Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Mill Creek Watershed Addition
General Plan Amendment

Alternatives Review and Public Input Workshop

Presented by:
Petra Unger, Project Manager
Phil Hendricks, Senior Recreation Planner

June 19, 2008
Meeting Purpose

Update on the planning process - Steps to Date
Purpose of the General Plan Amendment

- Integrate the Mill Creek Watershed Addition into the larger framework of the existing Redwood State and National Park General Management Plan/General Plan

- Serve as the primary management document for the park unit

- Confirm the acquisition’s purpose within the existing GMP/GP

- Define a comprehensive framework that guides park unit development, ongoing management and public use
General Plan Amendment Process:

- Document existing conditions
- Identify and inform stakeholders, develop mailing list
- Identify issues and concerns (public, staff, MCAC)
- Develop alternatives for site use
- Identify preferred alternative
- Develop GPA
- Analyze environmental impacts
- Public Review of GPA/Draft EIR (fall 2008)
The intent of this agreement is to provide for a broad array of park and other public uses that are compatible with the primary goal that the property shall be restored to late seral forest characteristics and associated natural functions that maximize benefits to the salmonid species of its streams and wildlife associated with late seral forest.

- Examples of allowable public uses
- Highway 101 realignment (Last Chance Grade)
- Establishment of Mill Creek Advisory Committee
Planning Framework – Site Classification

• Mill Creek is part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

• State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. (CPRC 5019.53)

• Motor vehicle use is “confined to paved areas and other areas specifically designated and maintained for normal ingress, egress, and parking.” (CPRC 5001.8)

• Hunting is not allowed in state parks. (CPRC 5003.1)
Steps to Date

Accommodate visitors:

• Site open to the public on weekends

• Varied opportunities included driving tours, hikes, nature study, stargazing, berry picking

• Over 2000 visitors this past season
Steps to date

Informational Meeting - June 21, 2007
Steps to date

Site Tour – June 23, 2007
Steps to Date

Road Network Tour - September 4, 2007
Steps to Date

- Public Scoping Meeting – October 4, 2007
Steps to Date

Public scoping summary/mailing list:
- Approximately 70 attended scoping meeting
- 38 written comment letters received
- Summaries available on the planning website

Mailing list summary:
- 365 entries on mailing list
- 253 with physical addresses
- Please check your contact information on hard copy
Steps to Date

• State Parks/NPS staff workshop – January 9, 2008
Steps to Date

MCAC Input Meeting – January 10, 2008

• What is your vision for the future of the Mill Creek Watershed Addition?

• What are your key interests and concerns about the park unit’s environment and resources

• What improvements would you like to see?

• Do you have information about the park unit that would be helpful to the planning process?
Steps to Date

- April 17, 2008: Focused workshop with District staff to gather input on destinations/recreational opportunities at the site.
Steps to Date

Development of draft alternatives for site use
Steps to date: Alternatives Development

Uses suggested during scoping but found incompatible due to unit classification and deed restrictions:

- Use by green sticker vehicles
- Access to Rattlesnake Ridge for OHV
- Hunting
- Commercial thinning/logging; State Forest
- ATV education center/free style arena
- Indoor/outdoor shooting range
- Gold panning or mining (except for interpretive purposes)
Steps to date: Alternatives Development

**Elements common to all Alternatives:**

- Continue ongoing efforts of restoration and road removal
- Implement deed restrictions
- Protect sensitive resources
- Provide ADA access wherever possible
- Interpret the property’s unique history
- Develop access to vista points and site of interest
Steps to date: Alternatives Development

*Elements common to all Alternatives: continued*

- Develop and maintain partnerships with the community to pursue opportunity for sustainable site use
- Work with local Native American Tribes
- Maintain scenic vistas
- Plan for trail connections to surrounding areas
- Last Change Grade Alternative and powerline ROW
- Watershed management plan
Steps to Date

MCAC preview of draft alternatives – May 8
Steps to Date

- Development of Preferred Alternative
- Review of Alternatives by State Parks Policy, Planning and Programming Committee (PPPC)
- Preview of Alternatives by Board of Supervisors in 2x2 meeting
- Announcement of public workshop: postcards, press release, newspaper articles
Next Steps

- Public workshop to review and comment on alternatives - today
- Refine preferred alternative with input received from staff and the public (July)
Next Steps

- Conduct environmental review – EIR
- Public review of Preliminary GPA/Draft EIR in Fall of 2008
Final Steps

- Prepare response to comments
- Prepare final GPA
- Conduct Commission Hearing: Site tour followed by formal hearing and GPA adoption
Draft Alternatives

• Develop baseline map/identify constraints
Draft Alternatives

Develop program matrix including each element of site use and management:

- Site entry/circulation
- Interpretive services area/lodge
- Operations area
- Research/education facility
- Trailheads/day use areas
- Loops/destination
- Camping/cabins
- Concessions
Alternative 2 – Medium Level Access and Development

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Mill Creek Watershed Addition
General Plan Amendment

LEGEND:
- Port Orford Cedar Root Disease
- Confirmed Site
- Potential Link to Existing Mill Creek
- Campground from Hamilton Road
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Roads
- Roads Retained for Administrative Access
- Other Roads
- Former Mill Site – various proposed uses
- Buffer:
  - Fen - 250-foot Buffer
  - Sensitive NR Area 1 - 500-foot Buffer
  - Sensitive NR Area 2 - 0.25-mile Buffer
- Area of Ecological Interest
- NPS boundary

Facilities:
- Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
- Mill Creek Addition Planning Area
- Redwood National Park
- Camping
- Trailhead
- Small Group of Cabins
- Lookout Cabins
- Waterfall
- Equestrian Backcountry Camp
- Day Use Area
- Visitor Center
- Public Road
- Trail

Aerial Image: NAP 3505
X:2710Y:086.21 Z:800 6x60
Alternative 3 – High Level Access and Development

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Mill Creek Watershed Addition
General Plan Amendment

Legend:
- Point Orchard Cedar Root Disease
  - Confirmed Site
- Potential Link to Existing Mill Creek
  - Campground from Hamilton Road
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Roads
  - Roads Retained for Administrative Access
  - Other Roads*
  - * Road will be kept until it is certain that it will no longer be needed for PRC management purposes
- Former Mill Site - various proposed uses
- Area of Ecological Interest
- National Park Service (NPS) boundary

Partners:
- Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
- Mill Creek Addition Planning Area
- Redwood National Park
  - Camping Trailhead Small Group of Cabins Lookout Cabins Waterfall Equestrian Backcountry Camp
  - Day Use Area Vista
  - Public Road Trail
Conceptual Management Zones

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Mill Creek Watershed Addition
General Plan Amendment

LEGEND
- Port Orford Cedar Root Disease
- Confirmed Site
- Potential Link to Existing Mill Creek Campground from Hamilton Road
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Roads
- Roads Retained for Administrative Access
- Other Roads*
- * Road will be kept until it is certain that it will no longer be needed for PRC management purposes
- Former Mill Site - various proposed uses
- Fan - 250-foot Buffer
- Sensitive NR 2 - 1 - 500-foot Buffer
- Sensitive NR 2 - 2 - 25-mile Buffer
- Area of Ecological Interest
- NPS boundary

Parkname
- Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
- Mill Creek Addition Planning Area
- Redwood National Park
- Front Country Zone
- Back Country Zone

Note: Zones are conceptual designations and will be refined in future management plans to reflect site resources.

Aerial Image: NaIP 2006
X:07110005.00 Y:000 0000
Mill Site Reuse Concept A
Today’s Meeting Next Steps

• Visit Alternatives Stations + Informal Questions
• Workgroups to Discuss Alternatives
• Workgroups Summarized Presentations
• Closing Statements
• Adjourn
Thank you for attending today’s workshop and for participating in the planning process!

Thank you to the Elk Valley Rancheria for hosting us!