

State of California – The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**PROJECT TITLE: BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
SCH #2001112104**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and is considering the preparation of an environmental document for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. The project description, location, and possible environmental effects are included. A previous NOP for this project was filed with the State Clearinghouse in 2001.

Your response must be sent to the address below not later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name of a contact person in your agency.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The General Plan provides a long-term vision and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource protection, management, operations, interpretation, and concessions at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Specific development proposals or management plans are not part of the General Plan. The General Plan and Environmental Impact Report form the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

The General Plan anticipates designating management zones to guide future land use. The plan will develop goals and guidelines for each zone and will also provide parkwide goals and guidelines. The General Plan may recommend the preparation of management plans covering subjects such as natural resources and sensitive species, cultural resources, park recreation, interpretation, and trails.

The following are some of the primary planning issues anticipated in this process:

This planning effort will focus on the primary question of how do we meet increasing demands for public recreation at Big Basin Redwoods State Park while also improving the protection, preservation, and management of the park's natural and cultural resources, and protect its special sense of place.

- **Regional influences, park connection, and communication with surrounding areas.** Opportunities may exist to improve the park's ecological, biological, and recreational relationships with neighboring lands, land uses, landowners, jurisdictions, services, and facilities.
- **Growing demand for recreational opportunities and visitor experiences.** Opportunities may exist to provide more recreational opportunities while improving protection of natural and cultural resources. Opportunities may also exist to enhance visitor experiences and better harmonize, integrate, and/or segregate equestrian, mountain bike, and hiker trail use.
- **Visitor use impacts on resources.** Heavy and long-term visitor use in specific areas, such as the main campgrounds, may be negatively affecting old growth redwood forest and habitat for marbled murrelets. Evaluation of existing and potential developments is necessary.
- **Preservation of special status plant and animal species and habitats in the park.** The park is currently habitat for approximately 45 special status plant and animal species. Opportunities exist to enhance habitats, restore populations, and protect these and other less sensitive species. This plan may establish natural preserves to better protect significant resources within the park.
- **Wilderness classification.** Opportunities may exist to expand the existing wilderness area to better protect resource values and enhance primitive recreational experiences.
- **Exotic plant and animal species management.** Exotic invasive plant and animal species are negatively affecting the park's native plants, animals, and habitats. Opportunities exist to evaluate current and future invasive species management.
- **Fire ecology management.** Opportunities may exist to improve the park's fire ecology management program and cooperation with fire control agencies.
- **Historic building restoration, adaptation, and use.** Preservation and adaptive use of the early 20th Century structures in the park headquarters area is a primary planning consideration. Opportunities exist to evaluate cultural resources and possible historic district and historic landmark designations.
- **Transportation, circulation, and parking.** Opportunities may exist to lessen traffic impacts on intrinsic park values and improve park entrances, circulation, and parking. Road and trail systems may need improvement to meet future park management and recreation needs.
- **Park interpretive and educational resources, programs, and facilities.** Opportunities may exist to improve the park's interpretive and educational

programs and facilities, including adapting historic buildings for interpretive uses.

- **Employee housing.** Opportunities may exist to improve employee housing.
- **Park concessions.** Opportunities may exist to improve the park's visitor concession services.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park is located primarily in Santa Cruz County and marginally in San Mateo County. The main entrance to the park's Headquarters area is via State Highway 236. The coastal access to Waddell Beach and the Rancho del Oso area is via State Highway 1. (See attached map).

**POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATIONS:** There may be temporary adverse impacts to soils, water quality and flows, wildlife and habitat, vegetation, aesthetics, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. There may be a change in traffic patterns.

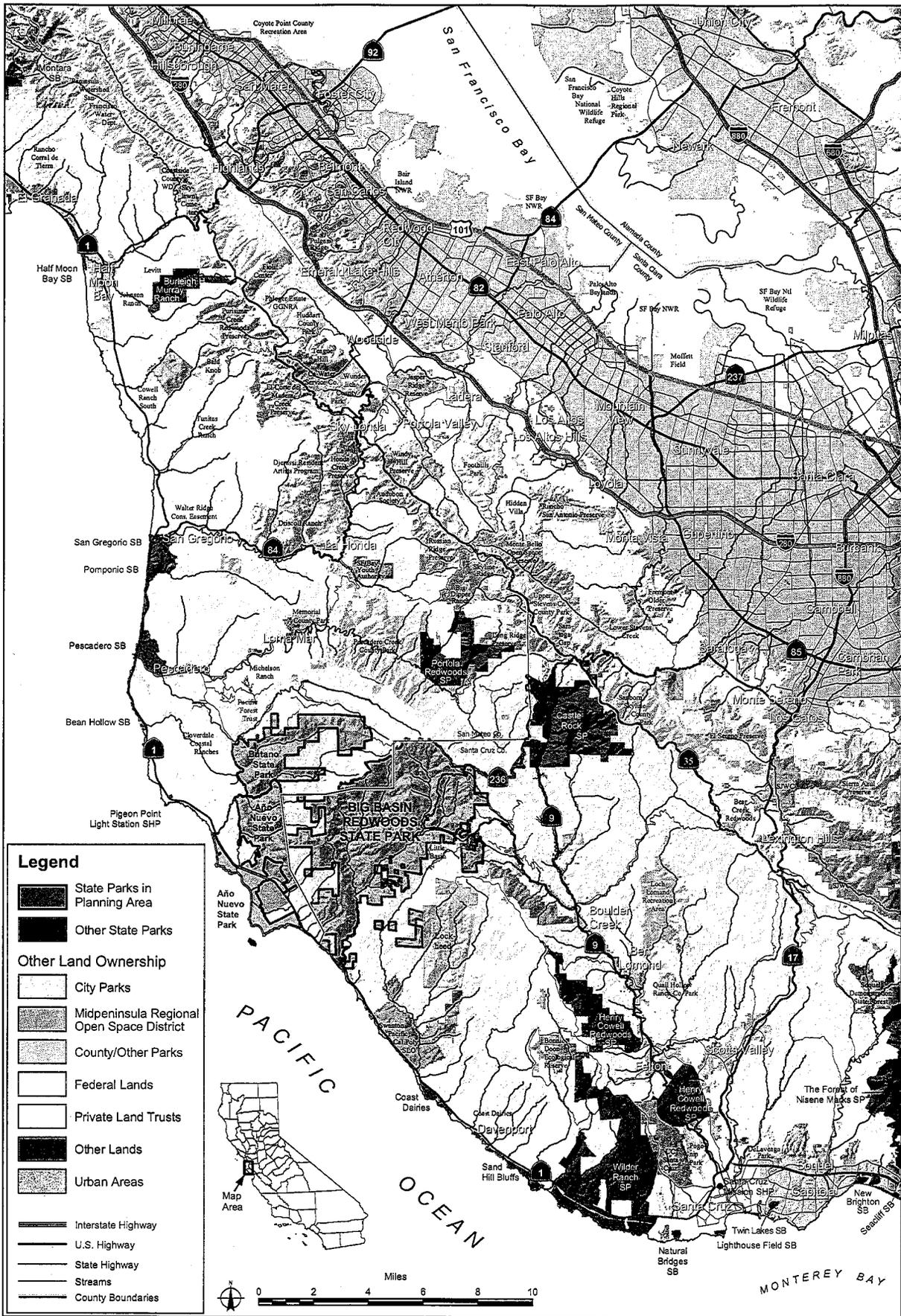
There are approximately 20 special status plant species recorded as occurring in the park or in the vicinity of the park. Of these, three species are listed as Federal Endangered and two species are listed as California Endangered.

Approximately 45 special status animal species potentially occur in the park including 32 special status bird species, seven special status mammal species, three special status reptile species, two special status amphibian species, and three special status fish species. Of these special status animal species two species are listed as both Federal Endangered and California Endangered, five species are listed as California Endangered, and one species is listed as Federal Endangered. Development and public use might displace or disturb these plant and animal species as well as disturb old growth redwood groves.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Public meetings (open house format) will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Fisher Middle School, 19195 Fisher Ave., Los Gatos, and on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at the Felton Community Hall, 6191 Highway 9, Felton. An overview of planning concepts will be presented and the planning team will be available to discuss the project and environmental concerns. Information concerning public meetings, project planning and CEQA notices is available on the project website:  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21486](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21486).

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT PERSON:**

Ellie Wagner  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Planning Division, General Plan Section  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
(916) 651-1194  
[ewagner@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ewagner@parks.ca.gov)



Date: 01/13/10  
 Sources:  
 DPR GIS,  
 County Parcel Maps,  
 Peninsula  
 Conservation  
 Center, GreenInfo  
 Protected Lands DB.

**BIG BASIN REDWOODS  
 STATE PARK  
 General Plan DRAFT**

Figure 1  
**REGIONAL MAP**

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

PLANNING  
 DIVISION  
 GENERAL PLAN  
 SECTION

