitor safety, and trail maintenance functions. Camp hosts generally provide visitor information, sell firewood, carry out light housekeeping duties, and at times help enforce park regulations. The Park relies heavily on these groups to provide support in these areas. Greater partnerships with these and potentially new volunteer groups and other park-partner organizations will likely be a growing need of the Park in the future.

### **OPERATIONS SUPPORT GOAL:**

Where feasible and beneficial to park operations, work with Park partners to help operate the Park.

### **OPERATIONS SUPPORT GUIDELINES:**

1. Partner with CRSPIA or other volunteers to provide traffic control (for public safety) and visitor support during times of snow play (see ***Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines - Visitor Experience and Opportunities, Snow Play***).
2. Increase the role of mountain bike groups, equestrian groups, and others in maintaining and patrolling trails as well as teaching trail etiquette.
3. Work with camp hosts to improve visitor services, housekeeping, and educating visitors about park regulations, in particular campground quiet hours.
4. Coordinate/align planning efforts with the ABDSP General Plan, CNF plans, and ABDSP's operations, to maximize operational efficiencies, recreational opportunities, as well as resource management and protection goals.

## **Operations Facilities**

Crucial to park operations functions are the parking lots, picnic areas, campgrounds, and facilities that provide visitor access, house staff, volunteers, and concessionaires, as well as provide space for training and storage of materials and equipment. There are several employee residences within the Park that enable resident staff to respond quickly to after-hours service calls and emergencies. In addition, there are many historic buildings at Paso Picacho, Green Valley, and other areas of the Park that have been adapted for park use and serve well in that capacity. In general, historic buildings are best preserved

when they are actively managed and adaptively reused. This has been the case in many instances at the Park.

The historic Dyar House once served as the Park's headquarters, visitor center, and staff and volunteer offices. A restored and re-adapted Dyar House could be the most appropriate structure and location to house these functions again. The current manure disposal method is unsustainable. The shooting range is used by multiple entities throughout the year and the bullet fragments are not collected which leads to the possibility of lead contamination.

**OPERATIONS FACILITIES GOAL:**

Improve and re-utilize operations facilities at the Park for better and more efficient operations and improved public service.

**OPERATIONS FACILITIES GUIDELINES:**

1. Establish the Dyar House as the Park headquarters. Restore the exterior shell to historic conditions while adaptively rebuilding the interior to meet current needs per the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings*. Keep the Park headquarters at Paso Picacho until such time as the Dyar House can be re-opened. Also, see **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines - Dyar House Area**.
2. Utilize the former CAL FIRE station as a Park office with an accessible visitor contact area. The current sector headquarters building (former CCC Superintendent's Cottage) is not as suitable for public contact due to the difficulty and expense of providing an accessible route into the building. Also, see **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines - Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area**.



*The guest cottage at the former Mack Ranch  
November 2005*

3. Refurbish the former Mack Ranch for operational use, such as an employee residence, maintenance hub, or staff offices. If beneficial to park operations, establish a material and supply lay-down area at an appropriate location within the property and screen it to prevent unsightly views.
4. Move the existing maintenance supplies and materials stockpiled at the Stonewall Mine to a suitable, alternate location out of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve such as the area immediately south of Cedar Grove Volunteer Camp (south of the Cuyamaca Outdoor School), Mack Ranch, or other location that is out of preserves, primary public views, and sensitive resource areas.

5. Utilize modular buildings for storage or offices only as a temporary measure and replace them with permanent buildings as soon as

possible. Whenever possible, remove unneeded, underutilized, and/or dilapidated modular buildings from the Park.

6. Retain existing park staff residences for public safety and protection of Park property. Should the Park residence located along SR-79 across from the turn-off to Stonewall Mine ever be extensively damaged or destroyed by fire or other natural causes, demolish it and bring the site as close as possible to a natural condition (do not rebuild it).
7. Improve horse manure collection system for ease of visitor use as well as consist of impervious material (e.g. metal or concrete bins) to contain runoff and preventing contaminants from entering waterways.
8. Develop a manure management system which may include disposal at a composting facility, on-site composting, or other environmentally sustainable solutions.
9. Install containment system for collection of bullet casings at the shooting range
10. All refuse containers should be of a design, or secured in such a manner, that contents are not accessible to wildlife.

## **Utilities**

Water, sanitary sewer, electrical, and telecommunications utilities at the Park are generally in good condition. However, there are some repairs and upgrades that need to be completed to ensure reliable and improved service to staff, volunteers, and the public. Updating utilities to save energy, lower operating costs, and improve reliability is a goal of the Park. In addition, there are electrical power poles in the Park that travel through meadows and preserves and/or no longer supply electrical power. In some cases these poles cause unsightly views and may impact cultural or natural resources.

### **UTILITIES - WATER GOAL:**

Ensure continued access to potable water while conserving its use by Park visitors and operations.

### **UTILITIES - WATER GUIDELINES:**

1. Minimize the need to acquire new sources of water through water conservation techniques and reasonable expansion of visitor facilities.
2. Monitor existing water use within the Park in order to analyze where use may be reduced through a variety of conservation methods such as low-flow fixtures or restroom facilities not requiring water.
3. Repair, upgrade, and, where appropriate, enlarge the potable water storage systems at Green Valley and the Mack Ranch.

**UTILITIES - ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS GOAL:**

Improve the function and reliability of electrical and telecommunication utility services at the Park for more reliable operations, reduced energy consumption and costs, and better service to staff, volunteers, and the public.

**UTILITIES - ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. Work with SDG&E to upgrade the electrical supply systems at the Paso Picacho and Green Valley Campgrounds, maintenance facilities, and administrative areas. Change electrical facilities to underground and/or relocate existing, overhead power lines out of meadows, preserves, open viewshed areas, and other sensitive resource areas wherever possible.
2. Work with SDG&E, Helix Water District, and other agencies as necessary to remove electrical utility poles that are not needed and underground electrical lines whenever possible, particularly in preserves.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are a key driver of the earth's climate. A certain level of these gases occur naturally, trapping heat in the atmosphere which keeps the Earth at a habitable temperature. However, human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, have caused an increase in global temperatures and extreme weather events beyond what would be occurring without human-induced emissions.

Reducing human-caused GHG emissions is a crucial strategy for reducing the rate of climate change and its associated impacts (*see Section 3.2.4 - Physical Resources, Climate Change*). CRSP can address its own contribution to climate change by reducing GHG emissions that are released through energy use in park operations and visitor activities. *See Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Physical Resources Management* for goals and guidelines related to climate change.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GOAL:**

Be aware of energy use, how it can be used more efficiently, methods to reduce the amount of emissions released, and how to choose the appropriate energy type based on the action to be accomplished.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. Maintain a GHG emission inventory in order to analyze changes in emissions within the Park and identify opportunities for conservation. Refer to the inventory found within *Section 5.6.7 - Greenhouse Gases and Energy Use* as a baseline.
2. Retrofit existing infrastructure to use energy more efficiently including low power lighting and energy efficient tools and appliances.

Incorporate passive cooling and heating techniques to reduce energy use including building orientation and insulation.

3. Implement energy conservation measures across identical or similar facilities to maximize emissions reductions.
4. Encourage efficient energy use by visitors within the Park through education and through example by park staff and volunteers.
5. Where feasible, install solar power for supplemental or stand-alone electrical needs. If wildlife-safe turbines are developed, and are aesthetically acceptable, then consider use of wind energy.
6. Provide an efficient means for staff and visitors to travel within the Park that minimizes and reduces carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.
  - Continue to provide a limited road network through the Park that is accessible to park operators and emergency responders. Park users should continue to experience the Park through modes of travel that result in limited potential for contributing to climate change, such as foot, bicycle, or horseback.
  - Provide park information to orient visitors, especially new visitors, at major trailheads and parking areas such as Green Valley, Paso Picacho, and Stonewall Mine, so visitors can minimize vehicle trips.
  - Promote the use and acquisition of low- or zero-emission vehicles to meet the needs of park operations.
7. Work with electrical utility easement holders to remove utility lines that no longer function

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability principles seek to allow for human use within our environment over the long term by minimizing adverse impact to it. This can include employing a variety of principles including, but not limited to, sustainable building, resource conservation, waste reduction, and pollution reduction.

### **SUSTAINABILITY GOAL:**

Reduce, reuse, and recycle waste produced by operations and visitors within CRSP.

### **SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES:**

1. Find new means to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials in order to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the need for the acquisition and processing of raw materials. Implement these techniques when they don't have adverse effects on park resources.

2. Encourage resource efficiency by visitors to CRSP through education about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste.
3. Where feasible, compost to reduce the amount of refuse being transported to off-site landfills.

### Concessions

Concessions play a supportive role in enhancing the mission of CDPR by providing essential and appropriate products and services that the CDPR may not have the resources or expertise to provide and are not being provided by nearby private businesses.

Concession operations are governed in part by the PRC (§ 5080.02, et seq.) and by the State Park and Recreation Commission Policies. A concession may be defined as a grant to a natural person, corporation, partnership, or association for the use of certain lands within the CDPR System for the specific purpose of providing for general public service, products, facilities, and programs for the use, enjoyment, and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences. Concessions also, at times, make considerable investments improving park facility structures to preserve and maintain these for future generations.

Concession operations at the Park have the potential to improve visitor service and experiences, provide for the shared goal of educating the public about park resources, as well as assist park staff in providing these services.

#### *Cuyamaca Outdoor School*

The Cuyamaca Outdoor School is operated by the SDOE under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State that is effective until 2044. This MOU allows the School to provide an environmental camp for school age youth during

the school year, as well as contract with a concessionaire to provide a mountain retreat center during the summer. These operations are consistent with and complementary to the Mission of the CDPR and the purpose of the Park, which is, in part, to provide for the education of the people of California through creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.



*Cuyamaca Outdoor School entrance sign*

#### **CONCESSIONS GOAL 1:**

Work with the Cuyamaca Outdoor School to fulfill shared education goals, protect park resources, and disseminate educational information about the Park.

### **CONCESSIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. Coordinate interpretation and education of Park values and resources with staff at the School (also, see **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Interpretation and Education**).
2. Provide Park Ranger and resource staff for informational workshops for School staff.
3. Park Superintendent will meet with School staff periodically to keep School informed of Park issues.
4. Work with School staff on emergency planning for wildfire, active shooter, earthquake, and other emergency preparedness. Stay in close communication during emergency events.
5. Once per year, review the Report of Collections and Annual Report that is generated by the SDCOE. Verify that proper funds are paid to the State Park and Recreation Fund (SPRF) based on verified occupancy reports.

#### *Other Concession Opportunities*

Besides the Cuyamaca Outdoor School, there are no other concessions in the Park. Horse rental concessions and others have been considered and dismissed in the past due to lack of viability. However, other concession opportunities may become apparent in the future that cannot be foreseen at this time.

With the General Plan's goal to create visitor service facilities and overnight accommodations at the Stonewall Mine and Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish sites, there may be a viable opportunity for a concession to operate these facilities. A concession operation may improve service to the public, provide an economic opportunity to a private vendor and/or CDPR partner, while alleviating the need for park staff to operate and maintain the facilities.

### **CONCESSIONS GOAL 2:**

Concession operations within CRSP should provide the visitor service, products, facilities, and/or programs that enhance the recreational and educational experiences at the Park while remaining consistent with the Park's purpose, classification, and protection of resources.

### **CONCESSIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop a concession agreement(s) to operate the Stonewall Mine and Hual-Cu-Cuish sites/facilities, if prudent and feasible.
2. A feasibility study should be prepared for any proposed concession operation to determine economic viability, contract terms and conditions, as well as the appropriateness of the concession to the recreational and/or educational value of CRSP, and its consistency with the Park's purpose and classification, and Park's General Plan goals and guidelines.

## Land Acquisitions

Most of the parcels of land surrounding the Park are owned by Federal and State governments as well as private landowners. The CNF borders significant areas of the Park on all sides, ABDSP borders the northeastern quadrant, a portion of the privately held Lucky 5 Ranch borders the east side of the Park, and additional private parcels occur on the north, south, and west sides of the Park. In addition, a few private inholdings occur within Park boundaries at the north end. CAL FIRE operates the La Cima Conservation Camp on land owned by CDPR within the Park.

Past land acquisitions have added significant and valuable acreage to the Park. These acquisitions have improved public access and recreation, provided additional habitat linkages and open space, as well as protected additional sensitive resources.

### **LAND ACQUISITIONS GOAL:**

When and where appropriate, acquire public or private lands adjacent to or within CRSP boundaries when there is a willing seller and significant benefits to the Park can be realized.

### **LAND ACQUISITIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. When considering potential land acquisitions, determine the potential benefits to the Park, such as enhanced recreation opportunities, increased scenic viewsheds, protection of watersheds, additional habitat or trail linkages, incorporation of additional natural or cultural resources, and improved operations facilities. Only acquire properties that will provide tangible benefits such as these.
2. Seek to acquire inholdings within Park boundaries if/when they become available from willing sellers.
3. All other benefits being equal, first priority should be to acquire inholdings, second priority are parcels that are contiguous with Park boundaries, and third priority are parcels that are close to and have the potential to be joined with the Park boundary.
4. Should CAL FIRE vacate the La Cima Conservation Camp, consider Park uses for the parcel that are consistent with the Front Country management-zone, such as campsites, picnic areas, operations facilities, and other visitor-serving facilities (*see Table 2 - Management-Zone Matrix*).

## PHYSICAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Physical resources at the Park include geologic features, surface water and groundwater, soils, and climate. These are important in and of themselves as well as how they influence natural resources, the visitor experience, and park operations. All of these factors are intertwined and may in return influence

the status of the physical resources. For example, the flow of the Sweetwater River is a source of drinking water and a refuge from hot summer temperatures for wildlife, park visitors, and park operations. The water source may become degraded by natural or human-induced erosion. It is important that physical resources are documented, preserved, protected, and interpreted for the benefit of the resource as well as to improve the overall condition of resources, visitor experience, and operations of the Park.

## Geology

The Park's diverse geology lies within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The province is composed of primarily granitic rock of Southern California batholith, older schists, and gneisses (metamorphic rock). This diversity provides a platform to provide educational and scientific research opportunities. As planning for recreation development occurs within the Park, protection of geologic resources should take place. Protection measures include policies presented in the Department Operations Manual (DOM), and the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction activities.

### **GEOLOGY GOAL:**

Interpret, study, and protect CRSP's geologic features while allowing for high-quality outdoor recreation within the Park.

### **GEOLOGY GUIDELINES:**

1. Monitor and document the geologic features and processes within the Park. This includes geologic events such as landslides, rock fall, stream channel erosion, and sedimentation.
2. Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, landslides, and rock fall that may occur as a result of changes in precipitation patterns from Climate Change. Additionally if facilities are identified which exacerbate the problem or might be impacted by natural events, then proactively redesign or relocate. Rehabilitate areas changed as a result of human activities, otherwise allow natural processes to occur.
3. Manage negative impacts to Park resources and recreation from geologic activity. This includes the rehabilitation of roads and trails as well as the appropriate construction of bridges over water courses to protect against sedimentation while preserving trail uses. Additional management techniques include the revegetation of denuded areas to provide additional erosion control.
4. Develop educational materials to interpret the geology of CRSP. Incorporate this material into interpretive programs provided at the Park. Provide access to these educational materials through



*Lichen on boulder -  
Cuyamaca Peak  
February 2014*

technological means in the instance that there is insufficient staffing or volunteers to provide face-to-face interpretation.

## **Climate Change**

Climate change refers to an alteration of factors such as average temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns over a period of time. Climate change may result from natural causes/processes, as well as human activities that change the composition of the atmosphere and alter the surface and features of the land. It will be necessary to prepare for climate change impacts that are projected to occur due to greenhouse gases that have already been trapped in the atmosphere. Goals and guidelines related to the reduction of the Park's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and sustainability can be found in the previous section ***Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Park Operations - Greenhouse Gas Emissions.***

### **CLIMATE CHANGE GOAL:**

Assess how climate change has affected CRSP in the past and is influencing current conditions to support adaptive management principles may be employed.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDELINES:**

1. Collect local weather data such as temperature, wind speed, precipitation and barometric pressure.
2. Determine whether changes recorded in climate data correlate with trends observed in vegetation, wildlife, and fire.
3. Develop and implement strategies to meet future conditions.

## **Hydrology**

Surface and groundwater quality, quantity, and natural hydrological patterns are essential for providing a healthy, functioning ecosystem for the Park and the region. Water resources within the Park also provide potable water for consumption and other uses. Grasslands and meadows naturally clean surface water as the flow slows and suspended compounds, such as sediment, are released. Many of the grasslands also contain vernal wet areas which support numerous sensitive species.

The Park contains the headwaters of the Sweetwater River and the headwaters of tributaries to the San Diego and Tijuana Rivers. Park water usage, development, and trails crossing waterways can contribute to hydrologic degradation.

Climate change models for the region predict increases in temperature which may increase water demand. Precipitation models are less certain about how and to what extent precipitation will change. Many models project a decrease in precipitation, which requires planning for reduced water availability. These

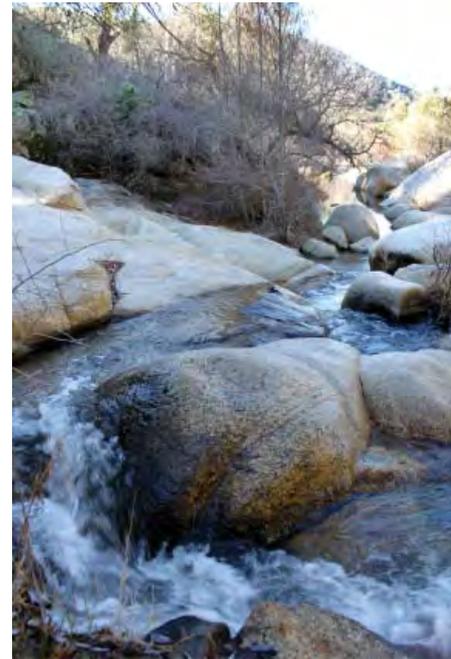
climatic scenarios, coupled with a predicted population increase, support the need for greater water conservation efforts.

**HYDROLOGY GOAL:**

Protect, restore, and preserve the Park’s wetlands and hydrologic resources for habitat value, local use, and downstream regional use.

**HYDROLOGY GUIDELINES:**

1. Update and maintain geographic data regarding location, flow, and condition of springs and seeps.
2. Protect the Park’s surface water and groundwater.
3. Identify causes of water quality degradation and quantity reduction and pursue actions to correct. Actions may include water conservation measures, road and trail rehabilitation, relocation of facilities out of meadows, non-native plant management, and/or revegetation or other measures.
4. Pursue cooperative actions with watershed neighbors and users to improve water conservation, reduce or eliminate discharge of pollutants, and restore natural flow and hydrological processes.
5. Ensure that current and future developments within the Park, as well as visitor use of facilities, do not result in degradation of water quality. Implement design and construction techniques for new water crossings that avoid and/or minimize impacts to crossings, water courses, their banks, and associated riparian vegetation.
6. Decrease turbidity and siltation in streams.
7. Educate park visitors about nearby regional water resources, including the significance of the Park and Lake Cuyamaca in the development of the San Diego region.



*Sweetwater River at  
Green Valley Falls  
January 2013*

**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is characterized by forested peaks, mountain valleys with expansive meadows and grasslands, and chaparral in between. These landscape patterns include evidence of pre-historic conditions and may be remnants of a wetter and cooler climate dating back to the Pleistocene epoch. As the southern California climate became drier and warmer, the chaparral expanded to higher elevations and the forests retreated to the highest elevations. Historical practices such as logging, grazing, fire suppression, and mining along with the introduction of non-native species have further changed the species composition and ecological conditions within CRSP and the region. The Cedar Fire is a recent event during which the vegetation of the Park

significantly changed as approximately 95% of the montane conifer forest canopy was consumed. Climate models predict the current warming trend to continue which will result in the region experiencing higher temperatures with longer and more frequent extreme events such as heat waves. The precipitation models have a high degree of variability, ranging from wetter to drier. Therefore, management direction should allow for adaptive management, which requires flexibility in the decision making process to manage under uncertainty, and change course based upon data. This will allow for natural change to occur and processes to function while still providing enjoyment and inspiration for public use of the Park.



*Steller's jay (Cyanocitta stelleri) perched near the Ralph Dyar house*

The following goals and guidelines are designed to promote a functioning, dynamic ecosystem that supports a diversity of native species, based upon adaptive management principles. They begin with biodiversity and management of the composite whole, then address specific issues such as non-native and sensitive species. The identified actions assume implementation of policy outlined in the DOM, PRC, etc. For example, genetic integrity is addressed in the DOM so is not mentioned below, but instead guidelines are set forth in how best to address this issue within CRSP.

**Biodiversity**

A diverse landscape is evidenced by natural resiliency to disease, climate change, fire, and other external impacts. This requires minimization of external stressors so that species may overcome threats. At CRSP, controllable stressors include competition from non-native species, high fuel loads, and loss of landscape linkages. Resiliency also requires managing for the composite whole and implementation of adaptive management principles. The current, post-Cedar Fire environment is particularly fluid as the habitats and associated species undergo relatively rapid change.

The California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project identified the Sweetwater River as a vital riparian connection since the headwaters, which are located in CRSP, lead all the way to San Diego Bay. Protecting this connection is vital.

**BIODIVERSITY GOAL 1:**

Protect landscape linkages, i.e., biocorridors, to facilitate the movement (dispersal, pollination, migration, etc.) of native biota (plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, etc.) within the Park and the region to preserve natural ecosystem dynamics and allow for natural response to stressors such as climate change.

**BIODIVERSITY GUIDELINES:**

1. Protect plant and animal habitat and dispersal corridors for local and long distance movement.

2. Enable ecosystems to respond to change (climate change, wildfire, etc.) through the promotion of genetic diversity, connected landscapes, and the natural movement of species within the region. This includes allowing adaptations such as new assemblages of native species as a result of elevational and latitudinal shifts in species ranges.
3. Facilitate connectivity of vegetation types to allow for species movement and reduce the effects of biogeographic isolation. Isolated populations may suffer a loss of genetic diversity which decreases survivability over time.
4. Coordinate with local communities, county, state, and federal agencies as well as research institutions and other interested organizations to develop and protect biocorridors. Actions may include collaborative research opportunities as well as cooperation with the CNF, the County of San Diego East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan, etc.

**BIODIVERSITY GOAL 2:**

Promote high levels of native species diversity for the Park and region.

**BIODIVERSITY GUIDELINES:**

1. Pursue scientific study of species diversity and ecosystem function, particularly in adaptation to climate change and response to wildfire, which will provide specific management recommendations for maintaining and/or improving biotic diversity and management of the composite whole.
2. Update species lists (all biota) for the Park regularly and make available to the public. Include notation for when a species is first observed, or its absence noted, to document natural change and introduction of non-native species.
3. Conduct species-specific surveys for wildlife not detected since before the Cedar Fire as well as for wildlife first detected after the Cedar Fire. Periodicity of surveys should be based upon observed changes to the habitat.
4. Monitor wildlife and plant species richness and distribution in order to determine natural adaptations to climate change and inform adaptive management process.
5. Collaborate with local, regional, and other statewide land managers and researchers when developing protocols to ensure comparable data is collected.



***A Pacific Gopher Snake (Pituophis catenifer) makes its way across the Oakzanita Peak Trail May 2014***

## Vegetation Management

A diversity of common and sensitive plant species and assemblages are found within CRSP. The vegetation has changed dramatically over the past 150-200 years due to mining, grazing, logging, introduction of non-native plants, fire suppression, and extreme wildfires such as the 1950 Conejos Fire and the 2003 Cedar Fire. Current management actions include non-native species removal, protection and enhancement of sensitive plants and communities, and reforestation.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOAL 1:**

Restore, protect, and maintain the native vegetation and ecosystem processes.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES:**



*Chaparral Yucca (Hesperoyucca whipplei)  
flowers on Oakzanita Peak  
May 2014*

1. In order to protect the genetic integrity of the native species, fund and establish a greenhouse, or develop a relationship with an existing establishment, to propagate stock derived from park sources for use in restoration projects.
2. Develop a propagation plan, including prioritization of species to propagate, appropriate locations for seed collection, and amount of seed to collect, etc. Deposit seeds into an existing seed bank or establish a local seed bank.
3. Update the Vegetation Management Plan for CRSP at least every 10-15 years in order to address issues that may be identified through data analysis, incorporate new methods, re-evaluate desired outcomes based upon updates to scientific knowledge, and adjust management in response to a dynamic environment.
4. Update the parkwide vegetation map every 10-15 years to provide a representative example of the extent, type, and distribution of habitat within the Park and chronicle the dynamic progression over time. After the Cedar Fire, assemblages of plants not currently recognized as official vegetation alliances were observed. Document these Provisional Alliances with additional data collection and submit to CDFW (or other appropriate entity) for review.
5. Focus habitat restoration on habitat patches that will maintain or restore spacing to allow for genetic connectivity for multiple biomes.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOAL 2:**

Support establishment of vegetation that promotes natural composition and structure and is resilient to natural and human caused stressors.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES:**

1. Create educational material and programs regarding the natural process of post-fire vegetation change. Promote a better understanding and greater appreciation for the dynamic landscape, positive aspects of fire, and the consequences of fire suppression.
2. Update the Unit Prescribed Fire Management Plan to incorporate advances in fire science and technology, state and federal regulations, consistency with other park management programs, and regular review of objectives and methods.

- Size, frequency, and intensity of planned fires should be supported by scientific evidence that the identified approach is appropriate for reaching desired outcomes.
- Prioritize actions based upon landscape and habitat goals, including maintenance of a mosaic of vegetation types and maturity, forest health, biodiversity, and habitat suitability.



*Purple owl's clover  
(Castilleja exserta ssp. exserta) amongst  
goldfields and lupines near Stonewall Mine  
2005*

3. Maintain a fire history database for natural, prescribed, and non-management human-caused fires. Formalize data contribution and access to the San Diego County fire database.
4. Use comparative studies to help inform appropriate project goals, such as conditions elsewhere in the Peninsular Range and the southern Sierra Nevada.

### **Non-Native Plants**

Numerous plant species have been introduced to the Park, both intentionally and unintentionally. Some species such as tamarisk and mustard more readily adapt, spreading rapidly, and causing changes to the native ecosystem function.

#### **NON-NATIVE PLANTS GOAL:**

Actively manage the Park's vegetation to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species.

#### **NON-NATIVE PLANTS GUIDELINES:**

1. Update the Colorado Desert District Non-Native Plant Removal Plan or develop a plan specific to CRSP in conjunction with the aforementioned update of the Vegetation Management Plan.
  - Develop a prioritization matrix for treatment based upon California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), California Department of Food and

Agriculture (CDFA), and other appropriate designations, or to the appropriate standards.

- Map and monitor the presence of non-native plants, the success of treatments, and new introductions.
  - Integrate Early Detection and Rapid Response methodologies into Park management to prevent new invasive species from becoming established.
  - Work cooperatively with public and private neighboring landowners as well as interested citizen groups and/or non-profits.
2. Reduce stressors, such as increased fire frequency, that increase the likelihood of non-native species establishment.
  3. Incorporate Cal-IPC BMPs and/or other appropriate standards into all development and recreational projects within the Park in order to minimize the risk of introduction and proliferation of invasive species.

### Sensitive Plants and Plant Communities

Plants may be sensitive due to threats throughout their range, and therefore listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CDFW, or CNPS. There are 31 such plants documented as occurring within CRSP. An additional 21 plant species have been identified as locally of interest by the Colorado Desert District due to limited distribution in the region.

In addition to individual plant species, assemblages of plants, or communities, may be sensitive and therefore warrant special consideration beyond those identified for individual plants. The Cuyamaca cypress plant community, for

example, is only known to occur within CRSP and the adjacent CNF; the stands are recognized by CDFW as a Rare Natural Community. Other sensitive plant communities identified by the CDPR Colorado Desert District within CRSP include wet meadows and grasslands, Jeffrey pine forest, and montane hardwood conifer forests. The wet meadows and grasslands support a disproportionate number of sensitive plant species and are critical for groundwater storage. Sky Island Forests have been identified as a sensitive plant community due to their isolation within the Peninsular Range and limited distribution within CRSP as a result of the Cedar Fire.



*Downingia concolor* var. *brevior* near  
Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground  
2005

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GOAL 1:**

Perpetuate the presence of sensitive plant species and the habitats within which they occur.

***SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GUIDELINES:***

1. Inventory, map, and monitor the status of sensitive plant species throughout CRSP.
2. Expand the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve (*see Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve*).

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GOAL 2:**

Provide additional protections for meadows and grasslands in the Park.

***SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GUIDELINES:***

1. No new structures within meadows. Trail alignments should avoid meadows whenever possible, otherwise they should be a boardwalk or other construction type that minimizes changes to the hydrology.
2. Restore degraded meadows and grasslands with an emphasis on restoring physical processes such as the natural hydrology.
3. Evaluate the condition and impacts of trails located within meadows and grasslands and relocate or rehabilitate using less invasive materials where possible.
4. Prevent trampling of vegetation, soil compaction, erosion, and changes to the natural hydrology of the meadow systems.

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GOAL 3:**

Promote survival and resiliency of the Sky Island Forest.

***SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GUIDELINES:***

1. Minimize stressors such as isolation, disease, non-native species, development etc., through active management and planning. (*See Non-Native Wildlife* for wildlife-caused stress, such as goldspotted oak borer.)
2. Restore and sustain connectivity between patches of the Sky Island Forest within CRSP to ensure these patches can provide a seed source for future natural regeneration of the landscape. A combined approach of active (e.g., reforestation, non-native species management) and passive management (e.g., natural regeneration) will hasten the regrowth of the post-Cedar Fire forest to minimize isolation effects by decreasing the duration of isolation.

3. Collect quantitative and qualitative monitoring data of Sky Island Forest natural and assisted regeneration (i.e., reforestation) and wildlife response. Analyze data for success of management actions and recommend alternative methods for implementation if success is not documented. Success should be measured by indicators of a sustainable future forest (i.e., natural recruitment, diverse age structure, return of wildlife species, and connectivity and resiliency to climate change, fire, and disease).
4. Restoration, or reforestation, following future wildfires in the Sky Island Forest may be implemented if the following conditions occur: extensive tree mortality is documented; the fire is of a severity that the seed bank is determined to be nonviable; connectivity between viable patches of forest is lost; and action is initiated within two years following the fire. Otherwise natural processes and change should be allowed to occur. Consider and avoid potential resource impacts to cultural resources before implementing restoration or reforestation.

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GOAL 4:**

Provide for a resilient, self-sustaining population of oaks.

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GUIDELINES:**

1. Prevent soil compaction within the root zone of all oak trees greater than 5 inches diameter at breast height. Appropriate diameter of protection zone to be reviewed and updated as part of the *Vegetation Management Plan*, consistency with the *Department Tree Protection Guidelines*, and based upon current science.
2. Support non-native species eradication and control, with an emphasis on species that damage oak trees and their potential for recruitment such as feral pigs, goldspotted oak borer, and wild turkey. *See Non-Native Wildlife* for specific management guidelines.



***Cuyamaca Cypress (Cupressus stephensonii)  
near Cuyamaca Peak***

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES GOAL 5:**

Help ensure survival of the Cuyamaca cypress stand, which is known only to occur within CRSP and the adjacent CNF.

**SENSITIVE PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES:**

1. Wildfire suppression should not be implemented within Cuyamaca Cypress areas unless the duration since the last fire is so recent that regeneration has not occurred. Fire is essential for natural regeneration of Cuyamaca cypress.

2. Interpretation efforts should be made that focus on the rarity, unique ecology, and prehistoric distribution of the Cuyamaca cypress as well as the role of fire in the natural regeneration of the species.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines-Natural Preserves** for additional Natural Preserve Goals and Guidelines.

### **Wildlife Management**

A diversity of common and sensitive wildlife species utilize CRSP. Management and protection of wildlife is dependent upon accurate data regarding species presence and use of the Park. Many actions addressed elsewhere such as improvements to water quality and vegetation management should have a positive impact on wildlife. Specific actions such as maintaining a natural lightscape and soundscape are important for native wildlife.



*A Mule Deer (Odocoileus hemionus) doe cautiously crosses the road in Paso Picacho Campground January 2014*

Many wildlife species are attracted to human food sources and can become aggressive in their attempt to gain handouts. This poses a threat to both wildlife and human health and safety. There have been documented human/wildlife incidents involving raccoons in the campgrounds and squirrels at both campgrounds and picnic areas. Proper storage of food, including trash, coupled with public education can decrease this risk.

#### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GOAL:**

Provide high quality wildlife habitat and maintain species diversity.

#### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES:**

1. Improve the resiliency of native species through quick management response to new introductions.
2. Restore and protect the native vegetation and ecosystem processes to provide high quality wildlife habitat.
3. Inventory and monitor wildlife species, including changes in distribution, richness, and abundance in response to the post-Cedar Fire landscape and climate change.
4. Protect the lightscape to minimize disruption to native wildlife, such as use of minimal lights and all down-cast shades on lighting. Evaluate requirements of International Dark-Sky Association and

explore registering CRSP as an International Dark Sky Park. (*See also Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Aesthetic Resources Management*)

5. Protect the natural soundscape to minimize disruption to native wildlife and park visitors.
  - Amplified sound or music may only be broadcast within the Gateway and Front Country zones and volume must be in compliance with Park Rules and Regulations.
  - Wildlife sounds, such as bird song or coyote calls, may not be broadcast in the Wilderness or Natural Preserve Zones.
  - Where park visitors are permitted to broadcast wildlife sounds, they should follow the American Birding Association Ethics, i.e., be limited in use, never used in heavily birded areas, and never used to attract sensitive species.
6. Prevent wildlife access to human food sources. Educate the public about the detrimental effects that human food can have on the ecological balance of the Park and the human health concerns. Inform visitors about proper food storage and trash disposal and to not directly wildlife.

### **Non-Native Wildlife**

Non-native wildlife species have a negative effect on both the wildlife and plant communities within CRSP. Many non-native species have been detected in the Park, including feral pig, wild turkey, bullfrog, and starling.

#### **NON-NATIVE WILDLIFE GOAL:**

Eradicate non-native wildlife species when feasible, otherwise maintain existing management actions aimed at preventing their spread.

#### **NON-NATIVE WILDLIFE GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop a parkwide, multi-species non-native wildlife management plan which sets priorities for control based upon impacts to sensitive species, amount of damage from species, likelihood of success, and regional cooperation. The Plan should also include measurements for success.
2. Work with neighboring land owners, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to establish an Early Detection and Rapid Response approach.
3. Consider influences of habitat alteration on potential for non-native wildlife occurrence during vegetation management planning and minimize where possible.
4. Actively participate in goldspotted oak borer steering committee and assist with regional control, research, education, and outreach efforts.

5. Continue implementation of BMPs and update practices as necessary based upon current research and adaptive management principles. BMPs should be developed based upon direction from relevant organizations (e.g., California Firewood Taskforce, University of California Cooperative Extension), which includes messages such as “Buy it where you burn it” and the quarantine of all oak wood until it has been debarked, ground, seasoned, and/or solarized.
6. Remain involved with the Feral Pig Interagency Working Group, including participation in the decision maker, science, and outreach committees and support feral pig eradication efforts within the Park and surrounding areas.

***Sensitive Wildlife***

Wildlife species are impacted directly through predation and disturbance as well as indirectly through changes to their habitat. For example, arroyo toad populations at the Park have been affected by habitat degradation, recreation, decrease in water quality, and predation by invasive species such as the bullfrog. Other sensitive wildlife species include the coast horned lizard, bald eagle, Swainson’s hawk, and southwestern willow flycatcher.



***The Arroyo Toad  
(Anaxyrus californicus)***

**SENSITIVE WILDLIFE GOAL:**

Protect sensitive wildlife populations and associated habitat.

***SENSITIVE WILDLIFE GUIDELINES:***

1. Develop and implement a long term monitoring plan to determine the distribution, habitat use, and status of sensitive wildlife species in the Park.
2. Construct bridges over water crossings with erosion issues in order to alleviate stressors for aquatic species such as the arroyo toad.
3. Develop and implement a non-native species management plan.
  - Prioritize bullfrog removal based upon proximity to known arroyo toad occurrences, dispersal potential, and likelihood of success.
4. Identify degraded habitat with potential for restoration and restore when possible.
5. Minimize habitat fragmentation by reviewing trail system for redundancies and removing and rehabilitating identified trail segments.

## Wildfire Management

Fire is a natural and necessary component of the functioning ecosystem at CRSP. Low intensity fires were common in the 1800s under natural and Native American ignition patterns. However, by the mid-1900s fire suppression was common. Drought coupled with fire suppression and the removal of cattle is believed to be the cause of an excessive accumulation of fuels as the environment transitioned from overgrazing to no grazing. As a result, the role of fire in the landscape was altered, preventing a natural fire regime, or “let it burn” management approach. Many fires today burn hotter, larger, and faster which can cause emergency situations that can be mitigated by prior planning and preparedness. Proactive planning and coordination with fire response agencies can considerably reduce fire suppression related damage to natural and cultural resources. Coupled with a natural resource management program that restores natural processes, fire may return as an agent of natural change.

### **WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT GOAL:**

Plan for wildfire in order to preserve sensitive park resources and protect human lives and structures.



*Smoke billowing over trees during the Cedar Fire  
October 2003*

### ***WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES:***

1. Every 5-10 years, review and update the Wildfire Management Plan in conjunction with appropriate agencies such as CAL FIRE and the CNF.
2. Incorporate findings of ongoing research in the Park and the field of fire management in project design and implementation. This may include the use of new tools, concepts, or methods.
3. Determine scenarios in which unplanned natural ignitions may be permitted to burn. Variables may include location, wind direction, temperature, humidity, fuel load, and vegetation type.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### Archaeological Sites (Prehistoric and Historic)

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park includes over 920 known archaeological properties, eight identified ethnographic villages, and four existing Cultural Preserves. One site, CA-SDI-9538 (Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’) is listed on National Register, and other sites and areas within the Park are considered potentially eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources (California

Register) and/or National Register. Various archaeological sites are considered sacred and/or contain highly sensitive features such as burials, cremations, rock art, or ceremonial places. Many of these sites have also been placed on the California Native American Heritage Commission's sacred sites list.

Approximately 54% of CRSP has been examined for cultural resources, although none of these investigations had 100% coverage or 100% ground visibility, so the potential for additional cultural sites to be present within the Park is considered to be high. In addition, changing conditions including effects from erosion, fire, animal disturbance, visitor disturbance, unauthorized activities, vandalism, etc., can affect cultural resource sites and either expose additional artifacts or features, or cause them damage or destruction.

Over 20% of the known archaeological sites within the Park are from the historic period and represent the European, Mexican, and American presence in these mountains. Historic archaeological properties include mining, farming, and ranching sites, homesteads, CCC and early CRSP development sites, early recreation sites, and others.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES GOAL 1:**

Identify, document, and evaluate archaeological and cultural resources within CRSP.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES GUIDELINES:**

1. Continue the program for archaeological survey, site recordation and evaluation, GPS mapping, and preparation of records and reports for the cultural resources within the Park.
2. Work with local Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii tribes and individuals to actively identify and nominate those archaeological and cultural resources that are eligible for inclusion in the existing California and/or National Registers either as individual sites, districts, or as cultural landscape resources.
3. Locate descendants of families who lived or worked within the Park during the Historic era. Include homesteaders, miners, farmers, ranchers, CCC workers, park staff, etc. Conduct oral history interviews with those who are still living. The information gained from the interviews will complement and expand upon existing historical data on early park use and could help in locating, identifying, and evaluating additional historic archaeological resources.
4. Promote cooperative research ventures with local educational institutions and other governmental agencies to complement site



***Potsherds form an olla rim  
Little Stonewall Peak area***

documentation, evaluation, and analysis needs and to encourage site protection and preservation.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES GOAL 2:**

Protect, stabilize, and preserve the archaeological resources within CRSP.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop a management plan for cultural resources within the Park and implement the recommendations of such a plan.



*A serrated cottonwood triangular projectile point from the West Mesa area*

2. Identify and implement procedures for careful planning of all undertakings, including (but not limited to) routine maintenance, prescribed burning, and new facility development, to avoid or minimize significant impacts to cultural resources within the Park. Any project work that includes subsurface disturbance must take into consideration the potential for disturbance of unknown underground archaeological resources. Conduct archaeological and historical research and consult with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, Kwaaymii, and/or other cultural groups as appropriate. Use non-invasive methods of field investigation such as ground penetrating radar, forensic dogs, etc., where appropriate. Monitor ground disturbance using qualified archaeological and/or Native American monitors to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to unknown buried artifacts, features, or site deposits.

3. Hold excavation permits to the highest standards and requirements. Ensure such permits include comprehensive research designs that review existing literature and document existing collections as well as provide for appropriate cataloging and curation of excavated materials. Permits and research designs should also include Tribal consultation, and approval from CDPR Senior Archaeological Staff. Archaeological excavations that are not part of an existing project should also be reviewed by natural resources specialists to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to plants and/or wildlife.
4. Identify those archaeological sites most vulnerable to damage, such as those located along drainages and gullies, those with dense surface artifact distributions, those with combustible materials, etc., And implement protective measures. Develop measures to protect cultural resources during wildfire incidents and post-fire restoration and revegetation, flash flood events, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, and identify procedures for assessing damages after a natural disaster event. Even sites containing bedrock grinding features should

be recognized as vulnerable to fire based on damages and destruction identified after the Cedar Fire.

5. Provide cultural resource training to park rangers and managers, and make locations of previously recorded cultural sites known to them so that they can monitor site conditions and watch for deterioration and/or vandalism. Make sure they are aware of current cultural resource laws.
6. Assess the effects of visitor use (camping, hiking, mountain bike riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, vehicle use, etc., as well as unauthorized collecting, off-trail use, and vandalism) and natural erosion on archaeological sites. Implement mitigation measures where appreciable damage to sites is identified. Such measures can include site-specific closures, moving roads and trails or other damaging activities away from archaeological sites, revegetation, sign placement, fencing, site burial, security monitoring, education, and other protection and/or avoidance measures.
7. In the case that sites have been repeatedly subject to damage by the public and other means of protection have proven unsuccessful, determine the appropriateness of fencing or other protective measures (such as construction of boardwalks or paving, site capping, signage, surveillance, etc.) for archaeological sites along roads and trails within CRSP. Use of fencing to keep visitors on trails should avoid drawing attention to the sites themselves. Signage should also be minimized or general in nature to avoid indicating the location of these sensitive sites.
8. Establish a program for routine professional periodic examination, assessment, and evaluation of cultural resources within the Park. Examinations should be conducted by a qualified state archaeologist and should include documentation of sites and features through photographs, measurements, and GPS recordation. Regularly prepare and submit condition monitoring/assessment records and updated site forms to document observed changes.
9. Continue and expand Colorado Desert District's archaeological site stewardship program whereby volunteers are trained to help protect archaeological sites through periodic visitation, recognition, and recordation of vandalism and other threats.
10. Identify lands containing significant historical resources outside of the Park for potential acquisition and/or joint protection efforts. Some archaeological sites are currently split by the Park



*Drilled potsherds from the West Mesa area*

boundaries with one portion inside the Park and additional portions outside. Aside from acquiring lands that contain portions of sites or cultural landscapes already partially within the Park, archaeological sites and historic properties to be acquired should be specifically chosen to complement those already within CRSP.

11. Develop a protocol for cultural resource protection in conjunction with agencies or companies with right-of-way access within or adjacent to the Park (e.g., SDG&E, Caltrans, USDA Forest Service, etc.). Protocol should include communication during planning phases of projects or work that may have the potential to affect cultural resources within CRSP.
12. Maintain consultation with Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii peoples. This is a vital part of presenting their ancestors' story.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines** and **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines**.

### **Ethnographic/Tribal Resources**

The Park was home to ancestors of the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii groups. These groups recognize areas of cultural and/or religious significance within the



***Soapstone nodules - this type of soft stone was used by the Native Americans.***

Park. Ethnographic accounts indicate that there were places the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii considered to have special cultural or religious significance including mountain peaks, springs, rock outcroppings, and other natural formations, as well as burial areas, shrines, ceremonial spaces, and other places used by their ancestors.

Many Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii consider the lands within CRSP to be part of their ancestral homelands. The CDPN recognizes their long relationship with these lands and has established certain programs and procedures to enable them to continue this special relationship.

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIC/TRIBAL RESOURCES GOAL:**

Identify and document the ethnographic uses of and resources in CRSP, protect these culturally significant places, and continue to allow for and encourage appropriate Native American use of and access to their heritage landscapes and sacred sites.

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIC/TRIBAL RESOURCES GUIDELINES:**

1. Work with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii, along with historical accounts and ethnographic records, to identify, record, and protect traditional cultural places, heritage landscapes, including sites of special cultural and/or religious significance that are located within the Park. Work with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to protect and preserve the traditional cultural places and sacred sites within the Park.

2. Develop partnerships and foster relationships with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to facilitate discussions on various matters such as bio-diversity, watersheds, controlled burning, etc.
3. Share data and results of cultural resource projects with Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to further their education and knowledge.

### **Ethnographic/Tribal Uses**

Certain practices such as traditional gatherings or ceremonies may require a special event permit (DPR246), while the collecting of raw materials for traditional use requires a Native American gathering permit (DPR864) when performed within CDPR lands. Such permits allow for the managed collecting of traditional materials, prevent inadvertent significant impacts to natural resources, and promote adherence to CDPR mandates and/or policies regarding natural resources or other park procedures, facilities, or resources, while enabling CDPR rangers and other staff to be aware of and supportive of such practices.

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIC/TRIBAL USES GOAL:**

Work with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to maintain continued use of the Park for ceremonial and traditional practices, and streamline the permitting procedures for such practices at CRSP.

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIC/TRIBAL USES GUIDELINES:**

1. Encourage and facilitate Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii use of traditional places for Tribal heritage and educational activities such as Tribal gatherings, peon games, acorn processing, bird singing, storytelling, ceremonies, and other activities.
2. Develop protocols, agreements, and/or memorandums of understanding with local tribes to handle the administration of the permitting process.

### **Historic Resources**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park’s historical resources reflect over 240 years of recorded land use that represent ten overlapping historic theme periods: Early Exploration (1769-1825); El Rancho Cuyamaca (1821-1848); American Homesteading/Ranching (1856-1890); The Stonewall Gold Mine and Cuyamaca City (1870-1917); Road Development (1870-1926); Mountain Resort Development (1884-1926); Ralph M. Dyar and the Stonewall Ranch (1923-1933); The CCC (1933-1942); World War



*The Ralph Dyar house  
ca 1934*

II (1941-1945); Postwar Park Development (1946-1970); and Postwar Park Expansion (1975-2005).

The resources associated with these historical periods (whether extant, in ruins, or the sites of significant events/activities), offer tangible connections to the historical development of the San Diego region as well as that of the Park. Identifying, protecting, and promoting an understanding and appreciation of these resources are important steps in giving visitors a tangible connection to their past.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES GOAL:**

Identify and protect CRSP’s historic resources.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES GUIDELINES:**

1. Maintain a current, updated inventory, GIS mapping, and informational database for those historic resources within the Park that are listed or may be eligible for listing on the California and/or the National Registers.
2. Locate individuals or their descendants who worked, lived, or visited CRSP and conduct interviews. The information gleaned from these individuals may be used to complement and expand upon existing historical data for planning and interpretive purposes.
3. Collect, store, preserve, and make available to qualified researchers and interpreters any original photographs, plans, documents, objects, transcribed oral histories, etc., associated with the Park’s historic resources.
4. Actively designate eligible historic resources to the California and/or National Registers. Listing on the latter may qualify a historical resource for federal emergency post-disaster restoration and/or reconstruction funding sources.
5. Complete HSRs and/or Cultural Landscape Reports (CLR) for extant historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and landscapes. Each will provide physical, graphic, and photographic information about a resource’s history and existing condition; recommend appropriate preservation treatments, managerial actions, and appropriate use; and outline recommendations for future work without compromising its character-defining historic features.



*Two CCC crewmen pushing wheelbarrows of rocks January 1934*

6. Develop managerial procedures for historic resources based on internal and external professional standards and guidelines such as CDPR's Cultural Resources DOM chapter 0400; PRC (§§ 5020 et seq.); Executive Order W-26-92; and the United States *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.
7. Employ applicable professional standards to determine appropriate use (stabilize, restore, reconstruct, or modify for adaptive reuse) for all historic properties to provide for their regular maintenance and long-term preservation in support of CDPR's overall mission to protect its most valued cultural resources.
8. Conduct additional studies (i.e., archival research, detailed site and structure recordation and GIS mapping, subsurface testing, etc.) for any proposed project or undertaking that has the potential to disturb any known or potentially eligible historical resource.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines** and **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines**.

### Cultural Landscape Resources

Cultural landscape resources are historical properties made up of geographic areas containing a variety of historic, natural, and/or ethnographic features. In contrast to more traditional historical resource properties such as individual buildings, structures, or sites, culturally significant landscape properties often encompass an area containing groupings of historic as well as natural resources organized in spatial patterns associated with a historic event, activity, or person. Cultural landscape resources can also be associated with other cultural or aesthetic values.

Typical character-defining feature types of such cultural or historical landscape resource properties may include topography, vegetation, circulation, water features, structures, buildings, site furnishings, and/or objects. These features and elements that make up the individual components of these properties may therefore be natural or man-made. As such, cultural landscapes require multi-disciplinary management to preserve their integrity as eligible historical resources while recognizing the occasional conflicts that may arise with other natural or recreational resources.

#### **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE RESOURCES GOAL:**

Undertake comprehensive surveys, recordation, evaluation, management studies, and plans for eligible cultural landscape resources within the Park



***CCC entrance sign for the  
Green Valley Falls Campground  
February 1934***

and protect them in a way that is prudent and feasible with natural or other resource management goals.

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE RESOURCES GUIDELINES:**

1. Identify, record, and preserve cultural landscape resources following professional best practices as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior’s Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. Complete CLRs and management plans for any identified cultural landscape property.
2. Utilize project teams that include the full spectrum of Park operations, natural, and cultural specialists in order to obtain input and work cooperatively to manage the Park’s cultural landscape resources in a way prudent and feasible to all park resource concerns.
3. Provide interpretation of the Park’s cultural landscapes that addresses the interrelationship between the natural environment and those people and cultures that created these properties.
4. Avoid or minimize negative impacts to cultural resources during environmental regulatory procedures used to evaluate natural resource management techniques (e.g., prescribed fire) prior to program implementation.

**AESTHETIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Visitors to CRSP enjoy an abundance of aesthetic qualities inherent to the Park’s natural conditions and historic features. Some of these include open space, sights and sounds of wildlife and other natural features, scenic views to and from mountain peaks, fallen snow, clear night skies, and Park Rustic architecture. Impacts to aesthetic qualities are, at times, created by developments, activities, or land uses that are incompatible with these qualities.



*Combination shower and restroom building at Los Vaqueros Equestrian Group Campground January 2013*

**AESTHETIC RESOURCES GOAL:**

Protect scenic features from man-made intrusions and preserve the visitor’s experience of the natural landscape and historical features by minimizing adverse impacts to aesthetic resources.

**AESTHETIC RESOURCES GUIDELINES:**

1. Design new facilities that are site-specific and contextual. Reinforce the colors, shapes, scale, and materials in the surrounding environment to integrate and

complement the Park’s natural setting. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials where appropriate, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (e.g., weather, wind, sunlight, etc.) as appropriate.

2. Retain the Park Rustic style that utilizes native stone and wood for historic buildings. New construction should be compatible with, but clearly differentiated from, the historic Park Rustic resources to avoid a false sense of history.
3. Develop and implement design standards or guidelines for park facilities and signage to share similarities in style and/or materials, to create a sense of park identity and visual continuity, and to reflect and preserve positive aesthetic values. Evaluate “first impressions” at park entrances and access points and organize, consolidate, screen, or remove unnecessary, repetitive, or unsightly elements.
4. Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public-use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities.



***The Milky Way Galaxy with Stonewall Peak in background***  
*(Photo by slworking2 - Flickr.com)*

5. Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to the more developed areas of the Park (e.g., buildings and parking lots) and provide lighting fixtures that focus the light downward. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards. Refer to CDPR’s Lightscape Protection Policy (DOM 2004, Chapter 0300) when evaluating lighting (*see also Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Management*).

6. Preserve tranquility and the sounds associated with the Park’s natural resources. Unnatural sounds that adversely affect park resources, values, or visitor’s enjoyment should be prevented or minimized (*see also Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Management*).
7. Large/Utility-scale infrastructure projects (such as power lines, above-ground pipelines or the like) in and within the viewsheds of the Park are incompatible with the Park’s purpose and should be avoided.

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

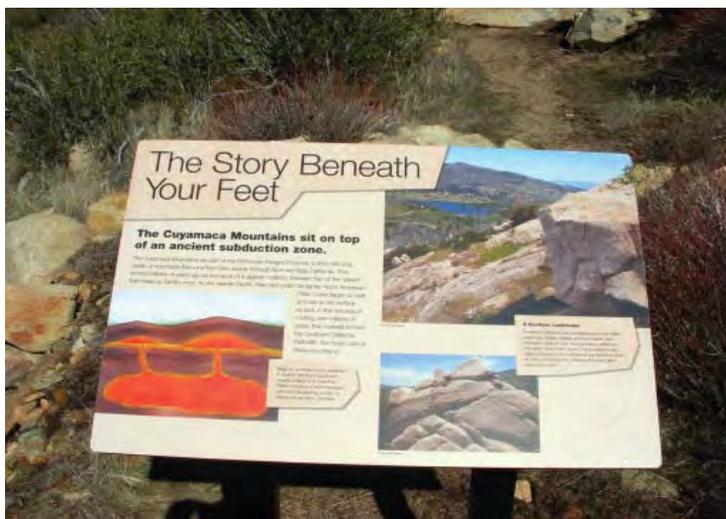
Interpretation deepens the park experience, providing lasting benefits for individuals, for a park’s resources, and for society in general. Through interpretive services, visitors are introduced to the intrinsic values of each park, and inspired to enjoy and protect them.

### INTERPRETIVE SIGNIFICANCE, MISSION, AND VISION

These elements represent the broadest level of interpretation planning. Interpretive Significance describes CRSP’s special resources and stories that have been identified as important to interpret. Interpretation Mission defines what is interpreted at the Park, why it is being interpreted, and for whom. Interpretive Vision conveys the ideal outcome of CRSP’s interpretation in the future.

**Interpretive Significance:** Cuyamaca Rancho State Park represents a place of tradition, survival, and renewal, with special resources and stories rooted to its mountain home. Ancient stories about its peaks and valleys have been passed down in the oral traditions of the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii. It is one of the oldest state parks in California and retains original Park Rustic style features from the 1930s to the 1950s. Aesthetic resources important for interpretation

include scenic vistas from the Cuyamaca Mountains. Stonewall Peak, with its exposed rock outcroppings, is a prominent landmark within the Park. Natural resources that are important to interpret include stands of Cuyamaca cypress, a Sky Island Forest of conifers and oaks, Cuyamaca Meadow, the Sweetwater watershed, the Sweetwater River and its headwaters, and special status species such as Parish’s slender meadowfoam, Cuyamaca Lake downingia, and the federally-endangered arroyo toad. Fire is an important natural resource topic for interpretation. Much of the CRSP environment is adapted to and dependent upon fire. A related topic is the Reforestation Project and its role



*Interpretive panel along the Stonewall Peak Trail  
January 2013*

in accelerating recovery of the conifer forest after the Cedar Fire. Important cultural history includes the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii, who maintain ties to the lands of their ancestors, coming to the Park for spiritual practices, ceremonies, traditional gatherings, and harvesting of traditional materials. Among their cultural resources to be interpreted are cultural landscapes and archaeological sites, including the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' village site, which is listed on the National Register. Historic resources important to interpretation include the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City sites, Dyar House ruins, and the Park Rustic style buildings, roads, and trails built by the CCC's using local stone and timber. Important topics for interpretation include stories of the people who have lived and worked in the Cuyamacas: Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii families, ranchers, homesteaders, lumbermen, "Gentlemen Ranchers," and the CCC workers.

***Interpretive Mission:*** The mission of CRSP interpretation is to create a positive connection between park visitors and the aesthetic, natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources of the Cuyamaca Mountains while supporting California State Park's resource protection and preservation guidelines for the Park.

***Interpretive Vision:*** Exceptional interpretation of CRSP enhances participants' awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the Park's resources. Park interpretation sparks interest in learning broader science, history, and cultural concepts; increases visitor safety while enjoying recreation activities; and leads to further protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources. Interpretive services extend beyond the Park to reach diverse audiences to welcome these new visitors to explore, enjoy, and support CRSP.

#### ***INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOALS AND GUIDELINES***

The following goals and guidelines build on the above interpretation mission, significance, and vision statements – they give broad guidance on how Park interpretation will attain the vision. Interpretation goals and guidelines are also provided in ***Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines***.

#### ***INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 1:***

Promote a better understanding and appreciation of the Park's significant natural, cultural, and historic resources.

#### ***INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:***

1. Make improvements to the Park's webpage that are more interpretive in content, meet diverse visitor needs, and highlight the Park's significant resources.
2. Provide updated information on the Park's webpage and at the visitor center to help the public better understand resource management related issues (e.g., Reforestation Project, Goldspotted Oak Borer Management, cultural resource protection, etc.).

3. Develop programs to help the public understand the distinction between the Park's preserves, wilderness, and state park classified areas. Include education regarding the importance of the Park's natural and cultural preserves.
4. Include the use of Native American (Kumeyaay) language and Spanish translations of English text, where appropriate, throughout the Park to broaden visitors' appreciation of the area's cultural heritage.
5. Coordinate with resource specialists to identify appropriate areas of the Park for guided and self-guiding programs and other needed improvements to the Park's interpretive programs, media, and facilities.
6. Develop interpretation for trails, SR-79 pull-outs, and other park features to connect names with the stories behind them.
7. Limit the use of media formats that rely on audio in areas where natural, cultural, or historic resource protection and/or visitors' appreciation of these resources could be jeopardized or negatively impacted.
8. Create educational materials and programs that help visitors learn about outdoor/trail etiquette to enhance recreational experiences while promoting resource protection.
9. Undertake site-specific studies to determine which on-site interpretive programs (i.e., signs, brochures, educational programs, public tours, etc.) should be developed for educating the public about the natural and cultural history and associated significant historical resources in public-use areas.
10. Initiate staff or docent-led indoor and/or outdoor activities introducing visitors to the Park's historic areas, resources, and cultural history.
11. Propose renaming certain geographical locations and trails with names that better represent and interpret the Park's historic landscape. For example, replace "Monument Trail" with "Airplane Monument Trail," and the "Minshall Trail" becomes the "Margaret Minshall Trail."
12. Propose utilizing Native American (Kumeyaay) and Spanish translations of English text, where appropriate, throughout the Park to broaden visitors' appreciation of the area's cultural multilingual heritage.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 2:**

Foster a sense of stewardship for the Park's natural resources.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Increase interpretation related to the Park's natural systems such as habitat linkages, watersheds and water conservation, natural aspects of fire, consequences of fire suppression, etc.

2. Provide training in natural resource protection, restoration, and maintenance to staff and volunteers, including methods for sharing this message with visitors.
3. Work with resource specialists to identify and interpret appropriate areas within the Park where visitors can learn about sensitive species.
4. Promote better understanding and greater appreciation of the Park's dynamic landscape over time. Incorporate natural geologic processes that stretch back millennia and the more recent prehistoric and historic contexts related to human influences on the environment
5. Coordinate with resource specialists to develop educational and interpretive programming regarding the natural process of post-fire vegetation change and about the Reforestation Project.

***INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 3:***

Provide for the understanding, awareness, and respect of the Park's archaeological, cultural, and ethnographic values.

***INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:***

1. Work with Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to preserve language, culture, and values (such as internships and archaeological site stewardship programs).
2. Promote cooperative programming with regional educational institutions and other interpretive facilities to complement the Park's Native American interpretation development, evaluation, and training needs.
3. Consult with Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to determine appropriate interpretive methods (e.g., panels, tours, education programs, self-guiding materials, etc.), to provide content accuracy, and to revise existing interpretation as needed.
4. Identify and interpret appropriate areas within the Park where visitors can learn about tribal cultural landscapes.
5. Provide training in archaeological resource protection and cultural awareness to staff and volunteers, including methods for sharing this message with visitors.



*Trailhead kiosk at Azalea Glen Trail  
September 2013*

6. Create partnerships with Native American groups to provide educational programs for the Park.
7. Identify appropriate area(s) within the Park that could be used by the Kumeyaay, Kamia, or Kwaaymii for exhibit of Tribal collections on a rotating/seasonal basis or for other interpretive/educational displays.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 4:**

Enhance visitor experiences along the trails and roads to interpret the Park’s unique cultural and historic landscapes.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Consult with Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii to identify trails that follow the movement from the mountains to the desert as their ancestors once did.
2. Coordinate with resource specialists to identify trails, roads, and other cultural and historic landscape features.
3. In the development and improvement of existing trails, enhance interpretive opportunities by adding connectors to areas with historic features and creating smaller loop trails.
4. Include interpretation of the Park’s cultural and historic trails in future related planning efforts such as a RTMP.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 5:**

Connect with diverse audiences, including under-served groups and non-traditional park users.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop materials that promote the Park’s programs in English and in Spanish language (e.g., interpretive activities and volunteer opportunities).
2. Explore the use of various media (radio, cell phone, bilingual wayside panels, etc.) that can be accessed by potential visitors as they drive along SR-79.
3. Use existing CDPR materials that are available in Spanish (e.g., Junior Ranger, Children’s Bill of Rights, and Children in Nature programs).
4. Place new emphasis on reaching out to youth as a part of connecting with under-served groups and non-traditional park users.
5. Include training for staff and volunteers to be outreach ambassadors to deliver programs to the community.
6. Coordinate outreach efforts with other State and Nationally owned land such as ABDSP and the CNF.

7. Cultivate relationships with program providers across the border, the Mexican Consulate, and groups involved with providing outdoor and/or educational experiences for potential tourists/visitors to the Park.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 6:**

Coordinate interpretation and education of Park values and resources with Cuyamaca Outdoor School.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop programs and activities with Cuyamaca Outdoor School that educate students about the Park's natural, cultural, and historic resources.
2. Offer training to Cuyamaca Outdoor School teachers that promote protection of the resources during student activities throughout the Park.
3. Involve staff and volunteers from multiple disciplines (e.g., archaeologists, environmental scientists, rangers, etc.) when developing and presenting teacher training and student programs/activities.
4. Provide take-home materials for students to share with their families that encourage return visits to the Park.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL 7:**

Create long-term strategies to sustain the Park's interpretation and education programming.

**INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Explore options to fund a permanent interpretive staff position in order to create more stability for the Park's overall interpretation and education program, and for volunteer program management.
2. Include resource specialists to develop support materials and present updated information as a part of staff and docent training.
3. Provide interpretive and educational training to help all park volunteers (i.e., mountain bike, equestrian, trails) understand the rich natural, cultural, and historic significance of the places where they are volunteering.
4. Coordinate interpretive programming with other regional interpretation providers in order to enhance programs, share resources, and avoid unnecessary duplication.
5. Work with CRSPIA to explore opportunities for fee-based value-added interpretive and educational services, such as seminars, workshops, van tours, and school/youth/family programs.

6. Develop planning documents as outlined in CDPR's *Interpretation Planning Workbook* to provide a set of comprehensive interpretation management plans for the Park. Complete a parkwide *Interpretation Master Plan and Action Plan* upon approval of this General Plan. Prepare *Interpretive Project Plans* as part of any new project development or project improvements that include or affect Park interpretation or education. Prepare *Interpretive Program Plans* to provide detailed recommendations for new or existing Park programs (i.e., school tours, Environmental Studies and Environmental Living programs).

### **INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND INTERPRETIVE PERIODS**

Themes are critical for establishing the overall interpretive direction and tone, and they imply desired outcomes for visitors' attitudes and perspectives. A single *unifying theme* together with multiple *primary themes* creates a conceptual framework for the park unit.

The *unifying theme* provides overall focus to the park unit's interpretive development. It must relate to the resources, the purpose of the park, and visitors' interests. The most significant park resources and history are presented through the development of *primary interpretive themes*. *Secondary themes* are also included in this section. They offer valuable concepts that are significant to the Park and/or to department-wide interpretation goals, like sidebars or footnotes in a book, but do not directly relate to the overall unifying and primary themes.

An interpretive period focuses interpretation on a specific time period. Interpretive periods are only designated for parks with significant historic resources, or very rarely for natural resources with a very specific period of importance. A primary interpretive period covers the years of greatest significance for the park's cultural resources. Secondary interpretive periods identify historical sidebars – periods of history that are interesting, but not as important to the Park as the primary period.

*See Appendix N - Description of Interpretive Themes and Interpretive Periods.*

### **COLLECTIONS**

Museum collections are important to understanding a park's natural and cultural histories, and for interpreting that information to the public (see **Appendix I** for additional details regarding CRSP's collections). A Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) is a comprehensive plan for museum collection management which defines the types of objects a unit collects and why it does so. The Park's existing SOCS (1998) was updated after the 2003 Cedar Fire (Draft, June 2007) and includes an overview of the collections that had been on exhibit or in storage at the Dyar House. A significant portion of the Park's collections – primarily archaeological material – are included in the ABDSP SOCS (September 2009) following the transfer of those objects recovered from the fire-damaged

Dyar House. The Parks' SOCS has not been updated since the ABDSP SOCS was completed and objects associated with the temporary visitor center were placed on exhibit.

**COLLECTIONS GOAL:**

Curate archaeological collections in accordance with state and CDPR policies, and professional standards.

**COLLECTIONS GUIDELINES:**

1. Natural and cultural material and object collections at CRSP should have a specific connection to the natural and cultural history of the park, or provide support for interpretive themes and programs. Due to the temporary nature of the existing visitor center and lack of appropriate collections storage at the Park – and until such a facility or facilities are established – new acquisitions should be limited to original material recovered at CRSP.
2. Regularly update the Scope of Collections Statement to provide a current museum collection management plan for the Park as outlined in the Department's *Guidelines for Writing a Scope of Collections Statement*.
3. Complete a regular inventory of the museum collection, including reconciliation between museum records and objects in storage following the post-fire recovery from the Dyar House. All museum objects, including archaeological material, should be cataloged using CDPR's statewide museum collections database.
4. Provide safe, secure spaces for storage and display of Park collections. Policies and procedures for management of collections as outlined in the Department's Operations Manual (DOM) Chapter 2000, *Museum Collections Management*, should be followed.
5. Establish dedicated, secure, and climate-controlled space for object curation, collections storage, museum records management, and research for the Park's collections. Any construction of new facilities, rehabilitation or reuse of existing facilities (such as the former CAL FIRE station), reconstruction of fire-damaged historic buildings (such as Dyar House or Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish), or reconstruction of historic structures (such as Cuyamaca City/Stonewall Mine area) should consider including appropriate dedicated, secure, and climate-controlled space for the Park's entire museum collection.
6. Archaeological materials recovered within the Park will be curated and stored at a dedicated, secure, and climate-controlled facility [e.g., Begole Archaeological Research Center (BARC), CDPR's State Archaeological Collections Research Facility, or other collections facility that meets CDPR's requirements] until such a facility is established at CRSP. Maintain appropriate and relevant collections such as historic

objects to document people, events, and natural or cultural features that are central to CRSP's purpose, and to support the interpretation of the Park's themes.

7. Architectural elements and other materials original to the Park or used in its historic structures should be preserved when necessary to document the history of the Park and its historic structures.
8. Natural history specimens should be preserved when necessary to document the natural history of the Park.

#### **4.4.2 MANAGEMENT-ZONE-SPECIFIC GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

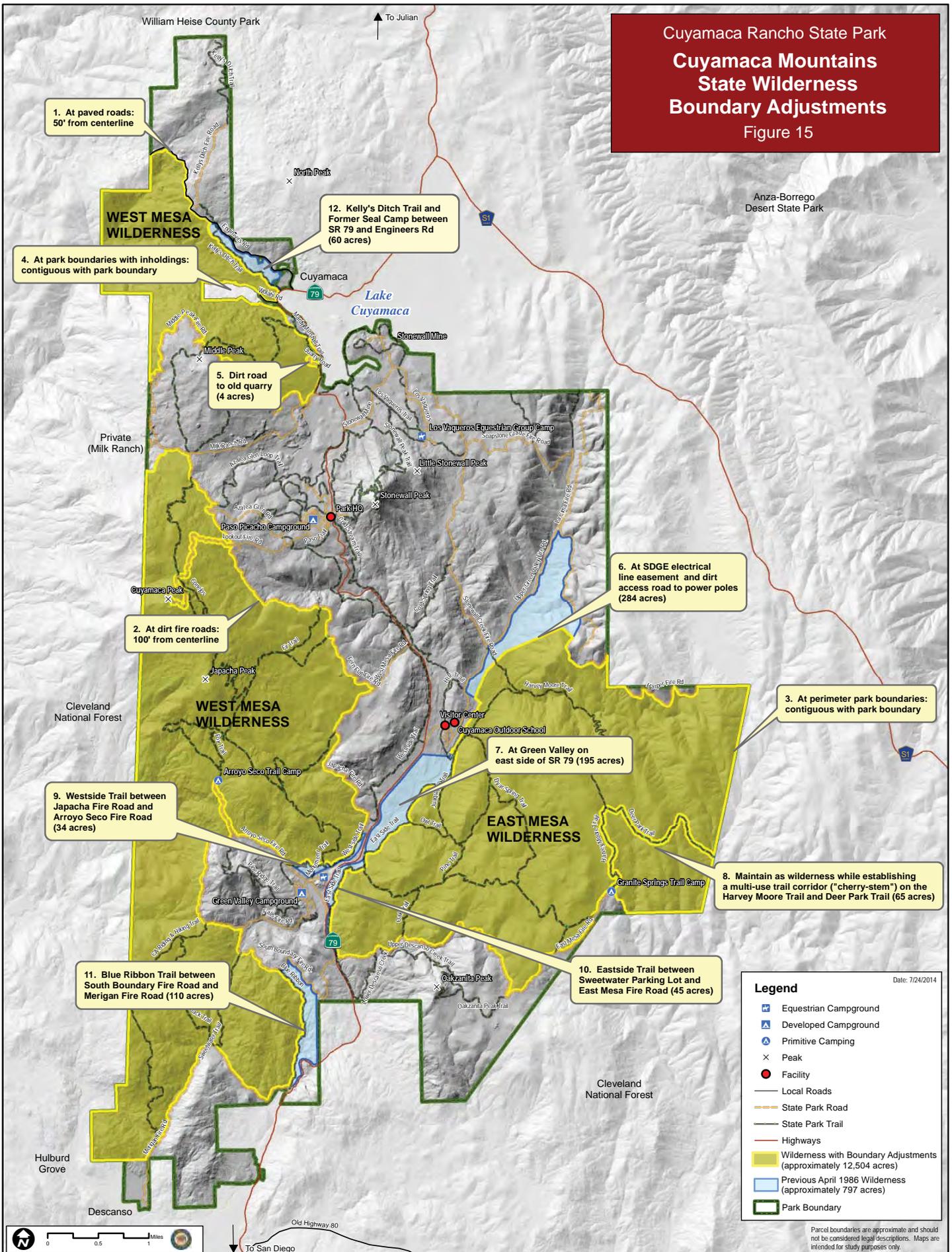
Management-Zone-Specific goals and guidelines address issues specific to certain land use classifications and/or zone designations. These Management-Zone-Specific goals and guidelines apply only to the specified management-zone and do not apply to the entire Park. The following are Management-Zone-Specific goals and guidelines for the Wilderness Zone, Natural Preserve Zone, Cultural Preserve Zone, and Historic Zone (the Gateway Zone, Front-Country Zone, and Back-Country Zone are not addressed in this section).

##### **Wilderness Zone**

State Wildernesses are defined by the PRC (§ 5019.68) and DOM 0304.2.6 (see **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification** and **Section 4.3.1 - Management-Zones, Wilderness Zone** for wilderness definition and description). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains the CMSW (with two separate sections: East Mesa Wilderness and West Mesa Wilderness). The intent of the wilderness is to preserve the area's wilderness values such as naturalness, undeveloped and expansive landscapes, as well as allow for maximum opportunities for quiet and solitude. The CMSW is intended for a low level of use, minimal contact with others, and is solely for day-use experiences with no camping or other overnight opportunities allowed. As with all state wildernesses, the CMSW prohibits permanent roads, use of mechanized equipment, and use of mechanical conveyances (including vehicles and mountain bikes).

At approximately 12,630 acres, the CMSW is relatively small when compared to the twelve designated wildernesses in the adjacent ABDSP (totaling approx. 458,000 acres) and nearby Pine Creek and Hauser Wildernesses managed by the US Forest Service (21,027 acres combined). However, the importance and value of the CMSW in the region is equally significant since it encompasses mountain peaks and high-elevation forests and meadows with good public access. Although not remote or vast, the CMSW still offers excellent opportunities for quiet and solitude due to the rugged and steep terrain and high number of quality trails throughout the wilderness that disperses trail users. Park visitors value these wilderness qualities as well as the natural, undeveloped character because contrasting urban areas are in close proximity and access is convenient. Preservation of the wilderness and its important values is key to maintaining the quality of user's overall experiences at the Park.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
**Cuyamaca Mountains  
 State Wilderness  
 Boundary Adjustments**  
 Figure 15



**TABLE 2 -- CUYAMACA MOUNTAINS STATE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

**NOTE:** Reference numbers on this Table correspond with numbered call-outs on **Figure 15 – Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments map.**

Since the Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness was established in the Park in 1982, several conflicts with the wilderness boundaries have been discovered which have caused some confusion for trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utilities in wilderness, as well as wilderness boundaries adjacent to fire roads, trails, and park boundaries that are not based on any consistent standards. This has precipitated the need to establish consistent wilderness boundary standards and an adjustment of some wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and visitor uses. Guidelines are presented herein to establish viable standards for wilderness boundaries, adjusts wilderness boundaries to remove utilities and existing multi-use trails, and make possible future multi-use trail connections.

Wilderness boundaries will be adjusted in the following areas and ways (with justification following). The total combined reduction in wilderness acreage after the following boundary adjustments is **797** acres:

1. **At paved roads (e.g., SR-79, Engineers Road):** 50' from centerline of road (total of 100').
  - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
  - Caltrans easement is already 40' from centerline of road (total of 80').
  - 10 extra feet from Caltrans easement would provide buffer from any Caltrans or State Park maintenance operations.
  
2. **At dirt roads (i.e. fire roads):** 100' from centerline of road (total of 200').
  - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
  - Would provide appropriate buffer for any needed road realignment, or road and brush maintenance adjacent to dirt road.
  
3. **At perimeter park boundaries:** Contiguous with park boundary.
  - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping (boundary has been inconsistently interpreted).
  - No buffer needed between wilderness boundary and Park boundary.
  - Contiguous wilderness and Park boundaries would avoid possible confusion and reduce the need for signage.
  
4. **At park boundaries with inholdings:** Contiguous with Park boundary.
  - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
  - No buffer needed between wilderness boundary and Park boundary.
  - Contiguous wilderness and park boundaries would avoid possible confusion and reduce the need for signage.
  
5. **At dirt road to old quarry (intersects with SR-79 and travels westward from Lake Cuyamaca):** Cherry stem 100' from centerline of dirt road (total of 200').
  - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
  - Park access needed for operations.

(cont'd. on next page)

**TABLE 2 -- (cont'd)**

- 6. At SDG&E electrical line easement and dirt access road to power poles:** Decommission wilderness from 100' from south side of SDG&E easement northward to Upper Green Valley Fire Road and La Cima Fire Road (reduction of 284 wilderness acres).

  - Access required by SDG&E for existing easements that predate wilderness.
  - North of SDG&E easement is an access road used by SDG&E to access power poles – this would also be decommissioned from wilderness.
  - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
  
- 7. At Green Valley on east side of SR-79 between the School Camp and Dyar House to the north, Eastside Trail to the east, and Sweetwater Parking Lot to the south:** Decommission wilderness (reduction of 195 wilderness acres).

  - Existing SDG&E easement and power lines run through the area that predate wilderness.
  - Area adjacent to and visible from SR-79 (noise, visual intrusion).
  
- 8. Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail:** Maintain area as wilderness while establishing a multi-use trail corridor (“cherry-stem”).

  - Establish a multi-use trail corridor (“cherry-stem”) on the Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail between East Mesa Fire Road and the eastern Park boundary.
  
- 9. Westside Trail between Japacha Fire Road and Arroyo Seco Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to SR-79 to 100' west of Westside Trail (reduction of approx. 34 wilderness acres).

  - Provides buffer between SR-79.
  - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
  - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
  
- 10. Eastside Trail between Sweetwater Parking Lot and East Mesa Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to SR-79 to 100' east of Eastside Trail (reduction of approx. 45 wilderness acres).

  - Provides buffer between SR-79.
  - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
  - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
  
- 11. Blue Ribbon Trail between South Boundary Fire Road and Merigan Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to park boundary to 100' west of Blue Ribbon Trail (reduction of approx. 110 wilderness acres).

  - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
  - Gives cyclists an alternative to riding on SR-79.
  - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
  
- 12. Kelly's Ditch Trail and Former Seal Camp between SR 79 and Engineers Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to Engineers Road to west edge of Kelly's Ditch Trail and to 100' west of the Former Seal Camp which is adjacent to Engineers Road (reduction of approx. 60 wilderness acres).

  - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
  - Likely future Trans County Trail alignment (requires multi-use)
  - Gives cyclists an alternative to riding on Engineers Road.
  - Keeps wilderness away from former developed area (Former Seal Camp).

The CMSW was established in 1982 prior to the popularization of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Because of this, the original wilderness map was hand drawn and the boundaries depicted were not based on any consistent standards. Wilderness boundary setbacks from roads, trails, Park boundaries, easements, and inholdings were arbitrary and non-standard. Establishment of clear, standardized, and consistent wilderness boundaries would make accurate GIS mapping possible and reduce confusion about actual boundary locations on the ground. This would establish appropriate buffers and clearances for road and brush maintenance.

Additional conflicts with the CMSW boundaries have been discovered, causing confusion with trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utility corridors (not allowed in wilderness) that are located within lands classified as wilderness. This has precipitated the need to adjust wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and recognize existing utility corridors and visitor uses. The following guidelines are presented to establish viable standards for wilderness boundaries, adjust wilderness boundaries to exclude existing utility corridors and multi-use trails, and make possible some new multi-use trail connections.

**WILDERNESS ZONE GOAL 1:**

Adjust wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices, utility corridors, and visitor uses. *See Figure 15 - Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments map* and accompanying *Table 2* for a description of wilderness boundary adjustments.

**WILDERNESS ZONE GOAL 2:**

Preserve the natural character in order to sustain the “wilderness experience” for visitors, and allow common and sensitive plants and wildlife to flourish within an intact and functioning ecosystem.

**WILDERNESS ZONE GUIDELINES:**

1. Protect the natural soundscape to preserve the wilderness experience of “primeval character”, solitude, and “primitive” recreation. Music and wildlife sounds (e.g., bird calls, coyote sounds) may not be broadcast at any time by park visitors.
2. Ensure night-time refuge for wildlife by allowing day-use only.
3. Implement a program of periodic/regular species surveys to monitor and assess populations of sensitive plants.
4. Review survey results and status of the preserve every 5-10 years to identify external factors that may be adversely affecting sensitive resources and provide a mechanism/process for offsetting impacts.

## Natural Preserve Zone

Natural Preserves are sub-units established within State Parks to provide additional protection and management direction for distinct areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance (see **Section 4.2 - Unit Classification**). This may include natural resources such as the presence of sensitive plants or animals, their associated ecosystems, or unique biogeographic patterns. The protection of physical resources is also included in natural preserves as hydrology, geologic process, and topographic features are vital to the management of natural processes. Active management actions within Natural Preserves are to be supported by scientific analysis, and only implemented when required to perpetuate that for which it was established. Otherwise, natural change and processes should be allowed to occur. There is an existing *Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve* (see **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines** for additional goals and guidelines).

### **NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE GOAL**

Protect, maintain, and sustain the unique and sensitive resources within the Natural Preserves Zone.

### **NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop a management plan for the Natural Preserve which includes an update of sensitive species that occur within the preserve, their status, identification of immediate and long term threats, and actions that may be taken to alleviate or minimize threats.
2. Implement a program of periodic/regular species surveys to monitor and assess populations of sensitive plants, with an emphasis on the species for which the preserve was established.
3. Review survey results and status of the Preserve every 5-10 years to identify external factors that may be adversely affecting sensitive resources and develop actions to alleviate or minimize impacts.
4. Collect scientific monitoring data about the status of species and processes for which the Natural Preserve was established to provide data to inform decision making regarding the need for active management or to allow natural change to occur.
5. Protect the natural soundscape and natural wildlife behavior by prohibiting the use of broadcast devices (e.g., bird calls, coyote sounds, music) by park visitors.
6. Remove and/or re-route utility lines from within the preserve to restore, protect, and maintain the natural hydrology.



***Brightly colored moss along Stonewall Creek***

## **Cultural Preserve Zone**

Cultural preserves consist of distinct areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experiences in California. Areas set aside as cultural preserves will be large enough to provide for the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources will be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with the integrity should be permitted (Public Resource Code [PRC] 5019.74). The four existing cultural preserves in CRSP are Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve, Kumeyaay Soapstone Cultural Preserve, and Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserve.

### **CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE GOAL:**

Protect, stabilize, and preserve the archaeological and cultural sites and landscapes within the Park's cultural preserves.

### **CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE GUIDELINES:**

1. Allow for appropriate Kumeyaay, Kamia, and/or Kwaaymii activities and ceremonies within the cultural preserves.
2. Exclude existing vehicular roads and thoroughfares from the cultural preserve boundaries. Public Resource Code § 5001.8 prohibits the use of motorized vehicles within cultural preserves. Existing park roads and fire roads provide vehicular access to park staff, utility workers, and emergency personnel. These existing roads will be excluded from the preserve boundaries to allow continued operational and emergency vehicle use along these routes.
3. Maintain the integrity of the archaeological sites and the traditional cultural landscape/viewshed within the preserves by disallowing, limiting, rerouting, and/or removing inappropriate, non-compatible facilities and developments, especially those that are not consistent with the character of the cultural landscape. This may include overhead utility lines, antennas, buildings/structures, etc., and limiting the number of signs within the preserves to those necessary for public safety, orientation, and resource protection.
4. Conduct comprehensive cultural resource surveys and evaluations to identify all significant sites, cultural districts, and cultural landscapes within the preserves.
5. Determine the appropriateness of interpretation and education measures within the preserves. Due to the sensitive nature of the sites within the preserves, it may be more appropriate to interpret the sites elsewhere in the Park, such as at a cultural interpretive center, archaeological interpretive center, trailhead kiosk, and/or visitor center.

Limit the number of signs within the preserves to those necessary for public safety, orientation, and resource protection, in order to retain the character of the cultural landscape.

6. Remove and/or re-route utility lines from within the preserve to restore, protect, and maintain the natural hydrology.

*See Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Stonewall Mine Area and Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve for additional Cultural Preserve goals and guidelines.*

## Historic Zone

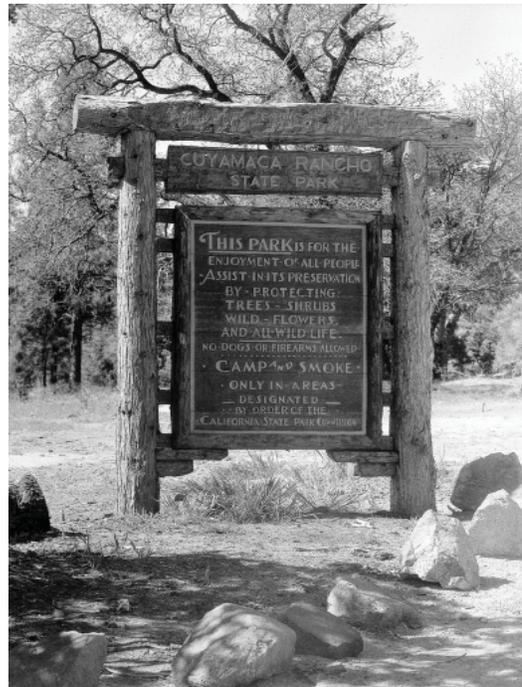
Historic Zones are concentrations of historical, archaeological, and/or scientifically unique cultural resources contained within a relatively large area. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains two Historic Zones: the Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City; and Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish. Historic districts are smaller concentrations of historic resources linked either historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. For example, the Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area Historic District contains some of the best surviving examples of Park Rustic style architecture in Southern California. This area is considered a historic district.

### **HISTORIC ZONE GOAL:**

Ensure the highest level of appropriate measures to identify and protect historic resources within a Historic Zone and/or historic district.

### **HISTORIC ZONE GUIDELINES**

1. Complete and maintain an inventory and GIS map of the contributing buildings, structures, objects, and landscape improvements, including roads and trails, within a Historic Zone.
2. Evaluate the eligibility of a Historic Zone's historic resources for inclusion in the California and/or National Registers. If eligible, take a proactive role in nominating these resources to either or both registers.
3. Prepare a Historic Management Plan and/or a CLR that documents historic land use and significance, as well as identifies, maps, and evaluates the integrity of contributing historic resources within historic zones or districts.
4. Develop appropriate preservation treatments and possible future uses for existing, restored, or reconstructed historic resources according to the following:



***Rustic park entrance sign  
built by the CCCs  
ca. 1933***

- The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for the treatment of historic buildings and landscapes.
  - The National Register Criteria Consideration “E” for Reconstructed Properties.
5. If a Historic Zone is located within a Cultural Preserve, the Historic Management Plan should follow PRC §5019.74 and the DOM § 0304.2.15. For example, any proposed reconstructed buildings, structures, or landscape improvements should not conflict with the Cultural Preserve’s historic integrity. These buildings, structures, or landscape improvements should be compatible with and contribute to the Cultural Preserve’s ability to represent the flow of human experience during the Historic Zone’s primary historic period.
  6. Remove existing non-contributing buildings, structures, objects or other non-historic landscape material and/or improvements from any Historic Zone.
  7. Restore, reconstruct, and rehabilitate select historic structures and/or cultural landscape features within the Historic Zone for appropriate usage and to promote a better visitor understanding of their historic value.
  8. Initiate thorough archaeological investigations within a Historic Zone to identify and evaluate those culturally significant features and artifacts that are essential to accurate reconstruction or restoration projects.
  9. Limit motorized vehicular access for select park operational vehicles and ADA-registered private or public vehicles to existing roads.
  10. Documentary and/or physical evidence, not conjecture or guesswork, should be used to give an accurate depiction of the resources and their spatial relationships during their primary historic periods.
  11. Clearly identify any reconstruction work as contemporary re-creations.
  12. Avoid new additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction that conflict with the cultural preserves’ historic integrity. The goal is to have the areas appear as they did during their primary historic periods.
  13. Update pre-existing or create new California/National Register historic district or cultural landscape nominations to include any restored/reconstructed historic resources to protect and enhance their eligibility for post-natural disaster-relief restoration and disaster-relief restoration/reconstruction funding.
  14. Take advantage of opportunities to adapt reconstructed historical resources to modern energy efficiency, accessibility, as well as current health and safety code considerations.

15. Utilize restored/reconstructed buildings, structures, objects or cultural landscape features within any Historic Zone to enhance park administrative, interpretive, revenue-generating concessionaire and recreational activities.

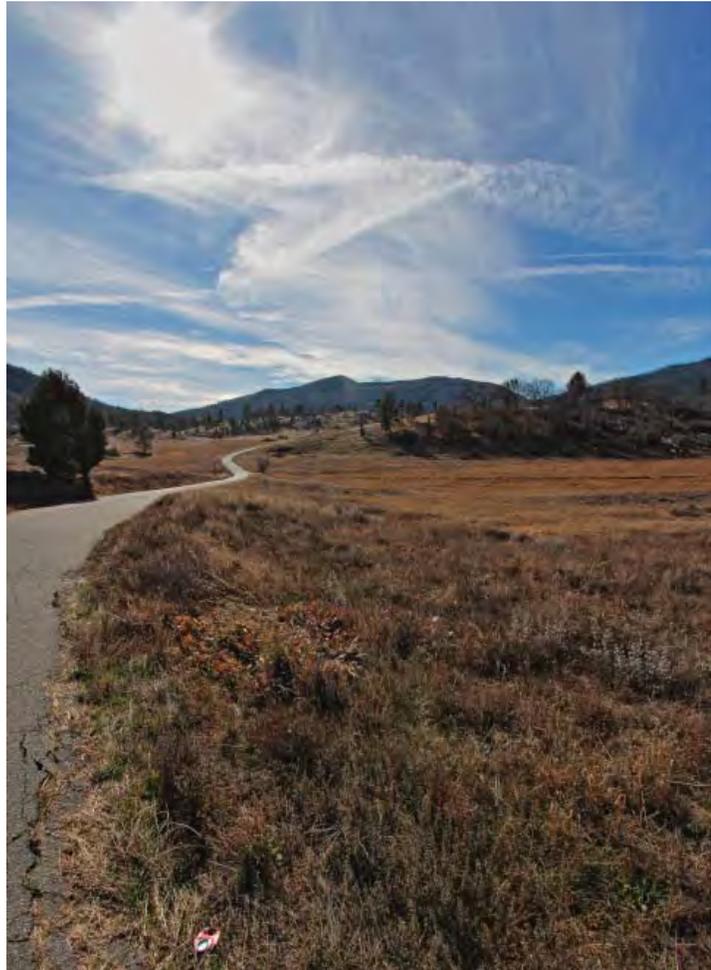
### 4.4.3 AREA-SPECIFIC GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Area-specific goals and guidelines address existing issues at specific areas in the Park and establish the purpose, intention and general strategies for park managers in order to achieve the long-term vision for these areas.

The area-specific goals and guidelines apply only to the specified areas and do not apply to the entire Park. The following goals and guidelines address managing and interpreting the Park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the specific areas within the Park.

#### **Stonewall Mine Area (Ah-Ha' Kwe-Ah-Mac'/Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City/Cuyamaca Meadow)**

The Stonewall Mine Area (Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City/Cuyamaca Meadow) lies along the southern shore of Lake Cuyamaca and is one of the Park's most significant and complex areas. It is here that a high concentration of diverse natural, cultural, and historic resources comes together. These resources include: the Kumeyaay village site for which the mountains and Park were named: Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'; the sites of the once-thriving Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City; and, diverse plant habitats and species such as the Sky Island Forest and the State Rare Cuyamaca Larkspur. Upon arrival to this area, one may immediately sense the special qualities preserved here: meadows, trees, views, and open space. Modern development is limited to a parking area, restrooms, a few picnic tables, and trails. Remnants of the Stonewall Mine are immediately apparent from the parking lot, however little else is available to entice the public to explore further. Lack of visitor orientation, visually dominating regulatory signage, and minimal interpretation – where stories of mountain, meadow, and mining need



*View of Cuyamaca Peak from road to Stonewall Mine  
August 2012*

to be told – are the area’s key interpretation and education issues. The area discussed here incorporates the Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve, and Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City Historic Zone.

**STONEWALL MINE AREA GOAL 1:**

Improve and expand interpretation and educational opportunities to better address the significant natural, cultural, and historic resources found in this area.

**STONEWALL MINE AREA GUIDELINES:**

1. Clearly identify interpretive trails and develop related media such as interpretive panels, markers, and brochures.
2. Limit the use of media formats that rely on audio in areas where natural, cultural or historic resource protection and/or visitors’ appreciation of these resources could be jeopardized or negatively impacted.
3. Expand the existing walking tour to encompass the area’s interrelated natural, cultural, and historic resources.
4. Include docent and staff training in this area to demonstrate the significance of the interrelated resources found here.
5. Partner with Native American and other stakeholder groups to develop and implement interpretive and educational programs for this area.
6. Enhance the Meadow Trail with trailhead signage that helps visitors appreciate the significance of the Natural Preserve designation. Coordinate with resource specialists to develop low impact, self-guiding interpretation (e.g., brochure and trail markers) along this trail while maintaining view sheds and other resource protection measures.
7. Improve existing interpretation at the Stonewall Mine site to address historic content accuracy, accessibility, aesthetics, protection of museum objects, and relationship to the historic Cuyamaca City.
8. Research the needs of regional educators for an Environmental Living Program and/or Environmental Studies Program that could be staged in this area.

**STONEWALL MINE AREA GOAL 2:**

Enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the interrelationship between this area’s resources, including the environmental consequences of people’s use of this area over time – including the present.

**STONEWALL MINE AREA GUIDELINES:**

1. Acknowledge the interdependency of the human habitation and use of this area with the natural resources therein by integrating interpretation and education programs about Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii

ancestral use of Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac', Stonewall Peak/Little Stonewall Peak, Japatai, and the surrounding landscape with those regarding the historic use at Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City, as well as the natural resources that were vital to both cultures.

2. Establish an interpretive program that explores the entire history of the area including Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii use. This could be accomplished by creating an interpretive trail that takes visitors "back in time" through use of reconstructed historic buildings, Kumeyaay, Kamia, and/or Kwaaymii structures, etc. or a virtual tour via cell phone or other mobile device to supplement interpretive signage and/or reconstructions.
3. Ensure that interpretive signage is compatible with and explores the interconnected nature of the Native American, historic, and natural resource importance of this area.

**STONEWALL MINE AREA GOAL 3:**

Provide facilities that support interpretation and educational programming.

***STONEWALL MINE AREA GUIDELINES:***

1. Include signage on SR-79 and along this area's entrance road to locate, identify, and signify the importance of the area.
2. Coordinate with cultural resource specialists and stakeholder groups to determine appropriate means and location(s) for placing information regarding the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' village site's designation on the National Register.
3. Enhance the existing parking area at the Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City site to facilitate visitor orientation, encourage exploration, support resource protection, and introduce the area's interrelated natural, cultural, and historic resources.
4. Determine the historical design and location of the original miner's cabins and re-design, re-build, and/or re-locate if necessary to improve historical accuracy. Update and improve the exhibit content inside the reconstructed miner's cabin to meet interpretive themes, goals, and guidelines developed in this General Plan.
5. Work with resources staff and trail user groups to adapt some of the area's existing trails to form a new interpretive loop trail that supports discovery and understanding of the area's diverse resources.
6. Coordinate with resource specialists, Native Americans, and other stakeholders to add cultural and/or historic related structures and features where feasible. Such additions may include traditional Kumeyaay, Kamia, and/or Kwaaymii structures and reconstructed buildings associated with the Cuyamaca City site.

## Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve

The Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve was established in 1990 to further protect and give recognition to the significant ecosystem south of Lake Cuyamaca. The high number of geographically restricted plants found in the preserve represents a biogeographical phenomenon: they have perpetuated while the planet warmed since the last ice age and the surrounding environment changed.



*Northward view of Cuyamaca meadow  
November 2005*

The original Natural Preserve boundary does not fully encompass the resources for which it was designated to protect. The original southern boundary is located within the montane meadow and vernal pool habitat and the original northern boundary includes only a portion of the pine oak woodland. The meadow system also extends west across SR-79. As oaks are facing a multitude of pressures, including goldspotted oak borer and climate change, they would also benefit from added protection. Finally, when the Natural Preserve was created the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground was located within this sensitive habitat

and therefore the Natural Preserve boundary did not include that area. The campground has since been removed.

### **CUYAMACA MEADOW NATURAL PRESERVE GOAL:**

Ensure perpetuation of the Sky Island Forest and the meadows and grasslands, including vernal wet areas, as well as the sensitive species these habitats support.

### **CUYAMACA MEADOW NATURAL PRESERVE GUIDELINES:**

1. Expand the boundary of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve to fully encompass and protect the contiguous meadow, grassland, and Sky Island Forest.
  - **Current Size:** 683 acres
  - **Proposed Size:** 1,030.5 acres
  - **Location in Park:** Expand in the north to the Park boundary and contiguous with, but not overlapping, the Historic Zone. Expand west across SR-79 to encompass the entirety of the meadow and grassland and south to include the extent of the meadow and grassland as well as the adjacent oak woodland and conifer forest.

(See **Figure 13 - Preferred Alternative map**)

2. Provide additional species protection and habitat enhancement for the State Endangered Cuyamaca Lake downingia and Parish's meadowfoam and the State Rare Cuyamaca larkspur.
3. Increase interpretation of these important ecosystems for their habitat diversity, sensitive species, carbon sequestration, and the field of biogeography. Include education regarding why these habitats are limited in extent (e.g., climate change, outside development, etc.)
4. Evaluate alignment and condition of trails in respect to resource sensitivities, interpretive/educational opportunities, redundancy, and connectivity to regional trail system. Re-reroute or remove trails as necessary to reduce impacts of compaction, trampling, and changes to hydrology. If resource impacts are occurring due to trail use, it is typically preferred to improve the trail design and/or re-route the trail as opposed to closing it. Any re-routes should be in place before the original trail is closed.
5. Restore the vegetation and habitat of the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground area.
6. If the Sky Island Forest suffers tree mortality during a wildfire event and active management, such as reforestation, is determined to be necessary to ensure perpetuation of the forest (PRC 5019.68), then action should be taken within two years following the fire.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Natural Preserves** for additional Natural Preserve Goals and Guidelines.

### **Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve**

The current boundaries of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve contain only a portion of the Kumeyaay village site for which the mountains and the Park were named (Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/CA-SDI-9538). The village site was not wholly included within the Cultural Preserve when it was originally designated due to the presence of the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground overlapping a portion of the site. The campground has since been removed.

Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' (CA-SDI-9538) is on the National Register. It is considered significant under criteria 'A' (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history - including Tribal values important to ancestral, current, and future generations) and 'D' (has yielded or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history). Important archaeological excavations were conducted at this site in the 1930s and 1940s.

Modern Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii consider Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' sacred and special to themselves and to their ancestors. The site has also been listed on the California Native American Heritage Commission's sacred sites list. In addition, there are other sensitive and significant cultural resource areas located adjacent or near to the existing Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural

Preserve which are potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Stonewall Peak and Little Stonewall Peak are considered sacred and are mentioned in stories and legends of the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii. The geographic area surrounding and including Stonewall Peak and Little Stonewall Peak contains numerous sites and landscape features that are extremely important to the spiritual values of the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii.

The large ethnographic village of Japatai (CA-SDI-901/11445/17666) is also located within this area. The site contains features and landscapes that are important and special to the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii. This site was excavated in the 1930s. The results of that study and subsequent investigations indicated that the site contains important archaeological data.

**AH-HA' KWE-AH-MAC'/STONEWALL MINE CULTURAL PRESERVE GOAL:**

Incorporate additional sensitive cultural resources into the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve in order to help protect, stabilize, and preserve the archaeological and cultural sites within the preserve.

**AH-HA' KWE-AH-MAC'/STONEWALL MINE CULTURAL PRESERVE GUIDELINES:**

1. Expand the boundary of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' / Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve to include the entirety of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac' village site as well as other important archaeological and cultural sites such as the ethnographic village of Japatai and the Stonewall Peak/Little Stonewall Peak cremations site (CA-SDI-17760).
  - **Current Size:** 430 acres
  - **Proposed Size:** 1,780 acres
  - **Location in Park:** Expand to south to include the area between the Cold Spring and Cold Stream trails, encompassing Stonewall and Little Stonewall peaks, and expand to the west, across SR- 79, to include the area south of Paso Picacho Campground.  
(See **Figure 13 – Preferred Alternative map**)
2. Nominate ethnographic villages such as Japatai, and other significant archaeological and/or cultural sites such as the Stonewall Peak/Little Stonewall Peak cremations site (CA-SDI-17760) to the California and/or National Registers.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Cultural Preserves** for additional Cultural Preserve Goals and Guidelines.

### **Dyar House Area**

The Dyar House Area consists of the stabilized concrete and stone masonry ruins of the Ralph M. Dyar House, including the unstabilized ruins of an adjoining generator house, garage, and stone masonry landscape features. The Cedar Fire extensively damaged much of the building, leaving a hollowed-out stone and concrete masonry shell. While the building's stabilized ruins may be potentially eligible for listing on the California Register as a California State Landmark and

National Register- listed historic site, a restored Dyar House and associated landscape features could once again serve as a CRSP’s more centrally located park headquarters and/or other visitor serving functions. As such, it could play a key role as a base of operations for park-related administrative, interpretive, and recreational activities in this section of the Park.

The Dyar House served as a park office and interpretive facility since the Park’s earliest years until the Cedar Fire. The Cedar Fire destruction of much of the building resulted in new exhibits being installed in a nearby modular building to serve as a temporary visitor center. The exhibits include a welcome message that supports the interconnected natural, cultural, and historic stories of CRSP.

However, the exhibits have a number of areas in need of improvement: the audio- visual presentation is only about one topic – birds – and lacks a more thorough presentation about the broader park resources and significance; labels on the map omit some of the Park’s key features; and, the Kumeyaay Indian exhibits do not display materials in a culturally sensitive manner. Among the key issues is that CRSP lacks a permanent visitor center. Additionally, an adjacent trail serves as the Kumeyaay Nature Trail, but interpretive media related to the trail are outdated. Reference to an Indian Village is made in an activity booklet (also appearing to be outdated, but available along the trail), but one reconstructed shelter is all that exists in this area. Finally, the significance of the Dyar House’s role in the Park’s developmental and architectural history is only minimally interpreted and should be substantially increased.



*The Ralph M. Dyar House and former Park headquarters after the Cedar Fire*

**DYAR HOUSE AREA GOAL:**

Reconstruct and adapt the Dyar House, as well as its associate historic structures and landscape features in conjunction with the District and Sector’s needs to administer the Park, provide visitor services, and as a focus for museum collections.

**DYAR HOUSE AREA GUIDELINES:**

1. Follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines, as well as NHRP Criteria Consideration “E”, during the reconstruction process.
2. Remove any existing non-contributing structures and/or landscape features to help restore the historic setting.

**DYAR HOUSE AREA INTERPRETATION GOAL 1:**

Until the Dyar House can be reconstructed, provide interpretive and educational opportunities related to the ruins. Promote a better understanding and a greater appreciation for the Dyar House’s role in CRSP’s developmental and architectural history, as well as improve the existing related trails and features.

**DYAR HOUSE AREA INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Create a loop trail to interpret the Dyar House ruins, its associated outbuildings, and nearby historic sites such as the CCC camp.



*Dyar House [approx. 1924]*

2. Develop self-guiding media such as interpretive panels, brochures, and cell phone tours to highlight the significance of the Dyar House area.
3. Present guided programs to help visitors “read” the Dyar House ruins (and remnants) caused by the 2003 Cedar Fire (until such time as the Dyar House is restored).
4. Work with Cuyamaca Outdoor School to create a program that focuses on the connections between their school site and the former CCC camp.

**DYAR HOUSE AREA INTERPRETATION GOAL 2:**

Improve the existing Kumeyaay Nature Trail and related features.

**DYAR HOUSE AREA INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES**

1. Partner with Kumeyaay and Kwaaymii to develop interpretive media, programs, and facilities for the trail.
2. Determine the feasibility of creating a reconstructed Native American village along the trail.
3. Based on input from Kumeyaay and Kwaaymii consultation, revise and/or replace existing interpretive materials including the CRSP Museum and Indian Village Activity Booklet and the Kumeyaay Nature Trail brochure.
4. Incorporate archaeological resource protection measures for improvements made to the existing Kumeyaay Nature Trail and related features.

## Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish Area

The former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish is historically significant for its association with the collaborative efforts of the NPS and CCC with C DPR to establish a group camp for Boy Scouts of America troops in CRSP. From 1940 to 1998, thousands of local Boy Scouts utilized Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish. Before the Cedar Fire, Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish's campground featured some of the best examples of the NPS/CCC Park Rustic style buildings and landscape elements in southern California state parks. Due to its historical significance, the site of Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish may still be eligible for listing on both the California and National Registers as a historical landscape.

There is also enough surviving physical and historical evidence to locate and restore nearly all of the camp's 40 contributing buildings and structures. A restored Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish could provide an excellent opportunity to serve as a structured, public use area as well as base of operations for park-related administrative, interpretive, and recreational activities in and around the north area of the Park. Combined with other surviving examples of the Park Rustic style within CRSP, a restored Hual-Cu-Cuish would be eligible for listing on both the California and National Registers as part of a discontinuous Park Rustic, thematic historic district at CRSP.

This area was also the location of the ethnographic village of Hual-Cu-Cuish. Although heavily damaged by construction and use of the Boy Scout Camp, archaeological testing in 1999 and 2000 documented that intact deposits still exist.



*North KYBO building at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish prior to the Cedar Fire ca. 1990's*

### **CAMP HUAL-CU-CUIISH AREA GOAL:**

Restore and adaptively reuse the Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish Area for structured public use while identifying and protecting the area's contributing historic resources and significant archaeological and natural resources.

### **CAMP HUAL-CU-CUIISH AREA GUIDELINE:**

1. Follow Historic Zone Goals and Guidelines for the appropriate treatments to restore, adaptively reuse, and preserve Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish Area's contributing 1939-1962 Park Rustic style historic resources.
2. Continue to use the parking area for equestrian staging until a replacement area can be opened.

### **CAMP HUAL-CU-CUIISH AREA INTERPRETATION GOAL:**

Promote a better understanding and a greater public appreciation for the area's historical resources that best represent the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish's developmental/architectural history and 59-year association with the local

Boy Scouts of America organization, as well as key natural and archaeological resources of the area.

***CAMP HUAL-CU-CUISH AREA INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES:***

1. Develop and implement education programs that address the many diverse resource values at the Park for the variety of visitors potentially using the camp (e.g., grades K-12, colleges, industry, and general public).
2. Develop an interpretive trail system, displays, and activities to introduce visitors to the area’s historic, natural, and archaeological resources.
3. Encourage self-guided tours, programmed events such as school groups or other organized opportunities to control visitor use and to reduce impacts on the cultural and natural landscape.

**Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve**

The current Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve contains several villages including the main ethnographic village of Juacuapin (Huacupin). Just south of the current preserve is a large village that is called “Dripping Springs” (CA-SDI-860). It is currently the largest recorded prehistoric site (85 acres) within the Park. This village was recognized by early researchers such as D. L. True as being associated with Jamatyume, one of the seven named ethnographic villages of the region. “Dripping Springs” (CA-SDI-860) was excavated by True in the late 1960s and is the type site (or model) for the Cuyamaca Complex. Sensitive archaeological materials have also been recovered from this site.

***CUISH-CUISH (EAST MESA) CULTURAL PRESERVE GOAL:***

Expand the Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve to include additional sensitive resources in order to protect and stabilize the archaeological and cultural sites within the preserve.

***CUISH-CUISH (EAST MESA) CULTURAL PRESERVE GUIDELINES:***

1. Expand the boundary of the Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve to include the ethnographic village site of “Dripping Springs” (CA-SDI-860), the type site for the Cuyamaca Archaeological Complex.
  - ***Current Size:*** 500 acres
  - ***Proposed Size:*** 1,533 acres
  - ***Location in Park:*** Expand to the south across fire road to park boundary.

*See Section 4.3 - Natural Preserve Zone and Figure 13 - Preferred Alternative map.*
2. Nominate ethnographic villages such as Juacuapin and other significant archaeological and/or cultural sites within the preserve, such as “Dripping Springs,” to the National Register.

Also see **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Cultural Preserves** for additional Cultural Preserve Goals and Guidelines.

### **Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area**

The Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area is one of the most active areas in the Park. It consists of a public campground, picnic area, and adjacent park administration area. There is a high concentration of visitors during the summer months, on many weekends, and during snow days. A self-guiding nature trail, interpretive panels, and a campfire center are among the interpretive media and facilities in this area. Although interpretation addresses a variety of natural history topics, there is no interpretation of the campground's significance related to early Park development, architectural history, and outdoor recreation. The area is associated with two key developmental phases of CDPR's history: the 1933-1942 CCC Period; and the 1946 to 1970 Postwar Modern Period. While other examples can be found throughout the Park, the Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area contains the largest concentration of pre- and postwar Park Rustic style buildings and landscape improvements. Combined with other examples in the Park, the Paso Picacho Campground/Administration Area would be eligible for listing on both the California and National Registers as part of a discontinuous Park Rustic-themed historic district. Despite the high concentration of park visitors and rich history, the area lacks a permanent interpretive facility where related exhibits can be displayed. The Nature Den, once a home to interpretive programs and activities, is seldom used for interpretation or education due to lack of staff.

#### **PASO PICACHO CAMPGROUND/ADMINISTRATION AREA GOAL:**

Promote a better understanding of, and greater public appreciation for the Paso Picacho Campground Area's historical resources that best represent its developmental/architectural history and continued use as a CDPR facility for over 80 years.

#### **PASO PICACHO CAMPGROUND/ADMINISTRATION AREA GUIDELINES:**

1. Develop an interpretive trail system, displays, and activities within the area to introduce visitors to the area's historic, natural, and recreational resources.
2. Rehabilitate the historic, former Campground Store building to serve as an annex to the visitor center located in the Dyar House Area.
  - Add historic photographs and period furnishings inside the Campground Store to enhance interpretation.
  - Provide exhibits that showcase recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities along park trails and features at or near the Paso Picacho Campground.
  - Consider expanding Camp Host duties to include working in the Campground Store and participating in interpretive presentations.

- Partner with CRSPIA to develop a modest interpretive sales area to support public understanding and appreciation of the historic Paso Picacho Campground.
3. Provide a walking tour of Paso Picacho Campground’s historic structures and features to highlight the Park’s early years and related architectural history.
  4. Develop special interpretive programs and activities for snow days.
  5. Explore the feasibility of an interpretive concession to expand interpretive offerings related to the Paso Picacho area park development and architectural history.
  6. Re-create the historic ambiance and interpret the significance of the Nature Den.
    - Include interpretation such as historic photographs and period furnishings inside the Nature Den.
    - Develop a variety of interpretive programs that highlight early 20th century activities that may have taken place in the historic Nature Den on topics ranging from natural history to outdoor recreation.
    - Partner with Cuyamaca Outdoor School to develop programs and activities that inspire youth to experience the Park’s earliest education facility – Paso Picacho Campground’s Nature Den.

## 4.5 CONTINUED PLANNING AND ISSUE RESOLUTION

This General Plan has identified a number of unresolved issues and future planning efforts that require attention beyond the scope of this document.

Funding and staffing limitations has restricted the selection of issues and studies that CDPR is able to immediately address and requires that CDPR set priorities to accomplish these efforts. The goals and guidelines within this General Plan provide direction for each issue, with some guidelines recommending future planning efforts such as management plans and studies.

*This section is a summary of continued planning and issue resolution efforts called for in the General Plan*

This section is a summary of continued planning and issue resolution efforts called for in the *Parkwide, Management-Zone-Specific*, and *Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines* sections of this General Plan. These efforts are intended to supplement and compliment the recommendations already called for in the

General Plan. The following describes the purpose and intent, some issues to address, as well as some specific desired outcomes of these continued planning efforts:

### 4.5.1 ROADS AND TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN (RTMP)

A comprehensive RTMP should be completed to address a wide-range of trails issues at the Park. Some issues involving trails include improving resource protection through re-routes and closures, re-designation of selected trails to

multi-use, possible new trails, better connections to trails from campgrounds, and a holistic look at the entire system to maximize long rides, loops, and connectivity, as outlined below. Identification of trails that require improvements prior to being re-designated as multi-use is needed, as is a trails maintenance program tied to a defined schedule and budget.

1. Several of the Park’s trails travel through meadows, wet areas, across streams or the Sweetwater River, or through archaeological sites causing damage to resources. A comprehensive evaluation of impacts and associated trail improvements such as bridges, re-routes, and closures should be conducted to determine the best course of action to protect resources while maintaining trail connections and user experience.



*Paso Picacho Loop Trail Trailhead  
November 2012*

2. Equestrian groups have come forward to offer ideas for better trail connectivity and improved experiences. These include an extension of the West Side Trail to connect the Green Valley Equestrian Campground with trails on the east side and south end of the Park, new trails to provide access in and out of the camp, as well as additional trail loop connectors throughout the Park. From a user and operations perspective some of these proposals may be beneficial and should be evaluated further. In addition, potentially re-route some existing trails where use is causing resource damage (i.e., trails through meadows and/or wet areas). This should be undertaken and improvements implemented so that the condition of natural and cultural resources at the Park can be better protected and improved while maintaining or improving trail experiences.

3. Mountain bikers and horseback riders often enjoy long rides made possible by use of loops and connecting trails. Long rides allow riders to access and experience more areas of the Park. A study of the entire trail system would likely find ways to create more loops and connections to increase long rides and improve rider experience.

4. In 2001, a report by a trails evaluation team from CDPR made recommendations for improved mountain bike access through conversion of some trails to multi-use. The recommendations contained in the report should be re-evaluated by current staff and user groups to determine if the proposals are still appropriate (esp. as related

to cultural and natural resource protection) and where they can be improved. In addition, any trails considered for conversion to multi-use, should be evaluated for suitability of making them such.

5. While user groups have identified the desire for more connectivity of trails to provide long rides that include loops, there are some trails that are close together, creating a redundant system. The evaluation of the trail system should include analysis of this redundancy and include recommendations for removing redundant trails, particularly in sensitive environments like grasslands and meadows. However, some trails that appear redundant may be necessary to decrease traffic on a particular trail segment for safety reasons or to allow for multiple uses, or solitary trails for mountain bikers, equestrians, or hikers. Where this applies, that reasoning should be documented as justification for trail retention.

#### **4.5.2 EQUESTRIAN FAMILY CAMPGROUND**

Working with equestrian groups, key stakeholders, and the general public, determine a suitable location for an equestrian campground and day-use staging area in the north end of the Park within the Front-Country Zone or Back-Country Zone. Establish and utilize criteria such as proximity to existing trail networks, number of campsites, shade for temperature moderation and amenities offered.

#### **4.5.3 NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. Update the Vegetation Management Plan for CRSP at least every 10-15 years in order to address issues that may be identified through data analysis, incorporate new methods, re-evaluate desired outcomes based upon updates to scientific knowledge, and to adjust management in response to a dynamic environment.
2. Update the parkwide vegetation map every 10-15 years to provide a representative example of the extent, type, and distribution of habitat within the Park. Document provisional alliances or unique vegetation types with additional data collection.
3. Update the Unit Prescribed Fire Management Plan to incorporate advances in fire science and technology, state and federal regulations, consistency with other park management programs, and regular review of objectives and methods.
  - Size, frequency, and intensity of planned fires should be supported by science that shows methods proper for reaching desired outcomes.
  - Prioritize treatments based upon landscape and habitat goals, including maintenance of a mosaic of vegetation types and maturity, forest health, biodiversity, and habitat suitability.
4. Update the Colorado Desert District Non-Native Plant Removal Plan (Jorgensen 1996) or develop a plan specific to CRSP in conjunction with the aforementioned update of the Vegetation Management Plan.

- Develop a prioritization matrix for treatment based upon Cal-IPC and CDFA designations.
  - Support projects that map and monitor the presence of non-native plants, the success of treatments, and new introductions.
  - Integrate Early Detection and Rapid Response methodologies into park management to prevent new invasive species from becoming established.
  - Work cooperatively with public and private neighboring landowners.
4. Develop and implement a long term monitoring plan to determine the distribution, habitat use, and status of sensitive wildlife species in the Park.
  5. Periodically review and update the Wildfire Management Plan in conjunction with appropriate agencies such as CAL FIRE and the CNF.

#### 4.5.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Develop a management plan for cultural resources, including archaeological, ethnographic, and historic resources, and implement the recommendations of such a plan. This plan should include consultation with Native Americans, descendants of early residents, and other ethnic or historic user groups. Site condition monitoring, evaluation, protection, and treatment plans should be included, as well as plans for site survey, recordation, and nomination of cultural resources to the California and/or National Registers.

#### 4.5.5 INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Additional interpretive planning efforts are critical to help realize the goals and guidelines identified in this General Plan. An Interpretation Master Plan will be needed to expand upon the interpretive themes and to provide recommendations for specific interpretive methods, media and programs. Completion of this plan will provide CRSP with a comprehensive set of recommendations that can then be prioritized in an Interpretation Action Plan. As a part of any interpretive project or program development, a specific Interpretive Project Plan or Interpretive Program Plan should be required. For example, interpretive improvement recommendations for the area encompassing the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City/Cuyamaca Natural Preserve area will necessitate an Interpretive Project Plan to ensure that details such as stakeholder involvement, resource protection goals, visitor needs, and appropriate interpretive media are considered and documented.



*Information kiosk after snowfall at East Mesa Parking February 2013*

## 4.6 MANAGING VISITOR CAPACITY

This section presents CDPR’s methodology to evaluate existing and future desired conditions and to analyze the capacity issues related to General Plan concepts and recommendations for the future development and use of the Park. It is intended that the General Plan and this discussion of visitor capacity will satisfy the initial requirements of PRC (§ 5019.5), which states:

*Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, [CDPR] shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover.*

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains developed areas with recreation and administrative facilities as well as a large amount of undeveloped open space land. The General Plan recommends preserving and protecting the Park’s important natural and cultural resources as well as establishing desired and appropriate visitor and recreational activities for the Park. However, CDPR does not build for peak visitor levels.

Some recreational activities that have occurred in the Park for many years have impacted some of the Park’s important natural and cultural resources, such as trails routed through meadows and operation of the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground. If conditions change or visitor experience diminishes, there is a process for recognizing and responding to such changes and potential impacts. General Plan goals and guidelines for resource management present the desired future conditions against which park managers can measure visitor use and take the appropriate actions to avoid or reduce negative impacts using the adaptive management process. This process also considers possible alternatives for continuing desired and appropriate visitor experiences.

Physical constraints for development and public use exist in the Park, such as sensitive vegetation communities and wildlife, archaeological and historic sites and features, steep topography, existing roads, easements, and drainages. These elements will all be important factors in park design and determining visitor capacities.

Park visitor experience is shaped by the physical environment and character of specific park areas. The character of an area helps determine the types of visitor opportunities that promote enjoyment or appreciation of a park’s defining qualities, the variety of possible activities, and types and amount of development that serve those visitor activities. The quality and character of visitor experience is also influenced by visitor demographics and recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of desirable park experiences and conditions.

Social constraints also exist due to the increased population levels and diversity in California and within the communities in the region. These population

trends will have an influence on future park development and facility design and can be viewed as opportunities for cultural awareness and exchange. CDPR's methodology focuses on the initial capacity of developed facilities and desired resource and social conditions.

Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary in order to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future management actions. The methodology and steps to be used in this process are outlined below.

#### **4.6.1 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

The following represents an adaptive management cycle, or methodology, that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions. This methodology was initiated during this General Planning effort and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and social conditions. Visitor capacities are addressed for park areas when sufficient data is presented.

Visitor Capacity Management is defined by CDPR as:

*A methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators in order to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions.*

#### **Adaptive Management Process**

The following tasks are usually carried out during the resource inventories, unit classification, and General Planning processes. Subsequent management plans and site investigations provide the more detailed information necessary for project-level analysis and impact assessments in order to initiate required mitigation and monitoring programs. These tasks are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that CDPR considers from the programmatic planning stages of the General Plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

- 1. Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints:** Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations CDPR is able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- 2. Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases CDPR's ability to determine

the resource conditions that are desired and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions.

- 3. Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the Park. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses (e.g., the number of campsites or parking spaces in a park).
- 4. Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g., the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator (for example: 100 tree roots per trail mile maximum). Through monitoring processes, CDPR management is alerted when conditions exceed a determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range.
- 5. Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated.
- 6. Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study CDPR can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition.
- 7. Adjust Environmental or Social Conditions:** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, CDPR management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. This may include further studies, new project design, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

## Research, Investigations, and Monitoring

Data from research, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can all be captured and used to make sure the desired condition of the Park is maintained. A program of continued research and site investigations provides and documents updated data on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

## Desired Indicators and Outcomes

**Table 1 - Management-Zone Matrix** provides a bulleted list of carrying capacity objectives for resource character and management, and visitor experiences for each of the seven management-zones for the Park. These represent the desired indicators and outcomes with which to monitor and take appropriate actions when desired outcomes have not been met.



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# Chapter 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The *Environmental Analysis* chapter discloses potential environmental effects that may result from implementing the actions described in the General Plan. Potential mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed project are also discussed in this chapter.

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

### 5.1.1 PURPOSE

The General Plan/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for CRSP constitutes an Environmental Impact Report, as required by the PRC (§§ 5002.2 and 21000 et seq.). The General Plan/Draft EIR is subject to approval by the California State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission). The Commission has sole authority for the plan's approval and adoption. Following certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan by the Commission, and as staff and funding becomes available, CDPR will prepare specific management plans and development plans. Future projects within the Park, based on the proposals in this General Plan, are subject to further environmental reviews, permitting requirements, and approval by other agencies such as Caltrans, CDFW, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

### 5.1.2 FOCUS OF THE EIR

The NOP for this General Plan was circulated to the appropriate federal, state, and local planning agencies on April 9, 2013. Based on known issues affecting the long-term management of the Park and on comments received during the planning process, this General Plan/EIR was prepared to address potential environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the Plan's management goals and guidelines. Emphasis is given to potentially significant environmental impacts that may result from all future park management, development, and uses within CRSP that are consistent with these goals and guidelines.



*View of Lake Cuyamaca from SR-79  
August 2012*

### 5.1.3 SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The tiering process of environmental review is used for this EIR. Tiering in an EIR, as part of a General Plan, allows agencies to consider broad environmental issues at the General Planning stage, followed by more detailed examination of actual development projects in subsequent environmental documents. These later documents incorporate, by reference, the general discussions from the broader EIR in the General Plan and concentrate solely on the issues specific to

the projects (PRC § 21093; CEQA Guidelines § 15152). This document represents the first tier of environmental review.

As a first tier of planning, this General Plan provides Parkwide, Management-Zone-Specific, and Area-Specific goals and guidelines. Future second tier review will provide more detailed information and environmental analysis. At each planning level, specific projects will be subject to further environmental review to determine if they are consistent with the General Plan and to identify any potentially significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and/or monitoring that would be required by the project. More comprehensive environmental review will be possible at the specific levels of planning, where facility size, location, and capacity can be explicitly delineated, rather than at the General Plan level. Additional potentially significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures specific to the project will be identified at that time.

#### **5.1.4 CONTENTS OF THE EIR**

This EIR includes the following sections:

***Introduction:*** This section includes a brief overview of the environmental review process, legal requirements, and approach to the environmental analysis.

***EIR Summary:*** This section represents a summary of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed General Plan, an overview of the environmental effects of alternatives considered to be the preferred General Plan, and a description of any areas of controversy and/or issues that need to be resolved.

***Project Description:*** This section provides an overview of the proposed General Plan, which is the focus of the programmatic EIR.

***Environmental Setting:*** This section provides a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project from a local and regional perspective. The environmental setting constitutes the baseline physical conditions to determine whether an impact is significant.

***Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis:*** This section describes those environmental topics that did not warrant detailed environmental analysis and the supporting rationale for their elimination.

***Environmental Impacts:*** This section analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan.

***Other CEQA Considerations:*** This section contains information on other CEQA-mandated topics, including significant and unavoidable

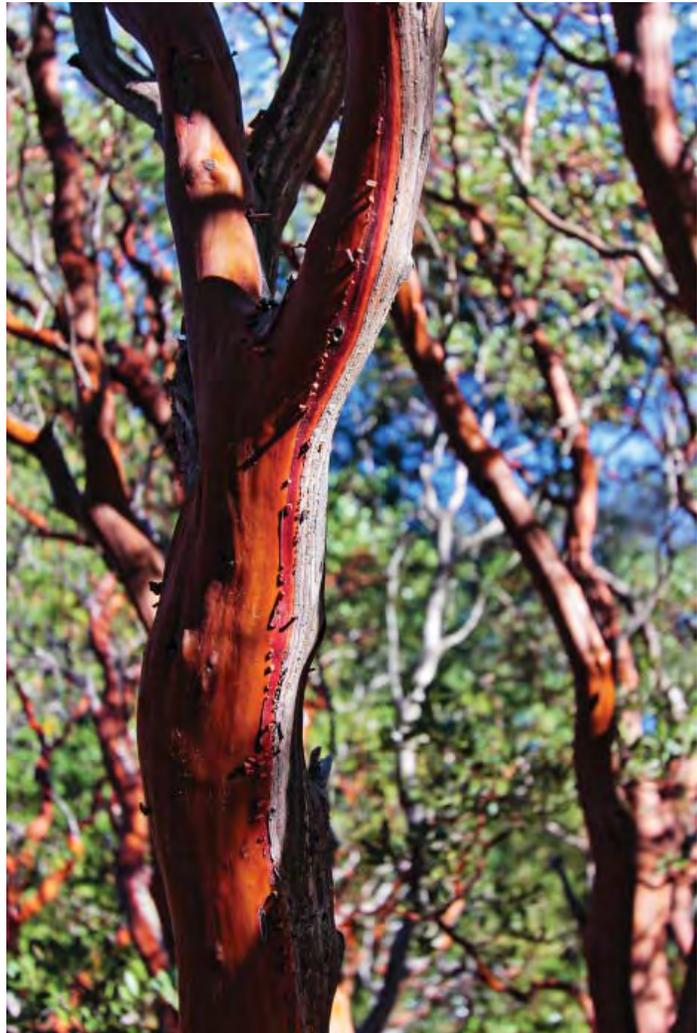
impacts, significant irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts.

**Alternatives to the Proposed Project:** This section describes the alternatives to the proposed General Plan (including the No Project Alternative) that are considered in this EIR and the associated environmental effects of these alternatives relative to the proposed project.

## 5.2 EIR SUMMARY

### 5.2.1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

This General Plan is conceptual in identifying new facilities, and is focused primarily on the desired programs and actions to protect park resources and improve visitor experiences. Due to resource sensitivity, CRSP has limited potential for development of new facilities. The General Plan describes a park vision, management goals, planning guidelines, and desired outcomes, but CDPR can only speculate on the appropriate types, locations, and potential impacts of new facilities to meet these goals and accommodate future visitor needs. Implementation of the General Plan will require additional studies at the project level and will be subject to further environmental review. Implementation of the goals and guidelines contained in **Chapter 4 - The Plan**, along with CDPR's compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, avoids potential significant effects or maintains them at a 'less than significant' level. Additional mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary. A comparison of the alternatives and the impacts associated with each are provided in **Table 3 - Environmental Comparison of Alternatives (Section 5.2.1 - Summary of Impacts and Mitigation)**.



*Manzanita branches near Green Valley Campground*

### 5.2.2 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Four alternatives are considered in this EIR, including the Preferred Alternative, Resource Protection Alternative (Environmentally Superior Alternative), Visitor-

**Table 3: Environmental Comparison of Alternatives**

	<b>Continue Use of 1986 Plan (No Project Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative 1/ Resource Protection Alternative (Environmentally Superior Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative 2/ Visitor-Use Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative 3/ Preferred Plan</b>
<b>FACILITIES (VISITOR SERVING AND OPERATIONS)</b>	Significant increase in visitor and operational facilities would expand recreational opportunity for all varieties of park users. This would be done based on the recreational needs that were established at the time the previous General Plan was approved, not taking into account changes in the way the Park is used today. [REDACTED]	Establishment of new visitor serving and operational facilities would be difficult due to the high priority placed on the protection of park natural and cultural resources. Maintenance of existing facilities is difficult due to limitations in equipment that can be utilized and work that can be conducted due to resource protection restrictions. [REDACTED]	Increase in visitor and operational facilities, but not to the extent that is proposed in the previously approved General Plan. However, this alternative takes into account the recreational needs of today's visitors to CRSP. [REDACTED]	Allows for a modest increase in visitor serving and operation facilities in line with the recreational needs of today's visitors to CRSP. [REDACTED]
<b>AESTHETICS</b>	Changes in landscape to a more urban, developed character throughout the Park would remove aspects of the "wilderness" experience that visitors come to enjoy. These changes may result in significant change to viewsheds throughout the Park. [REDACTED]	With little development taking place, there would be minimal change in the visual character of the Park. No or little to no change would occur to aesthetic resources within the Park. [REDACTED]	More development would add structures that may impact key viewsheds. More visitors could significantly diminish the values of serenity and quiet that visitors currently experience within the Park, particularly where those values are most desirable such as preserves and wilderness zones. [REDACTED]	Potential for adverse visual impact due to the introduction of new facilities into the Park, but mitigable to a less-than-significant level. Facilities would be designed to blend with the Park's topography. New facilities would be sited to minimize impact to the Park's landscape character. [REDACTED]
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	Loss of habitat to accommodate a substantial increase in visitor and operational facilities could result in significant unmitigable impacts to threatened and endangered plant and wildlife species. [REDACTED]	Additional wilderness designation provides additional natural resource protection with restrictions that reduce the opportunity for active restoration programs and ability to carry out restoration. Includes additional Natural Preserves that restrict development and recreational use, resulting in less potential for impact to resources. [REDACTED]	Additional recreational resources may result in additional impact to existing natural resources. Further trail access could accelerate degradation of water courses, riparian habitat and result in increased erosion. Potential for increased cumulative impacts to natural resources. [REDACTED]	Provides increased protection to sensitive habitats through preserve designation while areas affected by wildfire continue to recover. The Front Country Zone provides most visitor services and concentrates them into specific areas to prevent the sprawling of facilities. Some impact would occur due to increased visitor and operational facilities. [REDACTED]
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	Extensive evaluation of the Park has found many significant sites located where development in the previous General Plan was proposed. Significant unmitigable impacts would result if this development proceeded as planned. [REDACTED]	Further expansion of cultural preserves may provide further resource protection. This expansion may reduce opportunity for expansion of recreation due to less area for recreation facilities. [REDACTED]	Substantial increase in development has the potential to impact cultural resources. This could result in significant unmitigable impact to these resources. [REDACTED]	Provides protection for significant cultural resources by establishment of new cultural preserves and expansion of existing preserves in order to protect the most significant cultural sites. Historic resources would follow Secretary of Interior's Standards for their treatment. [REDACTED]

**Table 3: Environmental Comparison of Alternatives (cont'd)**

	Continue Use of 1986 Plan (No Project Alternative)	Alternative 1/ Resource Protection Alternative (Environmentally Superior Alternative)	Alternative 2/ Visitor-Use Alternative	Alternative 3/ Preferred Plan
<b>GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND SEISMICITY</b>	Impact to unique geologic features and/or land forms is more likely based on the extensive development proposed. Compaction of soils for construction of facilities would result in erosion impacts. [Yellow]	Less impact would occur to these resources due to limited to no development of park operations and visitor facilities. [Green]	There is potential for impacts to these resources due to increased visitation as a result of increased visitor services and facilities within the Park. Appropriate measures could keep impacts to a less-than-significant level. [Yellow]	Geologic, land form and soil resources that contribute to the character of the Park would be avoided during development of the Park. However, with increased visitation, there is potential for further visitor impact to these resources. [Green]
<b>WILDFIRE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	Additional infrastructure would be under threat to damage or loss by wildfire under the existing plan. Mitigation including sufficient defensible space must exist to protect existing and new structures from loss due to wildfire. [Red]	Wildfire threat to existing infrastructure will remain high. However, likelihood of further development becoming a risk is low due to little to no new park facilities being constructed under this alternative. [Red]	Additional infrastructure would become further threat to damage or loss by wildfire. Additional mitigation must be in place to protect existing and new structures from loss due to wildfire. [Red]	Wildfire will continue to be a potential threat to the Park and its resources. Measures must be in place to protect existing and proposed infrastructure. This alternative would favor use of existing developed sites over new sites to minimize amount of new infrastructure at risk. [Red]
<b>HYDROLOGY/ WATER QUALITY</b>	The existing plan would result in impacts to water courses and water quality due to extensive facility development and trail network expansion. [Yellow]	This alternative would likely not affect watercourses due to no new facility development. Existing trails would likely be unaffected except to perhaps reduce size or change alignment. These changes would result in minor improvements to hydrology and water quality. [Green]	Impacts to hydrology and water quality would be likely to occur from improvements to trails and additional facilities. Mitigation measures would be essential to keep impacts to a less-than-significant level. [Yellow]	Impacts would be driven by the recommendations made in the future RTMP. Trail changes may result in impacts to hydrology due to the introduction of new water crossings. New operational and visitor serving facilities may also result in impacts that can be minimized using appropriate measures. [Green]
<b>UTILITIES/ SERVICE SYSTEMS</b>	Additional utilities and service systems and increased capacity of existing systems would be required due to additional visitor and operational facilities proposed by the existing plan. These changes would result in potential impacts to soils, archaeological resources, aesthetics, natural resources and hydrology. [Yellow]	Little to no additional utilities/service systems would be constructed. Existing systems would continue to be maintained to existing levels of service resulting in limited resource impacts. [Green]	Increased utilities/service systems would be constructed to meet the needs of expanded facilities; however, they would not be expanded to the extent of what was proposed by the existing plan. Avoidance, minimization and mitigation of these impacts would be necessary. [Yellow]	This alternative would necessitate a modest increase in utilities/service systems to meet and increase in visitor services and facilities. This could result in modest impacts to park resources, but measures shall be included to avoid and minimize those impacts. [Yellow]

**Key Note:** [Green] No or less than significant impact      [Yellow] Potential for some impact      [Red] Potential for adverse significant impact

**Table 4: Visitor Facilities Alternatives**

	Existing Conditions	Continue Use of 1986 Plan (No Project Alternative)	Alternative 1/ Resource Protection Alternative (Environmentally Superior Alternative)	Alternative 2/ Visitor-Use Alternative	Alternative 3/ Preferred Plan
<b>Proposed Management Zones (acre)</b>					
Gateway Zone	n/a	n/a	82	82	82
Front Country Zone	n/a	n/a	213	219	222
Back Country Zone (General State Park Designation)	9,858	9,858	7,943	9,628	8,518
Natural Preserve	730	730	1437	783	1277
Cultural Preserve	2,460	2,460	4,485	2,557	4,880
Historic Zone	n/a	n/a	n/a	78	54
Wilderness	13,100	13,100	13,100	13,100	12,630
<b>Campsites (visitor capacity)</b>					
Paso Picacho	85 (680)	105-115 (840-920)	85 (680)	85 (680)	85 (680)
Green Valley	81 (648) (30 horses)	96-106 (768-848)	81 (648) (30 horses)	81 (648) (30 horses)	81 (648) (30 horses)
Arroyo Seco	4 (40)	4 (32)	4 (32)	4 (32)	4 (32)
Granite Springs	4 (40)	4 (32)	4 (32)	4 (32)	4 (32)
Additional Trail Camps (Location(s) unidentified)	n/a	6-15 (48-120)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Los Vaqueros	1 (80) (46 horses)	1 (80) (46 horses)	1 (80) (46 horses)	1 (80) (46 horses)	1 (80) (46 horses)
Los Caballos	0	16 (128) (32 horses)	0	0	0
Potential family/equestrian campground in northern portion of Park	n/a	n/a	0 (0)	12-20 (96-160) (24-40 Horses)	12-20 (96-160) (24-40 Horses)
South End Area Family Equestrian Camp	n/a	15-30 (120-240) (30-60 horses)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Descanso Equestrian Group Camp	n/a	15-25 (120-200) (30-50 horses)	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Table 4: Visitor Facilities Alternatives (cont'd)**

	Existing Conditions	Continue Use of 1986 Plan (No Project Alternative)	Alternative 1/ Resource Protection Alternative (Environmentally Superior Alternative)	Alternative 2/ Visitor-Use Alternative	Alternative 3/ Preferred Plan
Hual-Cu-Cuish (Former Boy Scout Camp)	n/a	250 people	0	250 people	250 people
Cuyamaca Outdoor School Camp *	240 people	240 people	0	240 people	240 people
Lakeside Family Camp	n/a	20-30 (160-240)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seal Group Camp	n/a	70-100 people	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Trails (miles)</b>					
	137	137	137	137	137

\* operated by the San Diego County Office of Education

Use Alternative, and the No Project Alternative (Maintain the Existing Plan). Descriptions of the alternatives are provided in **Table 4 (Section 5.8. - Visitor Facilities Alternatives)** provides a comparison of facilities that could result from the implementation of the alternatives considered in this EIR.

## 5.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In **Chapter 4 - The Plan**, the project description establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for CRSP. Management goals and supporting guidelines in **Chapter 4** are designed to address the currently identified critical planning issues and to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of uses that would be permitted in CRSP.

The environmental analysis found within this chapter (**Chapter 5**) focuses on the environmental effects of the Preferred Plan based on limited conceptual scoping of new facilities within CRSP. See **Figure 13 - Preferred Alternative map** for the location of the management-zones that have been designated, and **Chapter 4 - The Plan** for descriptions as to how they will be managed and/or developed. The General Plan proposes to improve and expand existing resource protection; provide park improvements enhancing current and future park visitor use; and establish new recreation opportunities. The following is a summary of the General Plan's land use, development, and visitor opportunity proposals:



*Visitors enjoying a sunny picnic at Paso Picacho Picnic Area January 2012*

### 5.3.1 RECREATION FACILITIES

Additional recreational opportunities include the potential to construct a horse camp in the northern part of CRSP to replace the former Los Caballos Equestrian Campground that was closed after the Cedar Fire.

The Plan proposes changing trail use based on the recommendations of the future RTMP. Changes may include making further trails available for use by mountain bikers. The potential exists to construct additional trail loops including viable north-south trail connections to facilitate travel through a greater portion of CRSP.

Additional day-use and overnight facilities will be implemented into CRSP. The locations of these new facilities have not yet been determined, but will be sited within Front-Country or Back-Country Zones.

Further goals and guidelines to be implemented, providing additional recreational opportunity, can be found within **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Visitor Experience and Opportunities**.

### 5.3.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Plan proposes the restoration, reconstruction, adaptive reconstruction, and adaptive reuse of the buildings at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City, and Dyar House, as well as the preservation and reuse of Park Rustic style buildings and features built by the CCC during the 1930s throughout the Park. The Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City historic sites may be considered for public use for both educational and overnight use purposes. To meet these functions, some buildings would be reconstructed for operations or public use, potentially by a concessionaire.

Additionally, the General Plan proposes increasing the size of two of the four existing Cultural Preserves to provide additional resource protection.

Further goals and guidelines to be implemented, protecting cultural resources, can be found within **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Cultural Resources Management** and **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Wilderness Zone and Natural Preserve Zone**.

### 5.3.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

The Plan proposes to increase the size of the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve.

Further goals and guidelines to be implemented, protecting natural resources, can be found within **Section 4.4.1 - Natural Resources Management, Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines**.

### 5.3.4 INTERPRETATION

The addition of interpretive programs would result in limited physical changes to CRSP. Changes may include but are not limited to the reconstruction or new construction of interpretive displays and the modification or construction of new interpretive trails.

To provide a permanent visitor center, whose main goal would be interpretation of CRSP, there are several viable options. The preferred option is the reconstruction and adaptive re-use of the Dyar House to replace the current temporary modular visitor center that is located near the Dyar House ruins. Also included would be any support infrastructure needed to ensure its successful operation.

Further goals and guidelines to be implemented to increase interpretation of CRSP may be found throughout **Chapter 4 - The Plan**

### 5.3.5 WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES

To remove existing conflicts occurring between wilderness, trail users, and utilities, adjustment of wilderness boundaries will occur. This will result in limited physical change to CRSP; however, the activities that occur within specific areas of CRSP will change such as the use of mountain bikes will be allowed in areas where they were previously prohibited due to wilderness restrictions.

Adjustment of boundaries will allow for more effective maintenance of existing facilities (such as trails) and locating of any new facilities near existing facilities.

Further discussion of the modification of wilderness boundaries and the impact they would have on CRSP may be found in **Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Wilderness Zone.**

### **5.3.6 OPERATIONAL FACILITIES**

Buildings including the Dyar House, former CAL FIRE station, and Mack Ranch, will be repurposed to serve in operation of CRSP. Existing supplies and materials stockpiled at the Stonewall Mine will be moved to a location that is out of public view and not within sensitive resource areas.

Potable water storage systems will be repaired, upgraded, and/or enlarged to meet current and future demand. Upgrades of electrical supply to CRSP campgrounds, maintenance facilities, and administrative areas are to be undertaken. Electrical facilities will be relocated out of sensitive resource areas, out of valuable viewsheds, and/or placed underground. The Plan would allow for the installation of solar power to meet electrical needs.

### **5.3.7 LAND ACQUISITIONS**

The Plan will allow for the acquisition of public or private lands adjacent to or within CRSP when there is a willing seller and a significant benefit to CRSP can be realized. Specifically, should CAL FIRE vacate La Cima Conservation Camp, consideration of its use as park land would be undertaken.

### **5.3.8 NOISE**

An environment with minimal noise intrusion is a highly important condition for visitors to CRSP. Noise impacts from General Plan proposals would be minimal and would result from temporary construction of new or modified facilities. Scheduling construction during low-visitation seasons can ensure that noise impacts are minimized. CDPR will follow the Soundscape Protection Policy (DOM: § 0312.4.1), which would restrict sound from human-made devices and enforce park noise standards. The planning of facility maintenance and construction efforts to low visitor use times would minimize noise impacts and keep them to a less-than-significant level.

## **5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Existing conditions that characterize CRSP, including descriptions of the important resources within the Park and the regional planning context, are described in **Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions.**

This General Plan is consistent with other applicable state and regional plans, such as the East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan, SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element of the San Diego County General Plan, and Land Management Plan for the CNF. Further detail

regarding planning influences may be found within **Section 2.7 - Planning Influences**.

## 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

The following topics were eliminated from further analysis in the EIR because there is no potential for significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the General Plan. Reasoning for their elimination is provided below.

**Land Use and Planning:** The General Plan proposals would not result in the division of an established community or conflict with applicable land use plans, habitat conservation plans, or the policies or regulations of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. Therefore, no significant land use and planning effects would occur and no further environmental analysis on the effects on land use and planning is necessary.

**Mineral Resources:** Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources that are or would be of value to the region and residents of the state, or are a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. According to California PRC § 5001.65 “Commercial exploitation of resources in units of the State Parks system is prohibited.” Therefore, no further environmental analysis regarding mineral resources is necessary.

**Population and Housing:** Due to a limited availability of employee housing in neighboring communities, staff housing within the Park has been essential to its efficient operation. The current mix of modular homes and permanent housing has provided sufficient living space. No changes in the amount of employee housing are needed with low likelihood that additional housing units would be constructed through the life of the General Plan. Implementation of the General Plan would not induce substantial population growth, displace housing, or displace people, resulting in no impact. No further analysis of this topic is necessary.

**Public Services:** A number of public services are crucial to the effective functioning of CRSP. The General Plan proposes limited expansion of existing facilities and construction of new facilities within the Park. Public Services are currently adequate for existing facilities and would be adequate for the proposed limited facility expansion.

Fire protection resources will continue to provide sufficient protection to existing as well as future proposed facilities. Two CAL FIRE stations are located a short distance from the Park. These are the Descanso Station (#45) and Julian Station. Additionally, the Julian Cuyamaca Fire Protection District Station (#57) is located along Engineers Road on the northern side of Lake Cuyamaca. As management



*Soapstone stockpiled near the Cuyamaca Outdoor School*

of fire within the Park continues to change and improve, the nearby fire suppression stations will play a critical role.

Public safety will continue to be managed by State Park Peace Officers and will be adjusted as necessary to accommodate a limited change in facilities as directed by the General Plan.

Neither schools or nearby parks would be affected by the General Plan's implementation.

The existing public services currently provide adequate levels of service, response times, and other performance objectives. Therefore, no further environmental analysis is necessary on how the General Plan's implementation would affect public services.

## **5.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION**

### **5.6.1 AESTHETICS**

This section analyzes impacts related to aesthetic resources that could result from implementation of the General Plan. A summary of aesthetic resources that exist within the Park may be found in **Section 2.3.5 - Aesthetic Resources**.

Any changes that substantially degrade visual experiences for visitors to the Park and other individuals from adjacent properties have the potential to cause significant impacts. If appropriate aesthetic features are not adequately integrated into the design and location of new park facilities and programs, adverse visual impacts may occur to scenic and public use areas, historic sites, and cultural landscapes.

The significance of visual impacts is dependent upon expectations and perceptions. For example, the presence of recreation facilities would generally be more visually impacting to visitors in a backcountry or wilderness area than an area where existing facilities already exist. The historic setting and sense of place in the Cuyamaca City/Stonewall Mine area could be degraded if facility improvements are not made compatible with the existing facilities present in this area such as historic mining infrastructure. Potential impacts as a result of implementation of the preferred plans goals and guidelines are discussed below as well as how those impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

#### **Thresholds**

The analysis of aesthetic impacts uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant aesthetic impact if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista,
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings,

- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

### Impact Analysis

**Adverse Effect on Scenic Vistas:** The General Plan would allow for the development of limited new recreation facilities such as additional campsites and new trails. These new features may have limited impact on scenic vistas from select locations. However, these new features would be developed away from backcountry and wilderness areas where the values of solitude and views with limited obstructions are highly valued.

Scenic vistas are diverse and plentiful throughout CRSP. The highly varied topography provides many lookout points from trails and rock outcroppings. Even small modifications to facilities could result in impacts to these viewsheds. Implementation of ***Aesthetic Resources Guideline 1*** (see ***Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Aesthetic Resources Management***) with new or modified facilities should minimize impact to scenic vistas and sensitive viewsheds.

**Damage to Scenic Resources:** A wealth of scenic resources exists within CRSP. Some of these resources include a wide variety of tree species that make up several habitat types within the Park. A large percentage of CRSP’s tree stands were burned in the Cedar Fire of 2003.

This resulted in a vastly different scenic environment, throughout CRSP, than what previously existed. Therefore, protection of surviving stands of trees is a high priority when planning new or modified facilities. The wide diversity of vegetation is also an important contributor to scenic resources of CRSP and should be protected.

A range of diverse rock types exist within the Park and are displayed dramatically along the numerous peaks that exist within CRSP. The difficulty in accessing these features is a key factor in helping protect them; however, ensuring that these features are not damaged or vandalized is of prime importance. Geologic features including natural water features are of great aesthetic value along watercourses throughout the Park. The ability of visitors to reach these features will often dictate the amount of impact that they may be subject to. Water features could be subject to siltation if trails and access to them is made easier through future development of the Park. Careful planning will be needed



***View of Lake Cuyamaca, Stonewall Peak, and Little Stonewall Peak from Engineers Road  
August 2012***

to protect them as well as ensure visitors can still see and enjoy these water features.

The historic landscape is also a contribution to the scenic resources of CRSP. Significant historic sites include the great variety of CCC-built Park Rustic structures in the Paso Picacho area and Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish; the site of Cuyamaca City, which supported gold mining; the Dyar House, which was severely damaged by the Cedar Fire; and the Mack Ranch Complex. All of these historic sites represent valuable historic points within the timeline of CRSP. These and other historic buildings and sites are being preserved and considered for potential future uses that may include interpretation, park operations, and/or concession. The potential for impact to CRSP's visual character will be minimized by adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings or reconstruction of previous historic buildings for such functions.

**Visual Character of the Park:** The visual character of the Park is on display from virtually any location within it, therefore, it is important that care be taken when decisions regarding further development are made. Efforts have been made throughout the history of CRSP to introduce developed features at a small scale in order to avoid dominating the landscape. New man-made features should be avoided at specific resource areas displaying the visual character of the Park including numerous meadows, Lake Cuyamaca, mountain peaks, and water courses along the Sweetwater River and its tributaries.

**New Sources of Light and Glare:** A dark night sky is a valuable aesthetic resource of CRSP, so it is important to limit and contain artificial lighting at new development. Through *Aesthetic Resources Management Guideline 5 (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines)*, artificial lighting would be limited to developed areas of the Park, be shielded or focused downwards, and emit the lowest light levels possible while meeting the Park's goals for public safety. Therefore, there would be less than significant impact due to light or glare issues.

### Summary

Careful planning will be required in carrying out the development proposed by the General Plan. However, with the utilization of *Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Aesthetic Resources Management*, adverse impacts to aesthetic resources will be avoided and impacts will be kept to a less-than-significant level.

### 5.6.2 AIR QUALITY

This section analyzes air quality impacts that could result from implementation of the General Plan. A description of the environmental setting for air quality, climate and topography is provided in *Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions*.

## Thresholds

The air quality analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have significant air quality impact if it would:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan,
- Violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation,
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is at non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors),
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, or
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

**Local Air Quality Plan Implementation:** The most recently completed air quality plan prepared by the local air quality management district, the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, is the 2011 Ambient Air Quality Network Plan. This Plan provides detailed measurements of major criterion pollutants including measurements from the nearest measuring station to the Park in the community of Alpine. Despite the Alpine measuring stations recordation of the County's highest levels of pollutants, the changes that would be under consideration at the Park would not affect the implementation of the Network Plan.



*Hikers enjoying the view from Stonewall Peak  
January 2014*

### **Violation of Standards or Substantial**

**Contribution of Existing Violation:** The changes under consideration at CRSP would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially towards an existing or projected air quality violation. Both the California and National standards for ambient air quality would not be substantially affected by the Park's General Plan. By continuing limited development within the Park as well as following appropriate measures to minimize large wildfire events, CRSP should continue to help the County meet ambient air quality standards. Any new projects proposed within the Park will be evaluated during their design to determine whether any new pollutants would be emitted and will be minimized so as to not result in air quality violation.

**Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Pollutants:** Development proposed by the CRSP General Plan should be evaluated at the time that the new development is designed to avoid pollutant emissions that could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which

the County of San Diego is in non-attainment under federal or state ambient air quality standards including emissions of ozone precursors. The County is currently in non-attainment status for ozone. Development within CRSP will implement a number of measures intended to minimize the emissions of criteria pollutants including ozone. These measures include minimizing fugitive dust through the use of **Hydrology Guideline 5 (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Physical Resources Management)** which will place appropriate BMPs into place during construction activities. Another opportunity to reduce emissions of criterion pollutants comes from the introduction of low- or zero-emission vehicles for use in conducting park operations as well as the use of properly maintained, efficient maintenance equipment (**Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Park Operations, Sustainability Guideline 6**). Therefore, the General Plan would not result in a cumulatively considerable new increase of any criteria pollutant for which the County of San Diego is in non-attainment under federal or state ambient air quality standards including emissions of ozone precursors.

### Summary

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in significant adverse effects on air quality. With implementation of the General Plan's goals and guidelines referenced in the analysis above, adverse impacts to air quality at CRSP would not occur and impacts would remain 'less-than-significant'.

### 5.6.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes impacts related to biological resources that could result from implementation of the General Plan. A more thorough description of biological resources including plant life, animal life as well as impacts due to fire and non-native species within CRSP may be found in **Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions, Natural Resources and Physical Resources**.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains a significant diversity of five main vegetative communities: conifer forest, oak woodland, riparian woodland, chaparral, and montane meadow/grassland. A total of 61 sensitive plants, 17 sensitive birds, 3 sensitive amphibians, 7 sensitive reptiles, and 9 sensitive mammals have been documented to occur within CRSP. More detail regarding botanical species may be found within **Section 2.3.2 - Natural Resources**.

### Thresholds

The biological resources analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS,

- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS,
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by the Clean Water Act (§ 404) (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means,
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites, or
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

### Impact Analysis

**Species Impacts:** Impacts to species will be avoided wherever possible. The majority of expansion of developed facilities will occur within previously developed areas of the Park where species are less likely to be present. Thus, impacts to sensitive species will be minimized. Surveys for sensitive species as well as the scheduling of construction outside of periods when species may be breeding or more likely to be impacted will be implemented.

**Habitat Impacts:** Goals and guidelines have been prepared to protect all habitats (*Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Natural Resources Management, Section 4.4.2 - Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Natural Preserve Zone, and Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve*). The extension of the boundaries of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve will increase protection for meadows and grasslands. This will promote recognition of the value of these resources and provide area-specific management guidelines for their protection, restoration, and maintenance. Impacts resulting from the development of facilities for park management and visitor use will be primarily restricted to previously developed sites so as to not introduce further habitat impacts. Sensitive vegetation communities including the Cuyamaca cypress stand, Sky Island Forests, and montane meadow grassland should be protected from impact of park development due to their supporting sensitive plants. Continued assessment of the presence of these communities and specific sensitive plants will continue to allow for further informed decision-making in the development of CRSP facilities.



*Purple-flowered lupine and young black oaks line the Black Oak Trail on Middle Peak  
May 2014*

**Wetland Impacts:** Wetlands are a vital resource within the Park and their protection is vitally important. The continued assessment of their location throughout CRSP has taken place and will continue. As was done with other sensitive natural resources, protection has been provided to wetlands, vernal wet areas, and other sensitive wetland habitat through the extension of existing Natural Preserves, which will limit the ability to develop facilities and carry out maintenance within them.

No new water crossings will be introduced that do not already exist as part of the existing trail system without the assessment of how they would affect nearby watercourses and/or wetlands. A vital goal of the proposed RTMP will be to assess the status of existing water crossings to determine whether maintenance or reconstruction would be best to allow for their continued use based on the types of uses that they support and the amount of traffic they receive.

**Fish/Wildlife Movement and Corridors:** The movement of native biota shall remain effective through the protection of landscape linkages within CRSP and the greater region. Areas deemed necessary to protect include the Sweetwater River, as it is an essential riparian connection from CRSP to San Diego Bay (see *Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Biodiversity Goal 1 and Guidelines*, ).

**Local Policies:** A number of goals and guidelines (*Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Natural Resources Management*) have been generated to ensure the protection of biological resources within the Park.

**Conservation Plans:** A Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) for the East County region of San Diego County is currently under preparation. The goals of this Plan should be adhered to in the implementation of the General Plan. CDPR will continue to remain involved in the preparation of the MSCP by providing comment on draft versions as they are made available for agency review.

### Summary

Considering the extensive diversity of biological resources that exist within CRSP, it is critical that guidelines provided within *Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Natural Resources Management* be utilized when appropriate during project implementation. As individual projects are implemented, more specific measures should be considered that are relevant to the specific area that will be affected. Utilization of appropriate guidelines will ensure that impacts to sensitive species, habitats, wildlife movement, and natural resource plans will be 'less-than-significant.'

### 5.6.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes impacts to cultural resources that could result from the implementation of the General Plan. *Section 2.3.4 - Cultural Resources* provides a summary of archaeology, ethnography, and history of CRSP.

Prehistoric archaeological resources reflecting the past life patterns of Native Americans indigenous to the region, are known to occur in the Park, and are detailed within the confidential CRSP Resource Inventory: Archaeology. Also present are numerous historic buildings, structures, and features that represent the history leading up to the acquisition of CRSP by CDPR and the Park's development into the present. A Historic Background Study (under a separate cover) was completed to document historic buildings, structures, features, and sites within CRSP and provides historic and architectural information used in this General Plan.

## Thresholds

The cultural resources analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources,
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

## Impact Analysis

**Historic Resource Impacts:** Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains potentially significant historic resources that could be disturbed, destroyed, or degraded by new development and facility improvements proposed in the General Plan. These resources include pre-European contact Native American and ethnographic sites, historic and ethnohistoric resources, and historic roads and trails. Extensive research and inventory of the Park's cultural resources has occurred over the years, but is not considered complete; therefore, the potential exists for the discovery of previously unknown prehistoric and historic sites during facilities construction, rehabilitation, resource management projects, restoration, or maintenance operations. Guidelines in **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Cultural Resources Management, Archaeological Sites Goal 2, Guidelines 2, 3, 6, and Historic Resources Goal and Guidelines 4-7)** will provide for the avoidance and minimization of impacts to archaeological and historic resources during facility changes.



*Former fire lookout station  
built by the CCC on Cuyamaca Peak  
July 1933*

The General Plan calls for additional site surveys and inventories be completed for historic-period resources, including significant cultural landscapes and those buildings in the Park identified as eligible or potentially eligible for the California

or National Registers (see **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Cultural Resources Management, Historic Resources Goal 1, 2 and 3**).

Consultation with state historians and restoration architects will occur when developing plans and potential mitigation measures for projects affecting historic structures and landscapes.

Careful planning will be necessary in specific areas of the Park where a range of different types of resources coexist. A notable example of such an area is the Cuyamaca City/Stonewall Mine Historical Zone. Goals and guidelines will direct both the protection and interpretation of a diversity of historic and archaeological resources. Nominations of resources to the California or National Registers are possible due to the significance of resources in this area of the Park including the historic use of the area as a successful gold mine and the community that supported it. Area-specific guidelines that ensure the perpetuation of these valuable resources can be found in **Section 4.4.3 - Area-Specific Goals and Guidelines, Stonewall Mine Area**.

All construction, maintenance, or improvements of historic buildings, structures, and features will be in conformance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (see **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Historic Resources Goal and Guidelines 6 and 7**).

Generally, a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and its guidelines for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, and reconstructing historic buildings is considered mitigated to a less than a significant level.

**Archaeological Resource Impacts:** Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains a wide range of archaeological properties that have the potential to be damaged from vandalism or inappropriate recreational use. Additionally, adverse impacts could result from the development of new facilities or modification of existing facilities on or within the vicinity of archaeological resources. Prior to development or modification of facilities the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for facility development would be surveyed and/or tested and any identified artifacts, features, and/or sites recorded and assessed, as defined more specifically within **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Archaeological Sites Goal 2, Guideline 2**.

Impacts to resources can be further avoided and/or recognized through a range of cultural resource planning methods that include continually surveying and recording resources within the Park (**Archaeological Sites Goal 1, Guideline 1**), nominating eligible resources for the State and National Registers in order for decision makers to be further aware of the value of eligible resources (**Archaeological Sites Goal 1, Guideline 2**), developing measures to protect resources from natural processes that may affect archaeological resources (**Archaeological Sites Goal 2, Guideline 4**), use of non-invasive research and investigative methods (**Archaeological Sites Goal 1, Guideline 1**), and others found within **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Archaeological Sites**.

Consultation with State Archaeologists will occur when developing plans and potential mitigation measures for projects potentially affecting archaeological resources.

### Human Remains Impacts:

In the event that human remains are discovered during project work, all work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate CDPR personnel. The CDPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner in accordance with § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines the remains represent Native American interment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento will be consulted to identify the most likely descendant/s and the appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC § 5097.98).

### Summary

Extensive historic and archaeological resources have been inventoried and studied with significantly more resources potentially undiscovered. Careful planning will be required including flexibility in how recreational opportunities are met for visitors to CRSP. With implementation of the General Plan guidelines and listed in **Chapter 4 - The Plan**, associated with cultural resources management, substantial adverse impacts to cultural resources at CRSP would not occur; thus resulting in a less-than-significant level of impact. In the event that unknown/unexpected human remains are uncovered during any facility development project, steps outlined in § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code will be followed as described above.

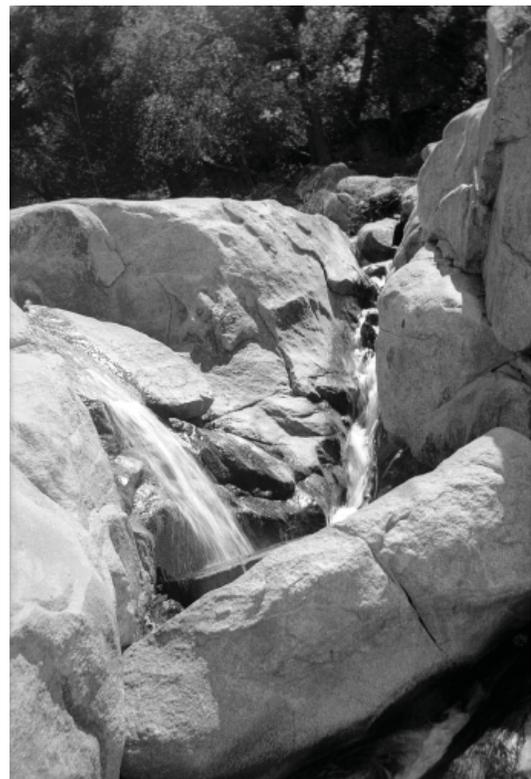
### 5.6.5 GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND SEISMICITY

This section analyzes impacts related to geology, soils, and seismicity that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The **Physical Resources** section of **Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions** provides a summary of the geology, soils, and known geologic hazards at CRSP.

### Thresholds

The geology, soils, and seismicity analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to geology, soils, and seismicity if it would:

- Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known



*Green Valley Falls  
February 1934*

earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault, strong seismic ground shaking, or seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction and/or landslides,

- Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil,
- Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse,
- Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property,
- Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater, or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geologic feature.

### Impact Analysis



*Weathered granite boulders near Merigan day-use parking lot February 2014*

**Seismic Impacts:** The Park is subject to limited potential for earthquakes, and has limited potential for damage from ground shaking, ground surface rupture, liquefaction, lateral spreading, and landslides. The nearest faults are outside the Park, which include the Elsinore Fault (4.4 miles to the northeast) and San Jacinto Fault (18.6 miles to the northwest). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park facilities will be evaluated prior to development to determine whether they may be impacted by erosive soils. Additional BMPs may need to be considered in areas that are at risk from landslide. The inclusion of **Wildfire Management Goals and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines)**, will assist in reducing impact from the indirect impact of landslide as a result of significant wildfire events. New development within CRSP will follow the **Geology Goal, Guideline 2** in order to adequately assess potential impact from seismic activity as well as implement the latest building standards. Awareness of the geologic features within CRSP and the management of existing infrastructure from impacts including erosion will additionally reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

**Soil Erosion:** Some soil erosion is inevitable as a result of development within CRSP. This erosion can be minimized by planning development in areas that have lower likelihood of significant erosion as well as the use of appropriate temporary and permanent BMPs. This should result in less-than-significant impacts from soil erosion.

**Soil Instability:** Soil instability as well as related impacts including landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse will be minimized to

a level of less-than-significant through implementation of ***Geology Goal and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines)***.

**Expansive Soils:** Appropriate evaluation will take place prior to development through the use of appropriate planning including utilizing information from ***Geology Goal and Guideline 3 (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines)*** in order to minimize the potential for impact from expansive soils. By implementing this guideline, impacts should be less-than-significant.

**Wastewater Support:** The Park will continue to maintain its existing wastewater infrastructure and may consider the expansion of the wastewater system in order to support a modest expansion of day-use and overnight camping facilities. Appropriate evaluation including geotechnical testing of facility locations will ensure soils are capable of handling further wastewater systems.

**Paleontological Resource Impacts:** Paleontological and geological resources will continue to be surveyed and examined in an ongoing basis, as well as prior to the development of new park infrastructure, to further the knowledge of the Park's resources.

### **Summary**

Geologic and seismic hazards have the potential to occur within the Park, including erosion and landslide due to the loss of significant vegetation from the Cedar Fire. The implementation of appropriate guidelines including the ***Geology Goal and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines)***, will reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Geologic and paleontological resources have the potential to be located within the Park. The location of resources will more than likely be known due to past investigations or found during surveys and avoided during site planning of new or modified facilities, resulting in less-than-significant impacts.

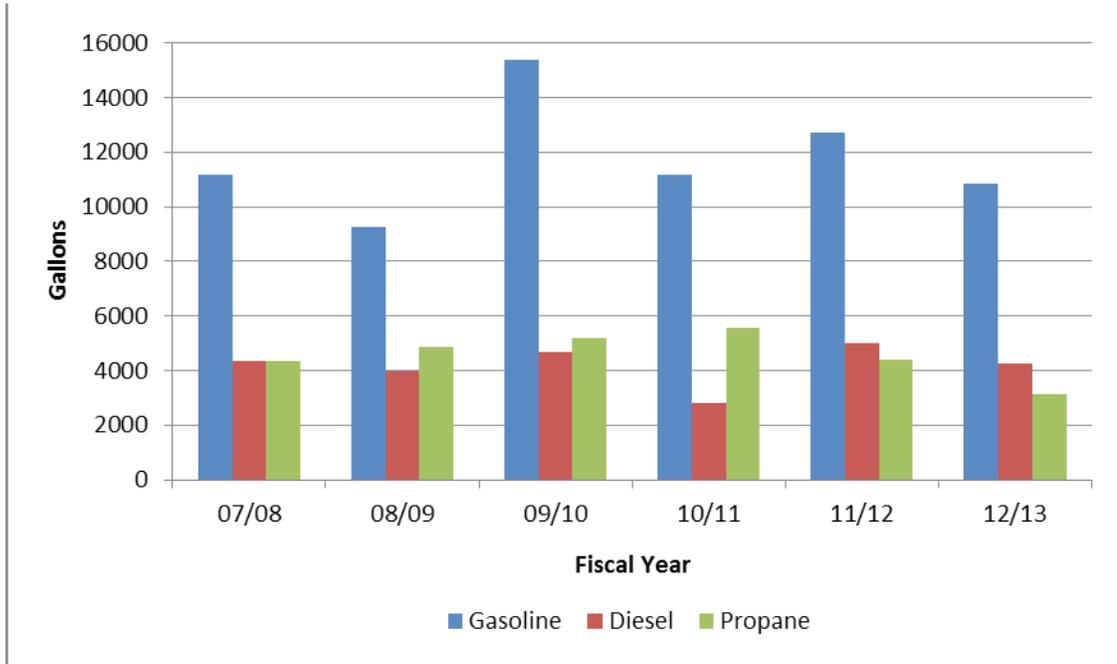
### **5.6.6 GREENHOUSE GASES AND ENERGY USE**

This section analyzes the emissions that are generated within CRSP and their impact on the Park and cumulative impacts on the atmosphere resulting in warming of the planet. This warming has been shown to result in more frequent and extreme weather events. The construction and operation of future facilities within CRSP will have an impact on future emissions that may exacerbate the adverse effects of climate change. Further description of the issue of climate change can be found within ***Section 3.2.4 - Physical Resources, Climate Change***. Actions that CRSP will incorporate into future facilities as well as operation of CRSP are found within ***Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Park Operations***.

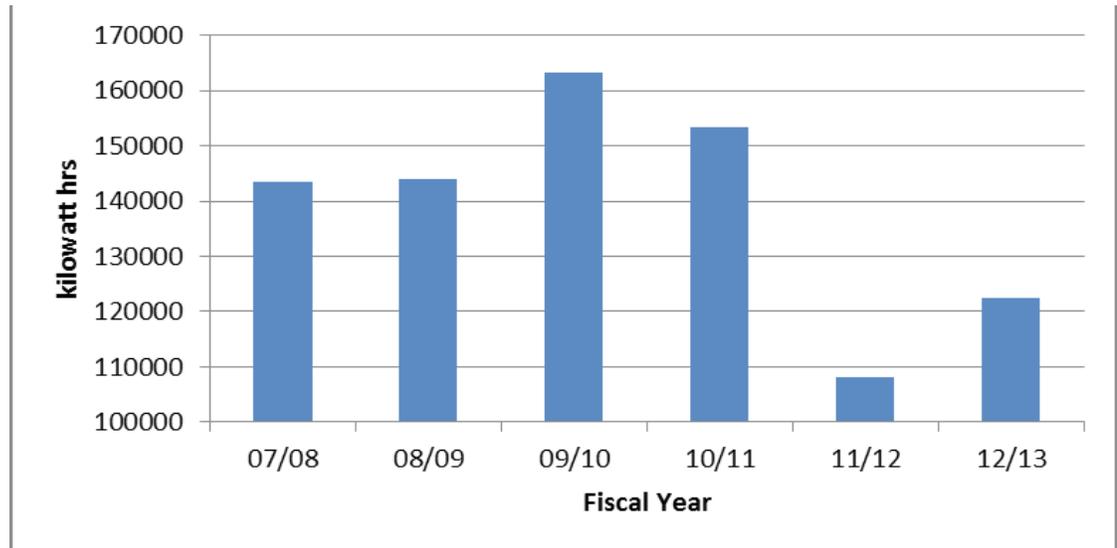
### **Thresholds**

The analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on GHG emissions if it would:

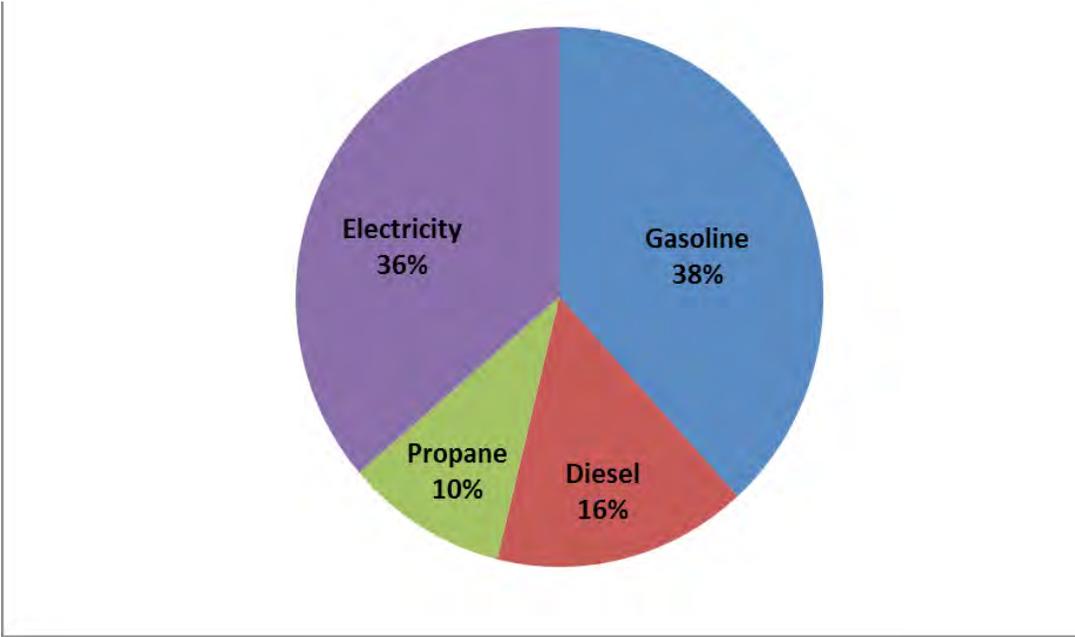
**Table 5: Fuel Use**



**Table 6: Electricity Use**



**Table 7: Co<sub>2</sub> Emissions By Energy Type**



- Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.
- Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Impact Analysis**

**Park GHG Emissions:** CDPR has been and will continue to be an emitter of greenhouse gases. These emissions result from numerous activities taking place within the Park (see **Tables 5 through 7**). First, is the transportation of staff throughout the Park for conducting operations. Most of this movement will consume unleaded fuel and diesel gasoline in automobiles and other combustion engine vehicles. Fuel is also consumed for the operation of trimmers, chain saws, and other maintenance equipment (**Table 5**). An additional fuel source releasing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions is liquid propane. As a stable fuel that is easily transportable, it has numerous uses within the Park including water heating, space heating, and cooking (**Table 5**). Lastly, electricity use is the final means of CDPR indirectly emitting additional carbon emissions. Although the emissions from electricity use may not be emitted from within park units, they are being emitted off-site from a variety of different fuels that may or may not have emissions as a result of electricity production (**Table 6**).

In order to best determine how CRSP can create a plan to effectively reduce its carbon emissions, it is important that the Park have a baseline accounting of its current emissions. With this information available, energy types with the greatest potential impact on climate change can be identified, and measures

to reduce them can be determined. Due to CRSP's primarily rural environment with limited development, emissions generated are relatively minor compared to urban industrial or commercial land uses. Still, based on the amount of park land that the State of California manages, there is a substantial emission reduction that can cumulatively result in impactful reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The accounting of fuel usage indicates that gasoline, on average, is used more than twice as much compared to either diesel or propane use (**Table 5** and **7**). On their own, these emissions can not be determined to result in a significant impact on the environment, but can cumulatively result in a significant impact in the context of emissions throughout the State of California.

Evaluation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at CRSP based on fuel and electricity consumption showed that nearly 75% of carbon emissions are as a result of gasoline and electricity use. This calculation was a result of an average of energy use between fiscal years 2007/2008 and 2012/2013. The breakdown of emissions by energy type that follows can give insight into where the Park may be able to most effectively reduce carbon emissions.

**Planning to Reduce Emissions:** A number of government directives have been passed that include benchmarks for reduction of emissions that are to be met. Several of these include:

- State of California Assembly Bill (AB) 32 – The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, provides a statewide directive to achieve 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2020, equivalent to a 15% reduction below baseline 2005-2008 emissions levels.
- The Executive Office of the President in June 2013 released the President's Climate Action Plan. This plan lays out steps applicable to the entire nation that will assist in meeting the goal of meeting the President's 2009 pledge that by 2020, America would reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 17% below 2005 levels.
- CDPR also has an initiative known as "Cool Parks" that will respond to the pressing challenges of climate change. The program will identify and address emerging environmental threats to the resources of the State Park System. It includes a three-pronged strategy including:
  - Adaptation, which involves protecting open spaces to sustain biodiversity, ensuring wildlife have corridors to promote optimal movement, adapting park facilities to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and energy efficiency
  - Understanding and implementing carbon sequestration
  - Educating visitors about the implications of climate change, and how they can make choices that will minimize the impacts of climate change.

See **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Park Operations** for specific actions to be taken that would reduce emissions due to facility development and operation of the Park.

### Summary

Continuing evaluation of the carbon emissions produced through the operation of CRSP will be critical to the evaluation of what energy sources are contributing most to the emissions released from the Park. Additional analysis of activities generating these emissions will allow for the development of actions that will reduce CRSP’s overall emissions. The measures taken to reduce emissions should be combined with continued study of how the Park acts as a means of sequestering carbon through the regrowth of vegetation following wildfire events such as the Cedar Fire. **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Park Operations** contains guidelines CRSP should implement when appropriate to maximize resource efficiency, lessen greenhouse gas emissions, monitor local climate change, and protect resources from the effects of climate change.

### 5.6.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section analyzes impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. The most prominent hazard in the Park is wildfire. Hazardous materials may also exist within the Park in several forms and may need to be managed in the implementation of the General Plan. A partial history of wildfire management within CRSP is detailed further in **Section 2.3.2 - Natural Resources, Fire and the Landscape**.

### Thresholds

The analysis of impact due to hazards and hazardous materials uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact if the General Plan would:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code (§ 65962.5) and,



***Burning utility pole - Cedar Fire  
October 2003***

as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

- Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area for a project located within an airport land-use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip.
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

**Transport, Use, Disposal, Release of Hazardous Material into Environment:**

Fossil fuel derivatives may be present in modest amounts in a number of products including transportation and heating fuels for the operation of the Park. All appropriate safety precautions will be taken into consideration for the safe transport and use of these materials to prevent impacts to human health or the environment including Department Policies found within DOM 0800, Hazardous Materials.

**Hazardous Materials near sensitive sites such as schools or airports:** No hazardous materials will be used or released that may have an effect on nearby schools or airports.

**Pesticides and Herbicides:** CDPR uses pesticides and herbicides, where appropriate, in the Park to help control unwanted biological organisms such as insects and plants. Staff will follow CDPR policies (DOM 0700) and other state and federal requirements for herbicide and pesticide application, incorporating all safety measures and recommended concentrations. Only chemicals that are appropriate for use near water will be used in or near wetland areas.

**Hazardous Material Lists:** Review by CDPR of Toxic Substance Control EnviroStor database returned information showing A Formerly Used Defense Site that exists near Lake Cuyamaca within the Park. On July 29, 1999, a determination was made that no evidence exists of any hazard on the site. Therefore, it can be determined that this site would create no impact to the public or environment.

**Emergency Response:** Emergency response will not be affected by implementation of the General Plan. Existing planning in the event of natural or human induced emergencies will continue. Wildfire will continue to be a serious risk to facilities that exist within CRSP. Consistency with wildfire planning documents including the *Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and Operating Plan* will minimize the risk from wildfire. Objectives of this plan may be found in **Appendix L - List and Description of Regional Planning Influences.**

**Wildfire Risk:** A number of issues will raise the risk of wildfire at CRSP. Invasive species can impact parklands making them more prone to wildfire. The impact

of humans and their interface with parks and nearby USFS lands pose another major risk. Development near CRSP is of particular concern and will continue to intensify in the future. In addition, climate variability due to climate change has resulted in numerous changes in the ecology of forests. Changes in precipitation result in an increased potential for drought, which contributes to a higher wildfire risk. Wildfire risk may be minimized by implementing **Natural Resources Management** and **Park Operations Goals and Guidelines (Section 4.4.1)**.

### Summary

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has no hazardous material sites within it or nearby with potential to affect use of the Park or its resources. Hazardous materials such as pesticides will be used only as necessary to control unwanted organisms that could pose a threat to park resources. Emergency response will not be affected by implementation of the General Plan. **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Wildfire Management** provides guidelines to manage the risk posed by wildfire.

### 5.6.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This section analyzes impacts related to hydrology and water quality that could result from the implementation of the General Plan. The hydrology of the Park and how it contributes to the ecology and function of the Park may be found in **Section 2.3.1 - Physical Resources, Hydrology**.

#### Thresholds

The hydrology and water quality analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to hydrology and water quality if it would:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements,
- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted),
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site,



**Green Valley Falls**  
**February 2013**

- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site,
- Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff,
- Otherwise substantially degrade water quality,
- Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map,
- Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows,
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam, or
- Result in mudflow, inundation by seiche, or tsunami.

### Impact Analysis

**Water Quality Standard Violations:** General Plan implementation has the potential to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements if development proposed is not planned or constructed without following applicable measures to minimize impact. The development proposed by the General Plan will result in less-than-significant water quality impacts with the inclusion of appropriate guidelines including CDPR guidelines found within DOM Chapter 0300 - protecting water quality and hydrologic function.

**Groundwater Supply:** Groundwater is the sole means of meeting the water needs of CRSP. The modest new facilities proposed within the Park would create a limited amount of additional water need. Conservation will continue to be stressed in order to prevent overdrawing of springs and underground aquifers, however, further underground supply may be utilized to meet demand. Sufficient supply of water shall be planned for when new facilities are proposed.

**Drainage Pattern Alteration:** Water courses in the vicinity of development will be impacted to the minimum extent necessary in order to reduce the potential for erosion, siltation or flooding. If infrastructure must come into contact with water courses and/or riparian habitat, it will be designed to minimize intrusion and allow for its continued function.

**Runoff:** Changes proposed within the General Plan may contribute additional runoff water from an increase in CRSP facilities. BMPs found within Standard Project Requirements, Regional Water Quality Control Board permits, and those from other resource agencies will avoid and/or minimize the potential for the generation of additional sources of runoff.

**Water Quality:** Facilities proposed by the General Plan have the potential to impact water quality from the addition of several types of pollutants including visitors' trash and various fluids from Park operations. Other pollutant sources

such as sediment from construction of facilities may also affect water quality. As stated above, appropriate BMPs will be included to reduce the impact of these pollutants.

**Flood Risk:** There are limited new facilities proposed within the General Plan, however, any introduction of new structures will be sited to avoid 100-year flood hazard areas as well as avoid impeding or redirecting flood flows.

Changes proposed within the Park's General Plan will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. Lake Cuyamaca and Cuyamaca Dam are near CRSP; however, flooding risk is relatively low. FEMA flood insurance rate maps will be evaluated in the siting of any new facilities proposed at the Park. Review of San Diego County's Flood Hazard Map shows a small portion of CRSP is within the 100-year floodplain.

**Inundation Potential:** At this time, there is no means of assessing the potential impact from seiche (standing waves) at the Park. The nearest closed body of water that could cause potential for seiche is Lake Cuyamaca. Earthquake would pose the greatest potential to create inundation by seiche. Tsunami poses no threat to the Park due to the inland location of the Park. Landslide potential (mudflow) according to the San Diego County Rain Induced Landslide Map shows the majority of the Park is on steep slopes that could be prone to landslide. A smaller portion of the Park contains gabbroic soils with less landslide potential.

## Summary

Water resources are of great value to the Park and their function to the Park is critical to the continued success of a rich variety of natural resources. Water resources must also provide for the operation and recreational use within the Park. Their conservation will ensure that they are renewed and continue to provide value. They may also serve as a medium for the transport of pollutants if those pollutants aren't controlled from their source. Through implementation of appropriate project requirements, pollutant introduction into the environment will be minimized. Flood risk and other potential inundation risks will be managed through the appropriate siting of any new facilities and by implementing the goal and guidelines found in **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Hydrology**.

## 5.6.9 RECREATION

This section analyzes impacts related to changes in recreation facilities and opportunity that could result from implementation of the General Plan. Refer to **Section 2.2 - Park Land Use and Facilities** for a summary of the Park's land use and existing facilities including campsites, trails, and day-use picnic areas.

## Thresholds

The recreation resource analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on recreation resources if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

## Impact Analysis

The General Plan proposes a range of new or improved recreational facilities. The following list is not exhaustive, but provides some of the highlighted facilities that should be added or improved.

- Reconstruction of the Dyar House for use as a permanent visitor center, and Park and volunteer offices.
- Reconstruction of the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish for use as a conference/retreat center, mountain or fire research facility, or other structured public use. Also, continue its use as an equestrian staging area.
- Construct a new equestrian campground in the north part of the Park.
  - Improve Green Valley Equestrian Campground by leveling sites, increasing mobility for larger rigs, adding additional water hookups and shade ramadas, etc.
  - Redesign the existing Paso Picacho and Green Valley campgrounds to provide a better visitor experience and improve operations. Changes would include: (1) separating tent and RV areas to reduce noise impacts, (2) providing greater separation between close sites to increase privacy and reduce noise, (3) increasing the size of small sites, and (4) grading sites that are too steep for comfortable camping.
  - Implement trail work including: (1) trail repair, (2) erosion prevention, (3) closures or re-routes, (4) connections to the regional trail system including CNF and ABDSP, (5) trail modifications to reduce impacts to sensitive resources, and (6) interpretive loop trails near Cuyamaca Outdoor School and the Dyar House.



*An equestrian enjoys the sunny  
Margaret Minshall Trail  
near Lake Cuyamaca  
May 2014*

These facilities have been chosen with the goal of meeting unmet recreational demand while being aware of sensitive natural or cultural resources which may be present near new facilities. Additionally, interpretive enhancements will accompany these facilities.

Visitor surveys and General Plan scoping meetings have assisted in determining the improvements necessary to meet the recreational needs of park visitors. A summary of findings from surveys may be found within **Section 2.2.2 - Visitor Use and Recreation**.

**Nearby Park Impact:** Changes proposed within the General Plan would allow for modest increases in recreational opportunity within CRSP. No decrease is anticipated in recreational resources that would result in the need to expand nearby park facilities. Continued use of CRSP would require regular maintenance that will ensure that no substantial deterioration of facilities occurs that could result in visitors seeking recreational opportunities outside CRSP.

**Impact of Expanded Facilities:** Changes proposed within the General Plan will include facilities to expand recreational opportunities within the Park. Potential impacts that may occur to the environment have been discussed within previous sections of this EIR. Goals and guidelines found in **Chapter 4 - The Plan**, resource agency permit requirements, DOM policies, Standard Project Requirements and additional CEQA impact analysis for individual projects will be implemented to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts.

## Summary

By following the guidance provided within the General Plan including the goals and guidelines found in **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines (Recreation, Trails, and Horseback Riding)**, and **Section 4.4.1 - Area Specific Goals and Guidelines (Stonewall Mine, Dyar House, Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, and Paso Picacho Campground/Administrative Areas)** the additional recreational facilities being proposed will result in less-than-significant impacts to the environment. The expansion of existing facilities as advised in the Plan will prevent impact to neighboring recreation facilities by adequately meeting the needs of visitors within the region.

## 5.6.10 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

An overview of highways and local roads that accommodate visitors to CRSP may be found within **Section 2.2.2 - Visitor Use and Recreation, Visitor Access**. For information regarding the trail system throughout the Park, refer to **Section 2.2.2 - Visitor Use and Recreation, Primary Visitor Activities, Trail Use**. Further analysis of the existing trail system within the Park will take place via a future RTMP. It will recommend changes to CRSP's trail system to create further recreational opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources.

## Thresholds

The transportation and traffic analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on transportation and traffic if it would:

- Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass

transit and non-motorized travel, and relevant components of the circulation system including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit,

- Conflict with an applicable congestion management program including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways,
- Result in a change in air traffic patterns including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks,
- Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment),
- Result in inadequate emergency access, or
- Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

### **Impact Analysis and Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation Measures**

**Transportation Design Constraints:** Due to the potential for an increase in recreational vehicle facilities within the Park, a review of the ability for longer sized vehicles to maintain adequate ingress and egress within campgrounds will take place before any new or modified facilities are constructed.



*Lake Cuyamaca from SR-79  
January 2014*

A new equestrian staging area in the northern region of CRSP would meet a need for increased numbers of vehicles towing trailers to the Park and accessing equestrian trails near the staging area. Necessary design constraints shall be included to ensure that trailers entering and exiting the staging area won't impact traffic on SR-79

**Threshold Analysis:** Implementation of the General Plan would not conflict with any applicable plan or policy related to nearby transportation systems such as SR-79. Nor would it conflict with programs related to managing traffic congestion that exist within the San Diego County General Plan. Appropriate emergency access will be

maintained throughout the Park. The existing trail and fire road facilities will not be adversely impacted or conflict with park policies. With adherence to the above mentioned issues, less-than significant impacts to transportation and traffic related issues will result.

## Summary

Development proposed by the General Plan would result in no impact or less-than-significant impact to transportation systems surrounding CRSP. Emergency access shall be maintained to existing levels. No existing transportation policies or plans will be affected.

### 5.6.11 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This section analyzes impacts on utilities and service systems that could result from implementation of the General Plan. A description of Park utilities may be found in **Section 2.4 - Operations and Maintenance Functions**.

#### Thresholds

The utilities and service system analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on utilities and service systems if it would:

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board,
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,
- Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,
- Need new or expanded entitlements to ensure sufficient water supplies to serve the project,
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments,
- Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, or
- Not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.



*Lake Cuyamaca as seen from Middle Peak Fire Road  
May 2014*

## Impact Analysis

The General Plan recommends limited utility enhancements including:

- Replacing the existing Green Valley and Mack Ranch water tanks or providing additional capacity through installation of an additional tank.
- Upgrading available power at the Paso Picacho Campground/ Administration Area to accommodate increased usage from additional draw from existing facilities or the addition of further campgrounds or operational facilities.

Facilities recommended within **Section 5.2 - EIR Summary, Table 4** will require additional utilities to function properly. Existing supply of electricity, water, and sewer will be planned to allow for the development of these additional facilities.

**Wastewater Treatment/Water Facilities:** No wastewater treatment requirements would be exceeded nor would significant environmental impacts result from the limited expansion of water and wastewater facilities within CRSP. As indicated above, limited improvements are proposed as a result of facilities recommended within **Section 5.2 - EIR Summary, Table 4**. The Park would continue to accommodate its wastewater needs through on-site septic systems. These systems will be modified to meet increased demand at the time that additional facilities are constructed.

**Stormwater Drainage:** Any new systems installed to provide additional drainage will implement appropriate permanent BMPs to minimize water quality impacts as well as minimize the amount of flow into water bodies that could be negatively impacted by sediment or pollutant transport from the use of the Park. Changes to stormwater drainage systems would be less than significant.

**Water Supply:** Water supply is dependent upon local springs and water tank storage systems to meet the demands of both park operation and visitors. Further supply may be needed at the Green Valley Campground area to meet current and future demand. Despite limited demand within the Park, conservation methods will be implemented. Additionally, conservation will be advised to park users to ensure a sustainable water supply is available to meet CRSP's needs. With these efforts in place, impacts to water supply will remain less than significant. In the event of drought additional conservation measures will need to be put in place to keep impacts to a less than significant level.

**Solid Waste:** Existing waste facilities will be adequate to meet the waste generated by the Park resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

## Summary

Any required permits and/or necessary coordination with utility agencies or companies will take place before utility modification or upgrades take place. With the implementation of appropriate BMPs as well as **Section 4.4.1 - Parkwide Goals and Guidelines, Utilities**, impacts to utility services for visitors

and staff shall remain less than significant. Individual project review will ensure impacts to specific areas of CRSP remain less than significant.

## 5.7 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

### 5.7.1 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This first tier review indicates that the potential effects from projects proposed in this General Plan can be reduced to less-than-significant levels with appropriate facility siting and the implementation of the General Plan’s goals, guidelines, and resource management programs; and further reduced with the development of specific mitigation measures, if necessary, when future site-specific development plans are proposed.

Until the uses, locations, and scope of facilities or management plans are specified, the level of impact cannot be accurately determined. However, all plans and projects are required to be in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements, and are subject to subsequent project specific CEQA review and mitigation measures.

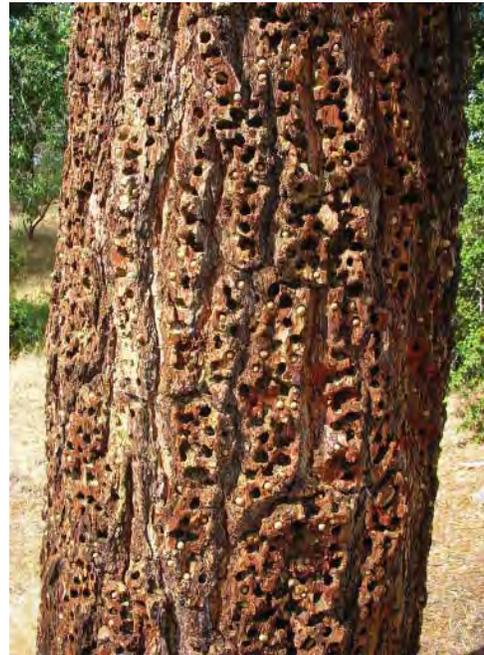
At this level of planning, unavoidable significant environmental effects are not anticipated as a result of the proposals in this General Plan.

### 5.7.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

This first tier environmental review indicates that no significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the adoption and implementation of this General Plan. Appropriate facility siting, implementation of goals and guidelines included in this Plan, and the development of specific mitigation measures during the project-level environmental review process can maintain any impacts at a less-than-significant level.

Facility development, including structures, roads, and/or trails may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. CDPR does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as trails and campsites, where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of non-renewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor due to the limited amount of facilities planned for development and use of sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations as proposed in the General Plan through various Goals and Guidelines (**Chapter 4 - The Plan**).



*Pine tree with large stash of acorns in bark at Green Valley Campground August 2012*

Sustainable practices used in design, management, and operations emphasize environmental sensitivity in construction, the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency.

Destruction of any significant cultural or natural resources would be considered a significant irreversible effect. To avoid this impact, proposed development sites will be examined for sensitive resources, all site and facility designs will incorporate methods for protecting and preserving significant resources, and human activities will be managed to ensure resource protection.

### 5.7.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

CEQA Guidelines [§ 15126.2(d)] require that an EIR evaluate the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, an EIR must discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Growth inducement itself is not an environmental effect, but may lead to environmental effects. Such environmental effects may include increased demand on other community and public services and infrastructure, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air or water quality, degradation or loss of plant or wildlife habitats, or conversion of agricultural and natural land to urban uses. The analysis of indirect growth-inducing impacts for the General Plan focuses on two main factors: (1) promotion of development and population growth, and (2) elimination of obstacles to growth. If implemented completely, the General Plan may indirectly foster economic and population growth in the region.



*Entrance sign at north end of the Park  
August 2012*

With complete development of all proposals, park visitation is likely to increase, albeit modestly. This would be due to the proposed improvements and development of additional day-use and overnight facilities, interpretive opportunities, improvements to park circulation including new trails and trail connections from the Park to regional trails, and multi-modal opportunities to access the Park and surrounding areas.

Additional directional and informational signage and interpretive information outside the Park boundaries (on SR-79, in other state and regional parks, and in the community) should raise the Park's profile as a destination for recreational opportunities and the appreciation and enjoyment of natural and

cultural resources. Any improvement to recreational facilities and programs or increase in the Park's design capacity can encourage increased use, which may create additional tourism and the need for tourist services (such as recreation equipment, supplies, food, and related facilities) in adjacent communities, State Parks, open space and recreation areas, and the surrounding region.

The economies of the communities of unincorporated San Diego County in the region of CRSP depend considerably upon recreation and tourism. An increase in visitor use may be considered an economic benefit. The increased visitor capacity and interpretive potential of the General Plan's proposals may result in the need for an increased number of permanent and seasonal park staff, as well as volunteers.

#### **5.7.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15355) as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” A cumulative impact occurs from “the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time” (CEQA Guidelines § 15355[b]).

Land management agencies in the region of CRSP including USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and San Diego County recognize the importance of the natural qualities of the area that have been preserved over time, and base their planning and development efforts on the importance of preserving these values into the future. The goals of these agencies' planning efforts share similar values with those of the CRSP General Plan.

The General Plan for CRSP was also prepared to coordinate with the General Plan for nearby ABDSP. Future land use conflicts should be minimal. CDPR will continue to work cooperatively with regional land management agencies to achieve common management strategies that would enhance and preserve existing natural, cultural, and recreational resource values region-wide. To the extent that the loss of biological, cultural, and aesthetic resources is occurring in the region, any loss, disturbance, or degradation of these resources would contribute to cumulative impacts.

Any facility development and resource management efforts that may occur with the implementation of the General Plan would not result in significant project-level environmental impacts. The goals and guidelines in the General Plan direct management actions that would preserve, protect, restore, or otherwise minimize adverse effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, aesthetics, seismic hazards, water quality, traffic, and water supply. These management actions would also maintain the Park's contribution to cumulative impacts at a less-than-significant level.

## 5.8 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PLAN

The guiding principles for the analysis of alternatives in this EIR are provided by the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15126.6), which indicate that the alternatives analysis must: (1) describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project; (2) consider alternatives that could reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, including alternatives that may be more costly or could otherwise impede the project's objectives; and (3) evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. The CEQA Guidelines [§ 15126.6(d)] permit the evaluation of alternatives to be conducted in less detail than is done for the proposed project. Descriptions of the project alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, are provided in this EIR to allow for a meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison of these alternatives with the Preferred Alternative, which is the General Plan as described in *Chapter 4 - The Plan*. A side by side comparison of the anticipated impacts associated with the alternatives considered, can be found on *Table 3 (Section 5.2.1 - Summary of Impacts and Mitigation)*.

### 5.8.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: RESOURCE PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE -- ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

#### Description

Alternative 1 would focus on the protection, sustainability, and biodiversity of the array of habitats that make up CRSP. Measures to protect these resources would be very similar, if not exactly the same as the measures being implemented as part of the Preferred Alternative. Additional protection may occur to resources that exist near facilities such as SR-79, since this alternative would not include the Gateway Zone. Wilderness designation acreage within CRSP would remain at its current level as opposed to the Preferred Alternative, which will reduce Wilderness acreage to provide area for certain existing utility corridors and the maintenance and re-routing of trails. Several facilities being considered in the Preferred Alternative would not be proposed. This includes, but is not limited to a repurposed use for the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, reconstruction of the Dyar House, reconstruction of buildings associated with the mining industry in the historic Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City, and an equestrian family campground in the north part of the Park whose precise location has yet to be determined.

#### Impact Evaluation

This alternative would avoid all impacts associated with the new facilities being proposed as part of the Preferred Alternative. This includes impacts to natural resources, cultural resources, water quality, and soil erosion due to the construction of facilities and their operation. However, many of the objectives to meet the recreational demands of visitors to CRSP set out by the Goals and Guidelines of the General Plan would remain unmet. A strong desire exists to further opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, overnight

use, and other structured, public uses that would not be fulfilled following this alternative.

### 5.8.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: VISITOR USE ALTERNATIVE

#### Description

Upon initiation of planning for the CRSP, it was determined that Alternative 2 should place more emphasis on creating greater recreational opportunities at CRSP. Trails would be given further opportunity for rerouting, widening, and/or becoming usable for a wider variety of park users, with the potential for further natural, physical, or cultural resource impacts. This alternative would include the potential construction of new trails that would improve the recreational experience of park users as is being proposed for the Preferred Alternative pending the completion of a RTMP for CRSP. Efforts to find a location to site a new family equestrian campground would be undertaken under this alternative, as is being done for the Preferred Alternative. New or enhanced facilities for operations, visitor interpretation, and visitor recreation would be possible in this alternative, just as they are possible in the Preferred Alternative. However, upon completion of outreach via public meetings and stakeholder meetings, it was determined that no additional facilities would be necessary under this alternative in comparison to those being proposed by the Preferred Alternative. Therefore, the additional development proposed by this alternative has not been shown to be necessary to meet objectives for the future use of CRSP. The expansion of cultural and natural preserves would not be expanded under this alternative, which may place sensitive resources at risk for impact. However, all new facility development would still require project level CEQA evaluation before being implemented.



*The steep, final ascent to the summit of Stonewall Peak  
January 2014*

#### Impact Evaluation

Further impact to physical, natural, and cultural resources may occur under this alternative due to an increased effort towards improving the existing trail network as well as other visitor serving facilities at CRSP. Although some of these additional impacts could likely be mitigated to a less-than-significant level, others would be necessary to achieve the improvements that are recommended through the implementation of this alternative. Facility and operational needs would likely require further infrastructure to meet the expansion of recreational opportunity proposed by this alternative. Further resource impacts would also occur from these additional facilities, but could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The lack of expansion of preserves under this alternative may result in the consideration of facilities in locations that might otherwise be

avoided under the Preferred Alternative resulting in additional potential impact to sensitive resources.

### **5.8.3 NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE: MAINTAIN EXISTING GENERAL PLAN**

#### **Description**

CEQA requires an evaluation of the “No Project Alternative” and its impact (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6[e][1]). The No Project Alternative represents perpetuation of existing management actions, and its analysis is based on the physical conditions that are likely to occur in the future if the project (the proposed General Plan) is not approved and implemented. The purpose of describing and analyzing the no project alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed General Plan with the expected impacts of not approving the General Plan. Without a new General Plan for CRSP, it is assumed that the existing patterns of operation and management would continue and major recreational and operational facilities could be implemented as described within the original General Plan (1986). Visitation and park use would be expected to increase as the statewide and regional populations grow, and would likely expand faster with the extensive facilities that could be implemented as planned for within the original General Plan. Many of the management actions that would protect, preserve, and restore natural and cultural resources that have been identified for the Preferred Plan would not be in place to guide the stewardship of the Park’s resources.

#### **Impact Evaluation**

The No Project Alternative, which requires continuing to follow the management goals and guidelines within the original General Plan approved in 1986 would be difficult to implement due to the extensive policies that California State Parks has enacted or emplaced since its approval. These policies provide a multitude of measures to protect resources within CRSP and all other parks managed by CDPR. Based on the policies that exist now, much of the facility development for visitors and park operations would be difficult to implement. The main reasons that a revision to the previous General Plan was determined to be necessary, is because it was outdated and not compatible with current policies.

Additionally, issues that are of concern to CRSP users such as an increased desire for trails open to mountain biking and a new family equestrian campground cannot be addressed based on the facilities recommendations within the 1986 General Plan. Many of the facility sites that were proposed within the original General Plan have since been determined to contain sensitive resources, the loss of which would be difficult to mitigate.

# APPENDICES

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# APPENDICES

## A. EXISTING LAWS, CODES, AND POLICIES

The goals and guidelines in the General Plan provide some of the broadest level of direction for management of CRSP and are based on existing federal and state laws, codes, state executive orders, and CDPR policies.

To understand the implications of the actions described in the General Plan, it is important to describe some of the laws, codes, and policies that underlie the management actions. Many management actions for the Park are required based on law and/or policy and are therefore not affected by the General Plan. For instance, a general plan is not needed to decide that it is appropriate to protect endangered species, control nonnative invasive species, protect archaeological sites, conserve artifacts, or provide for universal access – laws, codes, and policies already require the CDPR to fulfill these mandates. The CDPR would continue to implement these requirements with or without a General Plan.

The following includes the most pertinent laws, codes, and policies related to planning and managing CRSP:

### AIR QUALITY

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is a Class I air quality area under the Clean Air Act. Class I areas are afforded the highest degree of protection under the Clean Air Act. This designation allows very little additional deterioration of air quality.

#### **POLICY GUIDANCE/SOURCES:**

*Clean Air Act, 1970.*

#### **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:**

1. Conduct air quality monitoring in conjunction with other governmental agencies.
2. Monitor and document the condition of air quality and related values.
3. Evaluate air pollution impacts and identify causes.
4. Work to reduce emissions associated with administrative and visitor uses.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Numerous state and federal laws, policies, and guidelines have been enacted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate for emissions, and sequester carbon in an effort to slow the rate of climate change.

**POLICY/GUIDANCE SOURCES:**

***2013-2014 California State Parks Strategic Action Plan.***

***California Executive Order B-18-12***

Requires State Agencies to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020, as measured against a 2010 baseline. It also requires all buildings built or undergoing major renovations after 2025 be constructed as Zero Net Energy facilities. Further, State Agencies shall continue to take action to reduce grid-based energy purchases by at least 20% by 2018.

***California Executive Order S-03-05***

Establishes greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, creates the Climate Action Team, and directs the Secretary of Cal/EPA to coordinate efforts with meeting the targets the heads of other state agencies.

***State Senate Bill 97***

Requires development of CEQA guidelines “for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.”

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:**

1. Utilize skylights, tubes, and other technology to exploit available daylight in construction.
2. Minimize need for vehicle use by staff and visitors through clustering of facilities, connections by trails, and signage.
3. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Cultural resources embrace human values, ranging from the evidences of early people dating back more than 10,000 years to sites and buildings of people who are making history today. “History”, as it is used by CDP, means the totality of human experience in California. Some of the federal and state laws, codes, and policies that are in place to help preserve, protect, and restore archaeological and historical resources are listed below:

**POLICY GUIDANCE/SOURCES:**

***California Code of Regulations (CCR)***

Title 14, Division 3, Chapter 1: **§ 4308.** Prohibits removal, defacement, destruction, etc. of archaeological or historical objects on State Park lands.

Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3: **§ 15064.5.** Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archaeological and Historical Resources.

## ***California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)***

### ***Department Operations Manual (DOM) Chapter 0400***

Cultural Resources and associated Departmental Notices are the basic policy document for the State Park System. Together, they guide the management of cultural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department.

### ***Departmental Notice No. 2007- 05***

Consultation with Native Americans.

### ***Executive Order B-10-11***

Consultation with Native American Tribes.

### ***Executive Order W-26-92***

Preservation, protection, restoration, maintenance of historical, architectural, and archaeological resources

### ***Government Code***

**§ 6254.(r)** Restriction of record disclosure regarding Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred sites.

**§ 6254.10.** Non-disclosure of archaeological site information maintained by CDPR.

### ***Health and Human Safety Code***

**§ 7050.5.** Prohibits removal of human remains.

**§ 7052** Prohibits mutilation, disinterment, removal of, or sexual contact with human remains.

### ***National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)***

Established the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). It also requires the evaluation of impacts of projects on historic properties through use of the “Section 106” process.

### ***National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)***

Applies in addition to CEQA when Federal monies are used, such as through a grant or partnership agreement.

### ***Penal Code***

**§ 622 ½.** Prohibits destruction, defacement of objects of archaeological or historical interest.

**§ 623** Prohibits destruction, removal, or defacement of natural or cultural material.

**Public Resources Code**

**§ 5021.** Registration of State Landmarks and Points of Interest; publications of archaeological investigations.

**§ 5024.** State-owned historical resources; policies to preserve; master list; documentation.

**§ 5024.5.** State-owned historical resources; notice and summary of proposed actions to SHPO; mediation responsibility.

**§ 5097.** Archaeological, paleontological, and historical sites definitions; state lands.

**§ 5097.5.** Prohibits removal or destruction of archaeological and historical sites.

**§ 5097.7.** Upon a conviction pursuant to § 5097.5, lists items that are subject to forfeiture.

**§ 5097.9.** Native American historical, cultural, and sacred sites; free exercise of religion; cemeteries, place of worship on ceremonial sites.

**§ 5097.99.** Prohibits removal or possession of Native American remains; felony.

**§ 5097.991.** Repatriation. It is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated.

**§ 21080.3.1.** Consultation with Native Americans.

**§ 21083.2.** Determining project's effects to Archaeological resources.

**§ 21084.** Guidelines shall list classes of projects exempt from Act.

**§ 21084.1.** Historical resources guidelines.

**§ 21084.3.** Avoid damages to tribal cultural resources.

***The Cultural Resources Management Handbook***

Provides CDPR guidelines and information pertaining to cultural resource management, operations, processes, and procedures.

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:**

1. Impacts to Cultural Resources will be avoided and/or mitigated.
2. Ongoing consultation and communication with the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii will occur on a regular basis.
3. Archaeological Site Condition Assessment will be performed on a reoccurring basis, especially for those sites within or adjacent to

public-use areas or that have a history of impacts from erosion, visitor use, vandalism, etc. This assessment can be performed by trained Archaeological Site Stewards or a CDPR archaeologist. For those sites showing significant impacts or damages, protection and/or restoration measures will be undertaken.

4. A permit to conduct Archaeological Investigations/Collections (DPR 412A) will be required for any non-CDPR archaeologist or researcher conducting archaeological work including survey, testing, data-recovery, etc., within CDPR lands. Any data collected under such a permit remains confidential and the property of CDPR. Permittee must submit a summary of all data collected, as well as provide CDPR with copies of documentation (photographs, notes, GPS data, etc.) and reports/records compiled with such data.
5. Archaeological collections will be curated in a facility that meets CDPR curation standards.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Conservation and management of natural resources within CRSP are driven by multiple federal and state laws and statutes as well as CDPR policies.

### **POLICY GUIDANCE/SOURCES:**

#### ***Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940***

Prohibits the take, possession, and commerce of bald and golden eagles.

#### ***California Code of Regulations (CCR)***

The official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended, or repealed by state agencies and have the force of law.

#### ***California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)***

#### ***Department Operations Manual (DOM) CHAPTER 0300***

Natural Resources and associated Departmental Notices are the basic policy document for the State Park System. Together, they guide the management of natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department.

#### ***Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)***

Provides for the conservation of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species depend, authorizes the listing of species, and prohibits unauthorized take of endangered species.

#### ***Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918***

Prohibits activities detrimental to migratory song birds such as to “pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill,” or attempt to do any of these actions. It also protects “any part, nest, or egg” of migratory birds.

***National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)***

Applies in addition to CEQA when Federal monies are used, such as through a grant or partnership agreement.

***The Natural Resources Handbook***

Supplements the DOM and contains specific information pertaining to resource management operations, processes, and procedures such as prescribed fire, wildfire, non-native species, and tree protection guidelines.

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:**

1. Impacts to natural resources will be avoided and/or mitigated.
2. Vegetation Management Statement (VMS) will be reviewed and updated every five years. The VMS sets goals, objectives, and desired conditions for vegetation in the Park.
3. Assessment of exotic plants will occur annually as assigned by the Natural Resources Division under the CDPR Weed Information Management System (WIMS) program.
4. Revegetation projects will only use plants of local genetic stock and any site stabilization materials will be Certified Weed Free.
5. A current Wildfire Management Plan will be maintained.
6. A Scientific Collecting Permit (DPR065) may be required for conducting research studies, particularly for activities that require specimen collection, are located in proximity to sensitive natural or cultural resources, and/or have the potential to disturb visitors. The use of collected materials for commercial profit or personal benefit is prohibited. Permittee must submit a summary of information gathered and make available to CDPR any published material as a result of the permit.

**PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

**POLICY GUIDANCE/SOURCES:**

***California Executive Order B-18-12***

Orders State agencies to reduce overall water use at the facilities they operate by 10% by 2015 and by 20% by 2020, as measured against a 2010 baseline.

***Clean Water Act (1972)***

Regulates discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States and regulates surface water quality standards. Requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge any pollutant from a point source.

## **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

1. Ensure all water fixtures are low flow.
2. Promote native plants and xeric plants for landscaping of residences and facilities.
3. Maintain signage in campgrounds and day use areas where water is available, informing of need for water conservation and actions individuals can take.
4. Maintain and/or re-route roads and trails that are unnaturally eroding, resulting in discharge of sediment to surface waters of the United States.
5. A Scientific Collecting Permit (DPR065) may be required for conducting research studies, particularly for activities that require specimen collection, are located in proximity to sensitive natural or cultural resources, and/or have the potential to disturb visitors. The use of collected materials for commercial profit or personal benefit is prohibited. Permittee must submit a summary of information gathered and make available to the Department any published material as a result of the permit.



## **B. CDPR PLANNING HIERARCHY**

### **OUTSIDE OF CDPR**

The following are pre-existing mandates that were developed outside CDPR but must still be adhered to by law. These state and federal laws are at the top of the CDPR planning hierarchy:

#### ***Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)***

Title II mandates that governments provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their programs, services, and activities. This includes access to CDPR facilities and recreational opportunities. Specific architectural standards must be followed, such as accessible pathways, facilities, fixtures, etc.

#### ***Archaeological Resources***

Archaeological resources are protected under the PRC (§ 5097.5), the Penal Code (§§ 622½ and 623), the Government Code (§§ 6254 and 6254.10), Health and Safety Code (§§ 7050.5 and 7052), and the CCR (title 14, § 4308). Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains significant historic and Native American archaeological resources.

#### ***California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA)***

A statute that establishes the environmental policy for the State of California and requires decision-makers to disclose potential environmental impacts and consider environmental implications of their actions in order to avoid or reduce impacts, if feasible. This provides an opportunity for public participation in the decision making process.

#### ***NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966 (NHPA)***

Established the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). It also requires the evaluation of impacts of projects on historic properties through use of the “Section 106” process.

#### ***State and Federal Endangered Species Acts***

These acts provide for the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of any endangered or threatened plant or animal species and its habitat. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park contains a number of species that are listed on state or federal registers as being rare, threatened, sensitive, or endangered.

### **WITHIN CDPR**

The following are pre-existing mandates that were developed within CDPR and guide management actions. They include mandates that are independent from and part of the General Plan. These laws and policies from the PRC and DOM are subservient to state and federal laws developed outside CDPR but remain

dominant to the guidelines established within the General Plan (see **Figure 2, Section 1.8 - Organization of the General Plan**):

### **NON-GENERAL PLAN SPECIFIC**

The following are pre-existing mandates and laws which were established prior to the General Plan, and to which the prescriptions of a General Plan must adhere:

#### ***Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation:***

The CDPR Mission sets the fundamental parameters within which it acquires, plans, and manages its 280 park units. For all units of the California State Park system:

*The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is 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.*

#### ***Classification***

*(State Park, State Beach, State Historic Park, State Natural Reserve, State Recreation Area, or State Vehicular Recreation Area)*

In addition to CDPR's Mission, classification recognizes a unit's resource significance and establishes the parameters for management and appropriate development as specified by the PRC (§§ 5019.50-5019.80).

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was classified as a State Park (PRC § 5019.53) on June 21, 1962. Summarized, the purpose is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California. The section also includes a provision for improvements related to recreational activities with some restrictions.

#### ***Sub-classification***

*(Wilderness, Natural Preserve, and Cultural Preserve)*

In addition to the State Park classification, the PRC establishes several categories of sub-classifications that may be included within the boundaries of a State Park. The Park contains the following sub-classifications with approximate acreages:

Wildernesses (PRC § 5019.68)

--Cuyamaca Mountain [13,073 acres]

Cultural Preserves (PRC 5019.74)

--Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine [395 acres]

--Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) [498 acres]

--Kumeyaay Soapstone [135 acres]

--Pilcha (West Mesa) [1,428 acres]  
Natural Preserves (PRC § 5019.71)  
--Cuyamaca Meadow [731 acres]

### ***Resource Management Policies and Directives***

The CDPR maintains a volume of resource management policies and directives in the DOM. These policies and directives provide guidance toward the preservation of natural and cultural resources and on the uses that may impact those resources, as well as to amplify the legal codes contained in the PRC, the CCR, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission’s Statement of Policy and Rules of Order.

## **GENERAL PLAN SPECIFIC**

The following are statements and guidelines developed during the CRSP General Plan process and are specific to, and included in, CDPR general plans. These statements and guidelines are directed by, and subservient to, the non-general-plan-specific mandates and laws that are within the CDPR planning hierarchy:

### ***Declaration of Purpose***

The Declaration of Purpose is a broad statement of direction that is unique to CRSP. A Declaration of Purpose is required by the PRC § 5019.50, and is determined by a park’s prime resources and recreation opportunities within the larger context of the State Park System.

### ***Park Vision***

The vision statement is a view of CRSP’s desired future conditions and visitor experiences. It expresses a vision of what the Park could ultimately be like with implementation of the General Plan.

### ***Land Management-Zones***

Land management-zones in the CRSP General Plan are identified park areas that characterize similar types of resource conditions, land uses, and/or activities, which form the basis for planning decisions and guidance for future management actions within those land management-zones.

### ***Parkwide Management Goals and Guidelines***

Parkwide management goals and guidelines offer guidance that is relevant to the entire park. The goals and guidelines for the CRSP General Plan respond to existing conditions and are intended to address existing issues, foreseeable trends and patterns, and provide ongoing guidance for the incremental actions that will be taken over time to realize the long-term vision for the Park.

### ***Area-Specific and Management-Zone-Specific Goals and Guidelines***

These goals and guidelines clarify the management intent and visitor uses for specific areas and management-zones within the Park.



## C. SUMMARY OF ONLINE VISITOR SURVEY

### ABOUT THE 2012 ONLINE VISITOR SURVEY

The visitor survey was conducted to help gauge and understand current visitor demographics and use of CRSP, as well as perceptions and preferences about park facilities, activities, and programs.

The online visitor survey was open between 9/7/2012 and 11/7/2012. Invitations to participate in the survey were emailed to 3,416 CRSP campers who had registered on ReserveAmerica (camping reservation system) from 4/1/2012 to 8/31/2012. People were also invited to take the survey via the General Plan webpage and at the October 3, 2012 General Plan meeting. A total of 83 people attended this meeting and were invited to either take the online survey during the break-out sessions or to take the survey from home.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SURVEY RESPONSES

The total number of survey respondents was 1,457: 80.4% were campers and 19.6% were day-trip visitors. All but 10 respondents were from California, and nearly 80% of respondents were from San Diego County. Slightly more than 53% of respondents are female and nearly 47% are male. 76.5% identify their racial/ethnic group as White (non-Hispanic); the next highest group is Hispanic or Latino (9.9%). The highest response for Combined household income is in the \$100,000-\$149,999 range (28.0%) followed by those in the \$75,000-\$99,999 range (18.1%).

When survey respondents were asked how satisfied they were with several aspects of visiting the Park, the highest percentage of visitors chose “very satisfied” regarding:

- Overall experience at this park (57%)
- The condition of restrooms (29%)
- Feeling of safety and security during your visit (63%)
- Courtesy and helpfulness of park staff (47%)

Top responses to activities that respondent or members of a group participated in:

- Natural or cultural oriented activities: Self-guided or guided nature walk, wildlife watching, photography, and visit historic site or building
- Recreation activities: Hiking/walking for pleasure, relaxing outdoors, horseback riding, and mountain biking on unpaved trails

Top responses to additional activities to improve park experience:

- More interpretation and educational opportunities
- Increased access to mountain bikes on trails
- Improve/expand equestrian opportunities

Top responses to types of facilities that should be offered:

- More trails (36.4%); More tent campsites (24.7%); More campsites with electrical and water hookups (21.1%)

Top response to additional comments:

- We love/enjoy/value the Park

*See Appendix F - Visitor Profile*

## **D. INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED**

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Elected Officials
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency (Region 9)
- US Dept. of Agriculture (US Forest Service) – Cleveland National Forest
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

### STATE GOVERNMENT

- CA Dept. of Corrections – La Cima Conservation Camp
- CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- CA Dept. of Public Health
- CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
- CA Dept. of Transportation (Dist. 11)
- CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- CA Highway Patrol
- CA Office of Historic Preservation
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9)
- State Clearinghouse

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Cuyamaca/Julian Fire Protection District
- City of San Diego Public Utilities
- San Diego County Board of Supervisors
- San Diego County Clerk
- San Diego County Dept. of Environmental Health (and Air Pollution Control District)
- San Diego County Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- San Diego County Dept. of Planning and Land Use

### OTHER GOVERNMENTS

- Approximately 15 Native American Tribal Bands

### UTILITIES

- Cuyamaca Water District
- Descanso Community Water District
- Helix Water District
- Lake Cuyamaca Recreation District
- San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E)
- Sweetwater Authority (water district)

COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS [CPG] and  
COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUPS [CSG]

- Alpine CPG
- Borrego Springs CSG
- Cuyamaca CSG
- Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon CPG
- Descanso CPG
- Fallbrook CPG
- Hidden Meadows CSG
- Jacumba CSG
- Jamul/Dulzura CPG
- Julian CPG
- Lakeside CPG
- Pala-Pauma CSG
- Pine Valley CPG
- Rainbow CPG
- Ramona CPG
- San Dieguito CPG
- Spring Valley CPG
- Sweetwater CPG
- Tecate CSG
- Valle de Oro CPG
- Valley Center CPG

INTEREST GROUPS

- Owners and Occupants up to 100' from Park perimeter
- Approx. 5 Local News Sources
- Approx. 5 Mountain Biking and Trails Organizations
- Approx. 9 Cultural Resource Groups
- Approx. 45 Equestrians
- Approx. 10 Natural Resource Groups
- Approx. 15 Schools, Universities, Libraries, and Interpretive Organizations

## **E. REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Cleveland National Forest**

Recreational activities permitted within the adjacent CNF [managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS)] as well as within CRSP include:

- Bicycling
- Camping
- Hiking
- Climbing
- Horseback Riding

Land management activities that are permitted within USFS lands that are not allowed within CRSP include:

- Livestock grazing
- Mineral resource exploration and development
- Wood products harvesting
- Hunting
- OHV Riding

### **County Parks**

William Heise County Park, operated by the County of San Diego, is adjacent to the northern border of CRSP. Recreational opportunities include:

- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Camping
- Horse Riding
- Picnicking

### **Local Parks**

The locally operated Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District which operates the facilities at Lake Cuyamaca provides additional recreation opportunities including:

- Fishing
- Boating
- Camping
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Food Service

### **Private Recreational Facilities**

Nearby private recreational opportunities include the Thousand Trails Campground, KQ Ranch Resort, and Stallion Oaks Ranch. Some of their amenities include:

- Campsites (RV and Tent Camping)
- Cabins
- Sports and Activity Facilities
- Food Service



## F. VISITOR PROFILE

The information for this visitor profile was taken from a 2012 online visitor survey of 1,457 Park visitors, 1,309 (80.4%) were campers and 257 (19.6%) were day users. Although the survey included a limited amount of participants, the following outcomes were observed:

There were roughly equal numbers of male and female (47.8% male, 52.2% female) survey respondents.

The age range with the largest percentage of survey respondents (24.6%) were 25-34 year olds. The next highest age ranges were 35-44 (23.2%), 45-54 (18.6%), 55-59 (8.1%), 18-24 (7.7%), 60-64 (2.8%), 65-74 (2.1%), and 75 or older (0.4%).

A majority of visitors surveyed identified their race/ethnicity as white (77.3%). The next highest percentage were Hispanic or Latino (9.6%), Asian (5.6%), Other/Multi-racial (5.5%), American Indian (0.7%), Pacific Islander (0.7%), and black (0.6%).

The highest percentage of visitors surveyed had a combined household income of \$100,000 to \$149,000 (28.2%). The next highest percentages of combined household incomes were \$75,000 to \$99,999 (18.3%), \$50,000 to \$74,999 (16.9%), \$150,000 or more (16.4%), and \$35,000 to \$49,999 (9.8%). Those with less than \$35,000 combined household income represent 10.5% of visitors surveyed.

A predominant number of survey respondents were residents of the United States (98.9%) and of those a majority are from California (99.2%) and San Diego County (78.6%). Of those visitors surveyed originating from San Diego County, most come from communities west of the Park, such as Alpine, Ramona, El Cajon, and Lakeside. Many people surveyed also come from the City of San Diego. A small but significant number of Park visitors surveyed reside next to the Park in the communities of Descanso, Cuyamaca, and Julian. The highest concentrations of Park visitors surveyed from outside San Diego County reside in the Temecula area (Riverside County). Over half (57.1%) of all people that were visiting from outside the United States came from Mexico.

In a year period, most visitors surveyed either came to the Park one time (41.3%) or two to five times (41.1%). Only 7.8% visited the Park six to ten times in a year period and 9.9% came more than ten times.

Of visitors surveyed whom visit CRSP for the day (not overnight), a majority (69.4%) indicate that they spend three to eight hours in the Park. The next highest period is one to three hours (22.6%), over eight hours (6.8%), and only 1.3% spend less than an hour in the Park.

When asked what attracted them most to CRSP, 60.5% of visitors indicated that its near home, 54.5% indicated they like the scenery, and 50.6% indicated they like using the trails. Others indicated they like the campsites and spending time with family and friends at the Park.

*See Appendix C - Summary of Online Visitor Survey.*



## G. ROADS AND TRAILS INVENTORY

No.	Trail Name	Length (Miles)	Paved Road	Multi-Use (Hiking, Horses & Biking)	Hiking & Biking Only	Hiking & Horses Only	Hiking Only
1	Arroyo Seco Fire Road	1.4803		X			
2	Arroyo Seco Trail	1.7077				X	
3	Azalea Glen Loop Trail	2.9531				X	X
4	Azalea Glen Road	1.3439	X				
5	Azalea Springs Fire Road	1.3043	X				
6	Black Oak Trail	2.9000	X				
7	Blue Ribbon Trail	1.4876				X	
8	Burnt Pine Trail	3.0551				X	
9	California Riding & Hiking Trail	14.2500				X	
10	California Riding & Hiking Trail Connector	0.4386				X	
11	Cold Spring Trail	1.1584				X	
12	Cold Stream Trail	4.6239				X	
13	Conejos Trail	2.0446				X	
14	Dead Horse Trail	2.0007				X	
15	Deer Park Trail	1.6762	X				
16	Dyar Spring Trail	2.1676				X	
17	East Mesa Fire Road	4.5685	X				
18	East Side Trail	4.5804				X	
19	Falls Fire Road	0.8141		X			
20	Fern Flat Fire Road	2.7102	X				
21	Fir Trail	0.6867				X	
22	Fox Trail	0.7696				X	
23	Grass Trail	0.3070				X	
24	Green Valley Connector	0.3125					X
25	Green Valley Falls Trail	0.3078					X
26	Harvey Moore Trail	7.6600				X	
27	Hill Trail	0.3253	X				
28	Japacha Fire Road	1.5016	X				
29	Juacuapin Trail	1.6126				X	
30	Kelley's Ditch Fire Road	1.0423	X				
31	Kelley's Ditch Trail	2.8837	X			X	
32	Lookout Fire Road	2.8145	X	X			
33	Los Caballos Trail	0.5237				X	
34	Los Vaqueros Trail	1.0065				X	
35	Lower Descanso Creek Trail	0.7164				X	
36	Margaret Minshall Trail	3.5839	X			X	
37	Merigan Fire Road	3.1524	X				
38	Middle Peak Fire Road	5.2902	X				
39	Milk Ranch Road	2.3455	X				
40	Monument Trail	1.7965				X	
41	Oak Trail	0.6336				X	
42	Oakzanita Peak Trail	1.4490	X				
43	Owl Trail	0.4517					

(continued on next page)

## ROADS AND TRAILS INVENTORY (CONT'D)

No.	Trail Name	Length (Miles)	Paved Road	Multi-Use (Hiking, Horses & Biking)	Hiking & Biking Only	Hiking & Horses Only	Hiking Only
44	Paso Loop Trail	0.4626					X
45	Paso Trail	0.3539					X
46	Paso Picacho Nature Trail (accessible)	0.3437					X
47	Pine Ridge Trail	2.0336					X
48	Pine Trail	0.5206				X	
49	Saddleback Trail	1.5626				X	
50	Soapstone Grade Fire Road	2.6702	X				
51	South Boundary Fire Road	3.7820	X				
52	Stonewall Creek Fire Road	2.3400	X				
53	Stonewall Mine ADA Trail (accessible)	0.5559					X
54	Stonewall Mine Trail	0.1640				X	
55	Stonewall Peak Trail	3.5519				X	X
56	Sugar Pine Trail	2.0789				X	
57	Sweetwater Trail	1.1887				X	
58	Upper Descanso Creek Trail	1.5847				X	
59	Upper Green Valley Fire Road	2.8882	X				
60	Upper Green Valley Trail	0.6498	X				
61	Vern Whitaker Trail	0.9040				X	
62	Water Tank	0.1732	X				
63	West Mesa Fire Road	1.1915	X				
64	West Mesa Trail	3.9587				X	
65	West Side Trail	5.7436	X			X	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>137.14</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>57.00</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>83.91</b>	<b>10.88</b>

**NOTES:**

Does not include paved roads used primarily for vehicle access (e.g., campground roads, Stonewall Mine Rd.) and fire roads closed to the public (e.g., La Cima Fire Rd., Harper Fire Rd.).

Some trails have more than one use designation (e.g., Stonewall Peak Trail has a segment that is for hiking only and another segment that is for hiking and horses).

Totals for each trail use designation will not add up with overall trail miles total because some trails have more than one use designation.

Total trail mileage is approximate due to some trails overlapping (e.g., California Riding and Hiking Trail overlaps segments of several Park trails).

## H. VEGETATION CROSSWALK

A vegetation crosswalk defines the relationships between different vegetation classification systems. The classification systems are presented in order of detail, with the most general on the left and the most detailed on the right. The General Plan primarily uses generic vegetation communities based upon structure and dominant overstory plants. These are denoted by the rows delineated by the thick black lines. The CDFW Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CDFW 2008) have more detail and are marked by the dashed lines. The Vegetation Alliances (Sawyer et. al. 2009) are the most detailed and are separated by the thin lines.

Community	Wildlife Habitat	Alliance
Meadow and Grassland	Annual Grassland	Annual Brome Grasslands
		California Black Oak Forest/Annual Grass-Herb
		Cheatgrass Grassland
		Fiddleneck Fields
		Upland Mustards
		Western Ragweed Meadows
	Perennial Grassland	Wild Oats Grasslands
		Bracken Fern Patch
		Creeping Rye Grass Turfs
	Wet Meadow	Deer Grass Beds
		Baltic and Mexican Rush Marshes
Sedge Meadows Soft Rush Marshes		
Chaparral	Chamise Chaparral	Chamise Chaparral
	Mixed Chaparral	Birch Leaf Mountain Mahogany Chaparral
		Canyon Live Oak Chaparral
		Chaparral White Thorn Chaparral
		Coast Live Oak Woodland/Chaparral
		Coast Live Oak Woodland/Grassland
		Cup Leaf Ceanothus Chaparral
		Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral
		Hairy Leaf Ceanothus Chaparral
		Interior Live Oak Chaparral
		Palmer's Ceanothus Chaparral (< 50% cover)
		Parish's Goldenbush Chaparral
		Pink-bract Manzanita Chaparral
		Point-leaf Manzanita Chaparral
		Point-leaf Manzanita-Palmer's Ceanothus Chaparral
		Scrub Oak Chaparral
	Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral	
Monoculture Ceanothus	Palmer's Ceanothus Chaparral (> 50% cover)	
Oak Woodland	Coastal Oak Woodland	Coast Live Oak Woodland
	Montane Hardwood	California Black Oak Forest
		California Black Oak Forest Regenerating
		Canyon Live Oak Forest
Conifer Forest (Sky Island Forest)	Montane Hardwood Conifer	Coulter Pine Woodland
	Jeffrey Pine	Jeffrey Pine Forest
	Sierran Mixed Conifer	Sugar White Pine Forest
Riparian Woodland	Valley Foothill Riparian	Arroyo Willow Thickets
Developed	Developed	Developed



## **I. DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTIONS RESOURCES**

Surviving architectural features from the Dyar House include a fireplace screen, andirons, light fixtures, door locks, and door knobs.

Archival materials contain photographs, negatives, and slides that document CRSP's history with images that include the Dyar House and family; Park development by the CCC; use of the Dyar House as an Indian Museum (1950s-70s); Park resources, archaeological investigations, scenic views, facilities, staff, and visitors through various time periods.

Cultural artifacts are primarily associated with archaeological excavations at CRSP, beginning as early as the 1930s and 40s, and continuing to more recent investigations associated with construction projects. These diverse artifacts reflect both the Native American and historic periods of the Park and include examples such as projectile points, groundstone tools, earthenware sherds, pottery vessels (whole and fragments of ollas), hand-wrought tool parts from the Stonewall Mine site, and items related to the 1922 U.S. Army airplane crash site. It is the understanding of CDPR that all CRSP collections held by CDPR, that are associated with Native American sites, have undergone NAGPRA review and all culturally sensitive items and human remains have been repatriated.

Natural history specimens are comprised of animals found in the area and include mammals (mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, fox, squirrel, and raccoon), birds (great horned owl, barn owl, mountain bluebird, Western tanager, American kestrel, Bullock's oriole, and California quail), and reptiles (southern pacific rattlesnake and California mountain king snake). The natural history specimens are displayed in CRSP's visitor center.

### **OBJECTS IN STORAGE**

Prior to the Cedar Fire, the Park's museum collections were primarily displayed and stored in the Dyar House. The ground floor served as a museum, visitor center, and gift shop. The basement was used to store artifacts, including archaeological material, historic items related to the Dyar House and the Stonewall Mine, and Dyar House architectural features. As a part of the Post-Cedar Fire Recovery project, these collections were transported to temporary storage at the Colorado Desert District headquarters maintenance yard in Borrego Springs. Since that time, the collections have been moved to storage at ABDSP.

The BARC, located at the Colorado Desert District headquarters, contains additional material associated with CRSP. This includes archaeological objects and related documentation from recent investigations at Stonewall Mine, Merigan Ranch, Paso Picacho, and a historic dump site located at the Cuyamaca Outdoor School.

The CDPR's Southern Service Center (SSC) archaeological laboratory in San Diego contains a few artifacts from archaeological sites within CRSP. These materials are retained at the SSC either because they were part of survey and

monitoring projects that resulted in their collection or because they are part of the “type collection” which is used to assist staff in identifying artifacts from certain parks or regions. Additionally, photographic material associated with archaeological sites, project work, and general park scenic views is held at SSC. This material includes approximately 200 prints and slides, and over 5,000 digital images. Only some of the archaeological artifacts and none of the architectural or photographic material has yet been entered in TMS, CDPR’s collections cataloging system.

The CDPR Photographic Archives in West Sacramento is the primary repository for the extensive collection of prints, negatives, and slides associated with the Park. These include prints and nitrate negatives that document the circa 1930s CCC era of CRSP’s early history.

Natural history specimens include plant and animal collections. Plant specimens are primarily housed at the San Diego Natural History Museum and Colorado Desert District herbaria. Additional specimens are located at numerous institutions including San Diego State University, the combined Herbarium of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Pomona College, and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Seeds that have been collected for the Cedar Fire Reforestation Project are stored at the CAL FIRE L.A. Moran Reforestation Center. Wildlife specimens are located at San Diego State University and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

### **RELATED MATERIAL IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

Material associated with early 20th century archaeological research at the Park is located in two southern California institutions. Representatives from the San Diego Museum of Man recovered prehistoric artifacts from the Park between 1934 and 1940, and again in 1949 and 1959. These materials are stored at the San Diego Museum of Man’s collections facility in San Diego. Archaeological investigations were conducted in 1961 and 1962 by D.L. True from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The materials collected by True are located at the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History.

## J. INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

### CURRENT PROGRAMS

#### *Walks and Talks*

Saturday morning Nature Walks are held at the Paso Picacho Campground. Visitors are led on a one-mile walk along the Azalea Glen trail and end at a Native American site with grinding stones. Topics include wildlife, native plants, and the Kumeyaay.

Summer Interpretive Programs include guided walks and campfire programs. Astronomy, raptors, ravens, and reptiles are among the topics. Local community groups and partners such as the Puma Conservation Fund and the San Diego Mycological Society (wild mushrooms) serve as guest speakers. A local astronomy group brings telescopes for night sky viewing.

A walking tour of Stonewall Mine is periodically offered by Park staff. Topics include local geology, early Native American history, early American history, and the development of Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca City.

#### *Junior Rangers*

Young visitors to the Park are invited to participate in Junior Ranger activities, which usually follow the Saturday Nature Walks. Activities address topics such as California Indians, ecology, and animal life.

#### *Informal interpretation*

Tables with touchable objects such as local animal furs, skins, and antlers are periodically set up in the campgrounds to provide visitors with informal interpretation opportunities. Rangers include some roving interpretation as they patrol the campground and trails. Volunteers who staff the visitor center provide informal interpretation related to the Park's natural and cultural resources.

### INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®:** includes a visitor center with exhibits and a film related to the desert environment. A robust schedule of interpretive and educational activities includes guided hikes throughout the Park, walks and talks, lectures, field classes, stargazing, and campfire programs. An annual Archaeology Weekend is held in April. The Anza-Borrego Foundation, the Park's nonprofit cooperating association, provides presentations and classes addressing topics such as botany, photography, and archaeology for citizen scientists. A three-day tent camping experience introduces fifth graders to the natural and cultural resources of the area. Wildlife, scientific research, and new careers are highlighted.

**Barona Cultural Center and Museum:** This center features a research library and exhibits focusing on ancestral and contemporary Southern and Baja California Native American material. School programs, museum tours, and

outreach programs such as a “Traditional Life Hands-On Kit” containing artifacts, baskets, and tools are offered.

***Campo Stone Store Museum:*** This 1-acre property includes a stone building/historical museum and California State Historic Landmark monument. Built following a raid on the original building, the stone structure functioned as a bank, post office, and social center for the community. It also served as the last home of the Buffalo Soldiers and horse calvary for Camp Lockett, a military outpost created to protect the southern frontier

***CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST (CNF):*** The Laguna Mountain Recreation Area provides children’s activities, guided hikes, and campfire programs during the summer. The San Diego State University Observatory sponsors “Star Parties” for campers on most Saturday evenings during the summer months. The Kwaaymii Cultural Interpretive Trail is a short scenic walk with an interpretive brochure.

***County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation:*** Two county parks are located near CRSP and provide related programs. William Heise County Park in Julian offers hikes with a ranger to learn about the local flora and fauna, including impacts from the Cedar Fire. The Discovery Program provides students and teachers with nature related activities to enhance their park visit; a customized Discovery Kit has been developed for Dos Picos County Park in Ramona, with curriculum correlated with the California Science Framework standards.

***Heritage of the Americas Museum:*** Located on the Cuyamaca College campus, the museum is an educational and cultural center. Five wings divide the building into areas of Natural History, Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, and Education. Curriculum-based field trips and outreach programs are offered to grades two through six.

***Imperial Valley Desert Museum:*** This museum completed a new facility in October 2008 to house the extensive archaeological collections of the Imperial Valley Community College. The museum is currently developing interactive exhibits to engage visitors with the Imperial Valley’s rich desert history.

***Julian Pioneer Museum:*** An array of artifacts depicts the history of the town of Julian from 1869 to the turn of the last century. Mounted animals representing species found in Julian are also displayed.

***Julian Train and Gold Mine Tour:*** Accessed via an 18-inch-gauge mining train, the 1-mile tour includes a stop at the Smith Ranch 1870 Julian gold rush mine. An option to ride into the mine in an 1898 mine car is also part of the tour. Special holiday events and school programs are also offered.

***Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center:*** This 5-acre site is a partnership of The Friends of the Kumeyaay, the San Pasqual Band of Indians, and the City of Poway. Docents lead Saturday morning trail tours. The site includes native gardens, a Kumeyaay House (‘ewaa), and an education center. Plans are to develop a replica Kumeyaay Village.

**Motor Transport Museum:** The objective of this Museum (located in Campo) is to educate the public by creating a positive awareness and appreciation for old trucks and the development of the motor transport industry. It provides a place for preservation, restoration, and display of antique trucks and other objects/materials associated with the trucking industry, along with recent and historical knowledge, information, and materials pertaining to automotive pioneers.

**Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.:** Located in Campo, the Museum is dedicated to preserving the physical legacy and the experience of rail transportation. Programs address the historical, social, economic, and technical impact of railroading with particular emphasis on railroads of San Diego County and the larger systems with which they connected. The Museum stresses a living history approach to interpreting railroad history to the widest possible audience.

**San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians:** The San Pasqual Education Department offers programs to San Pasqual tribal members and their families. The 'iipaa chepaa is a summer cultural program offered to students in grades 1-12. Participants learn aspects of traditional Kumeyaay culture such as language, arts and crafts, history, games, dances, and songs.



## **K. LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEMWIDE PLANNING INFLUENCES**

Systemwide planning influences are those that may be applied throughout the entirety of the California State Park System. A list and descriptions of some of these planning influences follow:

### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS MISSION STATEMENT**

*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.*

### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM PLAN – 2002**

A two-part planning document that first lays out the changes occurring to the State Park system such as changes in population, park usage, and user interests. The second part outlines steps that must be undertaken to keep pace with the challenges described in part one in order for the State Park system to continue to succeed.

### **PLANNING HANDBOOK – 2010**

The Planning Handbook provides guidelines for the preparation of general plans and other planning documents for state park units. It emphasizes focusing on critical short term and long-range issues without being an exhaustive study of a park unit. Additional planning shall take place via specific studies, management plans, feasibility studies, and environmental impact analyses.

### **DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL (DOM)**

The DOM provides a single source of approved policies and procedures which are pertinent to the operation of the State Park System.

### **DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION MANUAL (DAM)**

The DAM provides policies and procedures by which CDPR functions. It also provides a background on CDPR's origins, accomplishments, and directions.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES – 2009**

Guidelines intended to convey to CDPR staff general information regarding accessibility standards and recommendations for complying with laws and regulations related to accessibility.

### **CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT - 2002, 2011**

The plan and progress report identify trail-related goals and guidelines that will direct the future actions of the CDPR Statewide Trails Office regarding trails programs both within the State Parks System and in its wider, statewide, and national roles.

## **NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANNING**

This is a program of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and numerous private and public partners that takes a broad-based ecosystem approach to planning for the protection and perpetuation of biological diversity.

## **L. LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLANNING INFLUENCES**

This General Plan is shaped, in part, by numerous planning influences that are specific to the region where CRSP is located. A selected list and description of these regional planning influences follows:

### **ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK® GENERAL PLAN**

Upon acquisition of the Lucky 5 Ranch property in 2001, a connection was established between CRSP and ABDSP. The connection creates a dramatic transition from coastal mountain range to desert floor. Many of the goals that the ABDSP General Plan has are shared in common with those of CRSP:

1. Protection of the many resources of ABDSP including geological features, soils, watersheds, paleontological resources, native plants and wildlife, ecological systems, and cultural resources both archaeological and historical.
2. Wildfire management to provide essential public safety and to minimize catastrophic fire damage to vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources.
3. Provide further interpretive opportunities to increase visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural and cultural resources of the Park including the conservation of significant collections.
4. Provide for a wide variety of and expansion of high quality recreational opportunities while ensuring the protection of park resources including appreciation of historic and cultural heritage.
5. Acquire land from willing sellers to enhance the visitor experience as well as further preserve natural and cultural resources.
6. Monitor and reduce impacts to park resources due to adjacent land use in order to preserve the visitor experience.
7. Design and maintain facilities that help meet the Park's mission of providing high-quality outdoor recreation, provide increased accessibility, and minimize impact to cultural and natural resources.

### **COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT**

*California State Parks - CRSP and CAL FIRE – San Diego Unit*

***Objectives of the agreement include:***

1. Enabling CAL FIRE to conduct necessary fire suppression activities to meet its statutory and primary mission obligations while ensuring that preservation and enhancement of CRSP's natural and cultural resources are not unreasonably jeopardized through fire suppression efforts.

2. Compiling baseline data on the physical, cultural, and biological resources; fire history; access; and infrastructure of CRSP into a fire management plan.
3. Monitoring the health and status of the habitats at CRSP relative to fire potential, threat to the surrounding communities, and methods to reduce hazards.
4. Providing locations for fire-fighting training and vegetation management programs through prescribed burns.
5. Coordinating fuel management activities and creating buffer zones, when appropriate, in areas where CRSP property abuts privately owned lands and residential communities.
6. Reducing habitat and cultural resource degradation from unplanned emergency suppression activities in the event of a wildfire by focusing on pre-fire planning and management activities.
7. Preserving and enhancing of the Parks natural and cultural resources through appropriate fire management and the use of proper suppression strategies.

### **CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST (CNF) LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Activities of the CNF are organized into six functional areas and include:

1. **Management and Administration:** National Forest leadership, management and administrative support activities, communications, external affairs, community outreach, planning, human resources, information technology, and financial management.
2. **Resource Management:** Activities related to managing, preserving, and protecting the national forest's cultural and natural resources.
3. **Public Use and Enjoyment:** Activities which provide visitors with safe, enjoyable, and educational experiences while on the national forest and accommodate changing trends in visitor use and community participation and outreach.
4. **Facility Operations and Maintenance:** Activities required to manage and operate the national forest's infrastructure (i.e., roads, facilities, trails, and structures).
5. **Commodity and Commercial Uses:** Grazing management, forest special product development, and activities related to managing non-recreation special-uses such as national forest access, telecommunications sites, and utility corridors.
6. **Fire and Aviation Management:** Wildland fire prevention through education, hazardous fuels reduction, and proactive preparation. This

program also includes on-forest wildland fire suppression, and national or international wildland fire and emergency incident response.

Land use zones have been used to map the CNF for the purpose of identifying appropriate management types of ‘uses’ that are consistent with the achievement of the desired conditions set forth in the revised forest plan. These land-use zones help clearly demonstrate management’s intent and indicate the anticipated level of public land use in any area of the CNF. The activities that are allowed in each zone are expected to result in progress toward the realization of the desired conditions.

It is CDP’s intent to maintain awareness of the various land uses within CNF and make effort to develop management-zones within CRSP that are compatible and/or mirror the land uses of CNF so that both agencies may obtain mutual benefit by sharing similar goals and objectives within their lands.

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN – CENTRAL MOUNTAIN SUBREGIONAL PLAN**

Several Chapters of the subregional plan are applicable to the discussion and vision that is provided in the CRSP General Plan. These chapters include Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation. The goals of each of these chapters follow.

### ***Conservation***

1. The careful management of environmental resources in the plan area that prevents wasteful exploitation or degradation of those resources, and preserves them for future generations.
2. Resource conservation areas that ensure the protection and preservation of high quality natural resources and significant cultural resources.
3. A community that is able to function without outside water and other environmental resources.
4. Additional specific goals may be found in the areas of Archaeology and History, Dark Sky, Minerals, Soils, Vegetation and Wildlife, and Visual Resources.

### ***Open Space***

1. Rural lands outside of established communities where development is minimal.
2. A system of open spaces that preserve unique natural features, enhances recreational opportunities, conserves scenic resources, and retains the peaceful beauty of the subregion.

### ***Recreation***

- 1.** Encourage coordination among public agencies providing recreational amenities.
- 2.** Encourage the use of school sites for active recreation.
- 3.** Protect local residents from the adverse impacts of regional recreational activities.
- 4.** Protect state and federal lands from encroachments by adjacent property owners and protect private lands from activities occurring on public lands.
- 5.** Enhance the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of the residents by providing and preserving opportunities for recreation, rest, physical activity, education, and relationships with their neighbors.
- 6.** Provide a system of parks, open space, riding and hiking trails, and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities which will preserve the rural mountain lifestyle sought by the residents of the Pine Valley and Descanso planning areas.
- 7.** Establish a local park in each community. Descanso is deficient in local parkland within the community.
- 8.** Develop a trails element within the privately owned areas which will permit continued access to public lands as future development occurs, provided that liability for these trails remains with the County of San Diego.
- 9.** Establish, protect, and maintain an enjoyable, efficient, and safe network of recreational public trails.

## M. UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS

The following unit classifications apply at CRSP:

### PRC 5019.53. STATE PARKS

*State Parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, deserts and desert mountains.*

*Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.*

*Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modifications of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions unto themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the Park, shall not be undertaken within State Parks.*

*State Parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the State.*

### PRC 5019.68. STATE WILDERNESS

*State Wildernesses, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, are hereby recognized as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man and where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A state wilderness is*

*further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned or leased land which has retained its primeval character and influence or has been substantially restored to a near-natural appearance without permanent improvements or human habitation, other than semi-improved campgrounds, or structures which existed at the time of classification of the area as a state wilderness and which the State Park and Recreation Commission has determined may be maintained and used in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment, or primitive latrines, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions, and which:*

*(a) Appears generally to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.*

*(b) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.*

*(c) Consists of at least 5,000 acres of land, either by itself or in combination with contiguous areas possessing wilderness characteristics, or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.*

*(d) May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*

#### **PRC 5019.71. NATURAL PRESERVES**

***Natural Preserves** consist of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other State Park System units. The purpose of Natural Preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as Natural Preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations*

*that constitute the basis for the establishment of the Natural Preserve.*

#### **PRC 5019.74. CULTURAL PRESERVES**

*Cultural Preserves consist of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. Areas set aside as Cultural Preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within Cultural Preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be permitted.*



## **N. DESCRIPTION OF INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND INTERPRETIVE PERIODS**

### **UNIFYING THEME**

The Cuyamaca Mountains and the three watersheds that flow through it are major influences on the natural and cultural history of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (CRSP)

### **PRIMARY THEMES**

***Building a Mountain Range:*** *Physical forces continue to shape the land of Cuyamaca.*

This theme covers the geological formation of the Cuyamaca Mountains, including the streams that formed within the San Diego, Sweetwater, and Tijuana watersheds. Formation of the Peninsular Ranges occurred through tectonic, seismic, and plutonic forces. These forces continue to shape the land and its waterways. The relationship between humans and the area's geologic components, including soapstone, gold, and river rock are also explored here.

***Patterns on the Land:*** *The plants and animals of CRSP have a dynamic relationship that continues to change.*

This theme explores the Park's diverse plant communities, why certain plants live in association with each other, why plant communities grow where they do, and the value of these varied habitats. The geographic and climatic reasons why many plants are found here, far south of their usual ranges and many miles from other similarly isolated populations, should be interpreted to park visitors. Sensitive plant communities such as the Cuyamaca cypress stand, montane meadows/grasslands, and Sky Island Forest are further explained. Also discussed are the value of diverse plant communities, the habitat they provide various animal species, and predator-prey relationships. The theme covers how the 2003 Cedar Fire affected species assemblages and the expected changes that will occur as plants and animals return.

***Fire at CRSP:*** *Fire is part of a plant community's natural process that allows for healthy change over time.*

This theme covers the history of natural and human-caused fires at the Park, and the effect that fire has had – and will continue to have – on the Park's various plant communities. Further exploration of how different plants react to fire, from those that require it for reproduction to those with adaptations that allow for quick re-sprouting, should be interpreted to park visitors. This theme also covers prescribed burning, related research, early experiments at the Park, Reforestation Projects following the Cedar Fire, and reiteration that fire is part of the dynamic system of the Park's natural resources.

***Climatic Change of an Ancient Landscape:*** *Our actions can help reduce the negative impacts that humans have made to the environment's natural process of climate change.*

This theme explores the climate and landscape of Pleistocene southern California and how these have changed, and will continue to change into the future. It also explores the warming and drying trends that resulted in today's mountain and desert climates, the changing precipitation patterns and temperature as evidenced in vegetation, the retreat of the forested environment of mountain slopes, the possibility that the forests we see today may be remnants of prehistoric vegetation trends, and the effects of a changing climate on various life forms – including humans – over thousands of years. The Park's present climate, including the meteorological forces that create summer thunderstorms, autumn Santa Ana winds, and winter snows, are expected to be affected by climate change due to human activity such as fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and other land use change. Extreme events such as heat waves are predicted to be longer in duration and greater in frequency in the San Diego region. This theme discusses actions we can take now to reduce climate change.

***Native People of the Cuyamaca Region:*** *The lives and lifestyles of the Kumeyaay, Kwaaymii, and Kamia, and their ancestors, depended on their knowledge of the land.*

This theme covers the pre-European contact, historic, and contemporary presence of the indigenous people of the San Diego region, with a focus on the Cuyamaca Mountains area. The creation accounts of the Kumeyaay, Kwaaymii, and Kamia tell them that their ancestors were placed here by the creator and they have been here since time began. The Park falls within the ethnographic territories of these groups (which some also call an eastern division of the Kumeyaay). Kumeyaay territory includes a vastly varied terrain, ranging from coastal beaches and lagoons, across the mountains, and down into the arid desert. The Kwaaymii of the Laguna Mountains are a sub-tribe of the larger group. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Kumeyaay and Kwaaymii were mainly hunters and gatherers, making seasonal rounds to take advantage of various resources. They also developed horticultural and limited agricultural techniques including burning, seed broadcasting, transplanting, and planting. This theme further explores the influence of changing climate since Pleistocene times, and impacts on Native American lifestyle, social structure, and material culture over time, including the present.

***Archaeology at Cuyamaca:*** *The protection of the Park's archaeological and cultural sites depends on the continued care by park staff and park visitors.*

This theme examines the extensive amount of archaeological investigations that have occurred at CRSP. Decades of site documentation, research, and excavation throughout the Park have revealed a variety of Native American and historic sites, features, and artifacts. The earliest documented recordation and investigations at the Park were undertaken by the San Diego Museum of Man in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. The history and results of archaeological work, changes in archaeological methodologies, significance of Cuyamaca's collections, ongoing archaeological studies, and the critical role that visitors have in protecting these cultural resources are discussed in this theme. Also explored are impacts such as fire, looting, recreation, trails (official and unofficial), and construction projects on archaeological sites.

***Transforming the Environment:*** *People’s reliance on the natural world of the Cuyamaca Mountains has changed the land in dramatic ways.*

This theme examines the relationships between people and their environment, exploring how human occupation in the Cuyamaca area has impacted the land. For thousands of years people have used the natural resources of the Park as a means to sustain life, make tools, build homes, generate income, and create recreational opportunities. Native Americans hunted animals, gathered and tended plants, and modified their environment through brush burning and clearing, tool-stone quarrying, manufacture and use of bedrock grinding features, and construction of dwellings and other structures. The arrival and influx of Euro-Americans displaced the Native Americans from their traditional territories and affected their relationship with this environment. Raising livestock, farming, road construction, timber harvesting, and the development of Lake Cuyamaca are other changes to the area’s natural environment that occurred during several historic periods. Mineral extraction, lumbering, road development, and building construction were among the impacts created by the Stonewall Gold Mine operation and Cuyamaca City development. Transportation corridors, including Native American trails, wagon roads, and the highway that now divides the Park, are also examined. Park development and the continued use of the area for recreation-related activities have also affected the Park’s natural and cultural resources.

***The Rise and Fall of the Stonewall Mine:*** *A productive gold vein and a steady source of lumber once powered the Stonewall Mine operation, one of the richest gold mines in southern California.*

This theme explores the mining operation and company town associated with Stonewall Mine. The original Stonewall Jackson Mine provided a brief but profitable gold mining venture during its early years but lapsed into a ten-year hiatus. Robert W. Waterman then bought the property and made major changes to the operation. His development of the nearby company town of “Cuyamaca City” provided workers and families with homes, a store, and a school. This theme further explores how Cuyamaca City was laid out, its ethnic and social makeup, decline of the operation, and the eventual abandonment and dismantling of this mining town.

***Family Life in the Cuyamaca Mountains:*** *Diverse families have lived, worked, and played in the mountainous home of Cuyamaca.*

This theme discusses the many people who have called the Cuyamaca Mountains area home. The Park’s namesake, the Kumeyaay village of Ah-ha’ Kwe-ah-mac’, and Rancho Cuyamaca are further explored. This theme covers the homesteading and ranching activities by such individuals as James Lassator – who built the Park’s first permanent stone house – his widow, Sara Mulkins Lassator, and her son, John Mulkins. Also discussed are the men, women, and children who lived in Cuyamaca City, the workers at Stonewall Mine, and “gentlemen ranchers” like Ralph M. Dyar, a Detroit native and Los Angeles venture capitalist who constructed a “House of Stone” as a family retreat and as

headquarters during his attempted development of Rancho Cuyamaca's northern section into a lake-front mountain resort.

***The Civilian Conservation Corps:*** *During a time when California lacked funds and people were out of work due to the Great Depression, the CCC created the Park's first campgrounds and trails for public enjoyment.*

This theme discusses this national relief program during the Great Depression and its importance to the Park's development. A large part of the existing public and staff facilities at the Park, along with road and trail development, are due to the work of the CCC. The role of the National Park Service (NPS) in designing park improvements, the Park Rustic architectural style, surviving examples of the CCC work, features that were destroyed during the Cedar Fire, and remnants such as Camp Tapawingo and Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish are also discussed here.

## **SECONDARY THEMES**

***Early Exploration and Settlement:*** *Spanish explorers and Mexican rancheros traveled through and settled in the homeland of the Kumeyaay.*

This theme discusses the life-ways of the Kumeyaay, Kwaaymii, and Kamia during the presence of Imperial Spain in the San Diego region, the establishment of a mission and presidio, the detrimental impacts of European diseases that decimated the Native American population, and the interactions during Spanish - and later, Mexican - excursions into the Cuyamaca Mountains. After Mexico won its independence from Spain, the increase of ranching and other activities into their traditional hunting/gathering areas pressured San Diego's tribes to rebel against local ranchos. This theme also covers the granting of Rancho Cuyamaca to Agustín Olvera, development of an adobe hut and sawmill by Olvera's agent, Cesario Walker, and Walker's forced exit from the area by Kumeyaay from the nearby Mitaraguí Ranchería.

***Three Flags and Three Centuries of a Military Presence:*** *Spain, Mexico, and the United States have all conducted military operations in the Cuyamaca Mountains.*

This theme discusses the earliest Spanish and later Mexican military-related activities in the Cuyamaca Mountains. The first occurred in 1772 when, during a search for military deserters, Captain Pedro Fages and a mounted troop from the San Diego presidio made first contact with the Kumeyaay. Fages' entries in his diary were the first recorded description of what is now CRSP. During the Mexican period, an increase in confrontations occurred between rancheros and some local tribes. This resulted in a punitive expedition by Mexican forces who attacked the Kumeyaay near the village of Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac.' The so-called "Battle of Cuyamaca" reportedly ended active Native American resistance to Mexican authority in San Diego's mountainous backcountry. Twentieth century military events at CRSP include the 1922 search for the crash site of a U.S. Army aircraft on Japacha Ridge, WWII-era Army and Marine Corps training exercises, and the 1968 establishment of the country's first U.S. Navy SEALs advanced training facility.

***The State Park Story:*** *A commitment to resource protection and public access has influenced the decades of managing and preserving the unique sense of place that can still be enjoyed at one of California's first state parks.*

This theme examines the history of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park since its 1933 acquisition. Key figures from the CRSP's inception include Guy L. Fleming, who became Superintendent of the early State Park System's Southern California District in 1932, and Harvey W. Moore, the Park's first custodian, who had previously worked as foreman at the Dyar Ranch. Moore's intimate knowledge of the former ranch contributed greatly to CRSP's development until his retirement in 1955. Another person important to the Park's history is Margaret Minshall. A retired high school teacher and avid equestrian, she donated over 400 acres to CRSP and provided volunteer work to assist with the founding of the Park's interpretive association.

#### **PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE PERIODS:**

##### ***Native American Settlement and Use: Pre-European contact to Mid-1800s***

This period covers the earliest presence of indigenous people in the Cuyamaca through the time of European settlement. Archaeological evidence and scientific studies have documented Native American use and settlement in this region dating back over 9,000 years. This period encompasses the change from early, small camps and sites, to larger more permanent villages and complex societies. The period ends in the mid-1800s when most of the Native Americans had been displaced from their villages in the Cuyamaca Mountain area by the influx of Euro-American settlers. Although this interpretive period ends at the mid-19th century, it is important to include the further story of the Kumeyaay, Kwaaymii, and Kamia, as well as the deep connection to this area that many descendants retain.

##### ***Stonewall Gold Mine and Cuyamaca City: 1870 to 1917***

The Stonewall Jackson Mine period begins in 1870 and ends in 1876 when the gold mining operation was shut down due to insufficient operating capital. The period picks up again in 1886 when major modern improvements were made to Stonewall Mine (the new mining superintendent dropped the name "Jackson"). These improvements included the construction of sawmills and the company town known as "Cuyamaca City." This period concludes with the mine's permanent closure in 1917.

##### ***Road and Ranch Development: 1850 to 1933***

This period covers the extension of roads to and through what would become CRSP. Miners, homesteaders, and ranchers developed the roads to access and extract the area's natural resources for domestic and economic purposes. Real estate developers, including Ralph M. Dyar, sought to exploit the area for its scenic and recreational value. Dyar's failed attempt to convert his ranch into a mountain resort provided the State of California with an opportunity to acquire the land as part of the newly established park system.

### ***Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933 to 1942***

This period includes major park developments that were constructed by the CCC. Following the NPS Park Rustic architectural style, and reportedly inspired by the Dyar House, evidence of the CCC work can still be seen throughout the Paso Picacho Campground and administration areas. Also of note are numerous CCC-built roads and trails, many of which are still in use today.

### **SECONDARY INTERPRETIVE PERIODS:**

#### ***Early Exploration and Settlement: 1769 to 1848***

This period covers attempts by Imperial Spain to extend the influence of the San Diego presidio and mission to the Cuyamaca Mountains area. It also includes the period of Native Americans living in the area that remained a relatively autonomous force resistant to religious conversion, and continuing through the intrusion of Mexican ranching activities, including Rancho Cuyamaca.

#### ***Military Influence: 1769 to 1975***

A military presence in the Cuyamaca Mountains area spans a period of three centuries. This period includes the establishment of San Diego Presidio, Captain Pedro Fages' trek across the Cuyamaca Mountains in pursuit of military deserters, and Mexico's punitive campaign against the Kumeyaay. It continues with the extensive 1922 search for the crash site of a U.S. Army aircraft on Japacha Ridge. The period also includes the years 1941-1945, when the Park witnessed four significant Army and Marine Corps military training exercises, and concludes with the establishment of the country's first U.S. Navy SEALs advanced training facility.

# ACRONYMS

ABDSP	Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BARC	Begole Archaeological Research Center
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Register	California Register of Historical Resources
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CLR	Cultural Landscape Report
CMSW	Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness
CNF	Cleveland National Forest
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CP	Cultural Preserve
CRF	Cuyamaca Rancho Foundation
CRHT	California Riding and Hiking Trail
CRSP/the Park	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
CRSPIA	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association

CSPF	California State Parks Foundation
DAM	Department Administrative Manual
DOM	Department Operations Manual
DPR	<i>See CDPR</i>
DWR	[California] Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EAU	Equestrian Assistance Unit
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSOB	Goldspotted Oak Borer
HSR	Historic Structure Report
IAU	Interpretative Assistance Unit
JPA	Joint Powers Agreement
MAU	Mounted Assistance Unit
MBAU	Mountain Bike Assistance Unit
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Plan
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NHL	National Historical Landmark
NHPA	National Historical Preservation Act of 1966
NOP	Notice Of Preparation
NP	Natural Preserve
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service

National Register	National Register of Historical Places
OES	Office of Emergency Services
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PRC	[California] Public Resources Code
RTMP	Roads and Trails Management Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SACRF	State Archaeological Collections Research Facility
SDCOE	San Diego County Office of Education
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric
SOCS	Scope of Collections Statement
SP	State Park
SPOA	Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation
SPPO	State Park Peace Officer
SPRF	State Park and Recreation Fund
SR	State Reserve or State Route
SSC	Southern Service Center [for CDPR]
SURF	San Diego Ultra Running Friends
TMS	The Museum System [for CDPR]
TMU	Trails Maintenance Unit
USACOE	United States Army Corps Of Engineers
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WIMS	Weed Information Management System



# DEFINITIONS

**ACCESS** (ingress/egress) – The ability to enter a site from a roadway or trail and exit a site onto a roadway or trail by vehicle, walking, bike, horse, etc.

**ACCESSIBILITY** – Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, state and local governments that construct new, or make specific alterations to, buildings and facilities must make them accessible to all people regardless of their levels of ability and mobility. Title II requires a public entity to ensure that persons with disabilities or other mobility/capability restrictions are not excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing building and facilities are inaccessible. Beyond federal law, the state has established standards for accessibility in the California Building Code. [*see Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*]

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT** – A process or methodology that involves management flexibility and making decisions based upon research, planning, and monitoring, to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions.

**ADAPTIVE REUSE** – Use of a historic structure for a purpose other than that for which it was originally intended. This may require alterations to a structure’s interior while maintaining the original exterior appearance.

**ALLUVIUM** – Sand, gravel, silt, and clay deposited by rivers and streams in valley bottoms.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (ADA)** – Ensures equal access to all users of public (and private) facilities and programs. This federal civil-rights legislation for persons with disabilities passed in 1990. The ADA covers a wide range of disabilities, from physical conditions affecting mobility, stamina, sight, hearing, and speech, to conditions such as emotional illness and learning disorders. The ADA also addresses access to the workplace. [*see Accessibility*]

**AQUIFER** – A layer of water-bearing permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of providing significant amounts of water to wells or springs. The upper boundary of the topmost aquifer is known as the water table. Some areas have several aquifers, each capped on top by an impervious layer (aquitard). If the recharge area is elevated higher than the capping layer, the water may be under considerable pressure, and flowing or Artesian wells may be likely.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE** – specific places where there are artifacts or features indicating some human activity occurred at that location. In southern California a typical definition of a site is one or more “features” and/or a scatter of at least three distinct “artifacts” within 50 meters of each other. [*see Artifact; Feature; Historic Resource; Isolate; Trinomial*]

**ARTIFACT** – An artifact is an item made or used by humans in the past. In California, archaeological artifacts include both historic and Native American

items that are more than 50 years old. [*see **Archaeological Site; Feature; Isolate***]

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)** – The most current methods, treatments, or actions in regard to environmental mitigation responses.

**BUFFER** - An area or strip of land separating two distinct and/or incompatible land uses or zones, which acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on another. It should function as a barrier for both visual and auditory impacts.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)** – CEQA is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental and historical impacts of their proposed actions and to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts, if feasible. It is found in the Public Resources Code (§ 21000 et. seq.); Title 14, and the California Code of Regulations (§ 15000 et. seq.).

**CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES (CALIFORNIA REGISTER)** – The State Historical Resources Commission has designed the California Register program to encourage public recognition and protection of resources which have architectural, historical, archaeological, and/or cultural significance. It identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding, and affords certain protections under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION** – Established in 1927 to advise the Director of Parks and Recreation on the recreation needs of the people of California. The commissioners are appointed by the Governor and conduct public hearings on naming, classification, and the approval of general plans (and amendments) for individual CDPR units.

**CHERRY STEM** – Roads or trails which are not through-routes, but cul-de-sacs of sorts, and only extend for somewhat short distances.

**CONCESSIONS** – A contract with persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations for the provision of products, facilities, programs, management, and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concessions may be for food service, overnight accommodation, equipment rentals (canoes, rafts, skis), gift stores, etc.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE** – Cultural Resources include archaeological, ethnographical, traditional, and historical sites, as well as artifacts, features, landscapes, properties, and built-environment resources including but not necessarily limited to buildings, structures, objects, and districts.

**CULTURAL PRESERVE** – See *Appendix M - Unit Classifications*.

**DIRECT IMPACTS** – Primary environmental effects that are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place.

**ENVIRONMENT** – The California Legislature defined ‘environment’ to refer to “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS** – The task of addressing the potential impact of any given plan or development project on the state’s environment, an analysis that can range across any number of topics including air pollution, toxins, and impacts on plants, animals, and historical resources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** – An informational document, prepared by the lead agency responsible for carrying out a project as part of the CEQA public review process, which describes and analyzes a project’s potential significant environmental effects and discusses ways to mitigate or avoid those effects. [see *California Environmental Quality Act; Tiered Approach/Tiering*]

**ETHNOGRAPHY** – The description of the culture and customs of individuals or groups gathered through first-hand observations, participation, or interviews.

**ETHNOGRAPHIC VILLAGE** – A Native American village site that was inhabited at the time of the first European contact in the region and documented in early written accounts. The traditional names of these villages along with information about the village inhabitants are known from these early accounts.

**EXOTIC SPECIES (OR ALIEN, NON-NATIVE, NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES)** – A species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced or has inadvertently penetrated the system. Also known as introduced, non-native, non-indigenous or ornamental species. [see *Non-native Species*]

**FEATURE (ARCHAEOLOGICAL)** – An archaeological feature is immovable evidence of a human activity occurring in a specific location. Features can be made up of groupings of artifacts such as a “pot drop” or a “flaking station”; bedrock uses such as bedrock grinding (e.g., mortars, slicks, basins), rock art (pictographs, petroglyphs), or rock shelters; or use areas such as fire pits/hearths, rock enclosures, quarries, or trails. [see *Artifact; Archaeological Site; Grinding Feature; Rock Art*]

**GENERAL PLAN** – A document providing broad public policy and programmatic guidance regarding development and management of an individual unit of the State Park System, essential to the managers, staff, and stakeholders. A general plan is sometimes called a “Master Plan.” [see *Master Plan*]

**GRAVEL** – All sedimentary particles (rock or mineral) between 2 and 64 millimeters in diameter.

**GRINDING FEATURE** – Grinding Features include bedrock slicks (flat, horizontal areas of a rock or outcrop that have been worn smooth by grinding or processing materials with a handstone or mano), basins (shallow bowl-shaped depressions in a bedrock outcrop that have been made and/or used for grinding foodstuffs or

other materials), and mortars (shallow to deep, circular holes or depressions in a bedrock outcrop that are used as containers for pounding, pulverizing, and/or grinding acorns, seeds, plants, pigments, or other materials and foods with the use of a pestle). [*see Feature*]

**GUIDELINES** – General statements of policy direction around which specific details may later be established.

**HABITAT** – The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs, often characterized by a dominant plant form or physical characteristic (e.g., oak-savanna, wetland, coastal habitat).

**HERITAGE LANDSCAPE** – A defined geographical area of cultural significance that has been modified by human activity and is valued by a community.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT** – A geographic area that contains a concentration of historic buildings, structures, or sites united historically, culturally, or architecturally. Historic districts are defined by precise geographic boundaries.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE** – Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically significant or which is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, archaeological, or cultural history of California. [*see Archaeological Site; Cultural Resource*]

**INDIRECT IMPACTS** – Also referred to as secondary effect, indirect impacts are caused by a project and occur later in time or at some distance from the project.

**INTERPRETATION** – A communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. The term is used to describe communication activities designed to improve understanding at parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, historic sites, and other travel destinations. [[www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com)]

**INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES** – Hikes, talks, tours, or demonstrations that provide the participants with information and inspiration on a given natural or cultural resource. Participants learn and discover new ideas or concepts about a given subject. [*see Cultural Resource; Natural Resource*]

**ISOLATE/ISOLATED ARTIFACT** – The term “isolate” is used by archaeologists to describe one or two distinct artifacts or a few fragments of the same artifact that are too far away (typically more than 30-50 meters) from other artifacts or features to be considered part of a site. [*see Artifact; Archaeological Site; Feature*]

**KAMIA** – The Kamia are a group of Native Americans that live in the eastern mountain and desert regions of San Diego and Imperial counties. They are also called Eastern or Desert Kumeyaay. [*see Kumeyaay; Kwaaymii*]

**KUMEYAAY** – The Kumeyaay are a group of Native Americans who live in San Diego and Imperial counties and northern Baja California. They are also known as “Diegueño” due to their proximity to the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. [*see Kamia; Kwaaymii*]

**KWAAYMII** – The Kwaaymii are a group of Native Americans who live in the Laguna Mountains region of San Diego County. They are a subgroup of the Kamia/Kumeyaay. Their territory extended north into the Cuyamaca Region and east into the Deserts. [*see Kamia; Kumeyaay*]

**KYBO** – Unique term to scouting. Slang for an outhouse or temporary lavatory built for use when camping. Also said to stand for **Keep Your Bowels Open**.

**LEAD AGENCY** – The government agency responsible for compliance with CEQA for a proposed project. Generally, it is the agency with the broadest permit discretion for the project or the agency actually carrying out the project. For example, CDPR is the Lead Agency for projects within the state parks system, and has the authority to approve its own projects, even though permits may also be required from other agencies. [*see California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*]

**LIGHTSCAPE** – Describes the illumination of the night sky. Natural sources are the stars and moon while artificial sources, or sources of light pollution, include local lighting as well as glow from distant cities.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS** – In CDPR, management plans define the objectives, methodologies, and/or designs regarding how management goals will be accomplished. Occurring on an as-needed basis, they are typically focused on specific management topics, goals, or issues. Depending on their focus, the plans can apply to all or part of a unit. Management plans are consistent with systemwide plans and policies, and with the unit’s general plan.

**MASTER PLAN** – Master plans are tangible statements of where a park is now, what it should be in the future, and what is required to get there. While circumstances vary from place to place, the decision to develop a master plan is often determined by the need to understand the current conditions of a park, to generate and build community interest and participation, to create a new and common vision for the park’s future, and/or to develop a clear and solid set of recommendations and implementation strategies. [*see General Plan.*]

**MISSION STATEMENT** – A broad statement of purpose derived from an organization’s values and goals. [*see Vision Statement.*]

**MITIGATE, MITIGATION** – To ameliorate, alleviate, or avoid to the extent reasonably feasible – impacts to the environment associated with a project or undertaking. According to CEQA, mitigation for environmental impacts include: (a) avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (b) minimizing an impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (c) rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the environment affected; (d) reducing or eliminating an impact by preserving

and maintaining operations during the life of the action; (e) compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. [*Refer also to § 106 of the National Historic Protection Act.*]

**MITIGATION MEASURE** – Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), when an environmental impact or potential impact is identified, measures must be proposed that will eliminate, avoid, rectify, reduce, or compensate for those environmental effects.

**MULTI-USE OR MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL** – An appropriately surfaced trail intended as a circulation connection for a variety of uses (bicycling, hiking, horseback riding).

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES (NATIONAL REGISTER)** – The official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archaeological resources.

**NATIVE SPECIES** – A plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific area.

**NATURAL PRESERVE (STATE CLASSIFICATION)** – *See Appendix M - Unit Classifications.*

**NATURAL RESOURCE** – Naturally occurring elements within the environment that exist relatively undisturbed by humanity and in a natural form. A natural resource is often characterized by amounts of biodiversity and geodiversity existent in various ecosystems. Some natural resources such as sunlight and air can be found everywhere (a.k.a. ubiquitous resources). However, in the context of this document, a natural resource has finite quantities which can be depleted by improper management practices.

**NON-NATIVE SPECIES** – Introduced species or exotic species; refers to plants and animals that originate in other regions of the world and are brought into a new region, where they may dominate the local species or in some way negatively impact the environment for native species. Also known as non-indigenous species. [*see Exotic Species*]

**PROCUREMENT AREA** – a location where materials are collected, gathered, mined, or obtained. This term is used in archaeology to describe locations where traditional materials were obtained such as outcrops of rock for making stone tools, areas where medicinal plants grew, clay deposits for making pottery, etc.

**PROVINCE** – A broadly defined geographical area.

**PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE (PRC)** – California law that addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the State, in addition to the State Constitution and Statutes.

**RIPARIAN** – (land or area) – The strip of land adjacent to a natural watercourse such as a river or stream. Often supports vegetation that, when it grows large enough to overhang the bank, provides fish habitat.

**ROCK ART** – This archaeological term refers to any design or image placed on a rock face or boulder that does not have a utilitarian purpose. Types of rock art include petroglyphs (carved, scratched, or pecked designs), cupules (small circular pecked or ground depressions or shallow holes), and pictographs (painted designs).

**RUNOFF** – That portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

**SACRED SITE/SACRED LANDS** – Places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans including, but not limited to, known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans. In California, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) maintains the official list of Sacred Sites [PRC 5097.94(a) and 5097.96].

**SAND** – Loose particles of rock or mineral that range from 0.0625-2.0 millimeters in diameter.

**SHALE** – A fine-grained detrital sedimentary rock, formed by the deposition and compaction of clay, silt, or mud. It has finely laminated (layered) structure, which gives it a fissility along which the rock splits readily, especially on weathered surfaces. Shale is well indurated, but not as hard as argillite or slate. It may be red, brown, black, or gray. A diatomaceous shale is usually a light colored, soft rock composed mostly of the opaline frustules (the hard, siliceous bivalve shell of a diatom).

**SIGNIFICANT EFFECT** – A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.

**SILT** – Loose particles of rock or mineral that range from 0.002-0.0625 millimeters in diameter.

**SKY ISLAND FOREST** – Mountain forests that are isolated by surrounding lowlands of a dramatically different environment, a situation which, in combination with the altitudinal zonation of ecosystems, has significant implications for natural habitats. The complex dynamics of species richness here draws attention from the discipline of biogeography, and likewise the biodiversity is of concern to conservation biology.

**SOUNDSCAPE** – The combination of sounds in an environment. They may include natural sounds such as bird song or wind noise as well as human created sounds such as music or engine noise.

**STAKEHOLDER** – Group or individual who can affect, or is affected by, the achievement of the jurisdiction or organization’s mission; and who should have a right to participate in a more focused decision-making process. Examples include managers, employees, policy makers, suppliers, vendors, citizens, users, community activists, businesses, and community groups.

**SUSTAINABLE DESIGN** – To locate, design, reconstruct, construct, rehabilitate, renovate, operate, and maintain built environments that are models of energy, water, and materials efficiency, while providing healthy, productive, and comfortable habitable environments and long term benefits. This design approach is sometimes called “green design” or “green technology.”

**TIERED APPROACH (TIERING)** – In general plans, used to meet the requirement of CEQA. The first tier EIR will be prepared for the general plan. Subsequent management plans, area development plans, and specific project plans implementing the general plan may be subject to additional environmental review (second and third tiers, etc.). The degree of specificity will reflect the level of detail in the general plan and subsequent plans. [see *California Environmental Quality Act; Environmental Impact Report; General Plan*]

**TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY/PLACE (TCP)** – Places that have an association with cultural practices and beliefs that are rooted in the history of a community, and are important to maintaining the continuity of that community’s traditional beliefs and practices.

**TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE** – Includes sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, that are listed or determined eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, a local register of historical resources, or that have been determined to be significant by the lead agency.

**TRINOMIAL** – The Site Trinomial system for numbering archaeological sites was developed by the Smithsonian Institution and uses three numbers: a number identification for the state where the site is located, a number for the county in which the site is located, and a sequential number assigned to a site in the order it was recorded within a county. In California, instead of using the state number (4) and the county numbers, letter codes are used for the state and county: CA (for the state), and a three-letter code for each county (e.g., SDI stands for San Diego County, IMP stands for Imperial County, LAN stands for Los Angeles County, etc.). So the site trinomial CA-LAN-1 indicates the first site recorded under the trinomial system in Los Angeles County, California, whereas CA-SDI-20156 is the 20,156th site recorded in San Diego County, California. Trinomials are assigned to sites by the California Historical Resources Information System’s Information Center for the county where the site is located.

**UNIT (OF THE STATE PARK SYSTEM)** – An individual State Park, State Beach, State Historical Park, State Preserve, or CDPR-owned parcel of land.

**UNIT DATA FILE (UDF)** – In CDPR, the working file that contains an organized body of information about a unit, and references the location of other information. It acts as an organized library of both unit data and the status of current issues.

**VIEWSHED** – The total area within a view from a defined observation point.

**VISION STATEMENT** – A vision statement is a compelling image (description) of a desirable state of reality made possible by accomplishing the mission in a way that is consistent with the core values of key stakeholders. The vision statement is an inspiring view of the preferred future. [see ***Mission Statement***]

**WATERSHED** – The total area above a given point on a waterway that contributes water to its flow or the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, reservoir, or other body of water. A watershed may, and often does, cover a very large geographical region.

**WILDERNESS (STATE CLASSIFICATION)** – See ***Appendix M - Unit Classifications***.



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