

UNIT 165

GREENWOOD STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

November 1994

PLANNING LIBRARY

Preliminary general plan

April 1994



GREENWOOD CREEK STATE BEACH

State of California
The Resources Agency
Dept. of Parks and Recreation



Preliminary General Plan

*from redwood lumber mill
to state park system unit*

**Greenwood Creek State Beach
Department of Parks and Recreation
The Resources Agency
State of California**

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Douglas P. Wheeler, Secretary
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April 1994

Note: The Park and Recreation Commission approved this Preliminary
General Plan in NOV 1994
A Final General Plan was printed dated NOV 1994.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
GENERAL PLAN
GREENWOOD CREEK STATE BEACH**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared an Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan at Greenwood Creek State Beach. There is a potential for impacts to the historic mill office building and sensitive plant resources.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Report are available from the Northern Service Center of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, or call Robert Ueltzen at (916) 323-0975. Copies are also available for public viewing at the Mendocino Sector Office at Russian Gulch State Beach, and at the Fort Bragg branch of the Mendocino County Library at 499 East Laurel Street, Fort Bragg. Comments on the Environmental Impact Report must be received at the Northern Service Center by July 5, 1994

Summary of general plan recommendations

The following summary highlights the principal recommendations of the General Plan for Greenwood Creek State Beach. The plan deals with the unit's natural, cultural, esthetic, and recreational resources, interpretation of those resources, land use, facility development, general park operation, and coordination with other public entities. The reader should refer to the separate section of the plan for details of individual topics.

Resource management proposals

Natural Resources

A primary department goal is to manage natural resources and restore, protect, and maintain natural ecosystem processes and indigenous flora and fauna.

The Resource Element proposes the preparation and implementation of plans or programs for:

- Vegetation restoration and management
- Prescribed fire
- Wildfire management
- Protection of sensitive plant and wildlife species
- Red-legged frog survey and management.
- Monitoring of beach erosion and seacliff retreat

Directives are included for protection of:

- Wildlife habitats
- Scenic resources
- The marine environment
- Anadromous fish

Specific directives are proposed to control:

- Structural development in areas subject to liquefaction, tsunamis, or landslides
- Invasive non-native plant species
- Exotic and feral animals and dangerous native wildlife species
- Offshore petroleum development

and to prohibit:

- Livestock grazing
- Shoreline protective devices
- Facilities or flood control devices within riparian corridors.

Historic Resources

Historic and archeological resources will be protected and preserved. The mill office shall be maintained in an historically accurate condition.

Interpretive proposals

Programs will inspire visitors to learn about the site's natural and cultural values through the unifying interpretive theme: *Explore how natural forces, plants, animals, and people continually change this fragile and dynamic coast.*

The Interpretive Element proposes that:

- Conversion of the mill office to a visitor center/museum be completed to interpret unit resources, particularly the logging history of Greenwood.
- The historic post office be adapted as a house museum to interpret the historic use of the space as a post office.
- Outdoor panels be placed in appropriate locations and that a self-guiding historic walk be created along the bluff-top.
- A local docent group be formed to help with operation of the visitor center/museum.

Park operation proposals

The Operations Element proposes that implementation of general plan facility development and resource management programs be accompanied by appropriate staffing, equipment and operating expenses.

Land use proposals

The Land Use Element establishes use intensities of low, medium, and high for the park. In general, the majority of the unit, including the marine area, beach, riparian zones, and bluff faces, can tolerate only low intensities of use. Visitor serving facilities such as parking will be accommodated on the marine terrace which will tolerate such use.

At the park, day use opportunities will be offered for appreciation of the beach, marine environment, and historic aspects. The land use concept proposed by the general plan relies on Greenwood/Elk and other local coastal communities to provide complementary activities and services, such as overnight accommodations and food services for visitors.

Facility proposals

In the design and placement of any facilities on the park's marine terrace, consideration will be given to maintaining the rural character and architectural quality of the town.

The Facilities Element proposes:

- Repairs to the beach access road.
- Correction of drainage problems at the lower terrace picnic area,
- Closure of the informal abalone access trail and installation of safety railings and regulatory signs..
- Relocation of beach area picnic tables and firepits.
- Replacement of the beach level sanitary facility with a new comfort station.
- Completion of the visitor center including handicapped access.
- Development of a new unit entrance and parking area.
- Installation of a new comfort station near the visitor center.
- Provision of administrative/docent parking north of the mill office building.
- Installation of a bluff-top loop trail with scattered picnic sites and interpretation.

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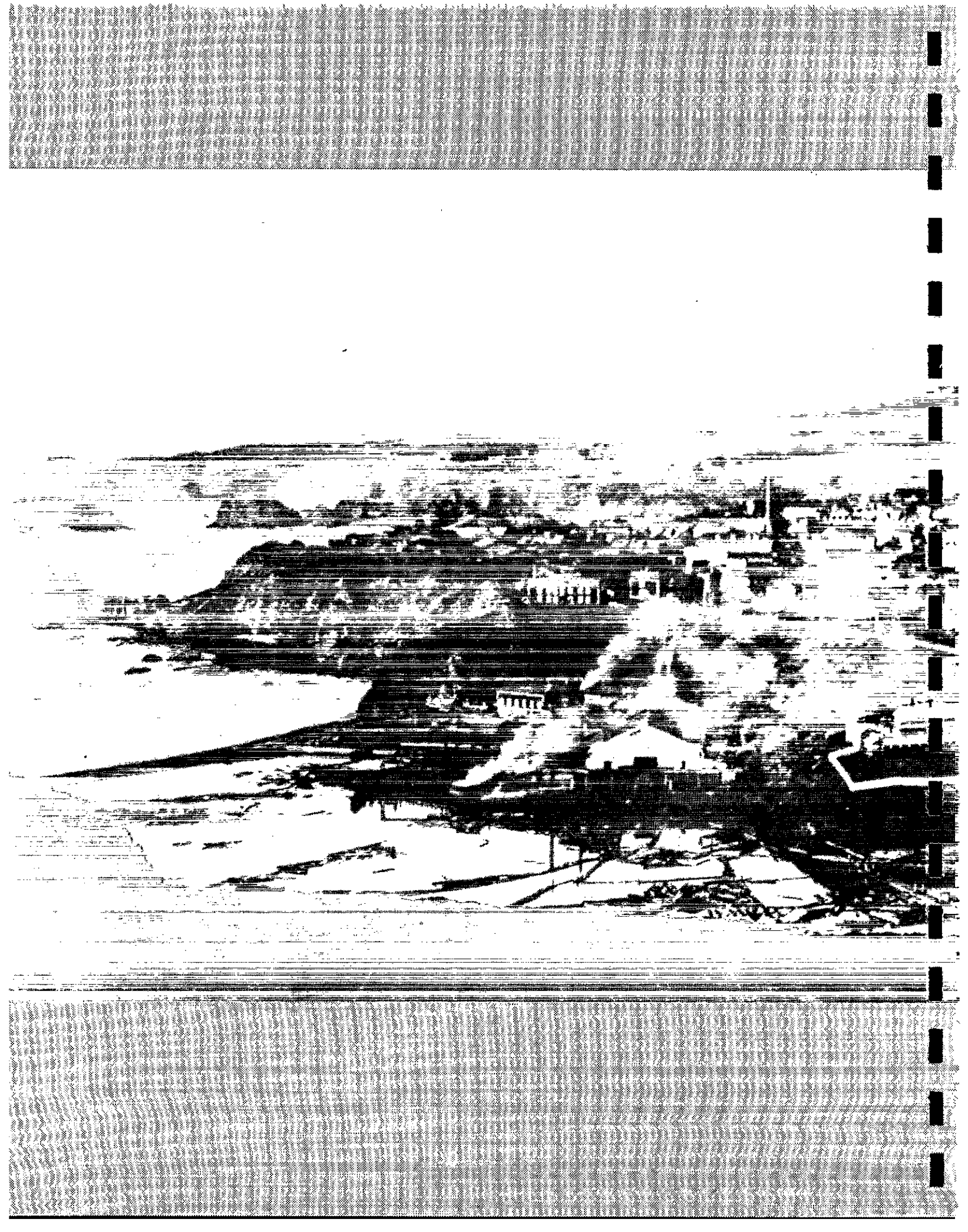
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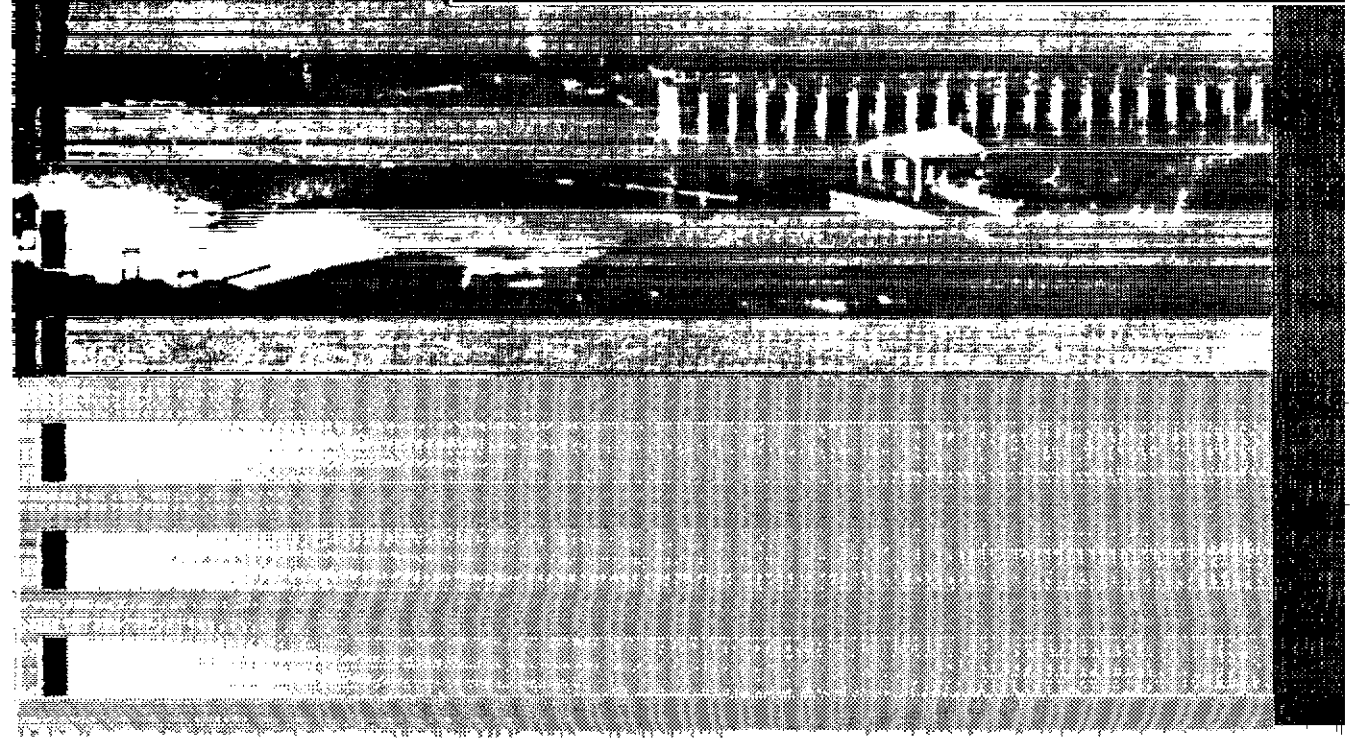




INTRODUCTION

Past and present, the spirit of Greenwood Creek State Beach is linked inextricably with the community of Elk — a relationship of mutual interdependence. For Elk grew up as a dog-hole port, a company town centered around the lumber mill facilities on the coastal terrace and in Greenwood cove below it. It owes its existence to the fortuitous circumstances of the juncture of creek and ocean and the proximity to rich redwood resources.

Yet as much as this relationship is a symbiotic one, it is also one of contrast and change. This place was once a bustling, lively scene of people, activity, noise, and movement. But when the last mill finally shut down, structures were demolished and the stockpile of timber logs and



cut lumber disappeared. The buzz of the saw, the shouts of men, the clamor of mules and wagons, the whirl of winches and cables have been replaced by the faint soughing of wind across the open plateau, the whizz of a fast-moving automobile on the highway. Water, wind, and time have restored

the natural character of the beach and cliffs. Ecological processes have reasserted themselves on the terrace; today, remnants of foundations and land alterations are barely discernible through the brushy covering of vegetation that has taken hold. This is a place that speaks of change: the power of nature to regenerate itself, of life and how nothing stays the same.

Greenwood Creek State Beach presents a series of dual natures and

contrasts, beginning with that between the architectural quality and rural village character of the town and the character of the park — a rough natural space set in its midst. Within the park, from the historic post office anchoring the northern edge of the coastal terrace down into Greenwood Cove, the park progresses from a structured man-made environment to one increasingly unstructured and natural. The coastal terrace, an open, exposed and somewhat barren landscape, contrasts with the enclosed one of the cove. The old lumber road is the physical transition between them, providing the visitor with a unique journey between these two environments. The steep descent takes the visitor from the point of view of the observer, high

above the sea and beach, down into an intimate natural world where the sights and sounds and smells of creek and surf and sea inundate the senses. From flat and open to curved and enclosed, from nearly barren to thickly vegetated. From the quiet spaciousness of empty sky to the encompassing sounds of earth and water. The park is both quiet and busy, windy and still, cool liquid and hot, dry earth, clear, bright sun and damp, misty fog, steep vertical slopes and flat horizontal planes, close and far away.

The one constant in the relationship between place and town has been the inconstant sea, exerting its magnetism on all who come within its purview, drawing them to the shore, the meeting of land and water. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, a backdrop of steep cliffs surrounds a small pocket beach like open arms, extending into the horizon and framing a view of sea and sky dominated by the looming central presence of Gunderson Rock. From the east, Greenwood Creek passes through dark banks blanketed in a thicket of dense riparian growth. Reaching open ground, the water widens and slows in quiet ripples in its gentle progression across the sandy beach toward the sea. Here the ocean's wet tongue licks at the sandy fringe, nibbles at the land and offshore seastacks, on occasion taking great chunks from the cliffs. The sound of water — the crashing of waves on rock, the spew of foam, the soft susurrant of waves drawn back into the sea across the sandy carpet — competes with the sounds of gulls and other birds. Man's ageless perception of its magnetism is expressed in the words of Rachel Carson: "Like the sea itself, the shore fascinates us who return to it, the place of our dim ancestral beginnings. In the recurrent rhythms of tides and surf and in the varied life of the tide line there is the obvious attraction of movement and change and beauty. There is also, I am convinced, a deeper fascination born of inner meaning and significance."

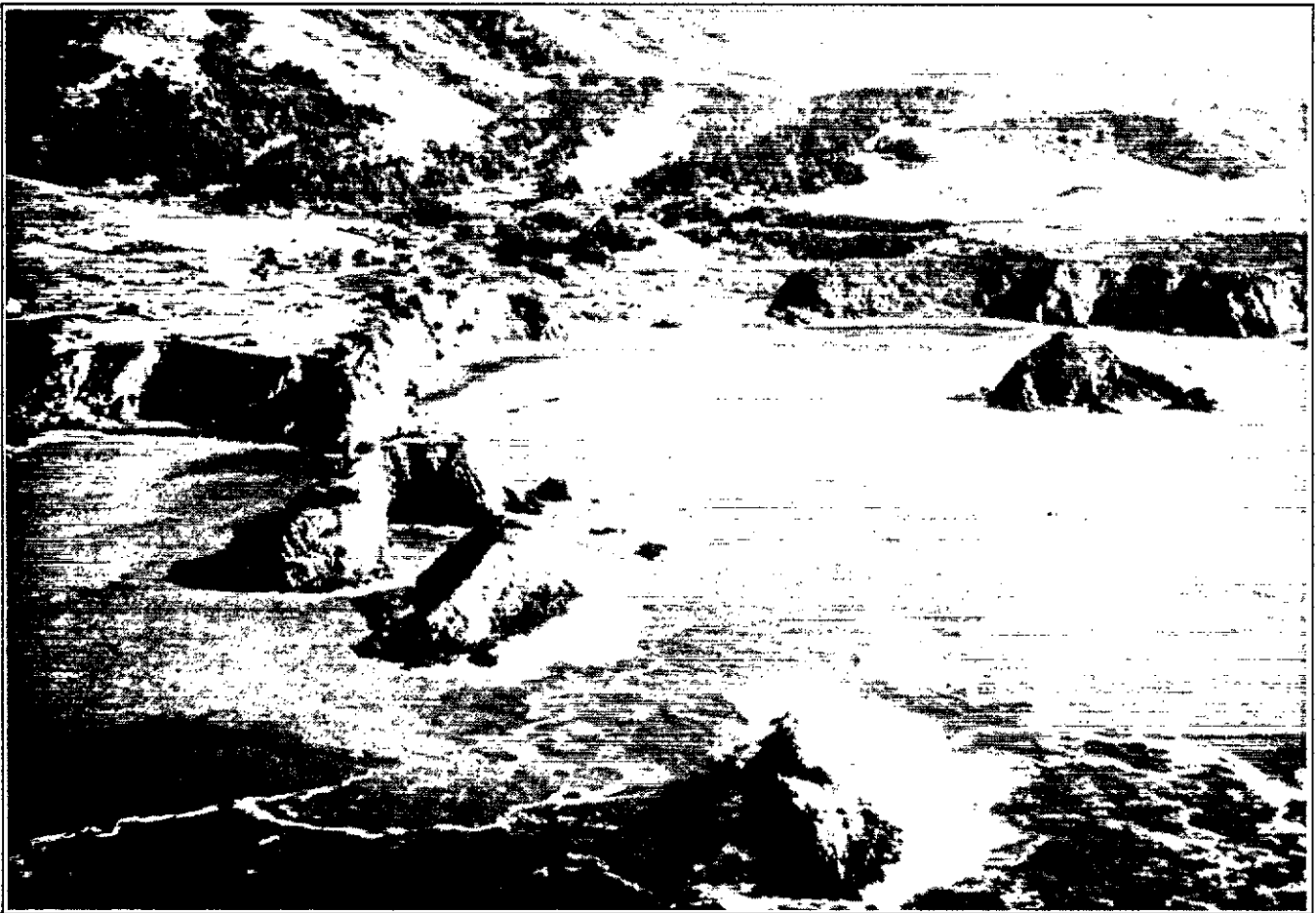
...successful operation of Greenwood Creek State Beach will depend on the park remaining an integral and vital component of the community, of finding a harmony between statewide use and local community character and desires.

The spirit of this place

These distinctive areas present different challenges in planning for the future of this land as a unit of the state park system. The magnetism of the sea attracts people for recreation, leisure, and solitude, and a great challenge will involve protection and preservation of the park's natural and historic resource values while on the same hand providing for statewide access, use and enjoyment of them. On the coastal terrace, an

additional challenge is accomplishing that in a way that enhances this area's spirit of place as a contrasting complement to the town. The park cannot turn its back on Elk — successful operation of Greenwood Creek State Beach will depend on the park remaining an integral and vital component of the community, of finding a harmony between statewide use and local community character and desires.

The park today. Little evidence remains of how the site has been developed and occupied over time; ecological processes have asserted themselves, reclaiming the natural character of the beach and marine terrace.



Park purpose and significance

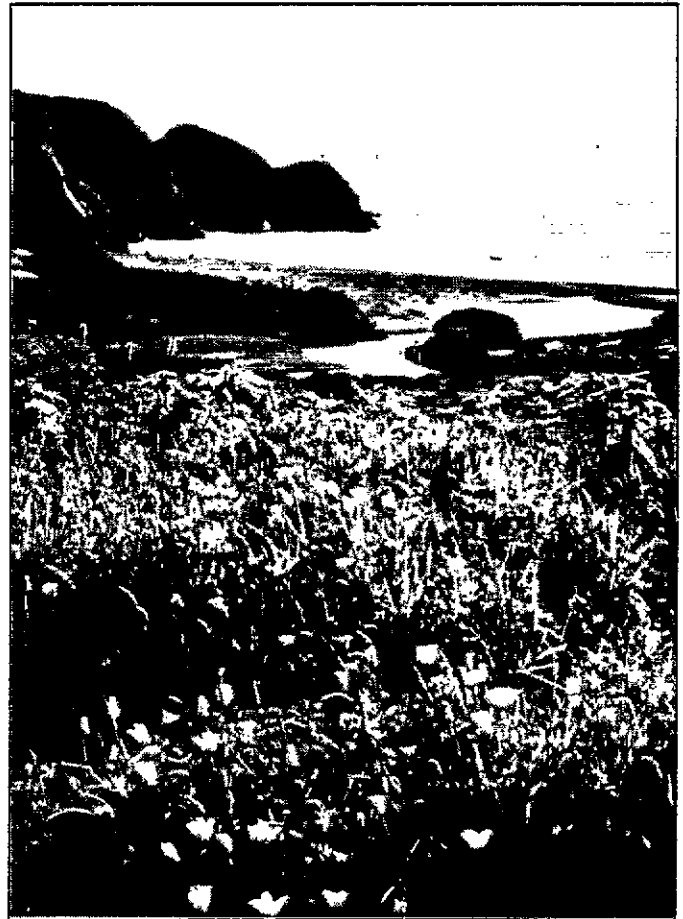
The State Park System represents "areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, and historic importance ...held in trust as irreplaceable portions of California's natural and historic heritage." Greenwood Creek State Beach was acquired to preserve beach access to this highly scenic area of California's coastline. The natural and scenic attributes and the historic features of the park and Mendocino coastal region have statewide as well as regional significance and draw many visitors.

The park's natural features include diverse marine environments, ocean frontage embracing sandy beaches and dramatic sea cliffs, and marine terraces, each creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Areas of the park also include riparian, wetland, and aquatic zones that support rare natural plant communities or fish species of special interest. The sensitive Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush occurs in the unit. It is recognized as rare by the California Native Plant Society and also meets state criteria for such listing.



The park's resources provide opportunities for quality recreation experiences.

Greenwood Creek State Beach was acquired to preserve beach access to this highly scenic area of California's coastline.



From the coastal terrace, Greenwood Creek State Beach offers spectacular panoramic ocean and coastline vistas complete with offshore sea stacks, sandy beach, steep and rugged coastal bluffs, splashing surf, and the cries of sea birds. The esthetic quality of the coastline and surrounding area, including the picturesque rural village of Elk, attracts visitors and photographers and is featured in numerous books and postcards.

The historic resources of the park chronicle the history of modern settlement and economic development in Mendocino county that began with the discovery of gold in California and the subsequent exploitation of Mendocino county's vast redwood forest. The surging lumber demand and construction boom in the wake of the gold rush resulted in the proliferation of sawmills at every river mouth and the unique development of a specialized schooner shipping trade handling the transportation needs of these "doghole" ports. Remnants of the logging activities that changed the face of Mendocino persist within Greenwood Creek State Beach. The historic lumber mill office, portions of the logging pond dam and tramways used to transport lumber to the offshore schooners still remain.

Remnants of the logging activities that changed the face of Mendocino persist within this park unit. The historic mill office/post office building still remains as well as portions of the logging pond dam and tramways used to transport lumber to the offshore schooners.



The natural and scenic attributes and the historic features of the park ...have statewide as well as regional significance and draw many visitors.

The general plan

Purpose and need

Popular with the residents of the town of Elk, Greenwood Creek State Beach is little known outside the community. Yet it has natural and historic values of statewide significance. Neglect of its historic features, interruption of natural processes, and the lack of statewide recognition, coupled with inadequate visitor support facilities and resulting community concerns, point out the need for change. Collectively these problems call for a course of planned action — the general plan.

Planning for Greenwood Creek State Beach consists of two phases leading toward the implementation of a series of public use and resource management programs. Preparation of the general plan represents the first phase. The significance of the park, critical influences and constraints to be considered in its management, and the objectives that are to be achieved through implementation are discussed in this document. A large portion of the plan is devoted to analyzing the physical, social, and political context in which the park exists in a way that is relevant to planning and management decisions. The plan also identifies and analyzes the value and relative importance of the park's many natural, historic, cultural, and recreation resources, and provides guidelines as to how they should be preserved, used, or developed. Finally, the document portrays the pattern, characteristics, and intensities of desirable uses and the nature and location of proposed development that may occur over the 20-year life of the plan.

A future second phase of the planning process will consist of implementation of the General Plan's recommendations through detailed resource management programs and site-specific area development plans. Capital outlay funds for changes will need to be budgeted by the Department and will require approval by the California State Legislature.

Periodic review of park conditions over the life of the plan may affect specific actions or management techniques of implementation in the second phase, but the California Department of Parks and Recreation is confident that thoughtful planning and public review have produced sound and sensible guidelines. These guidelines are flexible, and specific actions may be modified to meet changing conditions. This flexibility, however, will not prevent steady progress toward ensuring the preservation of the resources that contribute to the park's uniqueness and attractiveness.

Scope of the plan

The long-range program for Greenwood Creek State Beach depends on the actions that will be undertaken for visitor use and facilities development, cultural resources management, and natural resources management. The scope of each of these plan components is described below:

- For natural resources management, the goals and major actions for conserving the park's natural resources and for upgrading environmental quality are outlined.
- For cultural resources management, the significant historic and archeological resources that will be preserved are identified and the types of treatment recommended to preserve them are indicated.
- For visitor use and facilities development, strategies are outlined for interpreting park resources, for providing for visitor use and safety, and for supplying necessary services for proposed activities. The development necessary to accomplish these goals is also detailed along with design guidelines to insure compatibility with the park's spirit of place.

- The plan and its effects on natural and cultural resources, and also on the environment, are discussed. This assessment, together with the General Plan as a whole, constitutes the Environmental Impact Report for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Plan objectives

The Department of Parks and Recreation's mandate to administer Greenwood Creek State Beach comes from the California State Legislature. Inherent in this mandate are obligations to protect the resources, to accommodate visitor use, and to allow for park operations. These obligations have been defined and established as management objectives. The objectives represent the foundation of this plan. All unit management activities are directed toward their achievement.

PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure the preservation of outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.
2. Preserve parklands as far as possible in their natural setting, and protect them from development and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.
3. Manage and develop parklands in a manner that reflects a harmonious relationship between their purpose and use and the desires and unique character of the surrounding community.
4. Minimize the impact of access and transportation facilities upon the parklands and surrounding community and support efforts to avert congestion on Highway 1.
5. Provide only those facilities whose purpose relates to the preservation and enjoyment of the natural, historic, and cultural values for which this state beach was established.
6. Offer interpretive programs and services which further an awareness and appreciation of the wide diversity of coastal ecosystems, historic and cultural resources, their variety and similarity, their interdependence, and their fragile nature.
7. Provide for the needs of diverse potential users, considering such factors as age, income, geographic origin, and physical abilities.
8. Maintain a safe, and functional environment that provides compatible opportunities for resource preservation and enjoyment by visitors.
9. Directly involve the community and a broad representation of the potential park users in the planning process.
10. Coordinate planning and management efforts with those of other state park units and other recreation providers along the Mendocino coast to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and programs.
11. In accordance with sound principles of land use planning, collect and evaluate information in order to determine the nature of the land, the user, and the possible impact of one upon the other.

The planning process

Planning for ten of the Mendocino Satellite District's state park system units began in September 1989. Once the planning team was organized, it formulated the planning and public involvement process for the three southernmost Mendocino state park units, including Greenwood Creek State Beach. Over the next 12 months, members of the planning team conducted field reviews, research, and interviews in compiling an information base of existing data. These data cover the natural, historic, scenic, and recreation resources, park, regional, and surrounding land uses, recreation demand and deficiencies, visitor use patterns, and the desires and requirements of other planning and regulatory agencies. In short, the information base is the combined source of all pertinent facts known about the park necessary for planning its future and assessing the impacts of alternative plans.

In July 1990, a public meeting was held in Point Arena as the first step in the public involvement process. This step served to inform the public as to the nature of the park and the planning process, and to generate interest in their involvement in future meetings. In addition to building an informed constituency, the other important purpose was to learn what the participants considered to be significant issues to be addressed in the general plan. (See Appendix A for copies of the public meeting notices and general plan newsletters).

All of the ideas gathered from the public meeting, letters, telephone calls, data from previous planning documents, and other ideas generated by park staff on the planning team were compiled into four alternative proposals (see Appendix F: Alternative Land Use and Facility Proposals). By choosing from the range of options, activities, services, and facilities listed in each alternative, the planning team put together a preferred alternative plan. The preferred alternative was presented to the public in a variety of ways: through a newsletter that went to all those on our-

mailing list, at two public meetings held in December 1990 and January 1991, and through publication of the proposals in local newspapers. The responses we received from the public, through calls, letters, and at the meetings, enabled the planning team to develop a single plan for Greenwood Creek State Beach. This plan is called the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report.

In the spring of 1994, copies of the plan were sent to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to numerous State agencies, libraries, and interested organizations and individuals. The notice of availability was sent to all those on the mailing list, initiating the public review period required by law. During this review period, a fourth public meeting will be held in the Elk community to gather comments. Following the public review period, any amendments or changes will be incorporated into the plan as an appendix (Appendix G: CEQA Comments and Responses) preparatory to the plan's approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

The Park and Recreation Commission will take action on the plan at a public hearing where interested groups and individuals will be offered an opportunity to provide their views on the preliminary plan. Following Commission approval, review comments and Commission changes, if any, will be incorporated into the plan before the final document is printed and made available to the public.

Consultation and coordination with others

The plans and policies of other public agencies in the Mendocino County and coastal region influence management and planning decisions for Greenwood Creek State Beach. The Department of Parks and Recreation gathered input from the following agencies in the development and review of this plan.

Park and recreation agencies

As a primary source of public recreational opportunities along the southern Mendocino Coast, Greenwood Creek State Beach will be planned and managed as one element of a regional and state-wide park system. Therefore, regional supply and demand factors must be considered. This defines the first category of agencies exerting an influence on decision making — other park planners and managers in the region, including not only Mendocino County Department of Parks and Recreation, but also the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Forestry .

Regional planning agencies

The California Coastal Commission has adopted policies and guidelines consistent with the Coastal Act for the proper use and development of the shoreline. These will be regarded as important and helpful guidance for all future considerations affecting the coastline and the coastal lands within viewshed of Highway 1. Generally, policies of the commission support recreational use as a priority for shoreline areas and do not appear to be in conflict with State Park System policies.

Additional consultation with the regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game may be necessary to ensure compliance with environmental quality regulations and laws.

Local planning agencies

Greenwood Creek State Beach is subject to planning regulations of the Mendocino County Planning Department. The General Plan and Local Coastal Program for Mendocino County are basic guides for coordination. In particular, the Coastal Element of the County General Plan establishes policies for protection of public access and use of the coastline, guidelines for planning and development of facilities on the coast, and preservation of coastal resources.

Transportation agencies

Highway 1 adjacent to the park is maintained by the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Proposals affecting the highway will require Caltrans assistance.

The major Mendocino transit systems with park-serving potential are the Mendocino Transit Authority and the Mendocino Stage.

The planning team

General planning for Greenwood Creek State Beach was conducted by an interdisciplinary team consisting of the Mendocino Sector Superintendent, sector staff, and Department landscape architects, resource ecologists, historians, archeologists, a park interpreter, and an environmental review specialist from the Sacramento headquarters. Landscape architects with expertise in park planning and design served as project manager and team lead. The core team was supplemented as necessary by personnel with expertise in fields such as historic architecture, energy conservation, real estate and property acquisition, law, geology, forestry, and concessions management. The department contracted with Humboldt State University to obtain underwater resource information.



WHARF
ROCK

Foos Crich

ELK

GUNDERSON
ROCK

Greenwood

HIGHWAY 1

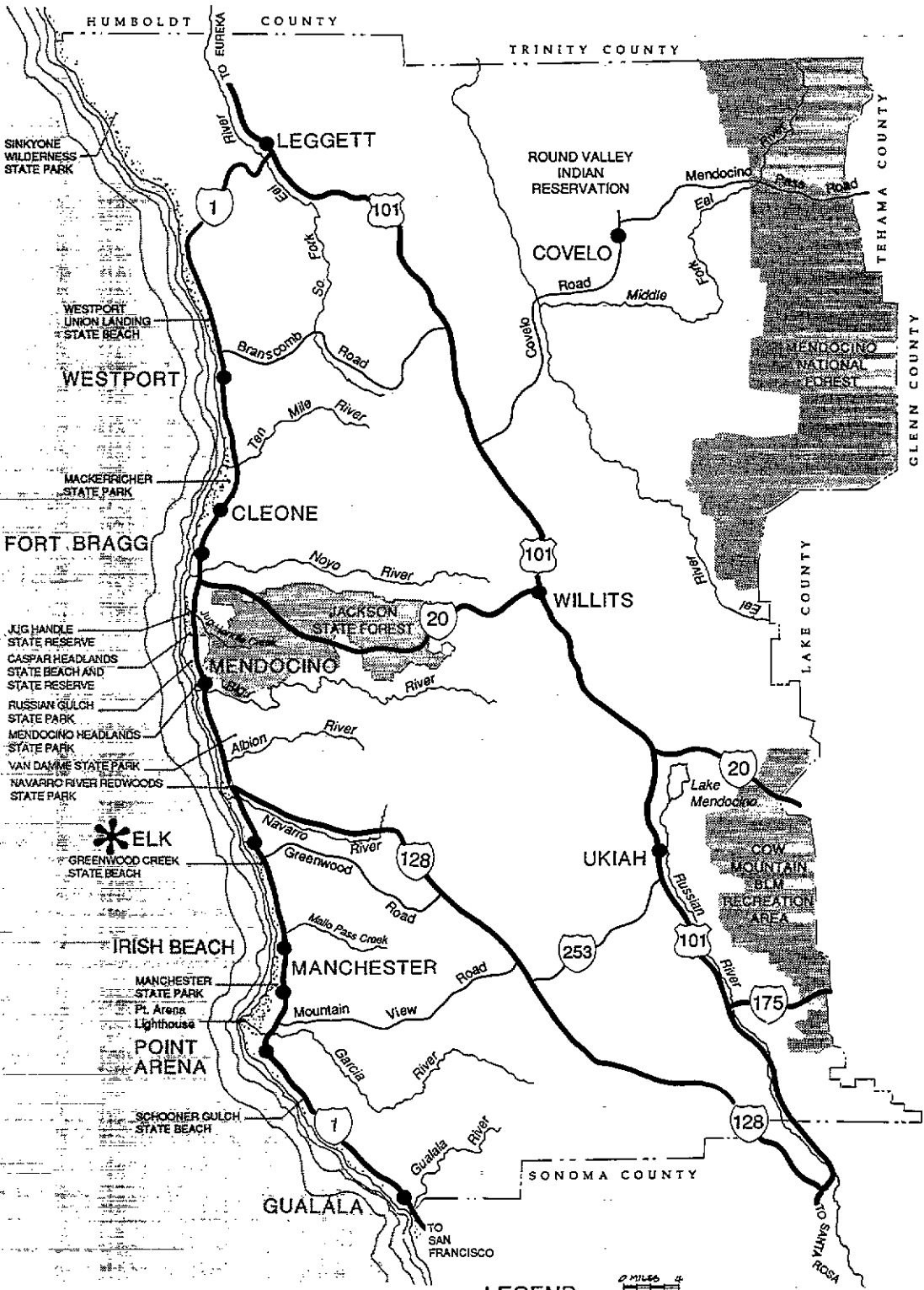
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Principles of sound land use planning involve collecting and evaluating information in order to determine the nature of the land, the users, and the possible impact of one upon the other.

Existing park conditions and adjacent land use patterns as they relate to the park and affect the behavior of potential park users are described in this chapter. Basic knowledge of the region helps establish the park's context, the effect of that context on park character or change, and provides an understanding of its location in the landscape. Regional planning factors are briefly described here and in Appendix B: Regional Land Use Conditions and Trends. In addition, the history and evolution of the land and the natural systems and processes that continue to operate in the park have been investigated, and are discussed in the Resource Element that follows this element.

This chapter objectively describes the park and regional conditions that existed during preparation of the general plan. Analysis of existing conditions is a first step toward identifying resource, land use, and management problems and issues to be resolved by this general plan, and which are presented in subsequent chapters.





THE REGION

ENWOOD CREEK State Beach GENERAL PLAN - EXISTING CONDITIONS

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation

Map 1

The park and its setting

The region

The rugged Mendocino coast is one of California's rapidly diminishing frontiers, in fact and in spirit. This remote and vast country has been harsh to its settlers at times, but it has also allowed time to pursue an independent life close to nature. Along the Mendocino coast, the mountains meet the sea in a precipitous coastline, with but few harbors. The ocean is cold and often rough; the land deeply dissected and heavily forested. Steep canyons and narrow valleys carry runoff from the abundant winter rainfall to the sea. Summer fog sends fingers up the valley and spills over low ridges, providing needed moisture for tall redwoods. The few terraces have been cleared for farms and ranches, and small towns located generally near rivers or harbors. Road building has been inhibited by the land — its rough terrain, its forests, and its rivers.

The forests in Mendocino County are the basic resource, providing employment in logging and mills. Fishing, long second in the county's economy, has been superseded by wine grape production in the hot interior valleys. Both are finding strong competition from tourism. The region attracts visitors for fishing, hunting, and skin/scuba diving, but probably draws most people to the area between the Navarro and Ten Mile rivers for the scenic beauty of the coastline, the fame of the coast redwoods, and the charm of Mendocino town.

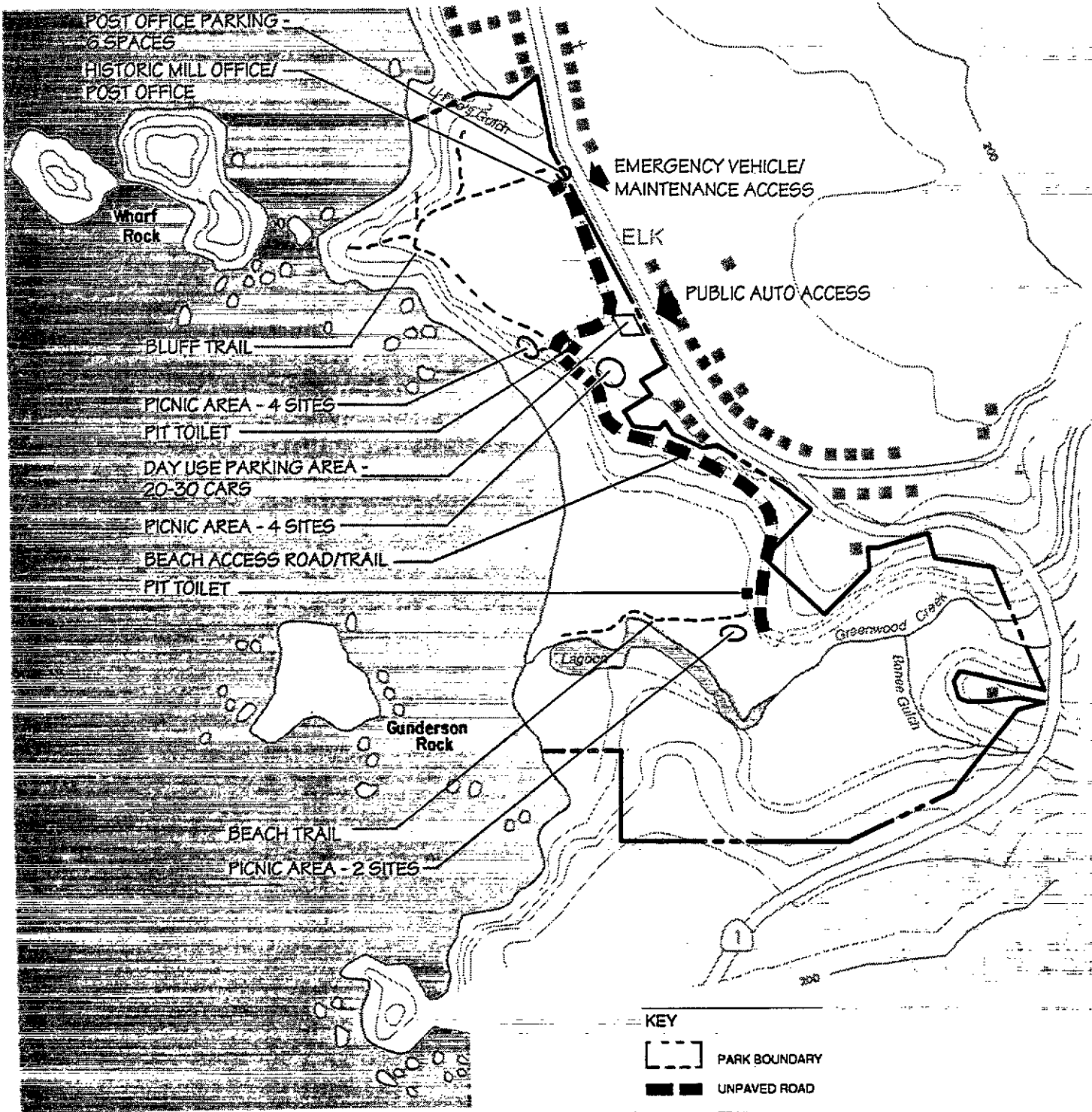
Access to these attractions is provided by Highway 1 paralleling the coast, although most visitors to the region come west from Highway 101 via Highway 20 through the mountains to Fort Bragg, or on Highway 128 along the Navarro River and north to the Mendocino town/Fort Bragg area.

Park description

Located seven miles south of the junction of State Highways 1 and 128 and the Navarro River mouth, Greenwood Creek State Beach lies within the town of Elk, 17 miles south of the town of Mendocino and about 34 miles north of Gualala. The park's 47.2 acres of land sit along the narrow coastal strip on the edge of the northern Coast Ranges, hemmed in between the Pacific Ocean on the west and State Highway 1 on the east. With 1500 linear feet of ocean frontage, the park extends south from Li Foo Gulch along the bluffs of a broad marine terrace and drops sharply to a wide sandy beach at the mouth of Greenwood Creek. Park ownership also includes a portion of Bonee Creek, a small tributary that enters Greenwood Creek inside the unit boundaries. To the west the park also encompasses nearshore and underwater areas running seaward 1000 feet and parallel to the ordinary highwater mark, although the Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction over all of its living marine plants and animal resources, and ownership of the sea floor itself belongs to the State Lands Commission. East of town, the mountains of the Mendocino Range form the backdrop to the park, and are among the highest and longest mountain ranges in the Coast Range, with elevations of around 2000 feet. Prominent features which can be seen from the park and town include Greenwood Ridge (elevation 1278 feet) and Cliff Ridge (elevation 2040 feet).

Park resources

The unit's significant natural and cultural resources are described in the Resource Element which follows the Existing Conditions section of the general plan.



EXISTING FACILITIES AND LAND USE CONDITIONS

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
GENERAL PLAN - EXISTING CONDITIONS
 California Resources Agency
 Department of Parks and Recreation Map 2 Drawing No. 26655

Visitor activities

Recreational activities at the park are concentrated near the ocean, and include scuba and skin diving, sea kayaking, sport fishing, nature study, birdwatching, and picnicking. Whale-watching and beachcombing are also popular; walking for pleasure, observing nature and the scenery is the prime activity.

Visitor attendance

In 1992, visitation at Greenwood Creek State Beach was estimated at about 20,000, all of it day use. Due to its location south of Highway 128, this park unit is bypassed by a majority of travellers whose primary destinations are the tourist attractions north of the Navarro River. In addition, the unit does not have a campground, and day use activities are limited by the park's small size and the lack of support facilities. As a result, visitor use of this park is relatively light compared to other State Park System units along the Mendocino coast. Since it was acquired and established as a unit of the State Park System, public use has increased slowly and gradually.

The pattern of visitor use is typical of that for coastal State Park System units in Northern California; the majority of use at the park occurs during the peak months of June, July, August, and September. Attendance during the peak use season is more than twice as great as attendance in the off-season (October, November, December, January).

Regional recreation demand and facility deficiencies

Mendocino County's scenery and character are inviting, especially for sightseeing and coastal-dependent recreational activities. The area's motels, campgrounds, and numerous bed-and-breakfasts are full all summer.

The California Department of Finance's Population Projections forecast a 142% increase in the county's population, from 80,246 in 1990 to 113,945 by 2020. Because Mendocino county residents are among the area's largest group of recreation users, this will create a greater future demand for recreational facilities there. The Department of Finance also projects that the combined populations of the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley, from which a majority of park users come, will increase 125% to almost 9 million. This growth is expected to create additional demand for development of recreation facilities on the Mendocino county coast.

In 1990, the annual demand for recreation in Mendocino county was about 30 million participation days. (A participation day is defined as a day or portion of a day on which a particular activity is engaged in). Projections by the department's Park and Recreation Information System (PARIS) through the year 2010 for Mendocino County show camping with the highest projected recreation demand out of 28 activities, followed by hiking, picnicking, nature appreciation, lake and stream fishing, visiting scenic areas, and sunning.

For the three activities most commonly provided by the State Park System, camping, hiking, and picnicking, PARIS data project that by the year 2000, there will be a demand for 527,819 camping participation days in Mendocino County: 441,916 hiking/backpacking days; and 371,111 picnicking days. Trail facilities are more than adequate to meet county needs for some years, however, picnic and camping facilities are deficient.

Existing land use conditions and facilities

Park ownership

The park's boundaries, easements and encumbrances are shown in Appendix C: Land Ownership Record, Drawing No. 17555. The major easements include a utility transmission line and the Elk community's water main which cross Greenwood Creek. Park ownership does not include a small portion of the connecting road between the marine terrace and the beach. However, it appears this road has been used for access to the beach for many years, and the public may have acquired a prescriptive right of access.

Park infrastructure

Access

Highway 1 and Philo Greenwood Road are the only two vehicular accesses into the town of Elk. Highway 1 is the only route through the town; Philo Greenwood Road connects Highway 128 with Highway 1 near the southern end of Elk. Traffic on the segment of Highway 1 that includes the park and town, between the Navarro River and Mallo Pass Creek, is lighter than at any other location in Mendocino County south of Westport.

To increase capacity for the future, the County General Plan calls for widening narrow sections to provide 12-foot vehicle lanes and four-foot shoulders for bicycles. However, environmental concerns and other circumstances will prevent widening of the highway in many locations. Dating from an earlier time when the present highway was just a narrow set of wagon ruts, the town of Elk has grown up along the linear spine of the highway. The houses and businesses that now line the road constrict its width to two lanes, precluding widening except in a few locations.

From Li Foo's Gulch south to the Elk grocery store, Highway 1 forms the park's eastern boundary and provides access to the park at three points:

a driveway immediately south of the mill office leading to an unpaved park service/emergency vehicle access road to the beach, and to two parking areas on the marine terrace and adjacent to the highway.

Circulation and trails

Just south of the mill office, an unpaved park service/emergency vehicle access road lined with low wooden railings begins at and parallels the highway south to a beach parking area, then veers west toward two small picnic areas at the edge of the coastal terrace. From here the road turns south along the bluff edge and descends steeply to the beach. For both pedestrians and service vehicles, this bluff face road is the only connection to the beach from the terrace. Except for this road, the park has no internal vehicular circulation system.

Only a few other trails exist within the park. A trail on the north side of the post office parallels Li Foo's Gulch westward to the bluff rim, and continues south along the edge of the coastal terrace. It connects to the beach access road, thus forming a loop trail around the coastal terrace connecting to the post office/mill office. From the rim trail, a short spur trail extends out to the narrow point of land opposite Wharf Rock. Off this spur trail a vertical accessway down the face of the cliff leads to the ocean. This informal trail is used primarily by hardy abalone divers. Because of continuing bluff erosion it has nearly vertical drops in some spots that can be negotiated only with the use of ropes.

Accessibility for the disabled

The only facilities installed at the park since it was acquired by the Department of Parks and Recreation have been a gravelled parking area, picnic tables, and two compost toilets, none of which are designed to accommodate disabled people. There is no ramp for wheelchair access to the mill building or post office. The existing trails on the marine terrace have limited wheelchair accessibility.



Highway 1 is the linear spine along which the town of Greenwood/Elk has grown and forms the park's eastern boundary.

Utilities

Water, electrical, and telephone lines serve the post office. A new 1200 gallon septic tank and leach field were recently installed behind the mill office. Neither the beach nor picnic areas on the coastal terrace has drinking water, although the main line of the Elk Community Water District passes along the park, and water could be made available.

Park use areas and facilities

Physically, the shape of the land divides Greenwood Creek State Beach into two major use areas: the coastal terrace that forms the northern half of the unit, and the lower beach level, or cove, that constitutes most of the southern half of the unit. A third use area is created by the service road/trail that traverses the bluff face between these two areas.

Marine terrace

Uses of the coastal terrace vary. Most activity on the terrace now occurs at the beach access parking area, and a great deal of it is non-park-related use by local residents (parking for grocery store shopping and enroute travelers). Many first-time park visitors are drawn by a desire to view the ocean from the edge of the terrace or to use the public sanitary facilities. These visitors make just a short transitory stop at the park. Some stay to picnic or stroll along the rim trail, and for them, whalewatching is a popular activity. Most visitors to the park, however, head directly to the beach.

Parking. Only occasional stretches along the highway throughout the town, such as in front of the park, provide width sufficient for parallel parking along the road. No formal designation of any such parking exists along the highway; parking occurs on the shoulder of the road. Along the park frontage, this informal shoulder parking is utilized primarily by patrons of the restaurant across the street.

Within the park, parking is provided at two locations:

- North of the post office four head-in parking spaces directly off the highway were used for post office patrons before the new post office was constructed across the street. Backing out onto the highway from these spaces requires careful attention to oncoming traffic, especially from the north, because vegetative growth along the highway at Li Foo's Gulch can obscure visibility.
- The major parking area for park visitors is located near the southern end of the coastal terrace, west of the highway and opposite the grocery store. It provides direct access for pedestrians onto the trail/service road to the beach. At present, this parking area for 20-30 cars operates at full capacity on weekends during the peak use season. Due to the lack of adequate on and off-street parking in the town, patrons of the local businesses, especially those of the grocery and tavern across the highway from the park, also use the park's beach access parking area for their needs.

The roughly rectangular gravel parking surface is surrounded by a low wooden railing except at the entrance, which is open across the full width of the parking area. Highway ingress and egress is easy with good sight distance along the highway in both directions.

Picnic areas. Four picnic tables and a pump-out pit toilet are located southwest of the junction of the beach access trail and the rim trail. From this picnic area, clearings along an unevenly spaced line of Monterey cypress trees, located on the slope between the beach trail and the picnic area, permit intermittent views of the ocean.

Northeast of the trail juncture, a more intimate and sheltered picnic area is located on a small semi-circular ledge about eight feet below the

main terrace. Overlooking the ocean and Greenwood Cove, it is reached by a narrow spur trail along the cliff and protected by a wooden railing along the perimeter. The concrete foundation from a burner ring from the 1950 mill days forms a low retaining wall around a clearing where four picnic tables are located. The top of the main terrace behind the picnic area is edged with Monterey cypress trees that provide shelter from the wind and screen the picnic area from view of the main terrace.

Post office/mill office. This 4000 square foot historic structure was essentially two separate spaces that were connected by extending the building facade. The south side of the structure was constructed in the early part of this century and functioned as the mill office. It has been utilized for a variety of functions since the mill was closed in the 1960s. Vacant several years while undergoing rehabilitation and repair, it is gradually being adapted for use as a visitor/interpretive center, and is scheduled to open in summer, 1994.

The town's post office operated out of the north side of the building from 1917 until 1993 when it was relocated to a new structure across Highway 1. The front landscaping, paving, and telephone booth are not historic.

Beach area

The majority of visitor use is concentrated at the ocean at this state beach unit. In addition to three fire rings on the beach, a pump-out toilet, a few picnic tables, and fire pits near the toe of the beach access road are the only visitor facilities provided in the beach area. Visitor use is very informal.

Concessions

There are no concessions at this unit. The local community provides essential services needed by park visitors and recreational travelers.



The park's marine terrace includes all land shown in the photo west of Highway 1 and south of Li Foo's Gulch, with the exception of the private residences on the south (far left of photo). Numbered features include:

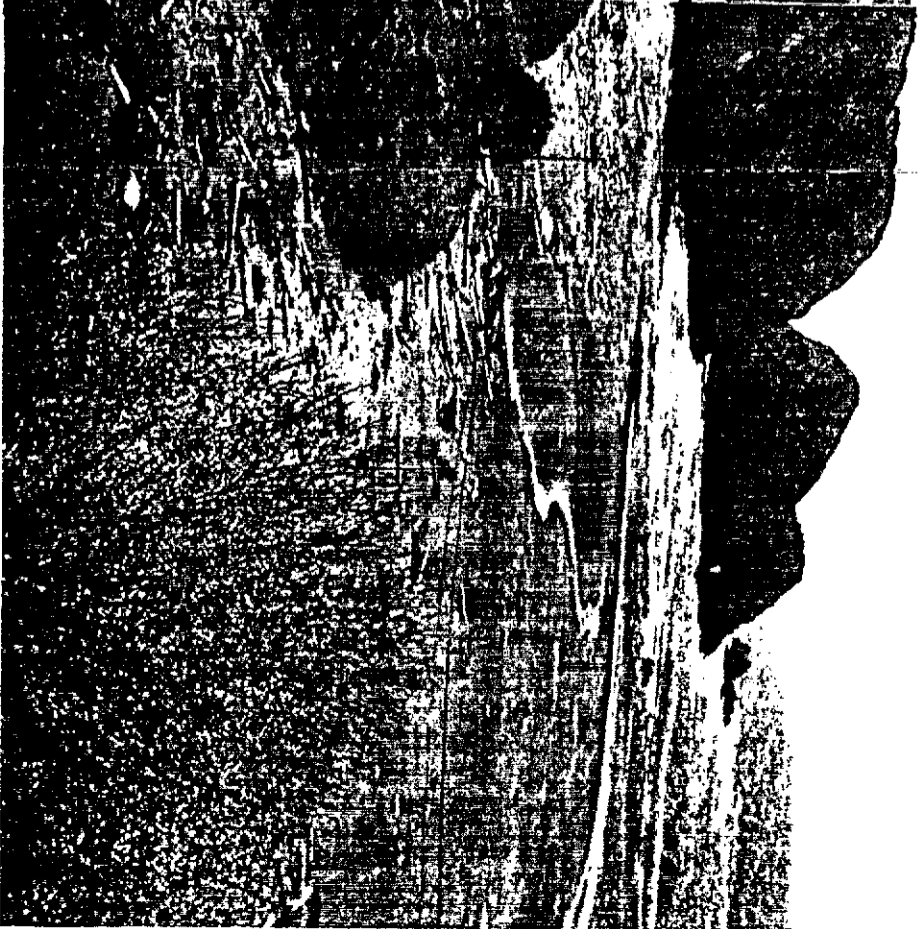
- 1) beach access parking area,
- 2) beach access road/trail,
- 3) upper terrace picnic area,
- 4) compost toilet,
- 5) lower terrace ("burrer ring") picnic area,
- 6) bluff trail,
- 7) post office parking,
- 8) historic post office,
- 9) historic mill office,
- 10) service/emergency vehicle access,
- 11) remnant foundations from most recent mill operations in 1950s and 60s (covered and revegetated since this 1984 photo).

Outside the park, nearby features of the Elk community include:

- 12) highway shoulder parking,
- 13) grocery store,
- 14) gas station/resaurant,
- 15) new post office site (constructed 1993).



Marine terrace area



Beach area

Looking south from the park's marine terrace, this panorama shows the existing conditions and facilities of the beach and cove. Greenwood Creek has re-established its course and native vegetation has reclaimed the area since the mill, pond and dam were removed in the late 1930s. The beach access road/trail (2) descends from the marine terrace and meets this lower level just west of Highway 1 (left side of photo). Public use facilities in the beach area include a pit toilet (1) and picnic sites with fire pits (3).

Adjacent land uses and trends

The Mendocino Coast from the Navarro River south to Mallo Pass Creek covers 12 miles of a narrow coastal shelf and high bluffs interrupted only by deep gulches at Greenwood and Elk Creeks. This coastline consists of grazing land on the coastal shelf and timberland in the gulches and upper slopes. The County's Coastal Element designates most of the area west of Highway 1 as a "highly scenic area" within which development "shall be subordinate to the character of its setting." An exception to this is the rural village of Elk, a unique community so distinctive as to make this portion of the coast worth a journey to many visitors.

Surrounding Greenwood Creek State Beach on the north and east, the community of Elk is the coast's only linear historic town. Since lumbering operations stopped, the vestiges of the lumber town gradually have disappeared. A few elegant houses, trees along the road, the post office, small stores, and the garage with stamped metal "brick" siding combine to establish Elk's man-made character.

Uses of the private property adjacent to the park vary. A bed-and-breakfast establishment operates north of Li Foo's Gulch, the park's northern terminus. Across the highway from the park, vacant land, a newly constructed post office (circa 1993), a restaurant, the gas station, grocery store, and one private residence are located. South of the beach access parking area, several houses are located between the park's eastern boundary and Highway 1. The southernmost private parcel also is an inn/bed-and-breakfast establishment. South of the park, lands to the east and south are unimproved open space.

Within Elk, the County Coastal Element allows for a few additional housing units to be built both east and west of the highway that would not be visible from the road. Residential, commercial, and cottage industry use are limited mainly by

sewage disposal standards. The Coastal Element also limits additional overnight accommodations and commercial floor area in an attempt to keep visitor-serving uses in scale with community size.

Outside Elk, the Coastal Element calls for almost no additional land division because of the absence of urban services and the difficulty of accommodating new development subordinate to the landscape.

Land use regulations

Zoning

Land use regulations exist on all lands within Mendocino County. Lands in the unincorporated areas of the county are regulated by a land use zoning ordinance adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Planning Commission. The land uses permitted under this ordinance range from agricultural to urban.

All lands within Greenwood Creek State Beach, except for the mill office/post office site, are zoned open space. In addition, this designation is shared by a corridor of land extending east of the park along Greenwood Creek and encompassing a portion of its watershed. This classification is generally applied to lands not suited for development or those most valuable in their undeveloped natural state. Landscape preservation, grazing, and passive low-impact recreation are the principal permitted uses within this classification. No land division is permitted and no structures are allowed except to further the open space intent.

In addition to the surrounding lands north and east of the park, the mill office/post office site is designated Rural Village. The intent of this classification is to preserve and maintain the character of the rural atmosphere and visual quality of the town of Elk; to provide a variety of community-oriented neighborhood commer-

cial services; and to provide and allow for mixed residential and commercial activities. Principal permitted uses include one dwelling unit per existing parcel and associated utilities and light agriculture.

South and southeast of the park, lands are classified rangeland, indicating that they are suited for and are appropriately retained for the grazing of livestock, and may also contain some timber-producing areas. New minimum parcel size in this classification is 160 acres, and the maximum dwelling density is one per 160 acres. In addition to grazing and forage, principal permitted uses include raising of crops, wildlife habitat improvement, and home occupations.

East of Highway 1, south of the highway bridge over the creek, is a small parcel designated PF, or public facility. This parcel is believed to be within the jurisdiction of the Elk Community Water District. It can be converted to another use only following approval of a Mendocino County General Plan amendment.

Mendocino County General Plan Coastal Element

The current General Plan for Mendocino County was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1981. The Coastal Element of the County General Plan, which affects land use in the coastal zone, was approved by the Board of Supervisors and the State Coastal Commission in 1985. The county's Coastal Element delineates many policies that affect the general plan effort for Greenwood Creek State Beach. Pertinent policies are summarized in Appendix D. Further development and use of the unit must conform to policies of the County Coastal Element.

Access to the shoreline is a key mandate of the California Coastal Act, which gives priority to recreational use and encourages the provision of recreational support facilities, especially those available to the public at a low cost. In general, the County Coastal Element recognizes the importance of Greenwood Creek State Beach as a major provider of public coastal access and recreation along the southern half of the Mendocino coast. State parks are the largest, best known, and most heavily used recreational sites along the coast.

The Coastal Element requires the California Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a comprehensive land use plan and management program prior to any additional development or relinquishment of park lands. Policy 4.10-7 requests preparation of:

"a general plan for day use only providing parking and picnic areas screened from Highway 1 north of Greenwood Creek. The Greenwood/Elk community shall participate in preparation of the park plan. The park plan shall be integrated with existing rural village land uses to prevent deterioration of coastal resources, including the scenic highway, the historic town, and the coastal bluffs and beaches."

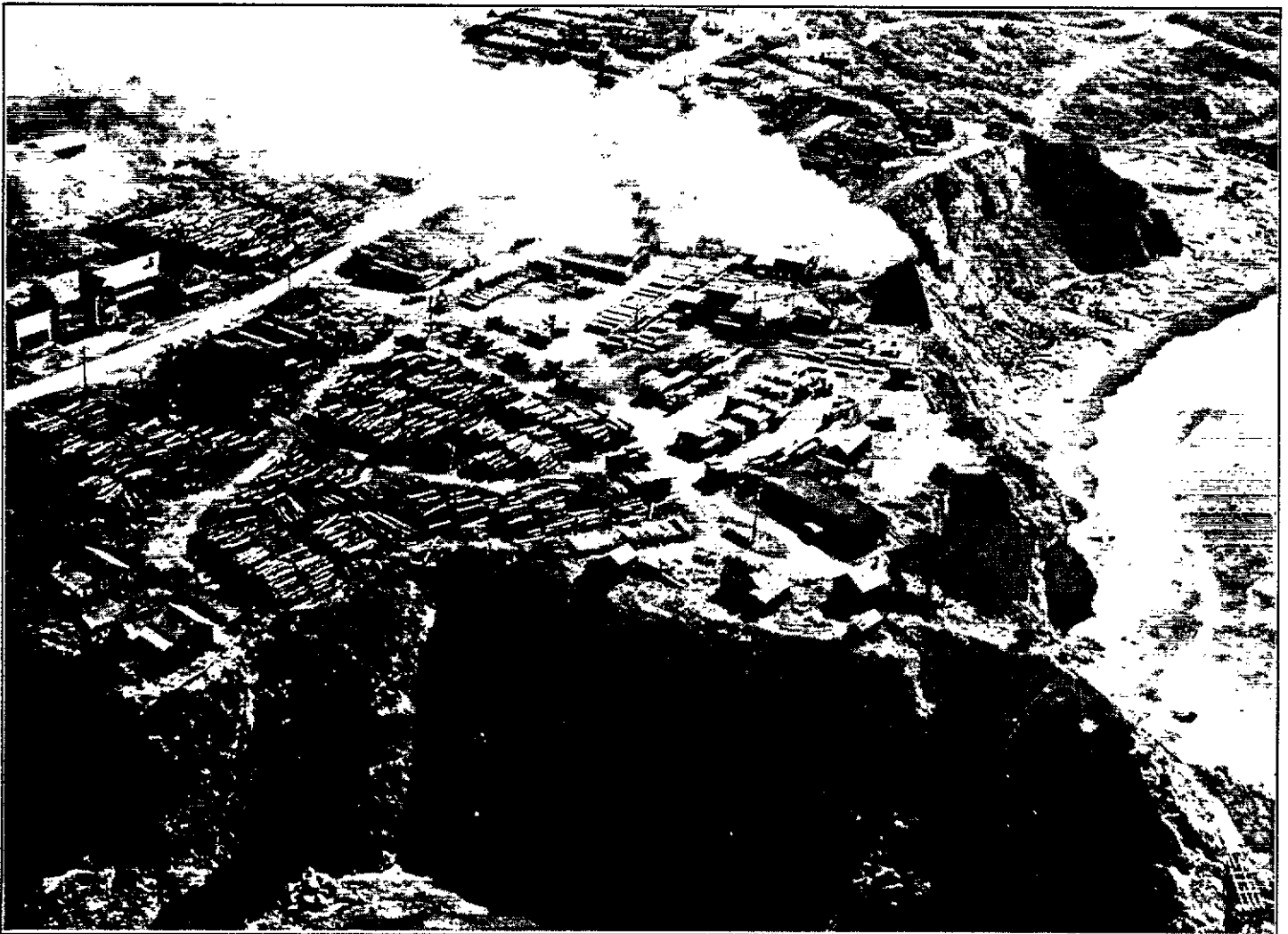
Existing interpretation

Significant interpretive resources relating to Greenwood's logging history include the 1917 mill office building, the adjacent post office, an active local historical society, and privately owned photographic and object collections. Up until 1993, no interpretive facilities existed at this unit. In 1993-94, interpretive exhibits were installed in the mill office as part of a gradual process of converting that building into an

interpretive/visitor center. Local volunteers staff the building on weekends during the peak use season distributing brochures and information.

Members of the local historical society and owners of historic photographs and objects have expressed interest in donating materials for display in the interpretive center.

The marine terrace as it existed in the 1950s or 60s, showing the Daniels and Ross mill.



Existing operations

Operational organization

Within the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Deputy Director of Park Stewardship oversees field operations. Greenwood Creek State Beach falls within the jurisdiction of the Mendocino Sector, part of the Russian River-Mendocino District. This district consists of all state park system units in Mendocino County south of and including Westport Union Landing State Beach, and all units in Sonoma County west of Highway 101. A Superintendent heads the district and operates under the authority of the Northern Division Chief.

Functions at the district level are divided into three main areas: visitor services, maintenance, and administration. Resource management services are also provided, and other prime responsibilities include directing volunteers and coordination with other public agencies.

Operational responsibilities at Greenwood Creek State Beach and two other units located south of the Navarro River, Manchester State Park and Schooner Gulch State Beach, are carried out by unit personnel consisting of a park ranger and a maintenance worker, supported by sector maintenance and seasonal staff.

All park units are operated in compliance with standard departmental procedure, as defined by the department's Operations and Administrative Manuals.

General sector and unit operations

Operations facilities

The Mendocino Sector is headquartered at Russian Gulch State Park, about seven miles south of Fort Bragg, and 30 miles north of Greenwood Creek State Beach. Facilities consist of an administrative office building, and a large maintenance work center and storage yard.

Maintenance and visitor services for Greenwood Creek State Beach are carried out from the park office and maintenance area at Manchester State Park and supported by the larger facilities at sector headquarters in Russian Gulch State Park.

Administration

General park administrative tasks are the responsibility of the sector administrative staff. These duties include community relations, minor capital outlay budgeting, program and personnel management, time and fiscal accounting, document management, monitoring of concessions operations, and special event scheduling. The administrative staff is also involved with a high amount of public contact, providing information via the telephone and over the counter.

Resource management

Resource management programs are conducted under the overall guidance of the department's Resource Management Directives. Specific programs are directed by a variety of documents, including the department's Tree Hazard Control Manual, Pesticide Use Manual, and Prescribed Fire Management Policy and Procedures document. Line responsibility for resource programs rests with the district resource ecologist, who is assisted by the unit ranger and seasonal staff. Ongoing resource programs in the district units include prescribed burning, exotic plant control, and tree hazard control.

At the present time, there is only one intermittent resource management program carried out at Greenwood Creek State Beach. Invasive non-native vegetation is removed from the park on an occasional basis when California Department of Forestry labor crews are available or court referral workers are provided.

Visitor Services

The sector's ranger staff is responsible for all park functions involving contact with the visitor public. These include entrance station operations, campground registration, information and interpretation, patrol and law enforcement, and medical emergencies. The ranger staff is assisted by seasonal park aides, who are used primarily for entrance station operations.

One unit ranger is responsible for visitor services at Greenwood Creek State Beach, as well as at Manchester State Park and Schooner Gulch State Beach. Law enforcement and public safety protection provided in these three units is sporadic due to the distance between the units and the limited staff. The main enforcement problems at Greenwood Creek State Beach are illegal beach fires and camping, and dogs off leash.

Northern California's cold ocean temperatures discourage ocean swimming. Because swimming is not a popular activity at this unit, lifeguards are not provided. In order to determine appropriate safety services consistent with the Department's Aquatic Safety Task Force Report (September 1988), the Department of Parks and Recreation continues to monitor aquatic recreation activity along the Mendocino coast.

There are no interpretive programs offered at Greenwood Creek State Beach. Weekends during the peak use season the mill office building is open and volunteers sell brochures and other literature.

Maintenance services

The maintenance staff is responsible for ensuring that all park facilities are kept in a clean and functional condition. Routine duties include housekeeping, garbage collection, carpentry, plumbing, heavy equipment operation, equipment maintenance, water treatment, and sewage treatment. The maintenance staff is augmented during the summer months with a seasonal staff that performs most routine duties.

Maintenance at Greenwood Creek State Beach is the responsibility of one maintenance worker who is supported by sector maintenance staff. Seasonal workers do most of the housekeeping and trash collection during the peak use season. Two compost toilets in the unit require daily cleaning during the peak use season, and litter is removed from trash cans on a daily basis.

Regular maintenance responsibilities at Greenwood also include upkeep and repair of all the park's facilities, including the historic buildings, and signs, fencing, picnic tables, and sanitary facilities. Brush clearing on trails and road maintenance are also necessary.

Coordination with other agencies

Fire and public safety agencies

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has the primary responsibility for fire protection in all State Park System units where natural fuels are potentially a hazard. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, the Elk volunteer fire department is closer and responds to fire calls. Ambulance service is provided by the Elk volunteer fire department and from Fort Bragg.

In conjunction with the California Department of Corrections, CDF provides the park with an inmate fire crew that performs resource and maintenance related tasks on an occasional basis.

Law enforcement agencies

The unit ranger is frequently called upon to assist at vehicle accidents along Highway 1, and backs up local law enforcement agencies an average of two times a month. Concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction includes the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Because of limited patrols and large areas of coverage there may be increased response time to emergencies at Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Volunteerism

The Mendocino Area Parks Association (MAPA) is a non-profit park cooperative association whose purpose is to assist the district through a variety of programs. MAPA's Docent Council operates the visitor centers in the Mendocino District, and assists in interpretation, conducting walks and tours, and giving talks. The primary focus of their assistance is the Ford House at Mendocino Headlands State Park, and the visitor center at Van Damme State Park. MAPA provides and sells brochures, publications, and firewood to park visitors, and proceeds from its fund-raising pay the salaries of two of the park's interpretive specialists and three student interns. At the present time, MAPA provides no volunteer services at the three southern Mendocino park units. However, a docent group is being formed that will focus on Greenwood Creek State Beach.

At Greenwood Creek State Beach, local volunteers help in running the interpretive center. The potential for future involvement by volunteers will continue to grow as new exhibits and development occur in the mill office/post office.







RESOURCE ELEMENT

The Resource Element for Greenwood Creek State Beach identifies specific resources along with their values, sensitivities and physical constraints. This element also sets forth long-range management objectives for the natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and identifies specific actions or limitations required to achieve these objectives. Department guidelines for acceptable levels of use and development are then established with respect to these values. Through development of the Resource Element, the department complies with Division V, Chapter 1, Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code, and Title 14, Division 3, Chapter 1, Section 4332, of the California Code of Regulations.

Resource summary and evaluation

The following resource information is a summary and evaluation of more detailed data contained in the Resource Inventory for the unit, on file with the department in Sacramento. The natural resource information is presented in regional and unit-specific descriptions of abiotic and biotic conditions followed by specific area-based descriptions called ecological units. General cultural resource information is presented below, with more detail provided in the section following ecological units. An evaluation of the summary of information presented below involves assessing relationships between and among ecosystem components, including biological, physical, and social conditions, and also includes assessment of the significance and sensitivities of cultural resources. Ecological units and cultural resource sensitivities are intended to serve as working models for assessing the impacts of management actions within and outside of State Park System units.

Regional and unit characteristics

Characteristic climatic features of the Mendocino coast are moderate temperatures with small daily and seasonal fluctuation, frequent dense fogs, and northwesterly winds. The average annual precipitation for the unit is about 40 inches, half of which falls between December and February. Summer rain is uncommon, but summer fog drip is a significant source of moisture as it condenses on vegetation. A persistent moderate wind (15 to 30 mph) occurs during the summer months and, in combination with the fog, provides a cool, damp relief from the hot, dry interior of California. Air quality for the Mendocino coast is high.

Characteristic geologic features in the region are sedimentary and volcanic bedrock, erosional material and earthquake activity. The bedrock in Greenwood Creek State Beach is comprised solely of 135-65 million year old Upper Jurassic-

*Greenwood
Creek State
Beach consists of
these ecological
units: Marine,
Coastal Beach
and Bluff,
Riparian Areas
and Wetlands,
and Marine
Terrace.*



Cretaceous coastal belt Franciscan formation. This belt of sedimentary and volcanic rock lies east of the San Andreas fault and extends north along the coast from Alder Creek to Cape Mendocino. The Franciscan formation which crops out in the unit is the oldest rock exposed within the southern Mendocino coast units. Surficial material within the unit dates from 3 million year old to recent Quaternary alluvial beach, dune sand, landslide, stream, river, and marine terrace deposits, colluvium, and soil. Bedrock is in places unconformably overlain by stream and river channel deposits, and marine terrace clay, sand, and gravel that mantle wave-cut bedrock surfaces adjacent to the sea cliffs and eastward. In some places, especially on the lower terrace levels, marine sediment is overlain by dune sand and alluvium. The youngest faults in the region trend northwest or north-northwest, parallel and sub-parallel to the general structural grain of the Coast Ranges and the San Andreas fault system. The most recently active trace of the San Andreas fault leaves the shore along the northern boundary of Manchester State Park at Alder Creek, about 10 miles south of Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Most of the Mendocino coast is underlain by sandstone and shale; however, soils are derived mainly from unconsolidated marine deposits or alluvium. The variability of the soils is best explained by the dynamic geologic history of the area. Uplift of marine sedimentary formations, sea level changes, a large complex of active faults, climatic changes, and differences in vegetative cover have resulted in localized differences in soil forming factors (parent material, relief, climate, biota, and time). The more common soils are prairie-like with dark color, high organic content, and low acidity. Grazing, timber production and recreation are the primary land uses on these soil types in the region.

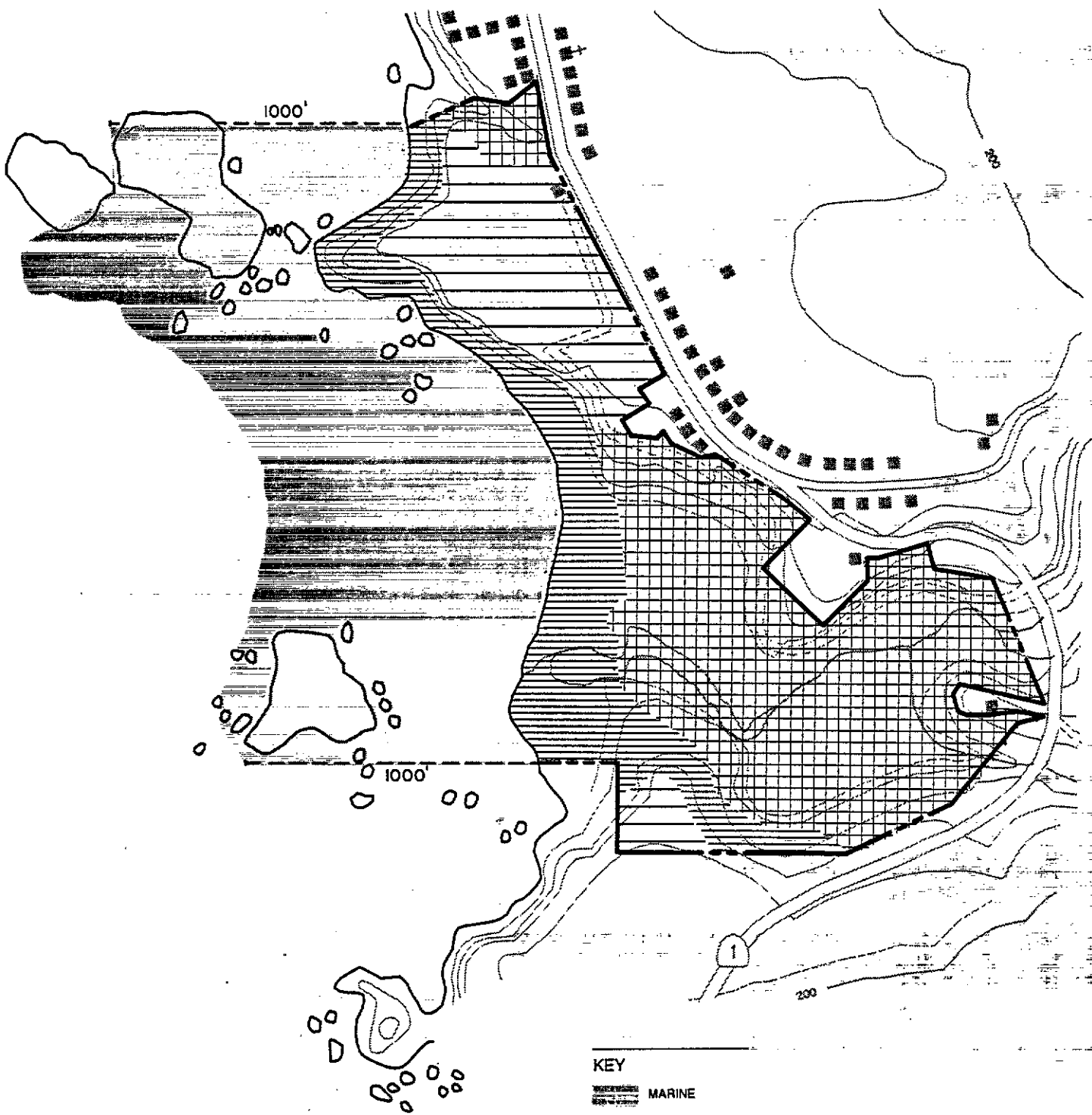
Ecological units





Four ecological units are delineated at Greenwood Creek State Beach: Marine, Coastal Beach and Bluff, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, and Marine Terrace. These ecological units constitute ecosystems whose boundaries were drawn based primarily on analysis of vegetation, landforms, and hydrological processes, and apply to all systems, not just undisturbed native systems. Descriptions and locations of primary features, and discussions on the sensitivities, importance, influences, and impacts in each ecological unit are presented below. Refer to Maps 3, 4, 5, and 6 for an orientation to the locations and extent of these ecological units, and the sensitive resources and constraining conditions within them.

Marine ecological unit

The Marine Ecological Unit encompasses the nearshore and underwater areas adjacent to the terrestrial boundaries of Greenwood Creek State Beach, generally running seaward 1,000 feet and parallel to the ordinary high water mark. As such, all of its features are part of the marine environment, constituting a rich and diverse ecosystem.

The sea floor adjacent to Greenwood Creek State Beach falls under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission, while the Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction over the living marine resources, both plant and animal. Although the Department of Parks and Recreation has no ownership, the marine environment is an integrally important component of the terrestrial features and the plants and animals influenced by both environments. The Department of Parks and Recreation does, however, have the authority to enforce certain statutes according to PRC 5003.05 which states: "Rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Section 5003 shall also apply on any granted or ungranted tidelands or submerged lands abutting property of the department and used for recreational purposes by members of the general

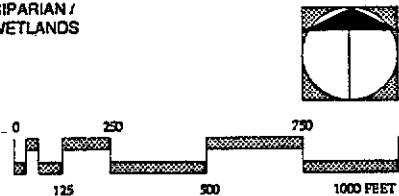


- KEY**
-  MARINE
 -  COASTAL BEACH AND BLUFF
 -  MARINE TERRACE
 -  RIPARIAN / WETLANDS

ECOLOGICAL UNITS

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 3 Drawing No. 26656



public in conjunction with their use of the department's property between the boundary of the lands under the jurisdiction of the department and a line running parallel to and 1,000 feet waterward of the ordinary high water mark, so long as the rule or regulation being applied is not inconsistent with any rule or regulation of any other public agency which is applicable to those tide or submerged lands."

Greenwood Creek State Beach lies north and east of the San Andreas fault and the rocks are those of the Franciscan formation. As indicated by the rocks onshore and by the indentation of the coastline, the melange of irregular submarine topography is another outcome. The subtidal relief is irregular and low, being only about 65-70 feet at Nose Rock located about 0.8 miles from the inner shore of Greenwood Cove.

The marine flora is typical, an intertidal and shallow subtidal flora being present and diverse. Bull kelp is a major feature of the Greenwood Cove area. One of the densest beds of bull kelp known in the area is just east of Gunderson Rock. The bed is so dense that diving can be dangerous there.

The fact that the flora is so much more a part of the ecology at Greenwood Cove is reflected by the greater diversity and abundance of herbivores.

The invertebrate and fish fauna are typical of the northern California coast. More variety in habitats here is reflected by not only a wealth of filter- and suspension-feeders, but also by the presence of herbivores like red sea urchin, purple sea urchin, and red abalone. As mentioned above, the well-developed flora can sustain herbivores. The presence of red sea urchin and red abalone are potential promoters of human impact in the area.

The typical intertidal "format" of the Mendocino coast can be seen at Greenwood Cove. The rocky intertidal zone of the more exposed regions contains a biota typical of the exposed coast. For example, mid-intertidally, sea palm, sea mussel, and gooseneck barnacle are present. Low-intertidally, kelp occurs.

Other marine fauna associated with the offshore rocks is diversely abundant, including sea anemones, tunicates, sea cucumbers, sea stars, sponges, corals, striped surfperch and kelp greenling.

The ecology of the marine environment offshore from Greenwood Creek State Beach, though remarkably impressive, is beginning to show signs of decline. Indications of red sea urchin harvesting are apparent. The Department of Fish and Game reports that during 1989, along a section of coastline 5 miles long and including the Greenwood Cove area, 2.2 million pounds of urchins were harvested. This is based on fishermen's logs and represents 10% of the northern California catch. It is evident that urchin removal has resulted in the productivity of benthic algae to have increased tremendously with the advent of the urchin fishery. The changes in shallow subtidal rocky bottom ecology can be called an environmental impact. The abalone fishery appears to be healthy at Greenwood Cove. However, there is concern about the red abalone fishery possibly declining on the north coast evidenced by a drop in catch-per-unit-effort by sport divers. Also, poaching is evidently occurring, associated with the advent of the red sea urchin fishery.

If offshore submerged lands were to be acquired, Greenwood Creek State Beach will be worthy of consideration for Natural Preserve and Underwater State Recreation Area status in these marine environments.

Gray and humpback whales, federally-listed endangered species (FE), have been seen offshore of Greenwood Creek State Beach. Other state and federally-listed species which have been observed from the unit include the California brown pelican, bald eagle, and American peregrine falcon (FE/CE), also on the California endangered species list. The osprey, which is a California species of special concern (CSC), also hunts off the Mendocino coast and has been observed from within the unit. Other birds and mammals are common in the marine environment.



Coastal beach and bluffs combine with offshore rocks and the marine environment to create a particularly scenic coastline.

Coastal beach and bluff ecological unit

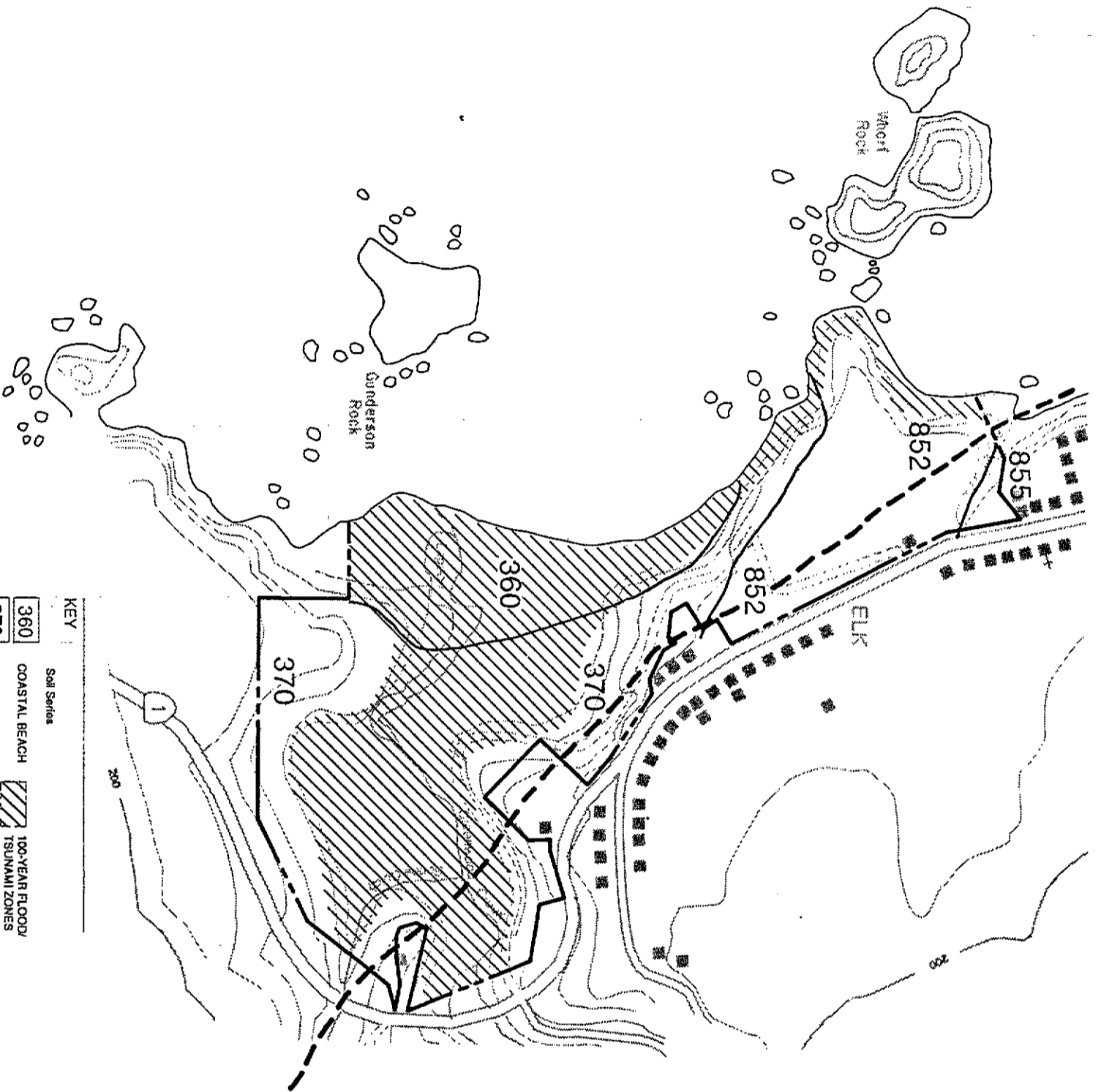
Sandy beach, rocky shore, and coastal bluff to the first terrace are all components which make up the shoreline at Greenwood Creek State Beach, accounting for a narrow and irregular ecological unit, following the ragged indentations of the coastline, and extending only a short distance inland from the waveslope. This area includes the coastal strand and the steep bluff faces.

Sandy beaches and small coves are numerous at the base of Mendocino County's coastal bluffs. Coastal beaches provide habitat for harbor seals, and sea lions.

Beach qualities change seasonally depending upon the ocean currents and weather patterns. A beach with thick sand deposits favors interstitial invertebrates which provide food for shorebirds. In contrast, a shoreline with less sand will provide better conditions for abalone. Both kinds of beaches are present at Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Nearly vertical sea cliffs and sea stacks characterize the rugged Mendocino coast. The bluff faces vary from bare precipices to a mosaic of herbaceous plants and dwarfed shrubs. The latter extreme is known as the northern coastal bluff scrub, which is listed as a rare natural community by the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB). Plant species common to this community include sea fig (*Carpobrotus aequilateralis*), seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*), seaside sunflower (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium* var. *artemisiaefolium*) and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*). One sensitive plant occurs on the coastal bluffs within the unit: Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush, which is listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS, List 1B). Sensitive

plant species are those that are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or DFG as rare, threatened, or endangered; or are designated by CNPS as either meeting the criteria for listing or as being potentially threatened and included on a "watch list". An aggressive, invasive, non-native from Argentina, pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), has become established on the coastal bluffs in the unit.

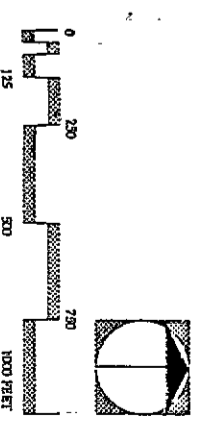


KEY

360	COASTAL BEACH		100-YEAR FLOOD/TSUNAMI ZONES
370	DRYSTROPEPTS		
852	WINDYHOLLOW		
855	FLUMEVILLE		
			INFERRED FAULT LINE

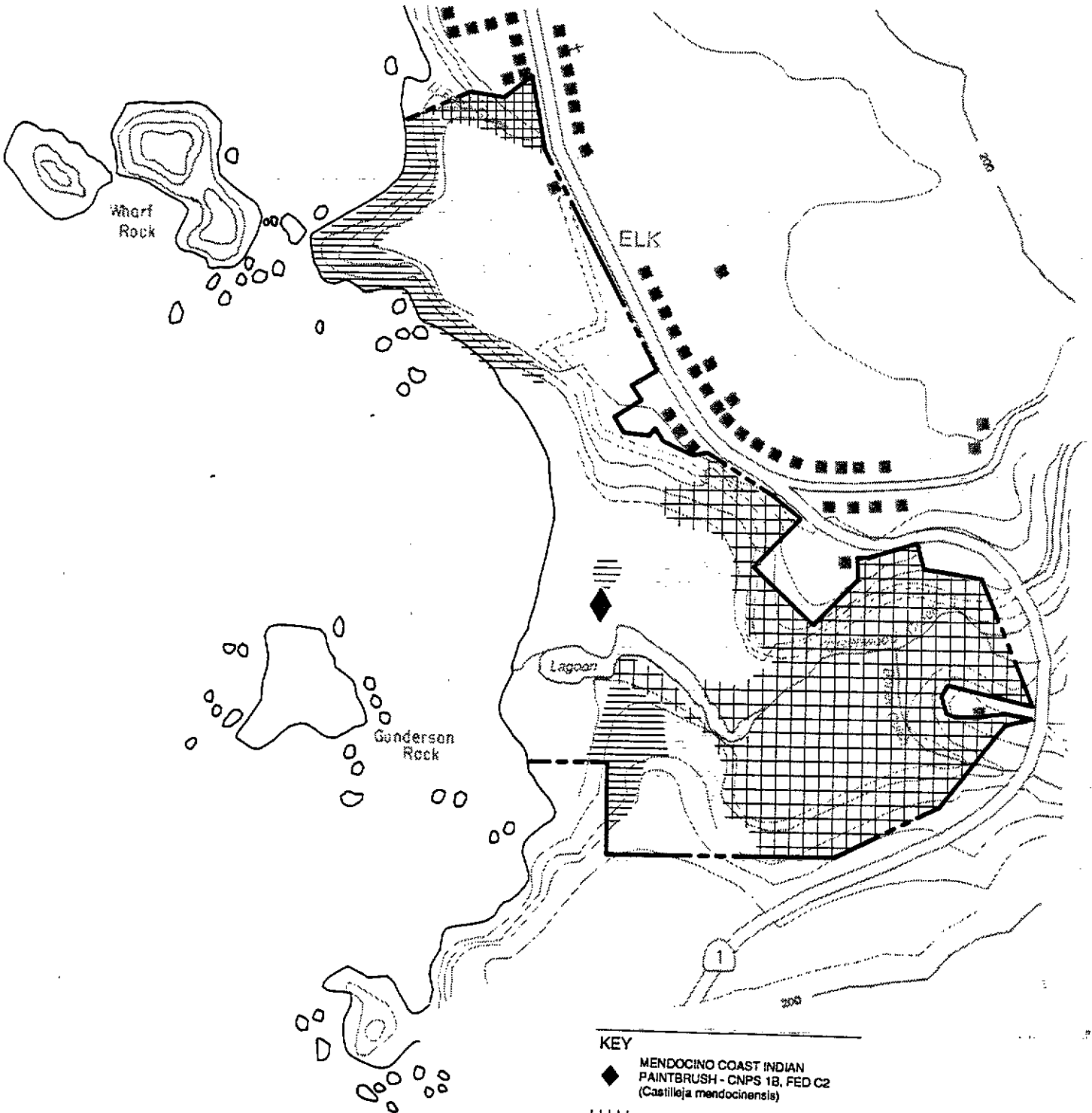
Physical Constraints to Land Use

Soils (by mapping unit)	Camp-grounds	Picnic areas	Paths/trails	Roads	Seasonally flooded	Septic system consider-ations
360	Not rated: unsuitable for development due to instability and wave action.					
370	Not rated: moderate to severe erosion hazard; underlies wetland/riparian areas; in flood zone.					
852	Moderate: slow percolation	Moderate: slow perc	Slight	Moderate: shrink-swell, slope	Yes	Slow percolation
855	Severe: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Severe: shrink-swell, slope	Yes	Slow percolation
100-year flood/tsunami zones (FEMA, 1983)						
	Severe: flooding, high waves	Moderate: flooding, high waves	Slight: flooding, high waves	Severe: flooding, high waves	NA	NA
Geologic faults						
	Severe: seismic rupture shaking	Moderate: seismic rupture shaking	Slight: seismic rupture shaking	Moderate: seismic rupture shaking	NA	NA



PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

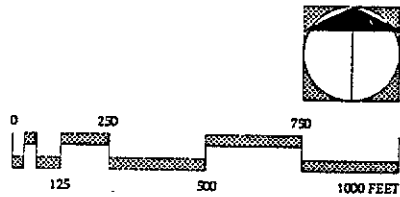
GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
 GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT
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SENSITIVE PLANTS AND RARE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT
 California Resources Agency
 Department of Parks and Recreation Map 5 Drawing No. 26658

- KEY**
- ◆ MENDOCINO COAST INDIAN PAINTBRUSH - CNPS 1B, FED C2 (*Castilleja mendocinensis*)
 - ▨ NORTH COAST RIPARIAN SCRUB
 - ▨ NORTHERN COASTAL BLUFF SCRUB
 - ▨ RED ALDER RIPARIAN FOREST



View of the L.E. White mill pond and mill buildings prior to 1898. For almost 50 years they occupied the wetland and riparian areas of Greenwood cove.



Riparian areas, wetlands, and aquatic habitats ecological unit

The ecological unit encompassing the riparian areas, wetlands, and aquatic habitats includes a linear corridor following the two stream courses, Greenwood and Bonee Creeks, from near the mouth of Greenwood Creek at the ocean (adjacent to the Coastal Beach and Bluff Ecological Unit) inland and upstream to the eastern and southern boundaries. It is characterized by the perennial streams and lush riparian vegetation dominated by

red alder, and by the lagoon near the beach. Another small drainage, wet enough to support some riparian vegetation dominated by north coast riparian scrub, also a CNDDB rare natural community, is Li Foo's Gulch, near the north boundary of Greenwood Creek State Beach.

The two streams, Greenwood Creek from which the unit derives its name, and Bonee Creek, a small tributary that enters Greenwood Creek inside the unit boundaries, are dominated by red

RESOURCE ELEMENT



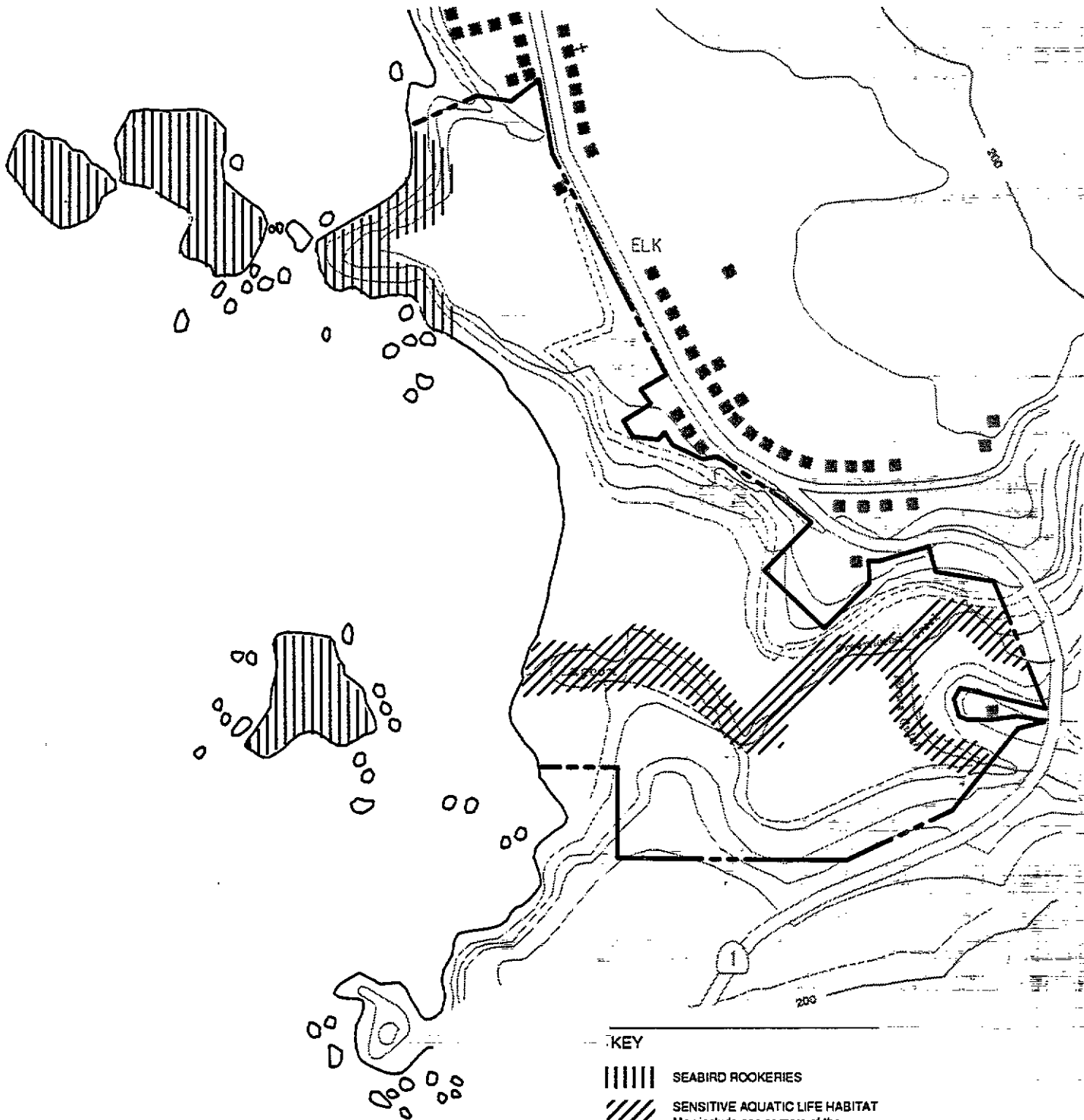
alder riparian forest, another CNDDB rare natural community. Discharge shows strong seasonal fluctuation mainly in response to heavy winter rain. Although flow is greatly reduced during the summer, these streams are perennial. Watershed uses outside of the unit are primarily agricultural and forestry-related with minor residential development. Past impacts within and adjacent to the unit include alteration of the hydrology of Greenwood Creek caused primarily by siltation from upstream logging activities.

Water for the town of Elk is from two wells drawing from an alluvial aquifer on Greenwood Creek. No developed water supply exists in the unit. Ground water is the principal source for domestic water supplies and for irrigation in coastal Mendocino County. Ground water quality for the coastal region is very good to excellent, characteristically a sodium-chloride bicarbonate water with relatively low dissolved solids. On a regional basis, surface water quality for the Mendocino coast is also high.

In addition to periodic flooding, the soils along Greenwood Creek are probably further constrained by slope and potential liquefaction during earthquakes. For these reasons, the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) considers development of this area to be severely constrained by soil conditions.

Riparian areas, wetlands, and aquatic habitats are significant ecosystems because they provide habitats for many species of wildlife including many that are sensitive. Statewide, these ecosystems are threatened by agricultural uses and development.

A coastal lagoon near the mouth of Greenwood Creek supports anadromous and freshwater fishes. The lagoon provides important habitat for prickly and coastrange sculpin spawning, and for juvenile fishes. Juvenile steelhead also use the lagoon to grow to smolt size. Other species of fish collected from the stream include the Navarro subspecies of California roach, and threespine stickleback. Coho (silver) salmon once also occurred in Greenwood Creek. Logging in the watershed, and operation of a lumber mill near the mouth, probably caused the extirpation of salmon from this watershed. No threatened or endangered aquatic organisms are known to occur within the unit. Steelhead and coho salmon are of special interest because they are presently considered depleted resources by the California Department of Fish and Game. The ranges of the river otter and California red-legged frog include this area of the state. Surveys were not carried out to document the occurrence of the river otter or the frog within the unit. The California red-legged frog is a species of special concern. Utility lines and a local water main which cross the cove at Greenwood Creek are possible hazards for birds of prey.





SENSITIVE WILDLIFE, AQUATIC LIFE, AND HABITATS

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 6 Drawing No. 26659

KEY

-  SEABIRD ROOKERIES
-  SENSITIVE AQUATIC LIFE HABITAT
May include one or more of the following: Lagoon habitat; Sculpin spawning habitat; Steelhead spawning, nursery, rearing habitat, and/or migration corridor



Marine terrace ecological unit

The Marine Terrace Ecological Unit occupies the broad, flat first terrace benches adjacent to and inland from the coastal bluffs and accounts for most of the landforms immediately accessible from State Highway 1 within Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Gently sloping marine terraces, frequently divided by moderate-sized streams, are characteristic landforms on the coast of Mendocino County. Much of the park unit is situated on a bench-like marine terrace divided by Greenwood Creek. Elevations reach about 200 feet above sea level within the unit. Elevated Pleistocene-age marine terraces along the shoreline reflect Quaternary tectonism and sea level changes associated with post-glacial melting.

Semi-consolidated marine terraces are of major importance as ground water sources. Because of the relative thinness of geologic terrace deposits, their limited east-west extent, and their consequent lack of storage capacity, fractured bedrock is the principal water source. Ground water is the principal source for domestic water supplies and for irrigation in coastal Mendocino County, although occasional diversions of surface waters from minor streams exist.

According to the US Soil Conservation Service, development of the marine terrace for buildings, campgrounds, picnic areas, and roads is moderately constrained by soil conditions. Slow percolation and high shrink-swell potential are the relevant constraints. Constraints for trail construction in this area are slight.

Non-native grasslands dominate the park's marine terrace and have replaced native coastal prairie as a result of past livestock grazing and other modifications throughout the Mendocino coast. Non-indigenous and non-native trees commonly planted for windrows on the marine terrace and for erosion control on the bluff's edge, include Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*), obscuring ocean vistas. The

most significant historic impacts include severe disturbance of top soil and native vegetation on the marine terrace.

At Greenwood Creek State Beach the marine terrace occurs within the range of the lotis blue butterfly (FE) and ten sensitive plant species.

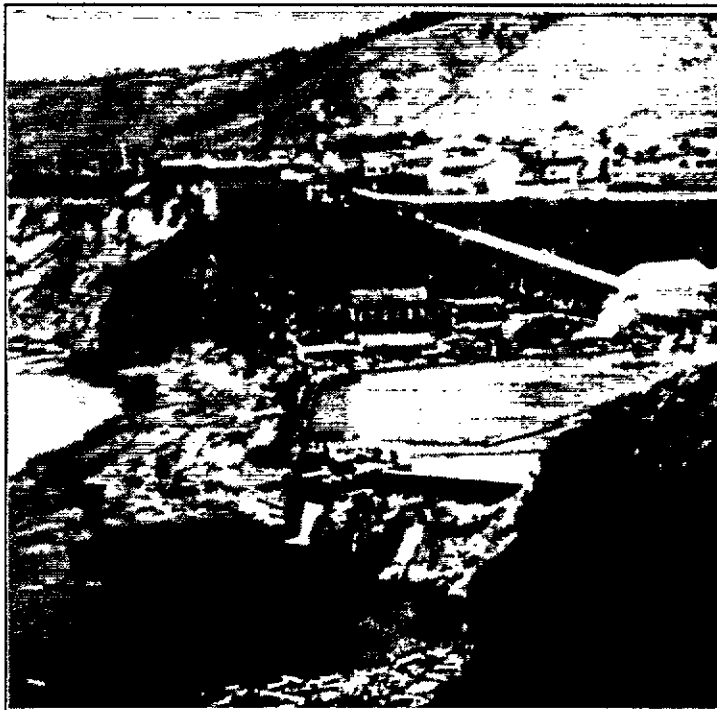
Ticks and faults are of management concern on marine terraces. Some species of ticks are potential vectors of the debilitating Lyme disease. Ticks are particularly numerous in the non-native grasslands.

Cultural resources

Cultural background

The prehistory of this section of the Mendocino coast is presently not well known, although evidence from adjacent areas of the coast suggests that it has been occupied for at least 9,000 to 12,000 years. In the early 19th century the Greenwood Creek area was within the territory of the Kauca Pomo. In 1844, this area was included within a land claim filed with the provincial government by William Richardson. The Kauca people, meanwhile, were removed to the Manchester area by Rafael Garcia, claimant of a neighboring land tract. There they were resettled with other Pomo groups in a village at the mouth of the Garcia River. Pomo people continued to visit the unit, however, to fish and collect shellfish and seaweed.

Millpond and spillway, 1916.



Even before Richardson's land claim was rejected in the courts, new settlers began moving into the area. The earliest of these were hunters and farmers, but attention soon turned to the local timber resources. The village of Cuffey's Cove, just north of the unit, was founded in the 1860s. Although its economy was primarily agricultural, a series of small, short-lived lumber mills were built in the area over the ensuing years. In 1875, a small mill was constructed a mile or two up Greenwood Creek, and a rail line was built connecting it to the doghole port of Cuffey's Cove.

In 1884, L.E. White purchased the small Greenwood Creek Mill as well as the land now included in the unit. In 1885-86, he built a schooner landing on Wharf Rock, connecting it with a railway/wharf to the adjacent coastal terrace. He also began constructing Greenwood as a company town. White soon recognized that a mill complex at the mouth of Greenwood Creek could be used to exploit not only the timber resources of that drainage, but those of Elk Creek as well. In 1888-89, he built a dam for a large mill pond at the mouth of Greenwood Creek, and began constructing a narrow-gauge rail line up Elk Creek. In 1889, he began work of a second and more modern lumber mill adjacent to the pond; it was in operation the following year.

Connected to the timber harvest areas by a narrow-gauge rail line (eventually totalling more than 50 miles of track), the mill constructed by Whitewas considered the state of the art for its time. It had two band sawmills, gang edgers and planers, housed in facilities that included a two-story sawing and planing building, a machine shop, and a carpenter shop. The plant was powered by steam (fueled by sawdust and shavings) and had electric lights that permitted 24-hour operation. Sixty-five workers were employed at the mill in its opening years. From the mill, tramways led to a lumber yard on the bluff and around the point to the landing on Wharf Rock. Milling capacity was 70,000 board feet in a 12-hour run. The company also owned a general store, a hotel and numerous cottages for its employees.

L.E. White died in 1894, leaving the lumber company to his son, William H. White. The younger man died two years later, and the company passed to his wife, Helen P. White. In 1900, she married Frank C. Drew, a San Francisco attorney, who developed a considerable interest in the redwood lumber industry.

The Drews' controlled the company until 1916, when they sold it to the Goodyear Redwood Lumber Co. The Goodyear operation continued to use the original L.E. White plant while introducing new techniques of skyline logging. It was less well-capitalized than L.E. White had been however, and faced a fluctuating market with a heavy bonded indebtedness. Because of falling lumber prices, the mill closed in 1930 and was dismantled in 1936-37. A new smaller mill was built on the old lumber yard site on the terrace by Daniels and Ross beginning in 1950, and operated from 1953 to 1967. It was dismantled the following year. The bulk of the unit was purchased by the state in 1978, with a small additional acquisition in 1983.

Prehistoric sites

An archeological survey of the entire unit in April 1990, encountered no prehistoric archeological sites.

Historic sites and features

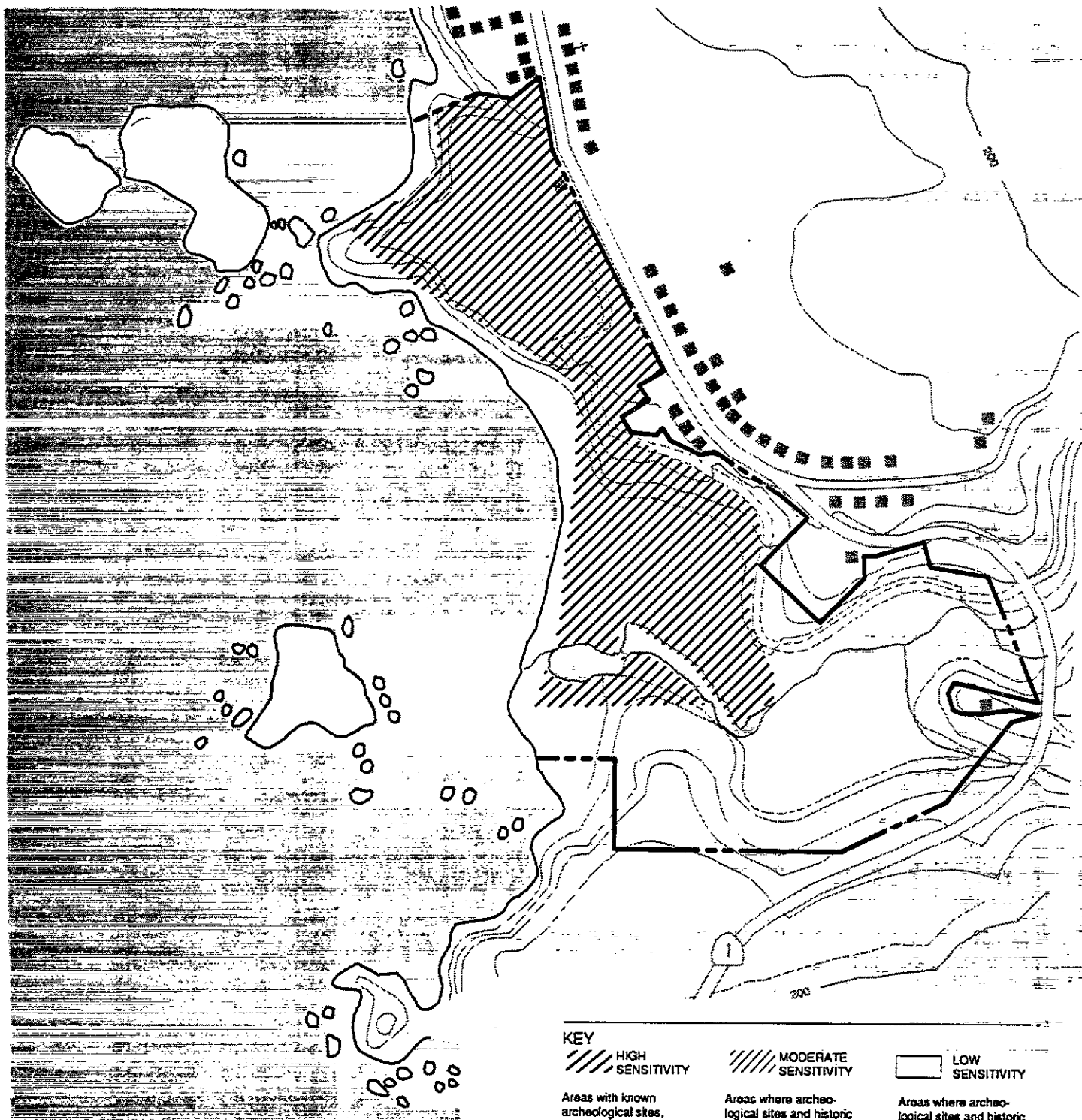
Virtually the entire unit is considered to be an historic site (see Map 7, Cultural Resource Sensitivity), since it comprises the area of the 19th-century mill operation, as well as the site of several early commercial structures which once existed along the highway. No formal investigations have been undertaken to test the preservation of subsurface remains, but local informants report that the burned remains of early structures exist beneath the fill imported in the 1950s to raise the level of the upper terrace. In addition, surviving early features include portions of the trestle for the tramway to Wharf Rock, much of the cribwork for the mill pond dam, and portions of an early fish ladder. Several concrete foundations are present, both on the terrace and at the base of the hill near the mill pond, but the former at least derive from the recent mill operated in the 1950s and 1960s.

Historic structures

The only structure in the unit is the mill office building, which until 1993 also housed the Elk post office. This 4,000 square foot mercantile neoclassical structure is located along State Highway 1 in the northeast corner of the unit. It is a squarish building with a low triple-gable roof concealed behind an elaborate parapet and cornice. The front facade is dominated by large windows which swing open on side pins. The original building was constructed in 1917. The northern portion containing the former post office appears to be an earlier separate structure attached subsequently, the original north facade parapet of the main building being extended across the front of the new addition. The building has been somewhat remodeled internally, but except for removal of the company safe and most of the original redwood panelling, most changes appear to be additive.

The Goodyear mill.





KEY

 **HIGH SENSITIVITY**

Areas with known archeological sites, historic structures or features and their immediate settings, or with a high potential for having archeological sites.

 **MODERATE SENSITIVITY**

Areas where archeological sites and historic structures or features are likely to occur, but that have not been discovered or recorded.

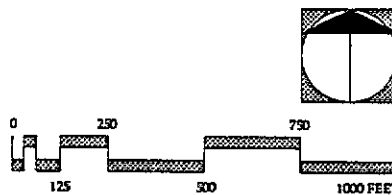
 **LOW SENSITIVITY**

Areas where archeological sites and historic structures or features are unlikely to occur, or are unlikely to be disturbed or damaged.

CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 7 Drawing No. 26660



Resource policy formation

The development of natural and cultural resource management directives is a multi-step process that includes:

- 1) The application of a classification to a unit of the State Park System that provides a general framework for management of resources;
- 2) A Declaration of Purpose that defines more specifically the purpose of the unit, its prime resources, and the broadest goals of management;
- 3) The delineation of a Zone of Primary Interest which describes the area where environmental changes outside the unit may impact unit resources and values; and
- 4) The formation of resource management directives designed to achieve specific objectives developed during an evaluation of resource conditions and general policy direction.

Classification

Classification establishes management and public use direction and affords certain protections under the Public Resources Code (PRC 5019.50 et seq.), Resource Management Directives for the Department of Parks and Recreation, and other provisions. An inventory of the unit's scenic, natural, and cultural features must be submitted by the department to the State Park and Recreation Commission for its consideration prior to classification action (PRC 5002.1).

State acquisition of the parcels owned to date began in 1978, followed by a small acquisition in 1983. Approximately 47 acres are currently in State Park System ownership.

On April 12, 1991, the State Park and Recreation Commission officially established the Greenwood Creek Project as a unit of the State Park System by classifying and naming the unit Greenwood Creek State Beach.

The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.56, identifies state beaches as a type of state recreation unit which is defined as followed:

State recreation units consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. ...In the planning of improvements to be undertaken within state recreation units, consideration shall be given to compatibility of design with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics. ...State beaches, consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves.

The unit is also included within the designation of state seashore. As defined in the Public Resources Code Section 5001.6, the Mendocino Coast State Seashore consists of specified state lands occurring along the coast from Jughandle Creek to the Gualala River. "Greenwood Creek Beach" is identified as a part of the state seashore.

The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.62, defines state seashores as follows:

State seashores consist of relatively spacious coastline areas with frontage on the ocean, or on bays open to the ocean, including water areas seasonally connected to the ocean, possessing outstanding scenic or natural

character and significant recreational, historical, archaeological, or geological values. State seashores may include underwater areas within them, but may not be established solely in the underwater environment.

The purpose of state seashores shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, ecological, and recreational values of the California coastline as an ecological region and to make possible the enjoyment of coastline and related recreational activities which are consistent with the preservation of the principal values and which contribute to the public enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of those values.

Improvements undertaken within state seashores shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment, recreation, and education in a manner consistent with the perpetuation of their natural, scenic, cultural, ecological, and recreational value. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, ecological, or recreational values of the seashore, or which are attractions in themselves, shall not be undertaken.

These classifications establish certain protections for the resources and guide the department in their management and operation. The directives in this Resource Element are designed to assist the department in achieving the goals outlined in the Public Resources Code definitions of state beaches and state seashores.

Declaration of purpose

A Declaration of Purpose is required by the Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b), "setting forth specific long-range management objectives ... consistent with the unit's classification." The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the unit in the context of the State Park System and the broadest goals of management. It includes an identification of prime resources, a broad statement of management goals consistent with unit classification, and a general statement of appropriate recreational opportunities. The impetus and purpose for acquisition of Greenwood Creek State Beach were to preserve beach access to this highly scenic area of the California coastline. The natural features include diverse marine environments, ocean frontage embracing sandy beaches and dramatic sea cliffs, riparian habitats, and marine terraces, each creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Cultural features include the historic mill office structure. Scenic and recreation opportunities are associated with the natural and cultural features. The Declaration of Purpose for Greenwood Creek State Beach shall be as follows:

The purpose of Greenwood Creek State Beach is to make available to the people for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment, in an essentially natural condition, the outstanding scenic, natural, and historic values, including: the coastline embracing offshore environs; stretches of sandy beach and the dramatic sea cliffs; the riparian habitats associated with Greenwood Creek, Bonee Creek, and Li Foo's Gulch; the headlands and marine terraces; the geology and plant and animal life; the architectural, industrial and archeological remnants of the early redwood lumber industry; and the scientific values therein.

The department shall define and execute a program of management to perpetuate the unit's declared values, and provide recreational facilities and interpretation that make these values available in a manner consistent with their perpetuation.

Zone of primary interest

The Zone of Primary Interest is a declaration of the department's concern for any environmental changes outside the unit that could jeopardize or degrade State Park System values.

At Greenwood Creek State Beach, the department is concerned about proposed off-shore oil drilling as well as road construction and logging on neighboring lands. Oil spills pose significant threats to marine resources. Esthetic qualities at the unit would also be threatened by oil spills and by visual intrusion from nearshore drilling rigs and platforms. The influence of road construction and upstream logging activities could cause environmental degradation particularly of the wetland habitats and anadromous fisheries within the unit due to sedimentation.

Resource management zones

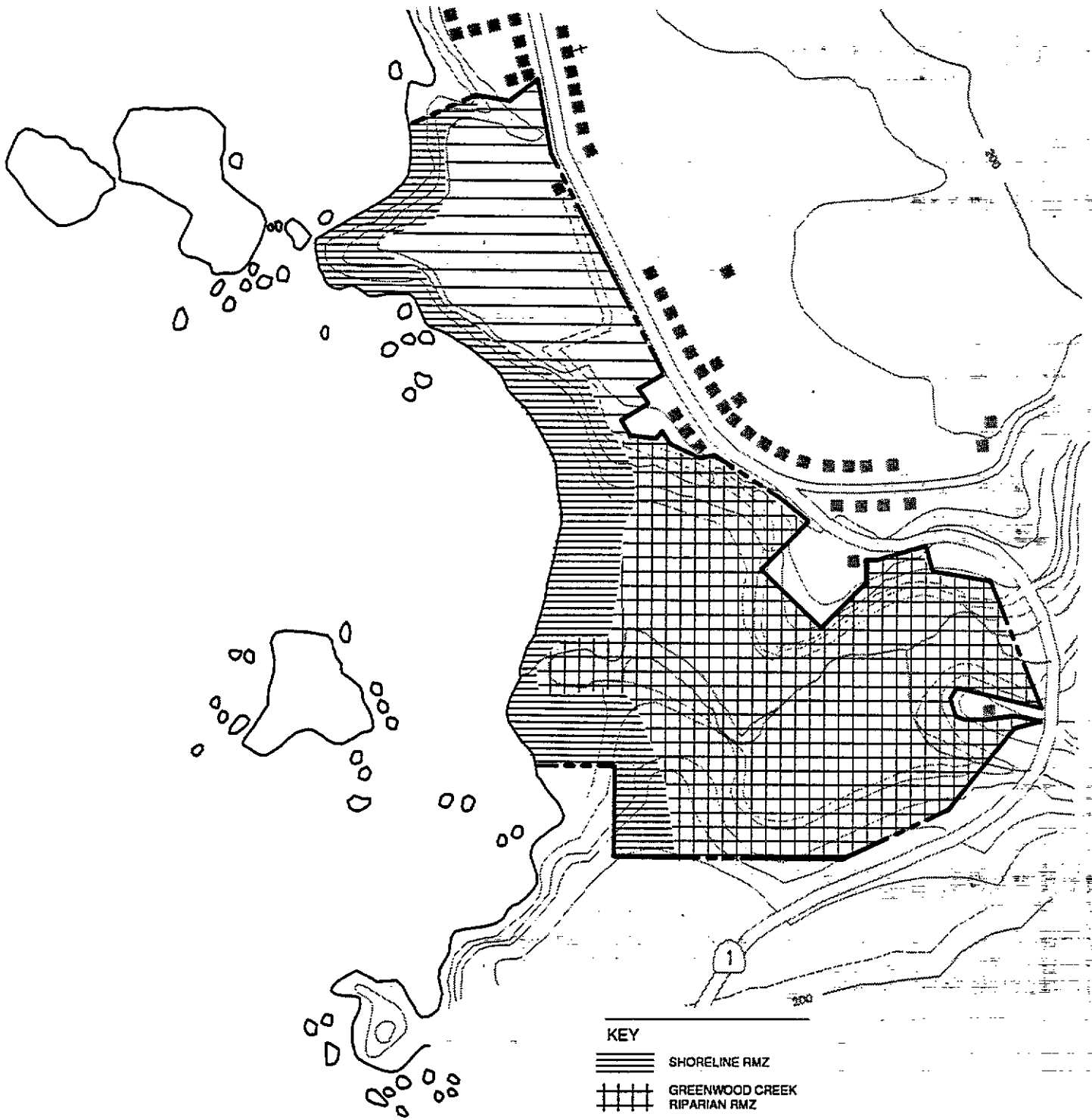
The development of Resource Management Zones (RMZs) begins with the evaluation of the ecological units and cultural resource information presented above in the Resource Summary and Evaluation. The evaluation of natural and cultural features helps decide the resource management approach most appropriate for a given area. Resources in the State Park System are generally managed under one of four approaches briefly described below:




Natural Process Management: Nature is recognized as a dynamic system with a complex of processes and interactions. Under this approach, natural processes are allowed to occur without interference, and where they have been altered or interrupted by human influence, attempts are made to restore processes to a natural condition.

Cultural Area Management: Preservation and interpretation of cultural features is given the highest consideration. This type of management is appropriate in areas of prime historical or archeological significance. Historic zones and historic landscape scenes and settings are managed under this approach.

Recreation Enhancement: Management to enhance visitor appreciation of natural and cultural resources calls for unique resource management approaches. For instance, management of natural vegetation in campgrounds may be based on ecological knowledge, but vegetation would be controlled to enhance visitor safety and facility maintenance.

Special Protection: Giving management priority to a specific element or condition is sometimes required or suggested by legislation earmarking acquisition funding, by unit classification, by declaration of purpose, as well as by federal, state, and local laws. Archeological site protection, scenic viewshed protection, rare species or rare habitat management, and management for a specific successional stage (e.g. Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve) are all examples of special protection.

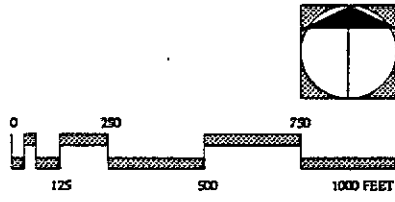


- KEY**
-  SHORELINE RMZ
 -  GREENWOOD CREEK RIPARIAN RMZ
 -  MARINE TERRACE/HISTORIC RMZ

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES

**GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT**

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 8 Drawing No. 26661



After an approach, or a blend of approaches, has been decided, geographic-based RMZs are delineated, founded primarily on ecological units and cultural sensitivity areas. Specific resource management objectives and directives are then developed for each RMZ. More than one management approach can apply to a single geographic area. In situations where management approaches may conflict, resolving conflict and identifying priorities can be guided by intent of unit classification and the Declaration of Purpose, as well as by professional judgment. The final RMZ may be subdivisions of ecological units, so that geographic-based conflicts between approaches can be resolved, or alternatively, an RMZ may include two or more ecological units with similar management approaches and objectives. Resource management approaches are not land-use designations. Rather, they are philosophies or strategies that guide the development of resource management objectives and directives.

The next step in the process is to establish specific objectives for resource management for each RMZ. Directives are then designed to achieve resource management objectives.

The final result of the process will be designated RMZs for all areas within the unit. Each RMZ will have an identified management approach or a blend of approaches, ranked resource management objectives, and when necessary, directives designed to meet specified objectives. Both the objectives and the directives are intended to guide the department in achieving the broader goals of the State Park System. Some resource management objectives have unitwide or regional significance, while other objectives and directives apply to more than one RMZ. Objectives and directives that have broader application than single RMZs are presented separately under the heading "General Directives."

The following RMZs were delineated after an analysis of the natural conditions, cultural features, and current human use patterns for each of the ecological units and cultural resource sensitivity areas presented in the resource summary (see Maps 3-7). A brief description and outline of the features and values leading to the appropriate resource management approach for each RMZ is presented in Table 1 below (see Map 8 for RMZ locations).

Table 1. RMZ features, values and resource management approach

Resource management zone	Natural and cultural resource values	Resource management approach
Shoreline RMZ		
The narrow strip of coastal strand and the ocean cliff faces comprise this RMZ.	Beach, tidepools, Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush, seabird rookeries, remnants of fish ladder and cribwork for historic mill pond and portions of old tramway to Wharf Rock.	Natural processes with special protection for sensitive species and habitats, and historic features.
Greenwood riparian RMZ		
This RMZ consists of the riparian flats and adjacent slopes along Greenwood and Bonee Creeks.	Rare plant communities, riparian ecosystem, steelhead, red-legged frog habitat.	Natural processes with special protection for sensitive species and habitats.
Marine terrace/historic RMZ		
This RMZ is comprised of the marine terrace north of Greenwood Creek bounded by the cliff edge and the eastern unit boundary.	Small stream with riparian habitat along north boundary, ocean views, mill office building.	Special protection of riparian system and scenic values. Cultural management in area of mill office building. Access and recreation enhancement when compatible with resources.

General directives

Directives in this and the following section of the Resource Element are included pursuant to Section 5002.2 (b) of the Public Resources Code, which states that "a declaration of resource management policy", shall be included "setting forth the precise actions and limitations required for the achievement of the objectives established in the declaration of purpose."

Presented below are objectives and directives that may apply to more than one RMZ, unitwide, or to regional matters. Directives pertaining to physical features are followed by those regarding biological resources, cultural resources, and esthetics and recreation, respectively. Table 2 details to which RMZs the general directives refer.

Geophysical processes

Liquefaction and Differential Settlement. Liquefaction involves significant reduction of strength in a buried layer of water-saturated silt or sand. The buried layer results in a temporary quick-sand like condition and ground failure. Differential settlement is the uneven settling of the ground surface as materials of different type respond differently to loading. This process may be the result of local liquefaction or differential compaction of alluvium during construction or earthquake shaking. Buildings with foundations in such layers may overturn, sink, or settle unevenly.

Low-lying coastal areas underlain by beach, lagoon, or wetland soils probably contain the structurally weak materials and high water tables necessary for liquefaction and differential settlement.

Directive: Structures with high visitor use should not be built in areas subject to liquefaction and differential settlement, or should be designed to eliminate the liquefaction factor.

Table 2. Application of general directives to resource management zones

General Directives	Shoreline RMZ	Greenwood Creek riparian RMZ	Marine terrace/historic RMZ
Liquefaction and Settlement	x	x	x
Tsunami Inundation	x	x	
Seismicity	x	x	x
Landslides	x	x	
Trail Development	x	x	x
Vegetation Management	x	x	x
Landscaping Plant Materials	x	x	x
Exotic Plants	x	x	x
Sensitive Plants	x	x	x
Livestock Grazing		x	x
Prescribed Fire		x	x
Fire Suppression		x	x
General Wildlife	x	x	x
Sensitive Wildlife	x	x	x
Special Interest Species	x	x	x
Wildlife, Special Management	x	x	x
Landscape Ecology	x	x	x
Historic Sites and Features	x	x	x
Scenic Preservation	x	x	x
Compatible Recreation	x	x	x

Tsunami Inundation. Tsunamis are large sea waves that originate directly or indirectly from earthquakes, submarine volcanic eruptions, or large submarine landslides. Available tsunami statistics do not directly cite Mendocino County. However, the unit lies between Crescent City in Del Norte County, where wave height and tsunami damage in California generally has been greatest regardless of point of origin, and San Francisco, where wave height due to tsunami can be expected to reach 8 feet at least once every 100 years.

All areas of the exposed coast lying below 25 feet above mean sea level would be subject to tsunami inundation that could damage park structures and injure park staff and visitors. Because the forces involved with tsunami inundation are so great, the only positive means of protection is to avoid areas subject to tsunamis.

Directive: All new structures shall be constructed in those coastal areas lying above approximately 25 feet above mean sea level.

Seismicity. Southern Mendocino County is not an area of high seismic activity. However, large movements were recorded nearby in the 1903 earthquake within the San Andreas fault zone and evidence of smaller earthquakes indicate the area will continue to be subject to earthquake shaking. The most probable source of earthquake shaking within Greenwood Creek State Beach is the San Andreas fault zone. The fault is capable of generating a magnitude 8.3 earthquake. Continued seismicity, ground rupture, and violent shaking are to be expected.

Directive: A geologist shall be consulted on the siting and design of permanent structures, and detailed site investigations and soil testing shall be conducted before the construction of major public projects to avoid potential earthquake damage.

Landslides. A number of small, generally shallow slides exist along road cuts, in steep valley and stream canyons, and along the steep-cliffed erosion-prone coastal headlands. Most of the slides are in weathered bedrock, colluvial material,

or in the more erosive terrace deposits. The intersections of stream channels with sea cliffs are also common localities for landslides. Landslides are particularly abundant within the San Andreas fault zone, and other slides undoubtedly exist in areas not field checked.

Damage due to landslides can be reduced or prevented by (1) the avoidance, selective removal, or stabilization of landslides in areas of proposed development, and (2) by regulating construction practices to include proper techniques for drainage control in all areas of construction such as road cuts and foot trails on steep slopes. In all cases, the first and critical step is to recognize the presence of pre-existing earth failures.

Directive: Generally, new buildings, roads, pipelines, water tanks, and septic tanks, shall not be constructed on landslides, or areas recognized as having high potential for slope failure. If facilities must be constructed in landslide areas, a site-specific geologic report shall be prepared early in the project planning process in order to evaluate the geologic conditions which would affect the proposed facility. This study shall be used to propose special modifications to the facility to lessen the potential impact from landslides.

Trail Development. Hiking trails are the primary means for visitors to experience undeveloped areas of the unit. For this reason they are a critical component of any development plan. They also may constitute a significant environmental impact in terms of esthetics, altered surface drainage, and damage to vegetation and cultural sites. In addition, they may bring visitors to areas with sensitive plant and/or wildlife populations.

Directive: New trail construction shall minimize adverse effects on natural, cultural, and scenic resources. For trails specified in the general plan, a unit-wide trails plan shall be prepared that considers the full range of environmental impacts on unit resources. All existing trails not a part of the general plan shall be abandoned and restored to natural contours and conditions.

Plant life

Vegetation Management. The preservation and perpetuation of representative examples of natural plant communities are statewide goals for the department. In addition, a central goal of natural area management in the State Park System is to restore, protect, and maintain native ecosystems, and indigenous flora and fauna.

The plant communities in Greenwood Creek State Beach have been impacted in the last 150 years by residential and industrial development, livestock grazing, plowing, alteration of the natural fire regime, and invasion by non-native species. These impacts have caused a shift in species composition, changes in the structure of plant communities, and a change in the pattern of communities at a landscape level. The changes in turn have generally had detrimental ecological effects on natural floral and faunal diversity, wildlife populations, hydrologic processes, nutrient cycling, and microclimate.

Directive: The primary objective of vegetation management in Greenwood Creek State Beach shall be to manage toward a natural condition with a minimum of disruption to natural processes. In order to perpetuate the natural diversity of native flora and fauna, a secondary objective shall be to restore and perpetuate native communities to the condition that would currently exist had they not been disrupted by Euroamerican influence.

In order to achieve these objectives, the department shall develop and implement a vegetation restoration and management plan for Greenwood Creek State Beach. The plan shall include at least the following features:

- 1) Identified management units (these may include more than one plant community).
- 2) An evaluation of current conditions, disturbance factors, and successional patterns.
- 3) An estimate of pre-Euroamerican era conditions.
- 4) Site-specific and quantifiable vegetation goals for each management unit.

- 5) Analysis of landscape level patterns and their implications for wildlife habitat in the unit and in adjacent lands.
- 6) An evaluation and prioritization of restoration opportunities for all management units based on the rarity, present condition, the level of threat, and the feasibility of restoration for each of the management unit's plant communities.
- 7) Establishment of management actions for each management unit that consider management needs, treatment costs, appropriate technology and techniques, and alternatives.
- 8) A monitoring and evaluation program that quantifies management effects and serves to guide adjustments to the plan.

All components of the vegetation restoration and management plan need not be completed before specific projects in individual management units are implemented; however, applicable components for each management unit must be completed prior to commencing work.

Landscaping Plant Materials. Non-native species can detract from the natural appearance of the unit, escape into the wild and displace native species.

Directive: Landscaping in developed areas should consist of species indigenous to the area. Non-native species, used because no indigenous species are suitable for the purpose or location, or that are used for interpretive reasons, shall be species incapable of naturalizing and spreading into other areas of the unit and those not requiring a permanent irrigation system.

Exotic Plants. Many exotic species have become naturalized in the unit and are successfully competing with native species. Perpetuation of native plant communities is dependent on control and removal of exotic invaders. Sea fig and pampas grass grow along the coastal bluffs and are a significant threat because they are highly invasive and can displace native species rapidly. Other exotic plants in the unit that require attention to keep them from spreading are Monterey cypress, Monterey pine and eucalyptus.

Directive: The department shall pursue a long-range objective of reducing exotic plants established in the unit. The highest priority for control efforts shall be given to those species most invasive and conspicuous in the unit.

Sensitive Plants. Sensitive plants include species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, threatened, or endangered. Species that are candidates for listing by the federal government are legally protected as if they were listed. Species listed by CNPS on their lists 1A and 1B meet the criteria for state listing and are protected as such.

One sensitive plant species occurs within Greenwood Creek State Beach: Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja mendocinensis*), which is on CNPS List 1B. Due to limited botanical exploration of the unit, yet unknown populations of these plants could still be found. Many other sensitive plant species known from the Mendocino coast could also potentially occur in the unit.

Sensitive plants can be inadvertently destroyed by facility development, maintenance programs, visitor use, or other activities, especially when the exact population locations, habitat requirements, and tolerances are not known.

Directive: Sensitive plants within Greenwood Creek State Beach shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation in accordance with state law (Fish and Game Code, Division 2, Chapter 10, Section 1900). Management plans shall be developed for all sensitive plant species found within the unit. All populations found shall be mapped.

Prior to any site-specific development, heavy use activities, or prescribed burns, additional surveys for sensitive plants shall be made during the flowering season in the areas that will be impacted.

Livestock Grazing. The State Park System (SPS) policy and philosophy, and enabling legislation, mandate that SPS units be managed by the department for the primary purposes of preserving scenic, natural and cultural resources, and providing public access and recreational opportunities to enjoy and gain an appreciation for these resource values. While livestock grazing may be an appropriate use of private land, and of public lands managed for multiple commodity and recreational uses, it is generally incompatible with SPS management objectives of preservation and public recreation. The Public Resources Code prohibits the commercial exploitation of resources in units of the State Park System.

Directive: Livestock grazing shall be prohibited in Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Prescribed Fire. Native Americans apparently burned oceanside terraces along the Mendocino coast in order to enhance hunting conditions and to promote the production of food plants. These fires probably occurred in the fall when coastal camps were abandoned for the interior. The fires burned primarily on terraces and occasionally burned into the redwood forests higher on the slope. Terraces were probably open perennial grasslands or pine savannahs, with lesser coverages of coastal scrub communities than what currently occurs. Lightning-caused ignitions are now extremely rare along the coastal strip, and historically, were probably similarly infrequent. Prescribed fire is a management tool that allows modern managers to simulate pre-Euroamerican influences that have shaped both the evolution of individual species and the pattern of vegetation across the landscape.

Directive: In accord with the department's prescribed fire management policies, fire shall be restored to its natural role in suitable ecosystems at Greenwood Creek State Beach. Unit-wide prescribed fire management plans that detail an ongoing program of prescribed fire use shall be prepared. They should be made part of and be consistent with the vegetation restoration and management plan. The prescribed fire plan should identify, as

nearly as possible, the pre-Euroamerican fire regime by estimating timing, frequency, intensity, and extent of these fires for each plant community in the unit.

The plan for prescribed fire use shall contain program objectives, guidelines and treatment constraints, specific burn plans, and provisions for monitoring and evaluation. Particular care shall be taken to minimize deleterious effects on the unit's natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Artificial modifications and processes shall be minimized. A program of prescribed fire shall not preclude in any way the necessity for wildfire prevention and suppression.

Fire Suppression and Prevention. Wildfire can be a threat to human life and property and can also severely damage State Park System resources. Because conventional fire control facilities and procedures often cause longer lasting damage to resources than does fire itself, the development of standards and procedures applicable to this unit is necessary.

Directive: A wildfire management plan that addresses wildfire prevention, presuppression, and suppression shall be developed by the department, in cooperation with the responsible fire control agencies. This plan shall include prevention measures; criteria, standards, and location of fire access roads and fire protection facilities; visitor evacuation routes; and acceptable fire suppression procedures.

The plan shall be consistent with primary unit resource values and major unit objectives. Department standards require a minimum disturbance of soil and primary emphasis on avoiding esthetic impacts in the location, construction, and maintenance of fire roads and fuelbreaks. Suppression methods shall be those that cause the least resource damage commensurate with effective control.

Animal life

General Wildlife Management. Animal life is an important part of natural ecosystems and adds interest and variety to the park experience. Greenwood Creek State Beach encompasses valuable wildlife habitat used by many species, some of which are classified as sensitive. Natural habitats altered by human influence since the Euroamerican settlement period can be restored or nearly so to conditions that would exist had natural processes not been disrupted. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, methods are available that are based upon principles of ecosystem management, consistent with the general policies of the department, and that avoid disturbance to other natural values of the unit. Protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations are major management objectives in the unit.

Directive: The department shall manage habitats for natural wildlife populations and shall avoid significant imbalances caused by human influences.

Sensitive Wildlife Management. For the purpose of addressing management concerns for important wildlife species, the definition for "sensitive wildlife" as used here shall include those species listed by state and federal agencies as threatened and endangered, and species under investigation as candidates for listing. Also, Department of Fish and Game's "species of special concern" and "fully protected species", and other species defined by state and federal agencies as sensitive, are included in this definition.

The state and federally-listed endangered American peregrine falcon and the California brown pelican have been seen foraging along or off the shore. The bald eagle, also a state and federally-listed endangered species, has been observed in the area, and the federally-listed endangered lotis blue butterfly is known from the area. The gray whale and the humpback whale, both federally-listed endangered species, may be seen from the unit.

Many wildlife species of special concern occur or may occur within Greenwood Creek State Beach. These species are of concern to the California Department of Fish and Game due to a statewide reduction in breeding populations, suitable habitat, or other threats to the populations. Some of these species are the osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, and burrowing owl. Other species of special concern that may be observed from the unit include the double-crested cormorant, California gull, and elegant tern.

Directive: Threatened and endangered wildlife species in the unit shall be a high management priority, and these species shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation in accordance with state and federal law.

Specific management programs shall be developed when appropriate for animal species that are threatened, endangered, or other species that are defined here as sensitive wildlife. Necessary and suitable habitat, where it exists, shall be perpetuated. Programs or projects undertaken shall be planned and designed so that sensitive wildlife and their requisite habitats will not be adversely affected.

To protect these species, their locations and habitats should be documented and mapped. The maps documenting their locations should not be generally available to the public. Information on reproductive/nesting success should be obtained only if possible without disturbance.

Special Interest Species. Special interest species are defined here as rare or unusual species, and species of special scientific, interpretive and educational interest. At this time, no terrestrial special interest species have been identified as an animal under this category that may be present in the unit. Steelhead trout and coho salmon are of special interest because they are presently considered a depleted resource by the Department of Fish and Game. The policy concerning steelhead trout is presented below in the Resource Management Zone Directives section.

Directive: Distribution of terrestrial special interest species, if observed in the unit, should be monitored. Observations of these species, active nest sites, and other important habitat resources for these species should be documented on unit base maps. Such maps should not be generally available to the public.

Wildlife Requiring Special Management Consideration. Certain wildlife species, both native and exotic can effect the natural balance of wildlife populations or cause public safety concerns. Feral or uncontrolled domestic dogs and cats are an unnatural part of the ecosystem and affect native wildlife through disturbance, predation, and competition for resources. A park visitor's experience can be disturbed by the sight or intimidating action of a stray or uncontrolled dog. A specific management program for control, removal, and population management could be developed and implemented when necessary. If deemed necessary, an interpretive/educational program could be developed.

Brown-headed cowbirds are a management concern due to their habit of nest parasitism, which threatens native songbird species.

Ticks are an invertebrate species of special management consideration on the Mendocino coast. Ticks are found in grassy or brushy areas, waiting to be brushed off onto warm-blooded host organisms, including park visitors. Mendocino County is an endemic area for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, and other tick borne diseases. Of particular concern for the unit is Lyme disease, which has dermatologic, cardiac, and arthritic manifestations, and which attacks the nervous system of humans, causing neuro-psychiatric disorders in its later stages. The western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) is implicated in Lyme disease in California, and mice (*Peromyscus sp.*), deer, birds, and the western fence lizard may serve as reservoirs for the pathogenic spirochete. From one to four percent of the ticks in Mendocino County may harbor the Lyme disease organism and, therefore, pose a potential threat to visitor health. To reduce the incidence of tick contact, signs can be posted

informing the public of the location of ticks, as well as the health hazard posed by the ticks. Information on avoiding ticks and Lyme disease symptoms could also be made available.

Directive: The department's objective is to eradicate or control exotic and feral animals in units of the State Park System, and to the extent that no broad-scale ecological damages are induced, to regulate, when feasible and warranted, extremely dangerous native wildlife species that are injurious to humans.

The department shall take appropriate measures, such as dissemination of public health information, to minimize the risk and incidence of tick contact with park visitors.

Landscape Ecology. The basic need for conservation of biological diversity, the importance of the habitat surrounding the unit, and the need for natural ecosystems to change and interact with their surroundings requires the department to expand its focus for ecosystem management. This expanded focus includes areas beyond unit boundaries, so State Park System property is viewed "not...as isolated reserves, but as integral parts of the complex economic, social and ecological relationships of the region in which they exist" (Hartzog 1972, Director, National Park Service).

The department recognizes the desirability of involvement in the management of lands outside unit boundaries when possible, to protect significant natural, cultural, scientific and recreational values. Landscape ecology deals with the pattern of objects and processes across the landscape. Protecting whole watersheds, preserving migration corridors, and preventing habitat fragmentation or isolation are some of the goals accommodated by this broader view. Management activities that reflect this regional framework include cooperative planning and management with adjacent land management agencies and interest groups. Providing landscape linkages and wildlife corridors between separate protected natural areas may also be approached through easements and leases. If lands of habitat importance adjacent or

near the unit, or if lands within unit watersheds should become available for purchase, the department should consider the factors discussed above when determining the suitability of the property for State Park System purposes.

Directive: The department's goal is to provide, administer, and manage areas of sufficient size and appropriate shape to be meaningful wildlife habitat preservation areas.

Specific recommendations and priorities for land acquisition are discussed in the Land Use Element of this General Plan.

Cultural Resources

Historic Site and Features. Several historic features from the L.E. White and Goodyear lumber operations survive at Greenwood Creek State Beach, and much of the unit is classified as an archeological site (CA-MEN-2282H) in which buried features and other remains survive. These features and remains represent an important era in the development of the redwood lumber industry which was of central importance in the history of the north coast.

These resources, which retain considerable interpretive and historic value, are not currently threatened, except by gradual decay. More serious threats may arise in the future, due to development, visitor use or coastal retreat.

Directive: The department shall protect and preserve the historic resources at Greenwood Creek State Beach. No ground-disturbing activities within the historic site shall be undertaken without prior archeological clearance, and no projects shall be undertaken which adversely effect surviving features from the L.E. White and Goodyear mill operations.

Esthetics and Recreation

Scenic Preservation. The Mendocino coast is well known for its scenic qualities and it is the visual quality and the accessibility of the area that draw visitors as well as new residents. The diverse landscape of this region of the coast offers the visitor a variety of scenic experiences from the ocean to the land, from wide open views of the sea, coastline, and dunes to the wooded hills of California's Coast Range, all represented on the southern Mendocino coast. The visual resources of the coast need protection and the Mendocino County Local Coastal Program has recognized this need in explicit policies concerning the visual resources, particularly addressing any obstruction of the coastal view from public areas and from State Highway 1. The proximity of the highway to the unit, the highway running parallel and adjacent to the unit, makes protection of the viewshed even more important. Visitors traveling on the highway represent the great majority of those who enjoy the unit's esthetic resources.

The scenic resources of the unit may be protected in a variety of ways, from well-planned facility development to the level of maintenance. Development can be integrated into the environment through the use of appropriate siting techniques, scale, materials, and colors. Primary park facilities can be located in areas close to the unit's periphery, and in areas most accessible by motor vehicle, at the same time preserving the scenic qualities of the ocean views from State Highway 1, as called for in the Mendocino County Local Coastal Program. Land use or facility development that significantly impairs or detracts from the views of motorists passing through the unit should not be permitted. Signs should be kept to a minimum and strategically located.

Directive: The department's objective is to protect the scenic resources of Greenwood Creek State Beach from all unnecessary degrading intrusions.

Utility Easements. A community water line and a power transmission line cross the unit over Greenwood Creek and the marine terrace. These utilities and their easement corridors constitute visual intrusions that are incompatible with the otherwise natural appearance of the unit. Ultimately, these utilities and their associated rights-of-way should be removed and the natural landform and vegetative cover restored. This would benefit the esthetic responsibilities for preserving scenic features.

Directive: The department's goal is to bring about the relocation and elimination of the existing community water line and power transmission line, along with the associated rights-of-way through the unit, and to restore the areas to natural conditions. Short of removal, undergrounding, if feasible and environmentally compatible, would be preferable to the existing condition.

Compatible Recreation Activities. The natural resources of Greenwood Creek State Beach provide for high quality scenic and ocean-related recreation. It is a primary mission of the department to provide the public with recreational opportunities in a manner consistent with the perpetuation of these resources.

Directive: The department's objective is to provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with the scenic, natural and cultural resource values of the unit.

Resource management zone directives

Presented below are the individual RMZs developed for Greenwood Creek State Beach. Each RMZ includes a ranked list of resource management objectives based on the management approach presented earlier under the subheading Resource Management Zones. Where needed, specific directives have been developed to achieve stated objectives.

Shoreline RMZ

Resource Management Objectives:

- 1) Preserve and protect ecosystem processes and elements;
- 2) Give high management priority to sensitive species and habitat protection;
- 3) Develop recreational access that allows for natural geologic processes to occur.

Submerged Subtidal Lands Lease. Underwater resources offshore at Greenwood Creek State Beach are of statewide significance including diverse habitats associated with the numerous seas stacks and diverse underwater topography. Biologically, this area is valuable due to the diversity of habitats and marine invertebrates. Recognition of this unique marine area and additional protection from commercial and sport harvest is considered necessary to help to insure perpetuation of the resource.

The creation of an underwater portion of this unit requires the lease of a designated area from the State Lands Commission. Underwater units are established in areas of unique biological resources (Underwater Natural Preserves, State Reserves, State Parks) or to promote recreational diving experiences (Underwater State Recreation Areas).

Directive: The department shall petition the State Lands Commission for a lease of subtidal lands off of Greenwood Creek State Beach. This leasehold should cover all natural features identified as significant by the department and its Advisory Board on Underwater Parks and Reserves. Once the leasehold is consummated, the area shall be

managed to perpetuate the significant natural values. The department shall then request the State Park and Recreation Commission to consider classifying the submerged lands as a Natural Preserve and Underwater State Recreation Area. The department shall also petition the State Fish and Game Commission for establishment of Ecological Reserve status with special regulations on commercial and sport fishing and kelp beds as may be necessary to ensure the perpetuation of this unique marine ecosystem.

Offshore Petroleum Development. The federal government has placed a moratorium on petroleum development off the northern California coast until the year 2001; however, offshore petroleum development along the Mendocino coast is a possibility during the life of this General Plan. Petroleum development would not only result in the construction of offshore platforms, but would also require substantial onshore development for support facilities during all phases of petroleum exploration, development, and production.

Onshore Impacts: If petroleum reserves are developed, the onshore support facilities could include marine supply terminals, petroleum refineries, pipelines and construction yards. Traffic on local highways would increase and local airports would become the helicopter support base for air supply to the petroleum platforms, creating a visual and acoustic distraction within adjacent State Park System units. The highly visible and lighted platforms would effect open ocean vistas day and night.

Marine Impacts: No petroleum development along the California coast has occurred in an area similar to the Mendocino coast. Sea conditions are generally rough, and winds tend to be onshore, making petroleum recovery an improbability and clean up activities extremely difficult in the event of a spill. There is no local harbor facility of adequate size to maintain a large clean up response fleet. Rocky headlands, offshore sea stacks, and small pocket beaches would be nearly impossible to clean. Local fisheries might also be impacted by a spill.

Directive: If petroleum reserves are developed along the Mendocino coast the department shall:

1) prohibit access to or across lands and waters within its jurisdiction for the purpose of any activity associated with offshore petroleum development having the potential to damage or impair State Park System values and resources. This prohibition shall apply to all petroleum companies and companies associated with petroleum exploration, development, production or transportation. The department shall work with other state and county agencies to insure that DPR ownerships are protected, and if damaged, a restoration program instituted.

2) cooperate with other responsible agencies to develop a regional petroleum development response plan to delineate issues and management concerns in coastal Mendocino County. The department shall be involved in the development and operation of a petroleum spill response network.

3) initiate and maintain an ecological monitoring program in tidal and subtidal areas in order to establish baseline informa-

tion and develop criteria to insure replacement of natural and cultural resources that may be damaged or lost due to petroleum development impacts.

Sea Cliff Retreat. Sea cliff retreat is an ongoing natural process that should be considered when designing and placing facilities near bluff edges. The average rate of cliff retreat is difficult to determine because of the different rock types and variations in their rates of erosion. Basalt erodes very slowly, perhaps at most a few inches each year. Less resistant sedimentary rocks and landslide materials are much more prone to erosion and could retreat as much as tens of feet per year.

Directive: A zone of exclusion shall be established to include the base, face, and top of all bluffs and cliffs extending inland to a plane formed by a 45-degree angle from the horizontal at the base of the cliff or bluff. No new structures shall be constructed within this zone. A zone of demonstration shall be established in the unit to extend inland from the zone of exclusion to the intersection of the ground surface with a plane inclined 20 degrees from the horizontal from the toe of the cliff or bluff (see Figure 1).

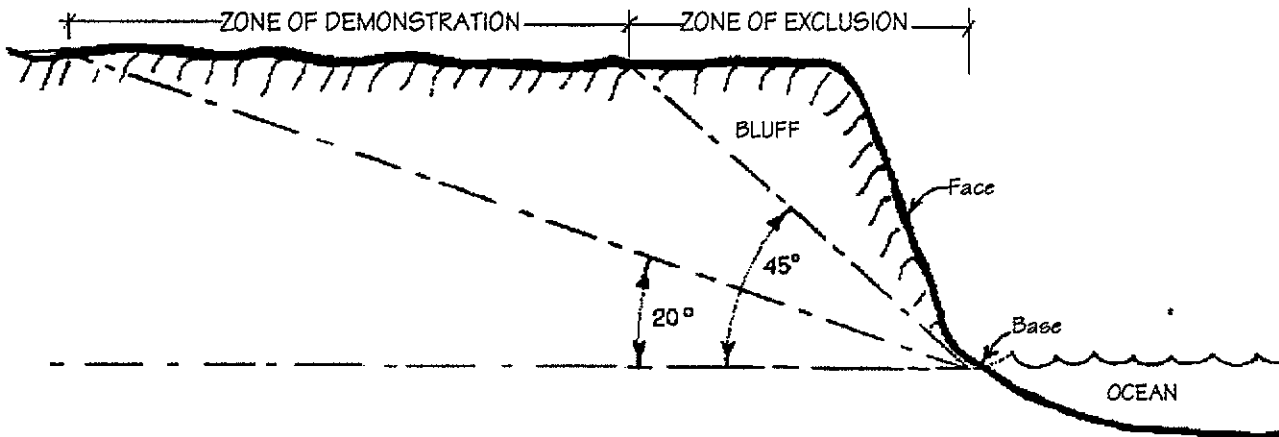


FIGURE 1. Zones of Demonstration and Exclusion

Monitoring Erosion and Sand Loss. Beach erosion and sea cliff retreat have been recognized as serious threats to archeological sites, facilities, and visitor use of State Park System coastal units. Better baseline information on erosion rates is needed to plan for resource management, appropriate land use, and visitor safety.

Directive: A monitoring program shall be established to document: 1) sea cliff retreat, 2) landslides, 3) beach elevation, 4) beach width, and 5) dune migration. The program should include comparison of historical and recent aerial photographs, ground photos with explanations, and installation of permanent monuments, and should be coordinated with any data collection efforts by the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

Protection of Marine Life. Biologically diverse marine resources exist adjacent to Greenwood Creek State Beach. Heavy visitor use of the tidal and subtidal areas of the unit could adversely affect the offshore underwater environment. Urchin and kelp harvests have recently increased due to increased popularity of these marine organisms as food items and changes in California Department of Fish and Game policy.

Directive: To the extent consistent with the jurisdiction vested in the Department of Parks and Recreation, the intertidal and subtidal marine resources located immediately adjacent to the terrestrial environs of Greenwood Creek State Beach shall be considered and protected in perpetuity as a resource of public importance. Marine ecosystem management should include protection of intertidal habitats and the kelp beds offshore. Marine resources management activities shall include enforcement of applicable regulations concerning extraction of marine resources and should stress informing the public of existing state laws.

Recreational uses in the underwater environment at the unit shall be consistent with the preservation of resource values. If public use of the unit results in a significant adverse impact on the marine resources, these areas

may be closed temporarily in order to implement rehabilitation efforts.

Shoreline Protective Devices. There are currently no known threats to public or private developments by beach or bluff erosion occurring at Greenwood Creek State Beach. However, as the coastline continues to develop (change), beach segments could someday be suggested for protection by riprap, revetments, seawalls, or other structures to protect public or private developments. Structural protective measures are not consistent with the general objectives for resource management within the State Park System.

Directive: The department shall cooperate in developing regional, non-structural solutions to coastal erosion problems and may undertake structural protective measures only if bioengineering or other non-structural measures (i.e. relocation of a facility, setback, redesign, or beach replenishment) are not feasible. If a protective structure is constructed (riprap, rock revetment, seawall, etc.), the structure shall not:

- 1) significantly reduce or restrict beach access;*
- 2) significantly affect shoreline processes and sand supply;*
- 3) significantly increase erosion on adjacent properties;*
- 4) cause harmful impacts on vegetation, wildlife or fish habitat;*
- 5) be placed further than necessary from the development requiring protection; or*
- 6) create a significant visual intrusion.*

Geologic Specimen Collection. The collection of onshore coastal rock specimens, when it is for the purpose of estimating petroleum-bearing potential and reservoir characteristics of offshore geologic formations, falls into the category of commercial collection. Commercial collection of park resource for profit is prohibited by Title XIV, Division 3, Chapter 6, Section 4610.2, California Code of Regulations.

Directive: The department shall not permit the collection of geologic specimens for the purpose of determining petroleum-bearing potential and reservoir characteristics of offshore geologic formations.

Greenwood Creek riparian resource management zone

Resource Management Objectives:

- 1) Preserve and protect riparian ecosystem processes;
- 2) Give high management priority to sensitive species;
- 3) Protect natural development of riparian vegetation;
- 4) Allow natural fluvial processes to occur;
- 5) Protect riparian ecosystem from deleterious upstream influences.

Riparian Zone Geomorphology. Natural rivers and streams have an equilibrium in which the components of the fluvial system including watershed, length, slope, width, floodplain, channel depth, and bedform evolve in relationship with each other. The equilibrium derived from the proper relationship of these components to one another determines the character of the watercourse and results in a diversity of streambank and floodplain vegetation and habitat necessary for both aquatic and terrestrial riparian animal life.

Directive: Where watercourses are not in equilibrium, the proper relationship of one fluvial component to another shall be determined and rehabilitated whenever possible. In situations in which a watercourse or floodplain must be modified in any way, the components of the natural fluvial system and their proper relationship to one another shall be determined and incorporated, whenever possible, into the design of the channel and/or floodplain modification project so that the natural dynamic processes of the watercourse shall be protected and/or rehabilitated.

Trail access in the riparian corridor where developed and maintained shall be compatible with the natural resource values and shall not disrupt or interfere with the natural dynamics of the watercourse. The construction of new structures and/or permanent facilities shall be avoided within the riparian corridor.

Permanent engineered structures for flood control, by their static nature, are in conflict with the flexibility demanded by the dynamic processes of rivers and streams, and inevitably require protective measures that are inconsistent with the general objectives for resource management in the State Park System.

Directive: Flood control measures taken by the department shall not include structures or devices that impede the natural periodic inundation of the riparian corridor, or that impose unnatural fluvial processes.

Wetlands Soil Constraints. Water interacting with texture has a strong influence on soil strength. Water weakens the bond between particles and makes it easier for particles to shift and compact under a load. Human, animal, and wheel traffic damages wetlands soil by destroying vegetation and compacting it into a sodden mass that resists revegetation when dry. When wetlands soil loses its vegetative cover and dries, it is highly susceptible to wind erosion.

Directive: All trails and roadways through wetlands areas shall be avoided, but where needed shall be designed and constructed to allow access over, but not on, structurally weak wetlands soils.

Anadromous Fish. Anadromous streams within the coastal Mendocino area support runs of steelhead rainbow trout and coho salmon. The Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act of 1988 (Section 6900 et sub. of the Fish and Game Code) recognizes the drastic decline of salmon and steelhead trout populations over the past forty years, primarily as a result of lost stream habitat on many streams in the state. In summary, the Act recognizes that reliance upon hatchery production is at a maximum percentage that it should occupy within the state and, when both natural and hatchery production are feasible, preference shall be given to natural production. Protection of and an increase in the naturally spawning salmon and steelhead trout resources of the state must be accomplished primarily through the improvement of stream habitat, and such an improvement would provide a valuable public

resource to the residents of the state. One legislative declaration within the Act pertinent to park resources includes doubling the current natural production of salmon and steelhead trout in the state by the end of this century; a second declaration requires that existing natural salmon and steelhead trout habitats shall not be diminished further without offsetting the impacts of the lost habitats.

The coho salmon resources within Mendocino County coastal streams have been identified as having unique genetic attributes, uncontaminated by hatchery stocks. Many of the coho salmon runs in the area occur in small, short stream systems, and are referred to as short-run coho. These short-run coho are recognized as unique within the state. Small streams can be quickly altered or impacted from inappropriate land uses.

Coho salmon runs have been eliminated from Greenwood Creek. Steelhead runs still occur in this stream system, but at levels that are reduced when compared to historic run sizes. The Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act identifies improving natural production of salmon and steelhead through the improvement of stream and streambank conditions or changes in streamflow operations, without an effect on land ownership or land use practices. These conditions generally are applicable to both streams within the unit. The American Fisheries Society's 1991 list of depleted Pacific salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat from California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho identifies threats to the various stocks (fish that spawn in a particular river system, or portion of it, at a particular season, and that do not interbreed to any substantial degree with any group spawning in a different place, or in the same place at a different season) on the Pacific coast of the mainland United States. This list includes a stock of coho salmon identified in "California small coastal streams north of San Francisco Bay" and given status B, "at moderate risk of extinction". Individual streams were not

identified because adequate information is not known about these small systems. However, it seems likely that the individual stream systems would be considered as additional, unique stocks. The threats to this group were identified by "The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range (this category also includes mainstem passage and flow problems)." Management of the streams for the protection or improvement of coho salmon and steelhead trout spawning areas, juvenile, yearling, and smolt habitats, overwintering pool habitat, critical habitat for adult spawners, and migration corridors up and downstream would benefit anadromous fish populations and aid to restore these important resources.

Directive: The department shall acknowledge the sensitivity of the anadromous salmonids in the Greenwood Creek system and shall follow the goals of the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Anadromous Fisheries Program Act to improve and protect conditions in anadromous streams for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Anadromous streams within Greenwood Creek State Beach shall be managed to improve or protect the natural production of coho salmon and steelhead trout. Restoration work shall also consider habitat needs for other native aquatic or terrestrial organisms.

The department's intent is to preserve genetic integrity when restoring and maintaining native animal populations, including fish, to appropriate habitats within the State Park System. When restocking stream systems that historically contained runs of coho salmon, the use of local, native strains shall be used whenever available. Hatchery reared fish should be used only if reared from pure, wild parental stock taken from nearby or adjacent stream systems. Artificial rearing facilities within the unit may be appropriate on an interim basis only for the restoration of coho salmon runs.

Red-legged Frogs. There are two subspecies of red-legged frogs in California, the California red-legged frog, (*Rana aurora draytonii*), and the northern red-legged frog, (*R. a. aurora*). The historic distribution of the California red-legged frog included most of southern California, including the western edge of the deserts, the Central Valley, the coastal area, including the Coast Ranges from San Diego to Mendocino County. The distribution of the northern red-legged frog within California includes coastal portions of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and possibly Sonoma Counties. The area along the coast between the Marin-Sonoma County line and the Mendocino-Humboldt County line is a zone of overlap for the two subspecies of the red-legged frog. Greenwood Creek State Beach is in the middle of this area, but no surveys for red-legged frogs were conducted in the drainages within the unit. California red-legged frogs are a species of special concern, their populations in southern California and in the Central Valley are virtually gone. The major populations are in the Coast Ranges and in healthy coastal wetlands. The distribution of the two subspecies of red-legged frogs within the zone of overlap is not well understood. It is possible that the distribution of the two subspecies may be associated with the movement of land masses along the two sides of the San Andreas fault in this region. The two subspecies are thought to be reproductively isolated because the northern red-legged frog calls underwater, while the California red-legged frog calls above water. Management of the wetland and riverine habitats in the unit may influence habitat available for either subspecies of red-legged frog.

Directive: The department's objective is to protect the biotic diversity and integrity of the habitats within Greenwood Creek State Beach. Toward this end, the unit shall be surveyed to determine if red-legged frogs are present. Habitat used by any frogs found will be documented and mapped.

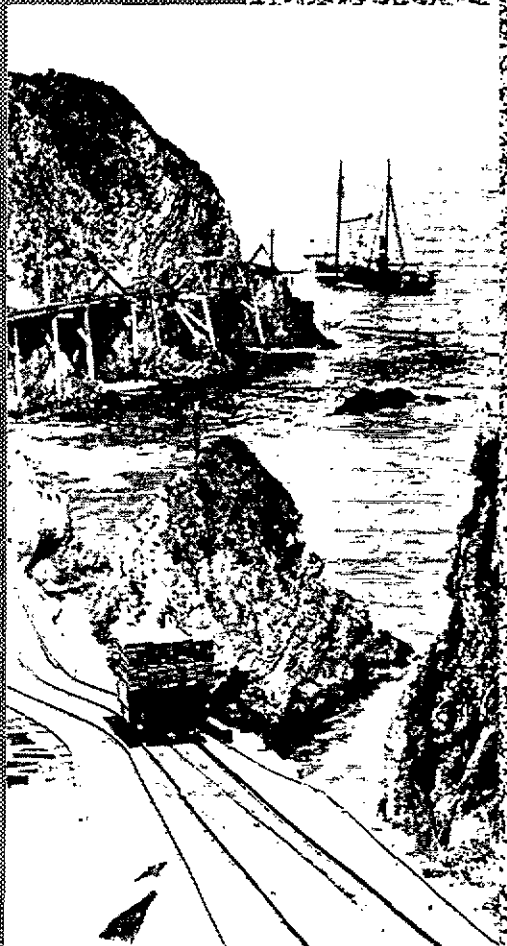
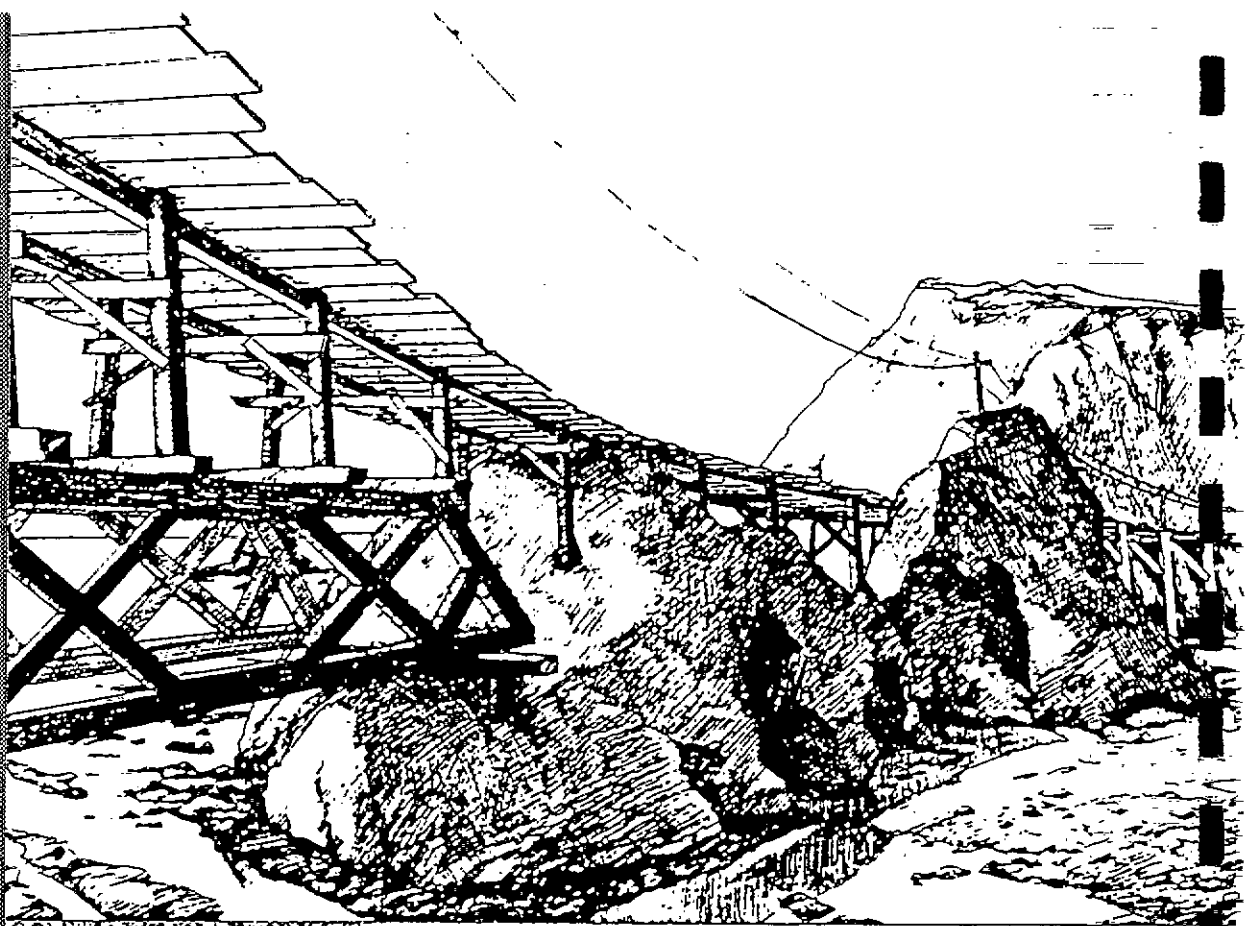
Marine terrace/historic resource management zone

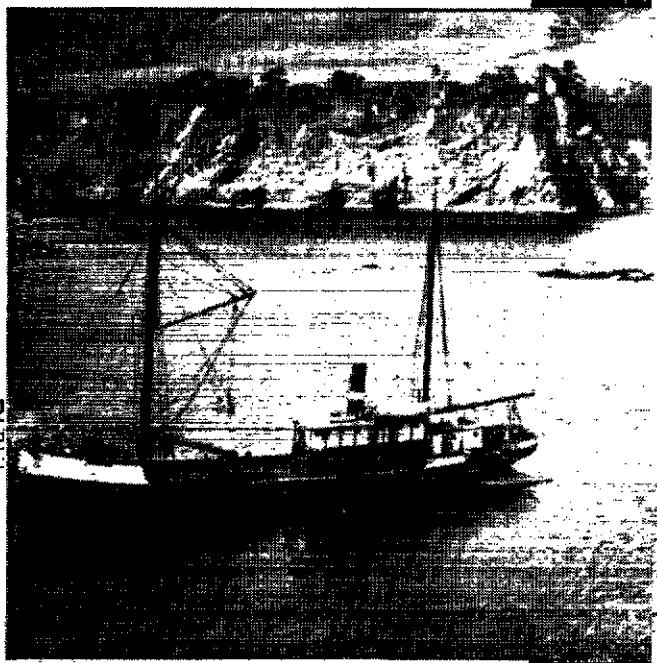
Resource Management Objectives:

- 1) Protect Li Foo's Gulch stream corridor on north boundary;
- 2) Protect and maintain scenic views;
- 3) Preserve and protect historic structures;
- 4) Enhance recreational opportunities compatible with above objectives.

Mill Office Building. The mill office building is one of the few surviving structures on the coast representing the mill operations in the days of doghole ports and railroad and donkey engine logging. Although the structure is somewhat modified internally, considerable information survives about original conditions. The building's location on State Highway 1 makes it immediately accessible to visitors, while its spaciousness lends itself to a variety of public uses.

Directive: The mill office building (including the former post office addition) shall be maintained in an historically accurate condition. No restoration or remodeling will be undertaken prior to completion of a thorough historic structure investigation. Any use of the building will be compatible with the retention of existing historic fabric.

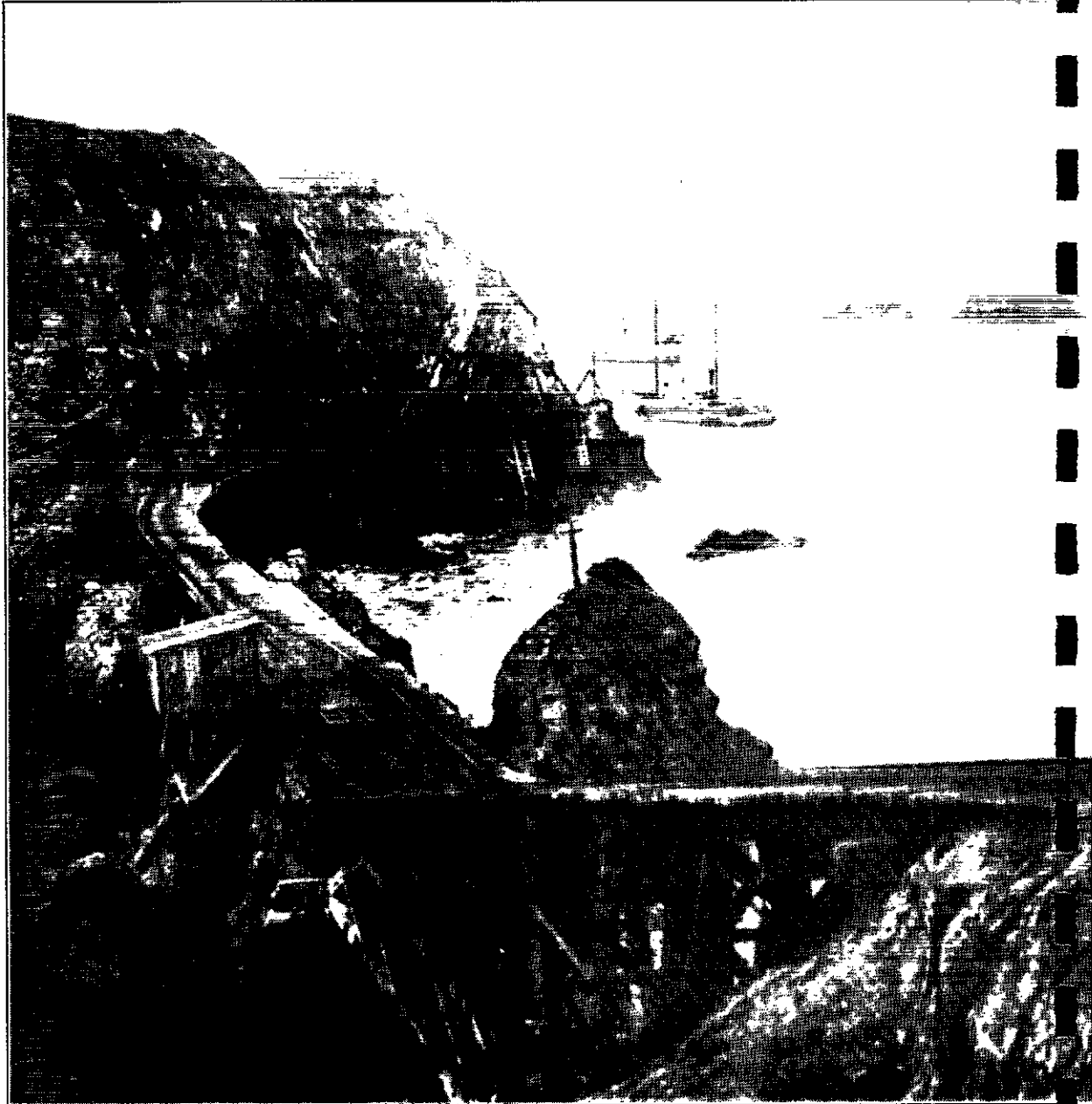




INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Interpretation in the State Park System aims at enhancing public enjoyment through increasing visitor understanding of significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and by encouraging appreciation of their values. Interpretation is based on the premise that knowledge deepens the park experience, providing lasting benefits not only to individuals but to society in general and, finally, to the parks themselves through wiser use. The Interpretive Element works toward this goal by identifying appropriate park themes as well as a variety of facilities and programs for their presentation.

Interpretive goals and objectives



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT



From the 1890s to the 1930s, Greenwood Wharf carried lumber from the marine terrace down to Wharf Rock where it was loaded onto waiting schooners.

Goal: To motivate and prepare visitors to carefully enjoy, understand, and appreciate natural and historic areas.

Objectives:

- To focus interpretive exhibits on the immediate area.
- To use a variety of interpretive media, including exhibits, guided walks, self-guided walks, auto tours of the Mendocino coast, audio-visual programs, collections, and sales of publications.

Goal: To meet the special needs of all ages and abilities, and encourage visitors to return to the park.

Objectives:

- To provide "sensory-rich" interpretive media.
- To provide full access for mobility-impaired visitors.
- To aim interpretation at various ages, interests, and abilities.

Goal: To encourage visitors to extend learning beyond the park.

Objectives:

- To coordinate themes with those used in the schools, and provide publications to the schools.
- To provide bibliographies to visitors.

Goal: To encourage visitors to see the Mendocino coast as a fragile and complex system.

Objectives:

- To explore, through interpretation, the complex natural and human interactions that occur there.
- To examine changes in resource-related attitudes and land uses, and to discuss their consequences over time.
- To educate visitors that preserving and restoring ecological integrity is important, and that they are a critical part of the effort.

Interpretive themes

Themes define the point of view to be given to the interpretation of a unit's resources. Since this is an element of a general planning document, the themes recommended here will be kept relatively broad. The goal is to provide planners of future interpretive development and programs at this unit both thematic definition and enough creative leeway to successfully complete their interpretive projects. Such future planning will necessarily entail a more detailed definition of these interpretive themes.

Thematic development has been coordinated for the nine Mendocino District state park system units covered by this general planning process. Interpretive resources for these units were listed and compared. Units were ranked according to how well they represented each resource. These rankings, existing interpretive efforts, and distances between units were analyzed to arrive at suggested interpretive themes for each unit. The goals are to tell the best stories where and when they can be best told and to avoid redundancy. As such, the following themes are not exhaustive. For example, marine mammals live offshore of all these units, but this is only recommended as an interpretive theme for the units where they are commonly seen.

This unit's themes are presented in three ways: the *unifying theme*, *primary themes*, and *secondary themes*. The unifying theme provides a conceptual focus for the interpretive programs of the Mendocino Coast state park system units. The unifying theme also sets the overall interpretive tone and direction, and implies the desired result interpretation should have on visitors' attitudes and perspectives. The unifying theme is presented exclusively through the interpretation of the primary and secondary themes. Primary themes define the most important ideas to be interpreted, which should naturally receive more emphasis. Secondary themes provide support and interpretive context for the primary themes.

The unifying interpretive theme for this unit is:

Explore how natural forces, plants, animals, and people continually affect this fragile and dynamic coast.

Primary Theme

Enjoying and Preserving the Mendocino Coast: You can safely enjoy the Mendocino Coast and leave it unmarred for others and for you to enjoy in the future.

This theme helps visitors make decisions that lead to enjoyable, safe, and low-impact use of this unit's resources. This information can be conveyed through take-home interpretive materials (trail guides, the *North Wind* guide, guidebooks, maps, local history books, videocassettes), audiovisual programs, guided walks, roving interpretation, exhibits, and contact stations. About 11,000 day-use visitors (mostly local) come to this unit annually to hike, surf, sea kayak, sportfish, watch whales, picnic, beachcomb, birdwatch, and scuba and skin dive.

Primary Theme

Making a Living on the Coast: Timber cutting, milling, and coastal shipping from doghole ports were the beginnings of many coastal towns, shaping generations of their citizens.

The main story at this unit concerns the redwood logging and milling operation around which the town of Greenwood grew and which dominated the lives of its citizens. In 1875, a small mill was built a few miles up Greenwood Creek. L. E. White bought this mill in 1884 and soon built a schooner landing on Wharf Rock. In 1888-89, White built a large mill pond and mill at the mouth of Greenwood Creek and laid a narrow-gauge rail line up Elk Creek. White's lumbering operation was considered quite innovative for the day, having two band sawmills, gang edgers and planers, and machine and carpenter shops. Sixty-five workers could mill 70,000 board-feet in 12 hours. The company's general store, hotel, and

cottages recaptured a good deal of the money its employees were paid. The mill facilities changed hands and the operation was down-scaled, eventually closing in 1930 and being dismantled in 1936-37. A new, smaller mill was built on this site and operated between 1953 and 1967.

Secondary Theme
Underwater Parks and Preserves:
Helping preserve the Mendocino Coast's marine heritage.

This theme will be implemented if the proposed underwater natural preserve is approved for this unit. It will describe the purpose, resources, and rules of the preserve.

Secondary Theme
Preserving the Coast's Natural Heritage: Native species populations that are rare, threatened, or endangered must be actively managed.

Each native species plays an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of its ecosystem.

This unit has the following rare, threatened, or endangered species which must be actively managed to help preserve them: American peregrine falcon, brown pelican, and the Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush.

Secondary Theme
Preserving the Coast's Natural Heritage: Disrupted natural processes, such as anadromous fish runs, must be actively reinstated. Anadromous fish, such as Coho salmon and steelhead, are now absent from many Mendocino coast streams where they once spawned. Efforts to reestablish disrupted anadromous fish access to Greenwood Creek and to improve stream habitat to



An early "dinky," circa 1914, at the Rollerville Landing operation of the L.E. White Lumber Company.

support reproducing populations of anadromous fish should be interpreted.

Secondary Theme
A Coast in Constant Change: Restless atmospheric and oceanic forces are daily changing this dynamic and fragile coast.

The Mendocino coast's weather patterns of fog, winter storms, and summer droughts are part of the constant exchange of air and moisture between the equator and the poles and between the ocean and continental surfaces. The cold southward-moving California Current, upwelling currents, local waves, and tides are part of the dynamic ocean system that moves energy, minerals, and nutrients around the earth.

Secondary Theme

Discover the Kelp Forest: From their anchoring holdfasts to their floating fronds, towering forests of kelp shelter and nourish diverse and colorful lifeforms.

To survive, giant kelp requires a hard surface for its holdfasts to attach to, cool and clear seawater in moderate motion, and rich nutrients. Wherever these conditions are found, lush beds of giant kelp flourish along the Mendocino Coast. Similar to terrestrial forests, kelp forests support many kinds of animals in a layered three-dimensional habitat that goes through seasonal changes. Animals find greatly different survival conditions in the different layers of both kinds of forests. However, unlike land forests, kelp forests absorb all their nutrients directly from the water that envelopes and supports them. Exceptionally fast-growing, a giant kelp plant usually lives only one to seven years before it is torn from its anchoring rock by a storm wave. During its life, a giant kelp supports and shelters a rich variety of marine life and, like a fallen tree, in its death a washed-up kelp supports a new food chain of decomposers.

Secondary Theme

Discover the Rocky Shore: The colorful and varied lifeforms of the rocky shore have evolved fascinating ways of surviving in this productive yet harsh intertidal environment. The rocky shore is a wonderful place to observe the variety, abundance, adaptations, and beauty of marine plants and animals. Nearly all phyla of invertebrate animal are represented at the rocky shore, many in great variety and profusion. Many ancient, highly successful, and unusual animal forms and behaviors can be closely observed at the rocky shore, particularly at the lowest tides. The rocky shore is unsurpassed as a window into the marvels of ecology and evolution. Many rocky shore organisms live in specific zones that have the conditions they are best adapted for. This tendency accounts for the visual banding of the intertidal. The reproductive, feeding, and protective adaptations of rocky shore life are complex, varied, and fascinating.

Secondary Theme

Coastal Bluff Ecosystems: Plants and animals of the exposed sea stacks and coastal bluffs are well adapted to living with wind, salt-spray, and steep slopes.

The plants and animals of this harsh ecosystem are subjected to high winds carrying sand particles and sea salt. Soil development is poor and landslides are common. Many of the bluff scrub plants are succulent perennials, an adaptation to the drying winds and high salt levels found in this habitat. This chemical desert of sorts has produced many adaptive similarities to desert species. The rare Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush occurs in the coastal bluff scrub at this unit. The steep inaccessible nature of this ecosystem offers excellent resting and nesting sites for a number of birds, including the common murre, western gull, pigeon guillemot, pelagic cormorant, and possibly the rhinoceros auklet, tufted puffin, rough-winged swallow, and the peregrine falcon.

Secondary Theme

Discover the Sandy Shore: Most sandy shore animals live beneath the sand and under the waves in this harsh and dynamic habitat.

Sandy shores are one of the harshest and most dynamic environments for life on earth. Winds, waves, and tides incessantly rearrange the topography and change the conditions for life. Shifting sand particles give organisms little chance of stable attachment. Exposure is great, and temperature and moisture changes are extreme. Inhabitants are exposed alternately to aquatic and then terrestrial and aerial predators. Yet, the sandy shore ecosystem is endowed with rich nutrients, particularly from the sea, in the form of plankton, flotsam, and detritus. Life has evolved to thrive even under these demanding conditions. Relatively few species can be found here, but those that are often occur in great numbers. But, to see most of them one must do some searching because most live under the sand or beneath the beach wrack where living conditions are more favorable. The burrowing lifestyle offers protection from predation, wave impact, temperature extremes, and desiccation when the tide is out. But it poses problems of getting enough oxygen, finding mates, and acquiring food. Beach species have evolved adaptations that enable them to overcome these problems.

Secondary Theme

Discover Coastal Streams: Coastal streams are critical and fragile ecological magnets for diverse freshwater, terrestrial, and anadromous life.

The Mendocino Coast's stream or riparian habitats are wildlife magnets and corridors that both link and bisect grassland, coastal scrub, and coastal forest ecosystems. Red alder riparian forest forms the dominant stream plant community, while North coast riparian scrub, dominated by willows, occurs in seep areas in this unit. These dense plant growths support resident and migratory wildlife. The lush vegetation contrasts sharply with the drier upland vegetation. Where these meet an "ecotone" is created. An ecotone or edge effect of contrasting habitat types offers a variety of nesting, feeding, and cover opportunities to wildlife. Many riparian birds are heard more than seen in this lush environment. Riparian birdlife is busiest and noisiest during the spring courtship and nesting period. A high percentage of riparian birds are cavity nesters. Many migratory bird species travel along stream corridors during the spring and fall. The riparian ecosystem is critical to many species. Never a large part of California's landscape, our state's original riparian areas have been largely destroyed by agricultural clearing, bank stabilization, channelization, and road building. Remaining riparian areas must be protected and restored.

Secondary Theme

Discover the Coastal Scrub: The coastal scrub ecosystem offers critical food and cover to many wildlife species.

The dense coastal scrub is made up of low, evergreen, and woody shrubs with an understory of herbaceous perennials and ferns. The northern coastal scrub community occurs on coastal terraces between the coastal bluff scrub and the coniferous forest, often intergrading with the coastal prairie. Common scrub wildlife include the western fence lizard, the gopher snake, pocket gopher, vagrant shrew, deer mouse, western harvest mouse, dusky-footed woodrat, brush rabbit, coyote, gray fox, song sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, American goldfinch, and the rufous-sided towhee.

Secondary Theme

Discover the Coastal Prairie: Though Mendocino District state parks are not now grazed by livestock, past livestock grazing has favored the spread of introduced annual grasses and weed species, supplanting the native bunchgrasses and wildflowers of the parks' coastal prairie.

Grasslands are generally found on coastal terraces in areas without enough soil moisture to support woody vegetation. Though grasslands provide abundant food in the form of vegetation, nectar, pollen, seeds, insects, and small vertebrates, they offer little cover from predators and exposure to weather. Some grassland animals find shelter in burrows. Small rodents and seed-eating birds, such as the California quail, the mourning dove, and sparrows, commonly forage in the grassland. Grasslands are an ideal habitat for many wildlife species, including some reptiles and amphibians. The grassland ecosystem has been greatly reduced in extent, and its vegetation has been heavily altered by human uses. Grasslands are easily converted to either crop fields or pasture. The native perennial bunchgrasses have been largely replaced by introduced European annual grasses and weeds.

Secondary Theme

Making a Living on the Coast: The Bokeya Pomo lived skillfully on the Mendocino Coast for 10,000 years.

Native Americans probably used the resources of this unit in the past, as they have lived in this area for at least the last 9,000 to 12,000 years. The Bokeya Pomo were occupying this region in the early 19th century. The main Pomo village, "Pda'hau," had no more than 200 citizens and was situated near the mouth of the Garcia River. The Bokeya Pomo were skilled hunters and gatherers of land and marine animals and plants. They traded coastal goods for inland resources. Pomo society was organized under a chief or headman and Indian doctors. Some Pomo specialized as hunters, arrow-makers, or fishermen. Women were highly regarded and became skilled doctors or basketmakers. A rich ceremonial cultural tradition served to hold the society together. Though occasional fighting between villages occurred, relationships were generally peaceful, and inter-village feasts and games were held.

Interpretive recommendations

Interpretive facilities

The significance of the Greenwood logging story suggests that the existing interpretive resources — the mill office, the local historical society, and private photo collections — be combined to interpret this story to the public. Toward this end, it is recommended that the mill office conversion into a visitor center/museum be completed to interpret the resources of this unit, particularly the logging history of Greenwood. The interior of the main building needs to be historically investigated and restored according to the needs outlined in a future approved interpretive exhibit plan. One or more of the rooms might be completely restored as period house museums.

The historical post office function should be adapted as a house museum to interpret the historic use of the space as a post office.

Outdoor panels can interpret topics such as geology, resource management, historic sites, plant communities, wildlife, and recreation. Possible locations and topics for panels at this unit include the parking lot and the beach area.

A self-guiding historic walk with low-profile interpretive signs or a brochure with numbered posts could be created along the blufftop to interpret the sites and remains of the lumber mill, mill pond, and tramway. Reproduced historic photographs would be useful for interpreting these areas.

A self-guiding auto tour utilizing a brochure with map or an insert into the *Northwind* visitor guide could interpret the highlights of the entire Mendocino Coast for motorists traveling along Highway 1.

Interpretive activities

As interpretive facilities and visitor interest develop and volunteer staffing expands, new programs could be added as needed.

Interpretive concessions

None are recommended.

Interpretive associations

A local group of Greenwood docents dedicated to interpreting the resources of this unit is indispensable to operating the proposed visitor center/museum. A group of historically-minded local citizens has been promoting such a use for the mill office for some time.

Interpretive collections

A modest formal collection, probably maintained at the restored mill office, would enhance this unit's interpretation.

Future acquisition of objects

Objects acquired as an interpretive asset and maintained as a resource are a continuing responsibility that requires research, curatorial care, conservation and preservation. It is important to carefully reexamine the Department's needs when considering collections acquisitions.

Acquisition of collections at Greenwood Creek State Beach should be in agreement with this unit's mission and policies as stated in this general plan. Because of storage, registration, and maintenance costs, acquisition should concentrate on immediate rather than future needs. Before acquiring new objects, consideration must be given to the

adequacy of facilities and staff to protect and preserve them.

In general, future acquisitions of collections, other than reproductions for hands-on use by staff or docents, should be guided by a written scope of collections statement prepared by the district or specific approved furnishing or exhibit plans as they arise out of the development process.

Collections management

Interpretive objects in this unit's collection are subject to the same policies and procedures that affect all museum collections under the care or custody of the Department of Parks and Recreation. These are outlined in the Department Operations Manual and in the Museum Collections Handbook, published by the Office of Interpretive Services.

There are a variety of ongoing collections management tasks that are required of every unit with collections. Collections on exhibit and in storage must have a completed housekeeping/maintenance schedule on file to ensure proper maintenance of objects. Unit staff should be trained in curatorial methodology to properly preserve and interpret the collections.

Museum collection security

Museum collection security involves protecting exhibited and stored objects from environmental damage and natural disasters as well as from intentional or unintentional human interaction.

Emergency plans that address theft, vandalism, flood, earthquake and fire dangers should be produced by unit staff and incorporated into the overall unit security plans for new and existing exhibits and storage areas. A part of emergency planning should identify potential risks to the collection and methods of protecting the collections from such risks. The plan should list objects of irreplaceable value to the unit. In an emergency, the list could be used to evacuate objects in priority order of importance.

Research

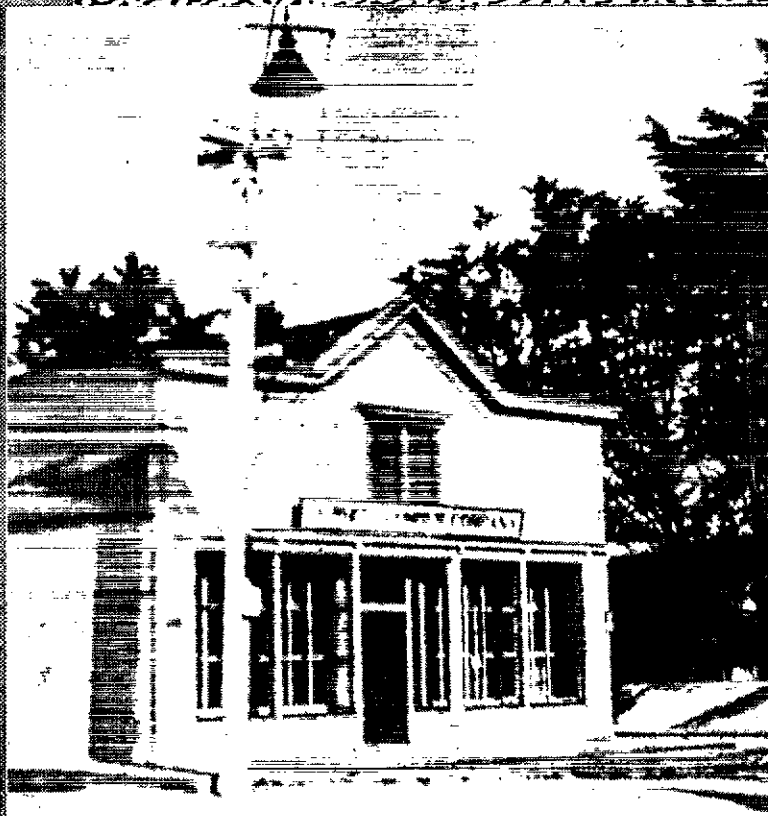
Research should continue to support the interpretation of all themes. Further research on the following topics would particularly aid the interpretation of this unit:

1. The logging history of Greenwood.
2. Cliff-nesting birds.
3. Status and habitat needs of sensitive, threatened, rare, and endangered species at this unit, particularly anadromous fishes.
4. Marine ecosystems and resources at this unit.

Projects

No order of priorities is implied in the following listings:

1. Restore the interior of the mill office, provide disabled access, and plan and install interpretive exhibits.
2. Plan, fabricate, and install outdoor interpretive panels.
3. Conduct research to support interpretation of this unit's resources.
4. Collect, organize, and curate appropriate interpretive objects, photographs, and references.
5. Plan and develop the self-guided historic walk interpreted with low-profile signs or a brochure.





OPERATIONS ELEMENT

This element identifies existing operational problems, and anticipates future needs based on implementation of the general plan. It outlines broad operational goals for the unit, and provides strategies for future operation of the park.

Operational issues and concerns

Operations facilities

There is no park office at this unit. As development of the visitor center continues, increased visitation and docent supervision will necessitate greater visitor services staffing and an office in which to house this function. Maintenance and storage needs can also be expected to grow as will interpretive collections and the need for archival storage. As more docents become involved in the park's activities, meeting and work spaces will become necessary.

Public safety

Most accidents and injuries in Mendocino coastal park units result from individuals falling while trying to climb up or down coastal cliffs. Cliff rescues have occurred at all three cliffs in Greenwood Creek State Beach. In addition, the unit is heavily used by abalone divers and there is the potential for drownings and the need for water rescues.

The beach access trail serves as access also for emergency vehicles (park, fire, ambulance, and rescue). This dirt road is subject to severe erosion and needs constant maintenance.

The current ranger assigned to this unit also has responsibility for two other parks.

Aquatic safety

Inherent in all coastal State Park System units are aquatic hazards. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, visitors are attracted year round to the beautiful cove and beaches. Diving and kayaking are very popular and put visitors in potentially dangerous aquatic situations. Commercial urchin boats working the area have run aground and sunk.

The following aquatic hazards are common at Greenwood Creek State Beach as well as several Mendocino coastal park units:

1. *Cold water.*
A wet suit is required to prevent hypothermia.
2. *Variable surf conditions.*
Ocean conditions range from flat crystal-clear water and moderate swells with good visibility to rough water with poor visibility and the hazards of major Pacific storms. Conditions can change quickly from small surf to heavy storm-driven waves.
3. *Tsunami.*
This area of the coast is subject to tsunamis as a result of seismic events off the coast of Alaska and elsewhere.

Law Enforcement

The park does not have extensive law enforcement problems. Vandalism, primarily from local residents, is an ongoing but sporadic problem that takes the form of graffiti, petty theft, broken bottles and rock throwing. Vandals with cars/trucks also damage the park's fencing along the highway and in the parking area.

Wildfire

During the summer, wildfire is a threat at this unit. Dry coastal shrubs and grasses combined with gusty northerly winds create dangerous fire conditions. Activities on adjoining residential and commercial properties create another wildfire threat.

Offshore oil drilling

In recent years, exploration for offshore oil drilling has begun to threaten the integrity of coastal park units. Collections of soil and geological samples and other park resources are occurring without scientific collection or special activity permits. The potential damage of this activity requires continual monitoring by operations staff.

Trespass

The park is subject to various trespass-related problems. Encroachment problems can come from neighboring land owners using parklands or resources for various private uses such as dumping or private facility expansion.

Easements

A variety of easements exist in the park, although most have little direct impact on the unit's operation and resources.

Jurisdictions

The Department of Fish and Game exercises jurisdiction over sport and commercial hunting and fishing in California. Although the unit and district staff maintain good working relationships with their counterparts in DFG, the regulation of marine resources by DFG in State Park System coastal units can pose a conflict for management of park resources. DFG codes permit commercial collection and harvesting of seaweed and sea urchins in offshore waters. This practice is contrary to the department's mission to preserve and protect park resources. Collection activities often threaten or damage other park resources.

Operational goals

Many of the unit's operational problems will be resolved as a result of general plan implementation. Some problems will remain outside the ability of the department to resolve, and new problems may arise. Impacts of general plan implementation on park operations have been anticipated, and general operational goals and strategies for dealing with them are discussed below.

Facilities

- Space within the mill office building will be allocated to meet operational needs. Office, maintenance, and storage space needs will continue to grow as park activities and attendance increase, as staff increases, and as visitor facilities and interpretive collections are added. Major maintenance equipment and storage will continue to be located at Manchester State Park and Van Damme State Park.

Administration

- Planning of activities, projects, and development shall be carefully coordinated with other agencies by the District Superintendent to assure that their concerns are addressed, avoiding potential misunderstandings and conflicts.

Resource management

- Resource management plans and programs recommended in the Resource Element will be instituted.
- As long as special programs and events can be conducted without compromise to the perpetuation of park features, they should be encouraged by the district.
- Park lands are to be protected from trespass or unauthorized private use or encroachment. The department's legislatively authorized responsibility to protect park resources and ensure proper park use can sometimes make it difficult to maintain "good neighbor" relationships, especially in situations where trespass or private encroachment damages park resources. Whenever possible, park staff shall attempt to educate neighbors to the values of park resources and the continuity of natural ecosystem processes. Exclusive private use of or access over park property is a property encumbrance that requires California Environmental Quality Act compliance and approval by the California Department of General Services (Government Code Section 11005.2 and 14666).
- If, at some future time, it becomes necessary to control predatory dogs originating at the park, a dog management program shall be developed and implemented. It is the policy of the department to remove domestic and feral dogs as humanely as possible. At the present time, any problems with unleashed or stray dogs in the park have been manageable. The unit ranger enforces state park rules and regulations regarding unleashed dogs, and attempts to educate park visitors as to the detrimental impact of loose dogs on the park's wildlife and bird nesting and habitat areas.

Public and aquatic safety

- Staff will continue to be trained to respond to such varied emergencies as beach and swimming accidents, cliff rescues, wildfire, and traffic accidents. Developed emergency response procedures will be periodically tested by staff and allied agencies.
- For continued visitor protection, application of aquatic hazard mitigations described below will be expanded to meet increases in visitation. As part of a district-wide management approach, it is proposed that some district staff be trained in rescue boat operation and that a state certified dive team also be developed to assist rescues and perform resource management projects and monitoring.
 1. Various areas are to be posted warning visitors of unsafe situations.
 2. Interpretive programs will emphasize aquatic safety.
 3. On a district-wide basis, outreach services such as school and group talks, and the *North Wind* visitor guide will emphasize aquatic safety.
 4. All permanent staff will continue to be trained in first aid and CPR. Some staff will have training in cliff rescue.
 5. Several well-trained and equipped volunteer fire and rescue departments are available to the district.

Law enforcement

- Regular and careful patrols will continue to establish and maintain a basic law enforcement presence. Although the unit does not have extensive enforcement problems, illegal camping and fires commonly occur and are of particular concern because they directly threaten the park's resource values. Should enforcement problems change decidedly, the level of response may need to be reviewed and modified by the district superintendent.

Other visitor services

- To the extent that visitor activities may be permitted without compromise to the unit's historical and natural resource values, they shall be encouraged. Park staff shall seek to identify methods to reasonably facilitate compatible general public recreational use such as hiking/walking, nature observation, birdwatching, tide-pooling, beachcombing, sunning, picnicking, diving and kayaking, and other such compatible day use activities. Recreational activities sponsored by individuals, groups, or organizations may be considered by special event permit, and may be approved if the activities are not in conflict with this general plan and the purpose of state park rules, regulations, policies, or orders.

Maintenance services

- Facility maintenance shall continue to be conducted in a manner appropriate to meet standards for public health and safety, to maintain public and departmental expectations for cleanliness and appearances, to meet security requirements, and to extend the lifespan of facilities, tools, and equipment. In addition, facility maintenance shall be consistent with design criteria established in the Facilities Element of this General Plan, when applicable. The mill office/post office building will be repaired and maintained utilizing aged or similar materials to the extent practical, and in accordance with the federal Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. Significant repairs or proposed alterations to such historic facilities are to be described in writing, reviewed by the District Superintendent, and forwarded for appropriate reviews as required by the department and the California Environmental Quality Act or other provisions of law.

Coordination with other agencies

- Park and district staff expect to continue to assist county, state, and other law enforcement agencies. Cooperative effort should result in clear understanding by all law enforcement personnel of their responsibilities and jurisdiction with respect to protection of the park's prime resources. The department and district staff shall participate with the Department of Fish and Game in resolving the conflicts of jurisdiction which permit commercial removal of marine resources.

Volunteers

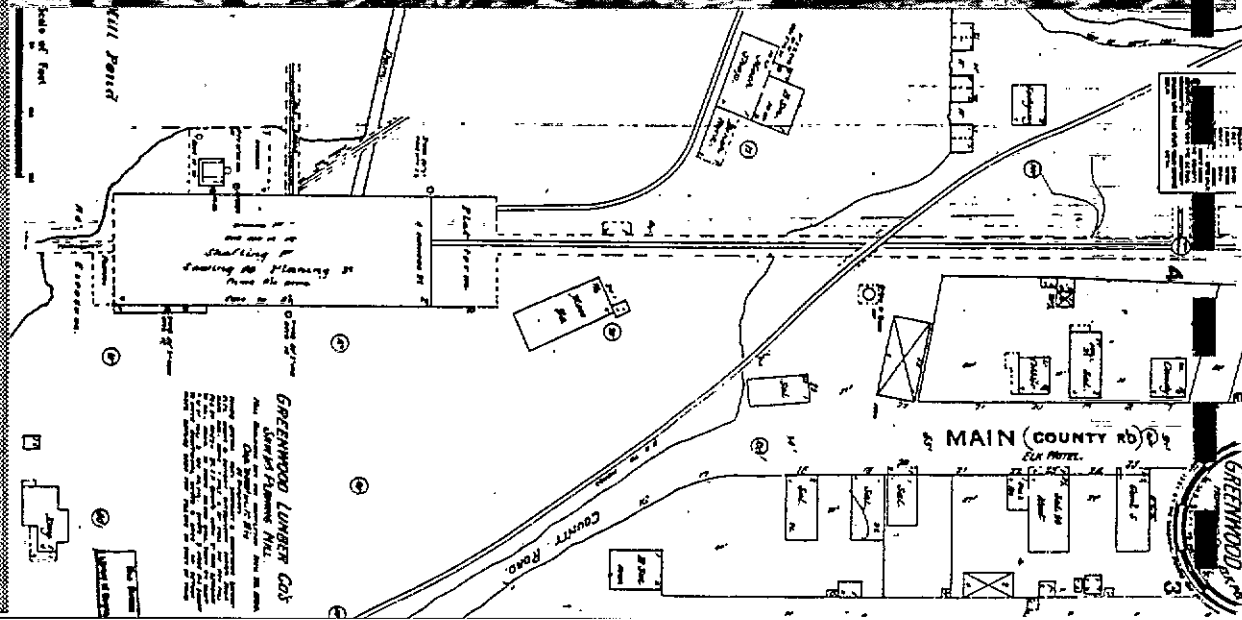
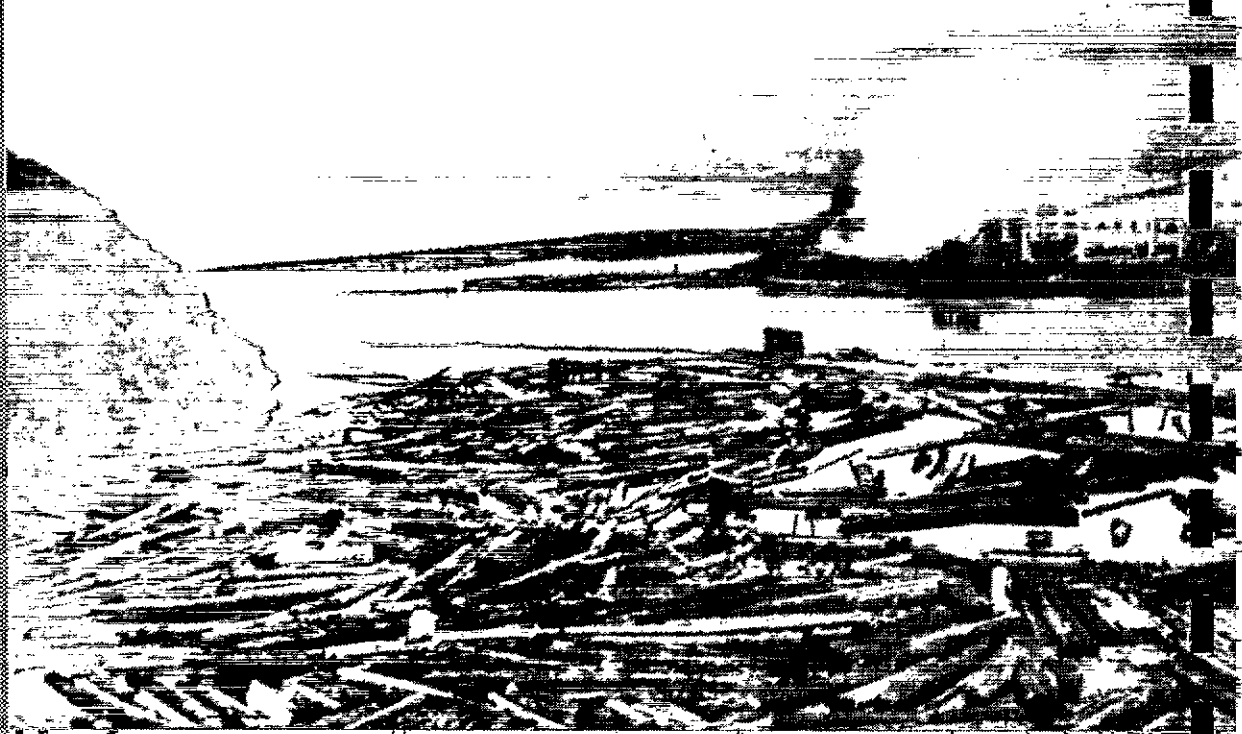
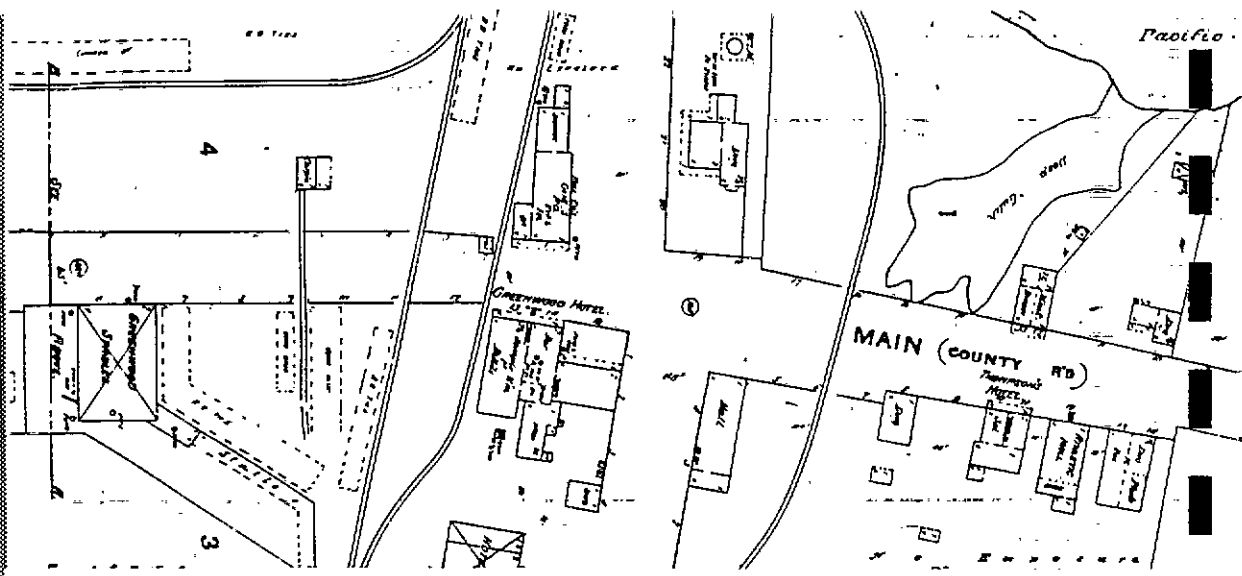
- Public service by volunteers is to be fully supported by the district. Volunteers in parks help meet several objectives by increasing public awareness of park values and features and developing ways to make those features and resources more accessible to the public. To encourage volunteer effort, park and district staff shall work closely with individuals and their organizations to assist with training and to provide the direction and supervision necessary to ensure efficient and effective interpretive programs and public service.

Operational recommendations



Implementation of the general plan will present a significant increase in responsibility for park staff. The operational responsibilities associated with increased visitation, development, and programs will grow beyond the ability of the existing staff to handle. As the general plan's recommendations are implemented, it will be the responsibility of the District Superintendent to recommend to the department appropriate future increases in staffing, equipment, and operational expenses necessary to fulfill operational responsibilities at Greenwood Creek State Beach.

Preservation and protection of unit resources requires the attention and vigilance of park rangers and maintenance staff.





LAND USE ELEMENT

Considering the Department of Parks and Recreation's dual mission, to protect and preserve the resources of the State Park System and to provide for visitor enjoyment and appreciation of those resources, the function of the Land Use Element is to determine an appropriate harmony between the two. Finding that relationship is essentially a problem-solving process that takes into account the challenges and opportunities presented by existing conditions. Existing park uses and their context, highlighted in the first chapter of this plan, have been analyzed in the context of certain planning parameters. Goals and objectives represent the planning intent for resolving park problems and maximizing opportunities for resource preservation, interpretation, and public appreciation of the park. Concepts represent the means of accomplishing those goals and objectives in a unified way.

The Land Use Plan portrays how lands will be used to achieve harmony between resource preservation and visitor use. It defines the pattern of human activity in a given area, as well as non-use areas free from direct human influence. It reaffirms the spirit of place by establishing what happens, where it happens, and how and to what degree it happens. It determines the appropriate levels of use and development, and arranges park activities and facilities so visitors may have the opportunity to enjoy the diverse experiences the park has to offer, without adversely affecting its resources.

Planning parameters

Planning for units of the State Park System includes consideration of several parameters that limit the possibilities for what occurs at the park in the future. These parameters include the park's classification and declaration of purpose, the spirit of place, the inherent nature and suitability of the site and its resources, guidelines from this plan's Resource Element and directives from other agencies relating to the future of the park, and public opinion.

Classification

The most general parameter determining what direction a park's use and development can take is its classification. This unit's classification as a "state beach" defines a very broad purpose for the park relative to the balance between resource protection and visitor use and enjoyment of the park. The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.56, identifies state beaches as a type of state recreation unit "selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities" such as "swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities." However, the design of improvements must be compatible with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics. The general plan ultimately sets the scope of recreation allowed.

The unit is also part of the Mendocino Coast State Seashore, consisting of specific state lands along the coast from Jughandle Creek to the Gualala River. State seashores are established to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, ecological, and recreational values of the coastline as an ecological region. Improvements undertaken must be consistent with the perpetuation of those resource values. Improvements which do not directly enhance public enjoyment of the resource values or which are attraction in themselves are not allowed. (See the Classification section of the Resource Element for a full description of the state beach and state seashore classification and the classification history of Greenwood Creek State Beach).

Declaration of purpose

The declaration of purpose identifies the particularly significant resources of that park and its purpose, and is provided for by the State Park and Recreation Commission when the unit is classified or reclassified. The declaration of purpose is formally adopted by the Commission when the general plan is approved. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, the coastline embracing offshore environs; stretches of sandy beach and the dramatic sea cliffs; the riparian habitats associated with Greenwood Creek, Bonee Creek, and Li Foo's Gulch; the headlands and marine terraces; the geology and plant and animal life; the significant historical and archeological resources; and the scientific values therein are among that unit's outstanding features. The purpose of the park — to make those features available, in an essentially natural condition, for visitor enjoyment — will necessarily limit development and activities that can occur at the park. (See the Declaration of Purpose for Greenwood Creek State Beach in the Resource Element).

Spirit of place

All people respond to place. We are inspired by the beauty and wonder of natural places and strive to create meaningful and beautiful structures and places for ourselves. Throughout history, special places have inspired reverence —the life-giving force of the Nile, the awesome beauty and majesty of the Grand Canyon, the mystical circular form at Stonehenge. When a place touches us emotionally we are responding to its spirit of place — to its inherent natural beauty, physical characteristics and setting, as well as to the memories and associations that place may hold for us. What do we value about this place? What does it represent to us, to others? What are the unique characteristics that make it special, that need to be protected so that it remains the place we value?

Every state park system unit is a special place, more than the sum of its individual resources. What makes a park unique or special, can be termed its spirit of place, and is often illusive and difficult to communicate. Pragmatic approaches to defining spirit of place attempt to define it according to three major components:

1. *Physical Features and Appearance*

The actual physical structure of a place; aspects of the existing natural environment such as landform and topography, vegetation, climate, and the presence of water. Aesthetic quality.

2. *Meanings or Symbols*

Cultural expressions such as bridges, forts, churches, or missions, which are a reaction to landscape, social history, physical location, human activities, and place as a cultural artifact (a place's meaning beyond its physical expression, such as Sutter's Fort, due to its historical significance).

3. *Observable Activities and Function*

How visitors interact with a place and how the buildings and landscapes are used.

The purpose in examining spirit of place during the planning process is to identify the essential elements of a park's uniqueness so these set attributes are not the casualty of change, but are recognized for their value and incorporated into the decision-making process. Identifying these attributes is a step toward insuring that land use concepts and facility proposals complement the park's spirit of place. They serve as the basis for design criteria that will enable proposed change to be successfully integrated into the park.

The Introduction of the General Plan attempts to express the spirit of place for distinctive areas of the park. The defining components have been considered during the analytical stage of the planning process (see The Analysis section of this Land Use Element).

Suitability of resources

The inherent nature and suitability of park resources help to establish park carrying capacity, the capability of the resources to sustain human use without suffering unacceptable or irreparable damage. In addition, they are the primary characteristics on which land use zones in the park are established to direct management and use that will best fulfill the park's purpose and objectives.

Carrying capacity

The general plan is required to determine carrying capacity for the park as part of the general plan process. Subsequent attendance at the unit must be held within the limits established by the general plan. The carrying capacity for recreation lands is defined as the number of people a recreation resource can accommodate and still maintain a desirable landscape quality for a given recreational experience.

From a park planning and management viewpoint, this concept is important to:

- prevent deterioration of resources and overuse
- protect visitor safety
- provide visitor satisfaction
- allow for multiple use where appropriate
- classify/zone park lands for visitor use
- analyze environmental impacts of visitor use
- prepare park master plans and detail site design
- manage visitors

When applied to a unit of the state park system, where the emphasis of planning and management is on preservation of natural and cultural resource values, the concept of carrying capacity implies that the natural processes and characteristics of an area are of primary importance, and form the basis for planning, design, and management. The inherent nature and suitability of park resources are major planning factors, and the primary factors in determining a park's natural carrying capacity. Unfortunately, there is neither a scientific nor magic formula for determining the carrying capacity of a natural area.

As a means of establishing carrying capacity, two methods of determining future levels of visitor use

at Greenwood Creek State Beach have been established: allowable use intensity and visitor capacity. Allowable use intensity graphically illustrates areas in which resource sensitivities and constraints will affect development planning, correlating resource sensitivities with certain types and intensities of use. Allowable use intensity is discussed in the following section. Visitor capacity is the number of park visitors that can be accommodated in the park based on the capacity of the park's existing and proposed facilities. It is discussed in the Facilities Element, following the Land Use Element.

A necessary third component is involved in determining carrying capacity: monitoring. As facilities are incorporated into their park and as visitor use increases, it will be essential to periodically assess the ability of the resources to absorb the use they are receiving, and to adjust use and facility capacities and proposals to adequately protect resource values.

Allowable use intensity

Allowable use intensity determinations establish: 1) the limits of development and use an area can sustain without an unacceptable degree of deterioration in the character and value of the park's resources, and 2) the limits of use necessary to maintain the desired quality of experiences that the park character provides. Allowable use intensity is calculated based on the significance and sensitivities of the park's resources and the degree of past disturbance due to human use. Determinations are based on analysis and integration of three interdependent components:

1. Resource management objectives.

What is the purpose of the unit as identified in its classification? What specific directives for its management are contained in the Resource Element? In addition, because Greenwood Creek State Beach is a unit of the State Park System, relevant sections of the Public Resources Code and other law shape broad resource management objectives. Simply put, in a state park system unit, the sensitivities of the resources pose constraints for development.

2. Visitor perceptions and attitudes.

This is sometime referred to as the "social carrying capacity." It involves, among other things, what recreationists perceive as an acceptable recreational environment; what degree of isolation or crowding is acceptable; what amount of site deterioration is acceptable; and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to visitors' quality of recreational experience gathered from public input during the planning process, and through recreation planning research. Although difficult to quantify, this component is extremely important.

3. Impact on resources.

What will be the impact of visitor and operational activities on the scenic, natural, and cultural resources? What, if any, is the acceptable level of damage to the resources? The potential impact of recreational development on natural, cultural, and scenic resource is assessed through analysis of ecological and cultural sensitivity and physical constraints. This is perhaps the most important component in determining allowable use intensity.

Resource *constraints* are factors that would identify visitor use of facility development as unsafe, economically impractical, or otherwise undesirable. They are determined by evaluating such factors as the erodibility and compaction potential of the soils, geologic hazards, slope stability, hydrologic conditions, the potential for pollution of surface waters, and flooding. *Sensitivities* are conditions, locations, or values of resources that warrant restricted use to protect them. Sensitivities are evaluated by considering the ability of the resource to withstand human impacts over the short term and the long term (ecological sensitivity), and also rarity or uniqueness, and their statewide significance.

The table below shows resource constraints based on their sensitivities as they would affect four primary kinds of park development — campgrounds, roads, picnic areas, and paths or trails. Refer to Maps 5, 6, and 7 of the Resource Element for locations of these sensitivities.

Table 3. Constraints due to resource sensitivities

Vegetation	Campgrounds	Picnic Areas	Paths & Trails	Roads
Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
North coast riparian scrub	Severe	Severe	Moderate	Severe
Northern coastal bluff scrub	Severe	Severe	Moderate	Severe
Red alder riparian forest	Severe	Severe	Moderate	Severe
Animal Life				
Seabird rookeries	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Sensitive aquatic life habitat	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Cultural Resources				
Mill Complex (L.E. White & Goodyear Mill remains)	Severe	Slight	Moderate	Severe

Departmental experience and observations of recreational impact on sites indicate that sensitivity is correlated to a great extent with certain types and intensities of use. Ecological sensitivities, physical constraints, and their approximate correlation with types and intensities of recreational uses at Greenwood Creek State Beach are shown on the Allowable Use Intensity Map, Map 9.

Low Use Intensity Areas - Category I

Low use intensity areas include all of the marine environment as well as areas severely constrained by soil conditions such as slope; beaches, bluff faces; those with certain hydric conditions such as wetlands, seasonally flooded areas, and areas within 100-year flood and tsunami zones. Also included are areas with high ecological sensitivities such as rare and endangered flora, rare natural communities, threatened and endangered wildlife and aquatic life, and important habitats for these species. Areas with high cultural resource sensitivities such as Native American and important historic sites and features are included in this category.

In the low use intensity category, appropriate facilities include trails and existing roads monitored to avoid unacceptable damage to important resources. Sightseeing, beachcombing, hiking, nature study, and picnicking are representative of appropriate activities for this category.

Moderate Use Intensity - Category II

Moderate use intensity areas include those constrained by soil conditions such as slope, slow percolation, shrink-swell potential, and dusty conditions when exposed. Areas with hydric conditions such as high water table, seasonal flooding, 100-year floods, and tsunami hazards are in this category, as well as those with geologic hazards such as fault zones.

Appropriate facilities in the moderate use intensity category are trails, roads, and buildings designed to withstand hazards associated with physical constraints, and to avoid or minimize impacts on natural and cultural resources. All other uses and activities compatible with Category I areas are appropriate here.

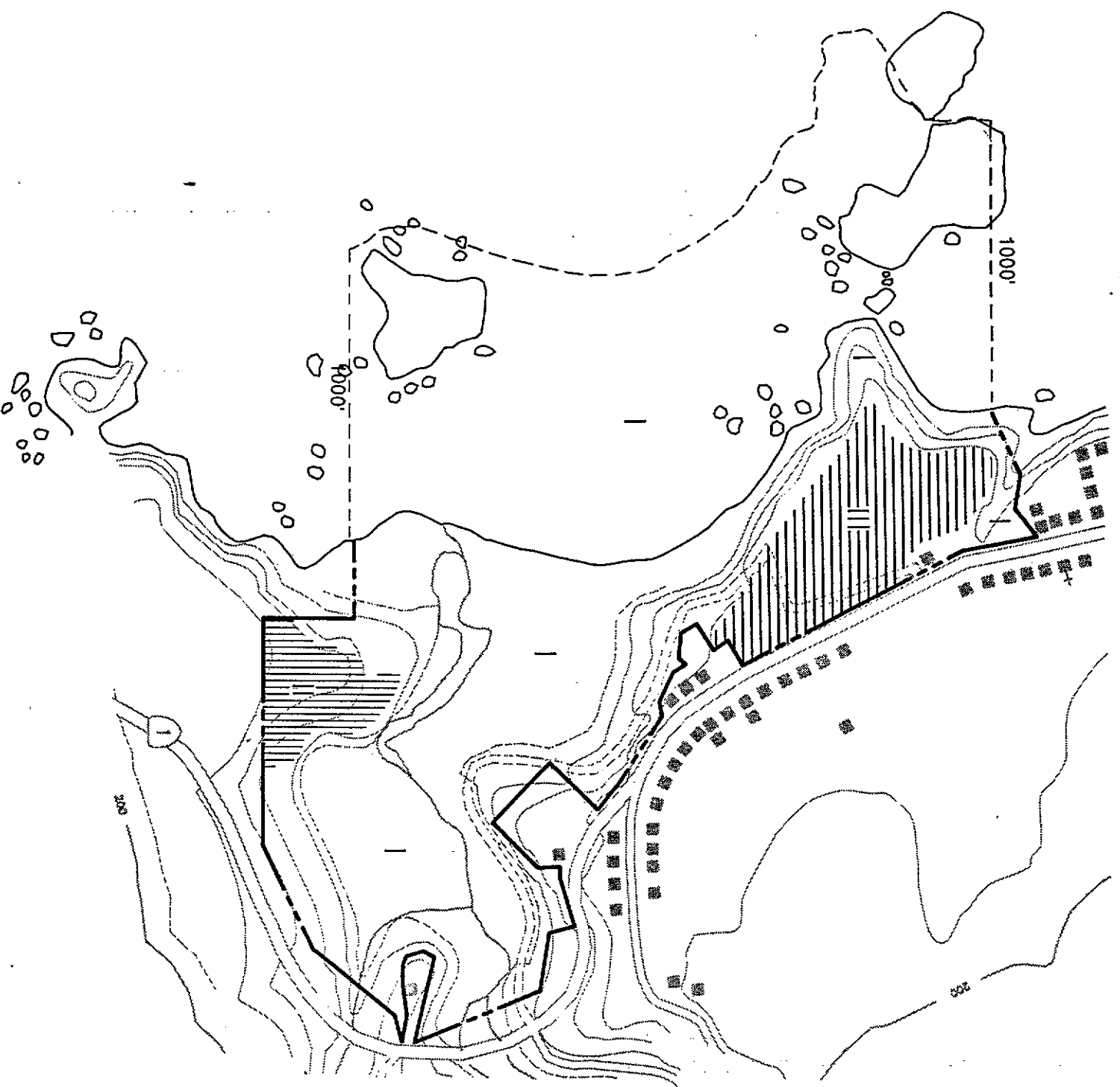
High Use Intensity - Category III

Lands in this category are not, or are only slightly constrained, although seismic activity and severity are difficult to predict. In general, this category includes lands with slight ecological sensitivities but that still contribute to the general character and appeal of the unit, such that large-scale disturbance in these areas would appreciably diminish the attractiveness and ambiance of the unit as a whole. Also in the high use intensity category are areas with slight cultural resource sensitivity to known sites and features, as long as no major resource modifications are undertaken.

Appropriate facilities in this category are trails, roads, and buildings designed to blend esthetically with scenic, natural, and cultural features, and to avoid large-scale disturbance and minimize impacts. Group activities, and all other compatible uses identified with Category I and II areas are appropriate in Category III.

Not all areas in a category share the same characteristics or are affected in the same way by the conditions that may influence them. Therefore, the Allowable Use Intensity Map is useful only for general planning purposes. When site-specific proposals for land uses or facilities are to be prepared, the proposed location must be checked for resource constraints and sensitivities on the resource maps on file with the Resource Management Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Site specific investigations may also be necessary.

Land use intensities established during the planning process should not be construed as irrevocably restrictive or unchangeable. Monitoring of resources after a developed site is subject to public use may indicate that unacceptable damage is occurring; therefore, an adjustment in allowable use intensity may be necessary. Other site management techniques may suffice, such as installation of barriers, paths, artificial surfaces, and applications of cultural and silvicultural measures. Visitor management techniques, including party size limitation, use of reservations, and interpretive signs, talks, and other devices, may also be employed to alter use intensity.



ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY CATEGORY

- LOW**
- CHARACTERISTIC SITES:
 - ALL OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
 - AREAS WITH SEVERE SOIL CONSTRAINTS (STEEP SLOPES, DUNES, BEACHES, BLUFF FACES)
 - WETLANDS, SEASONALLY FLOODED AREAS, 100-YEAR FLOOD AND TSUNAMI ZONES
 - FAULT ZONES
 - AREAS WITH RARE/ENDANGERED/THREATENED PLANTS, NATURAL COMMUNITIES, ANIMALS AND/OR HABITATS
 - IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES

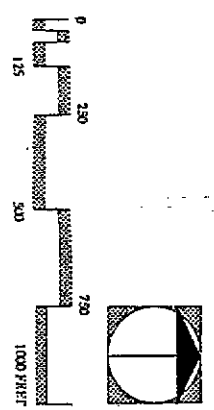
- MODERATE**
- CHARACTERISTIC SITES:
 - MODERATE SOIL CONSTRAINTS
 - HIGH WATER TABLE, SEASONAL FLOODING, FLOOD AND TSUNAMI HAZARDS
 - GEOLOGIC HAZARDS
 - NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES, SPOT LOCATIONS OF SENSITIVE FLORA & FAUNA
 - HISTORIC FEATURES OF UNDETERMINED IMPORTANCE
 - REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITY/FACILITY:
 - TRAILS AND EXISTING ROADS MONITORED TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLE DAMAGE TO IMPORTANT RESOURCES
 - BEACHCOMBING, SIGHTSEEING, NATURE STUDY, HIKING, PICNICKING

- HIGH**
- CHARACTERISTIC SITES:
 - AREAS OF SLIGHT OR NO CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO SOIL OR HYDRO CONDITIONS OR GEOLOGIC HAZARDS
 - AREAS WITH SLIGHT ECOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES BUT CONTRIBUTING TO THE PARK CHARACTER SUCH THAT LARGE-SCALE DISTURBANCE WOULD APPRECIABLY DIMINISH THE PARK'S SPIRIT OF PLACE AS A WHOLE
 - KNOWN SITES AND FEATURES OF SLIGHT CULTURAL SENSITIVITY, AS LONG AS NO MAJOR RESOURCE MODIFICATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN
 - REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITY/FACILITY:
 - TRAILS, ROADS, AND BUILDINGS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND HAZARDS OF PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS AND TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS ON NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
 - ALL CATEGORY I USES

- REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITY/FACILITY:
 - TRAILS, ROADS, BUILDINGS, AND FACILITIES SITED AND DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN PARK CHARACTER, AVOID LARGE-SCALE DISTURBANCE, AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS
 - GROUP ACTIVITIES; ALL CATEGORY I AND II USES

ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
 GENERAL PLAN - LAND USE ELEMENT
 California Resources Agency
 Department of Parks and Recreation Map 9 Drawing No. 26662



Public opinion

Within the limits of the preceding planning parameters, public opinion about critical issues and ideas help shape the direction of planning for development of alternative proposals, and aids in the choice of a single plan for the park's future. Public dialogue represents an intensive effort to ensure that future management and use of the park consider the desires of the people who will use it, and the concerns of those potentially affected by it (e.g., adjacent property owners). Planning has involved discussions with public agencies and three public meetings in the Point Arena and Elk communities. About 80 people of different ages, incomes, and lifestyles have directly participated in this process through these public meetings, letters, and telephone calls.

Public preferences and feelings were carefully filtered through the collection of knowledge gathered about the natural resources, history, regional characteristics, and other key factors in the decision-making process. The planning team has attempted to identify the public's feelings about what the Department of Parks and Recreation should accomplish as the park's managing agency.

Although the public expressed many varying (even contradictory) viewpoints, there were a number of critical issues and ideas upon which a clear consensus was reached. This consensus, which seemed to reflect an intuitive appreciation of the suitability of park resources, established the following direction for planning:

- The basic attraction of the area will continue to be its inherent natural, historic, and scenic features. Future efforts will be directed primarily at enhancing public enjoyment of these resources.
- The park's important historic structures will be evaluated, preserved, adapted, interpreted, and managed to maintain historic integrity and fabric.
- Recreational opportunities will be limited to day-use activities and will be provided for a variety of potential users, considering such factors as age, income, geographic origin, and physical ability.
- To offer maximum appeal to a diversity of park users and to impart knowledge necessary for full enjoyment of park resources, particular emphasis will be placed on interpretation, education, and information programs.
- Every effort will be made to balance the responsibility of meeting the needs of park visitors with the need to protect the interests of residents of adjacent properties and the community.
- The diversity of park plant and animal life will be maintained.
- Nonnative plants will be controlled.
- To conserve important natural and recreational resources, erosion will be controlled whenever feasible.
- All threatened and endangered plant and animal species, as well as other sensitive natural resources, will be identified and protected.

The analysis: application of the planning parameters

Assumptions: constraints and opportunities

Based on an analysis of existing conditions, considered within the context of the aforementioned planning parameters, the following assumptions were made.

Recreation and scenic values

These planning assumptions are primarily opportunities — what draws visitors to the park and what about the park is valued by visitors. They represent existing and potential uses, activities, or development at the unit.

- The Mendocino coastline is one of Northern California's premier tourist destination areas, and provides a diversity of tourist accommodations, leisure activities, and recreation opportunities of world, national, state, and local interest.
- Greenwood Creek State Beach, its shoreline, offshore seastacks, coastal terraces, and riparian areas are highly scenic. The open, undeveloped character of the coastal terraces is a significant value, as is the more intimate, enclosed character of Greenwood Cove. The park has a unique history and features of interpretive and educational value. These natural and cultural resources and the visual quality of its shoreline are of statewide interest and significance.
- The park was established to provide continued coastal access and viewshed protection. Use is concentrated on the resources of Greenwood Cove where informal day-use water and beach-oriented activities and passive ocean viewing predominate.
- The rural village character and architecture of Elk provide a unique setting for the park and have a personal intimate scale that emphasizes the contrast with the open, undeveloped character of the park's coastal terrace.

Recreation use

- More than 20,000 people visited the park in 1992-93.
- Recreation activities are day-use only and primarily ocean-oriented; due to resource sensitivities, physical constraints, and Coastal Element policies, no overnight accommodations will be provided in the park; it will remain day use only.
- Current visitor activities are primarily water/beach oriented or involve walking/sightseeing. Long distance hiking opportunities are limited in the park due to the park's small size. However, the east park boundary connects with extensive privately owned open space, and the existing beach access road/trail connects with the historic tramway route that extends up Greenwood Creekwatershed.
- No formalized developed facilities such as campgrounds, parking lots or picnic areas exist at the park. Facilities consist of an unpaved parking area, a trail/emergency vehicle access to the beach, about 10 walk-in picnic sites on the beach and bluff, pump-out toilets, and firepits on the beach.
- The major recreation facility deficiencies in Mendocino County are picnic tables and campsites, according to CORRP (California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan - Recreation Outlook in Planning District 1, June 1979). However, located south of the major tourist attractions, and bypassed by the major tourist travel route, recreation demand at Greenwood Creek State Beach will probably always be considerably less than for park units north of Highway 128 and the Navarro River.

Community use

- The park and its historic features are an integral part of the local community and its history. The existing beach parking area currently also serves as the business district's major parking area because some of the businesses located east of Highway 1 lack adequate parking for their patrons. The park also functions as the primary location for certain special community events.

Legal constraints

- By Policy 4.10-7 of the Mendocino County General Plan Coastal Element, the department is required to prepare a general plan for day-use only, providing parking and picnic areas screened from Highway 1 north of Greenwood Creek. The LCP calls for the department to "integrate plan with existing rural village land uses to prevent deterioration of coastal resources, including the scenic highway, the historical town, and the coastal bluffs and beaches."

Physical factors

- The general flatness of the topography and lack of existing trees exposes the coastal terrace to view from Highway 1 and neighboring properties. Both the existing parking area and sanitary facility are visible from the highway and in direct line of sight from the houses and businesses across the highway from the park.
- The mill office structure screens views from the highway of the area behind it to the west. It also screens views of the areas immediately north and south of it from travelers on the highway approaching from the opposite direction.
- The existing picnic area located on the site of the old mill burner provide the best vantage points for viewing Greenwood Cove and Gunderson Rock.
- Within the park, the bluff and coastal terrace north of the mill office are the best vantage point



The park was established to ensure continued coastal access and viewshed protection.

for viewing Wharf Rock and the Elk community coastline.

- The popularity of the beach as the major park use area indicates that visitor use facilities should be located in close proximity. However, facility development at beach level would be extremely difficult, expensive, and environmentally damaging due to physical constraints and resource sensitivities. For these reasons, certain recreation will not be feasible, for example, beach level parking or camping, boat launch areas, and direct handicapped access to the water.
- Considering the physical limitations and sensitivities of the resources and legal constraints, the capacity of the land for recreation use is low to moderate.

Significant planning issues and concerns

Natural resources

Kelp harvesting

The park has natural resource utilization concerns related to gathering and collecting of kelp which is permitted under Fish and Game codes. The Department of Parks and Recreation considers these activities to have an adverse effect on aquatic resources and visitor enjoyment.

Mill office not fully accessible

There is a need to provide access to and accommodate disabled people at the mill office. Building codes governing handicapped requirements generally require severe modifications to historic structures. The concern is how best to provide the necessary access without compromising the historic integrity of the building.



Trees along the bluff edge have both a positive and negative effect: they serve as a windbreak but they also obscure ocean views from the marine terrace.

Upstream logging activities

Logging activities in the Greenwood Creek watershed outside the park have an adverse effect on the park's water quality, aquatic life and aquatic habitats.

Private easement across park property

A private beach access easement (as yet unconstructed) across park property has the potential to damage park resources and disrupt visitor activities.

Historic resources

Lack of cultural resource interpretation

There are concerns about inadequate interpretation of the mill office due to its condition and lack of access. Opportunities for interpreting the remaining historic features, such as the remnants of the tramway and millpond dam, are also being missed.

Esthetic resources

Negative impact of transmission line on park's visual quality

The power transmission crossing the park is an intrusive visual element which detracts from the park's open vistas and the appearance of its natural areas.

Recreation values and visitor use

Existing parking inefficient and poorly sited

The existing beach access parking area is not organized or efficient. The parking area does not have a well-designated entry from the highway.

Inadequacy of existing access and parking for serving future demands

Existing park access and parking will be inadequate to serve future uses and management of the park. Business and population growth trends along the Mendocino coast, promotion of tourism as well as future development in the town of Elk, and enhancement of Greenwood Creek State Beach have the potential to increase park visitation, transportation and recreation use of Highway 1, traffic and congestion through Elk, and conflicts between moving cars and pedestrians. There will be an accompanying increase in demand for both park visitor and community parking facilities, and the need for safe ingress and egress along the highway for vehicles in addition to safe highway crossing for pedestrians.

Need for additional visitor parking and local community concerns about change

Due to changes of use and levels of use at the park, there will be inadequacies in existing access and parking. Adaptation of the mill office for use as a visitor center/museum will require providing adequate and convenient parking and access facilities for visitors, including disabled persons. The existing beach access parking area is considered too small and far away from the mill office to serve both functions. On one hand, the facilities are in close proximity to each other, use levels of the park low, and park size is small. This would indicate that two separate parking facilities may not be warranted. Also, appropriate potential ingress/egress points to the park are limited along the highway frontage.

On the other hand, a proposal to increase parking capacity and relocate the existing parking so that it would be screened behind the mill office/post office building met widespread community opposition during public meetings. One of the most important considerations in determining the number, size, and location of parking facilities — the impact on coastal views from the highway and from businesses across from the park — was of less concern to local residents than the potential loss of parking across from the grocery store. Another local concern was a desire to protect the quiet and natural appearance of the open space behind the mill building.

Lack of park identity

Greenwood Creek State Beach is not readily identifiable as either a destination point or as a state park system unit. It lacks a sense of identity and a sense of arrival. As an undeveloped and until recently unclassified unit of the state park system, it has no park entrance, entrance sign, or highway sign that denotes the park's existence and identifies it as a unit of the state park system. There is little that differentiates it from other vacant parcels of lands along the highway through town. Passersby on the highway may notice the wide open space in the middle of town and see the parking area, but even

the coastal access sign south of town is not sufficient for most people to recognize it as a major public access and use area. This lack may encourage inappropriate use of the area; identification as a public facility often discourages misuse, criminal activity, and vandalism.

Need for continued public access to the cove and beach

Private property protrudes into the park on the east boundary next to Highway 1 and includes a portion of the access road to the beach. Private ownership rights could prevent public access on this portion of the road in the future, or make road repairs or emergency/park vehicle access to the beach impossible.

Condition and location of sanitary facilities

The park's lack of flush toilets aggravates local residents. Elk residents are annoyed by the odor of the existing compost toilets and feel that it also discourages park visitors from using them. As a result visitors seek alternative facilities at local businesses not able to handle the demand.

Trees along the coastal bluff edge

The Monterey cypress trees that edge the main terrace behind the burner ring picnic area obscure views of the ocean from the terrace and highway. These are also non-native trees. They have a positive role, however, in wind control, and help to create a pleasant environment for picnicking on the lower terrace.

Bluff trail erosion

The small low-tide beach opposite Wharf Rock is reached by a steep narrow trail down the face of the near vertical bluff. It is constantly eroding, and in several locations the trail surface has been lost, and can only be negotiated through the use of rope pulls. This access is primarily used by abalone divers, who otherwise have to access the area at low tide or by boat from Greenwood cove.



Looking north through Greenwood/Elk along the wagon road that eventually became Highway 1. Respect for the rural village character and the architectural quality of the town is a primary goal of the land use plan.

Abalone diver activities

The unit is popular with abalone divers who on occasion change their clothes at the parking lot since there are no showers or changing facilities to accommodate them. This activity bothers some local residents.

Potential park visitor trespass onto private lands
Near the Greenwood creekbed, a portion of the old lumber road to the beach continues onto private property as an eroded trail. The landowners are concerned that future development or park use may encourage visitors to trespass and potentially harm the land's open space values and the town's water supply.

Adjacent land use

Potential negative impact of future development on park spirit of place
Many of the residential and commercial establishments north of Li Foo's Gulch and across Highway 1 east of the park are of historic interest and help to establish the character and architectural quality of the town. The department supports the County General Plan Coastal Element guideline that these properties and structures maintain their rural village character. Changes in use on these adjacent lands might potentially impact the visual quality of the park's viewscape or require highway widening encroaching on parklands.

The land use plan

The intent of this section of the Land Use Element is to develop a unified concept to organize land use at Greenwood Creek State Beach, providing for public use and perpetuation the park's spirit of place. This concept will contain solutions to the previously identified issues and problems at the park. The land use plan begins with establishment of goals and objectives, consideration of alternative solutions, and follows with presentation of an overall concept the planning team considers will best serve the park's purpose.

Land use goals and objectives

The following goals and objectives are not themselves solutions, but rather criteria for measuring the success of the final plan — where we want to be once the plan has been implemented.

Access and circulation

Goal: *Improve vehicular and pedestrian access to and within the park.*

Objectives:

- Work with Caltrans and the county to make appropriate Highway 1 improvements at park access points along the highway, and to encourage safe pedestrian crossings of Highway 1.
- Insure legal access to the beach. Acquire property or rights-of-way, as necessary.
- Establish an adequate pedestrian circulation system of trails within the park.
- Eliminate sources of roadbed erosion: acquire adjacent properties as necessary.
- Correct erosion problems along the beach access road and restore the roadbed where necessary.

Goal: *Minimize the impact of access and circulation systems on parklands.*

Objectives:

- Provide designated trails within the park and eliminate volunteer trails.
- Control erosion problems on trails, and close off trails or portions of trails where erosion caused by public use cannot be efficiently remedied.

Goal: *Provide access for the disabled in development/rehabilitation of park facilities and use areas whenever possible.*

Objectives:

- Design all new structures and sanitary facilities as handicapped accessible.
- Retrofit existing facilities and use areas to accommodate the handicapped, where handicapped access to them is feasible.

Marine terrace area goals and objectives

Goal: *Protect and interpret historic, natural, and recreational resources.*

Objectives:

- Stabilize and restore mill office/post office.
- Establish a visitor/interpretive center in the park.
- Provide for the placement of interpretive media and signs in the park.
- Acquire private easements or rights-of-way negatively impacting park resources.

Goal: *Provide adequate facilities to support and enhance visitor use and enjoyment of the park.*

- Provide increased and conveniently located parking to serve park visitors.
- Provide new and conveniently located sanitary facilities.
- Provide increased opportunities for picnicking, and improve the quality of existing picnic areas.

Goal: *Protect coastal views and the Highway 1 viewshed, and retain the open and natural landscape character of the marine terrace.*

Objectives:

- Minimize the impact of new parking areas and visitor support facilities through siting, grading, and landscape screening.
- Locate new parking next to the highway along the park periphery or where it can be screened by existing buildings.
- Make provisions for the replacement of visually obstructive trees on the bluff with lower growing plant materials.
- Work to underground new and existing telephone and utility lines whenever possible.
- Support park acquisition of adjacent downcoast land to preserve the park's southern viewshed.

Goal: *Respect the architectural quality and rural village character of Elk.*

- Support county policies regarding protection of historic and architectural resources, and coordinate park development with appropriate planning agencies.
- Establish design criteria for the development of any new facilities on the marine terrace.

Beach area goals and objectives

Goal: *Provide additional protection for the marine environment.*

Objectives:

- Pursue a lease of underwater lands from the State Lands Commission and establishment as a Natural Preserve and Underwater State Recreation Area.
- Pursue the establishment of Ecological Reserve status with regulation on commercial and sport fishing and kelp beds with the State Fish and Game Commission.

Goal: *Protect and enhance recreational and esthetic values of the cove's natural appearance.*

Objectives:

- Provide for appropriate erosion control for the beach access road/trail.
- Provide for acquisition of park inholdings and easements that adversely impact park operations, visitor use, and resource preservation.
- Utilize any future opportunities to remove or place underground unsightly utility lines in the park.

Plan concepts

Greenwood Creek State Beach is one facet of Mendocino's coastline. It is generally not a single destination for visitors; rather, it is an area that people visit as they travel to other places. This General Plan addresses that premise by proposing programs, activities, and facilities that will allow visitors to enjoy their stay, regardless of the length, and to learn as much as they want about the park's unique aspects. The plan's success, however, depends to a large degree on how complementary the activities and services provided by the park and the adjoining community and region prove to be.

Coordinated actions are especially important if the park is to make an inspirational, educational, and recreational contribution to the well-being of the Elk community. By its location, the park will strongly influence the quality of the experience for visitors to the community, but, limited in size and by the sensitivity of its resources, it must not attempt to satisfy all needs and desires, many of which can be more adequately provided by other state parks and private enterprises in the surrounding community and region.

Under the concept proposed in this plan, the park will offer people opportunities to appreciate its beach, marine environment, and unique historic aspects, while the adjacent community of Elk, the region, and other state parks will continue to provide complementary recreational activities, services, and overnight accommodations for visitors.

The Land Use Concept, Map 10, illustrates the following overall land use concept.

Access and circulation

The main park entrance will be located so as to provide more efficient access to visitor parking areas. Highway 1 improvements may be required. The beach access road/trail will remain a visual and experiential transition zone between the cove and coastal terrace levels. It will continue to provide access to the beach for pedestrians and emergency and maintenance vehicles, and necessary improvements will be made. A new loop trail along the edge of the marine terrace connecting the parking, mill office and picnic areas to each other and the beach access road will provide pedestrian/wheelchair circulation as well as a unique interpretive experience.

Coastal terrace

The marine terrace area will continue to be managed as a natural area for picnicking and ocean viewing. Development required to provide for visitor support, such as parking and restrooms, will be confined to the park perimeter along Highway 1 and adjacent to the mill office. The intent is to maximize the amount of terrace open space by not intruding into the terrace's natural character.

Entrance/Parking Area. An adequate sign program on Highway 1 will lead potential visitors to the park. The park entrance should be easily identifiable with an entrance sign providing safe access into the parking area.

The intent of this area is to provide a physical and emotional transition for park visitors — a peaceful and restful atmosphere that prepares them for their park visit. A new arrival point near the mill office will create a new contemporary "front door" to the park which will establish a new parking area and contain essential support facilities such as the access road, parking, restrooms, and signing. Landscaping and grading in this area will be designed to visually screen the parking surface from Highway 1, to the extent practical without obstructing coastal views.

In the planning process, the need to provide parking close to the mill office became a prime consideration in developing alternatives for locating a new park entry and parking. The first alternative proposed that all parking be located behind the mill office/post office where the bulk of the building would screen parked cars from view of Highway 1. The public, specifically the Elk community, asked that consideration be given to the value of protecting open space behind the mill office, especially as viewed from the coastal bluff. A desire also was expressed to retain the existing beach access parking area that serves local and enroute travelers who are patrons of local businesses. As a result, the recommendation arose to develop scattered parking along a linear park road paralleling the highway frontage. This provides parking close to the visitor center and retains some spaces across from the businesses and closer to the beach access. Rather than impacting a natural appearing area, the linear parking would be located along the alignment of an existing road (the service/emergency vehicle access road) that already impacts this area.

Mill Office/Post Office. The mill office building will serve new contemporary uses; functionally it will be adapted for use as a visitor center. Reception will be provided here by either park employees or volunteers. It is important to provide human contact to visitors; however, it is not always possible. Therefore, appropriate signage to control visitor movement is very important. The visitor center will also provide orientation to the park, preparing visitors for their park experience. The function of the park will be explained along with the type of park activities available. In addition, interpretation will occur here. The interpretive themes, as described in the Interpretive Element, will be displayed, providing a brief overview of important facts and images which will make the visit to the park and this part of the Mendocino coast more meaningful.

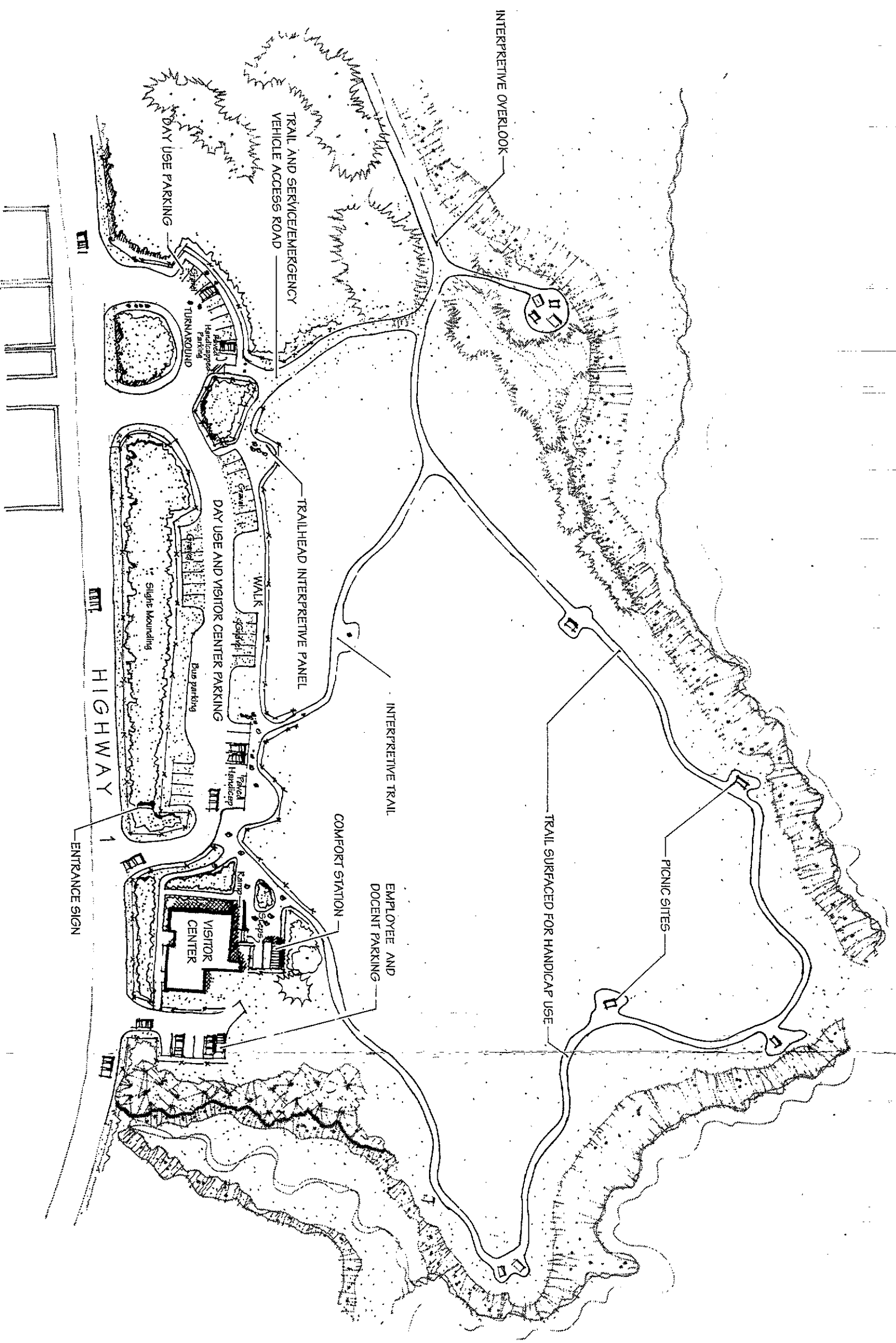
On the exterior, this building will maintain its historic appearance, and much of the remaining historic fabric of the interior will be retained and restored. To convey the historic use of the space, the interior of the post office will be preserved circa 1993, interpreting the flow of history and the changes that have occurred since its inception in 1917.

As part of restoring the historic appearance of the building, the head-in parking spaces north of the post office will be replaced with a small administrative parking area set further back from the highway. It will be screened from the highway, and other modern intrusions in front of the post office, such as the telephone booths, will be removed.

Picnic Areas. The existing picnic area in the old mill furnace foundation, on the small terrace ledge below the main terrace, will remain. The existing picnic area on the southern edge of the main terrace will be relocated as scattered sites along a new loop trail on the marine terrace, sited for views and the convenience of park visitors.

Beach/cove area

The cove area will continue to be managed as a natural area and for beach use. This area offers significant natural resource values, solitude, and opportunities for beach-oriented recreation. Other than the existing sanitary facility, which will be relocated, no structures will be allowed in this area.



LAND USE CONCEPT

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
 GENERAL PLAN - LAND USE ELEMENT
 California Resources Agency
 Department of Parks and Recreation Map 10 Drawing No. 26663



Land use zones

The type of management that will be emphasized on lands and waters at Greenwood Creek State Beach is an objective determination of how any particular area can best be used to fulfill the park's purpose and objectives while reflecting its inherent nature and resource suitability.

Three classifications at Greenwood Creek are used to indicate management emphasis — open space, adaptive use, and recreation development. The locations and extent of these zones are illustrated in the Land Use Plan, Map 11.

Open space zone

The open space zone is designated for the conservation of cultural and natural resources and processes, and accommodation of uses that do not adversely affect these resources and processes. The majority of the lands at Greenwood Creek State Beach have received this designation. In this zone natural resources and processes will remain as undisturbed as possible. Natural resource management activities will be directed primarily at protecting wildlife and vegetation from misuse and overuse. Cultural sites and features in this category will be managed and used primarily for the purpose of facilitating public enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of their historic values. This zone provides for environmentally compatible recreational activities although use facilities are dispersed, have little affect on scenic quality and natural processes, and are essential for implementing the land use concept. Examples of facilities typical of the open space zone include foot trails, signs, trailside information displays, and walk-in picnic sites.

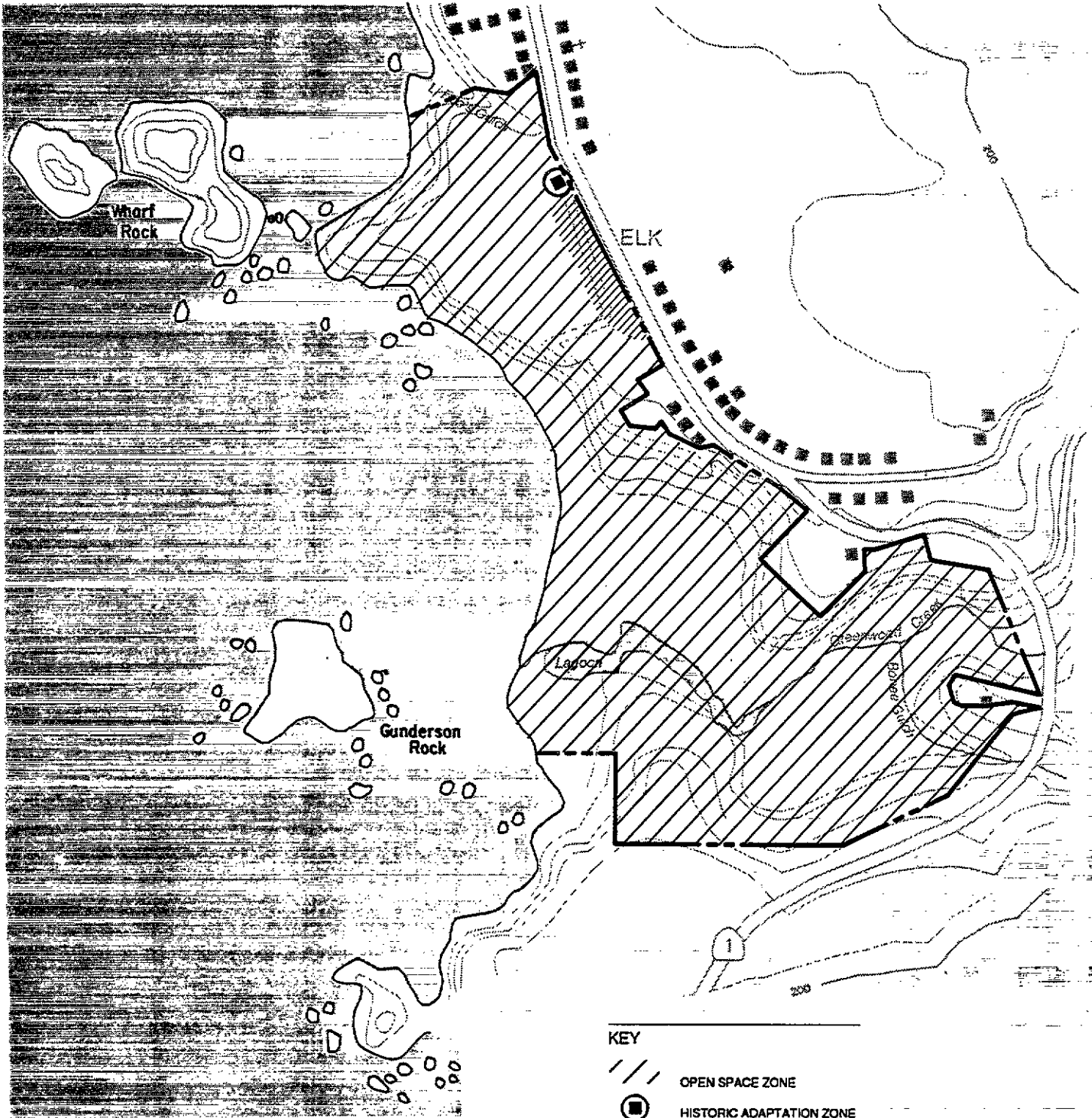
Historic adaptation zone




This zone defines structures or spaces of historic value that have been or will be adapted for interpretation, park management, and related activities. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, this zone includes the mill office/post office. To the extent practical, the integrity of the building's remaining interior and exterior historic fabric will be protected. However, the interior space may be modified to accommodate interpretation, educa-

tion, and other park-related uses. The exterior setting may also be modified to include site improvements such as landscaping, walkways, or parking where such modification is deemed necessary to properly accommodate public use.

Park development zone

The park development zone includes the provision and maintenance of park facilities to serve the needs of park management and visitors. At Greenwood Creek State Beach, this zone includes portions of the coastal terrace where past development and intensive use have substantially altered the natural environment. The park development zone here designates the areas that will be used for public parking and for landscaping that will be managed to enhance esthetic quality and promote public use and enjoyment of the park.

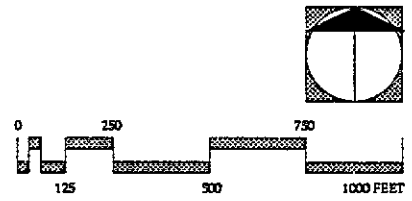


- KEY**
-  OPEN SPACE ZONE
 -  HISTORIC ADAPTATION ZONE
 -  PARK DEVELOPMENT ZONE

LAND USE PLAN

**GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
GENERAL PLAN - LAND USE ELEMENT**

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 11 Drawing No. 26664



Appropriate future additions

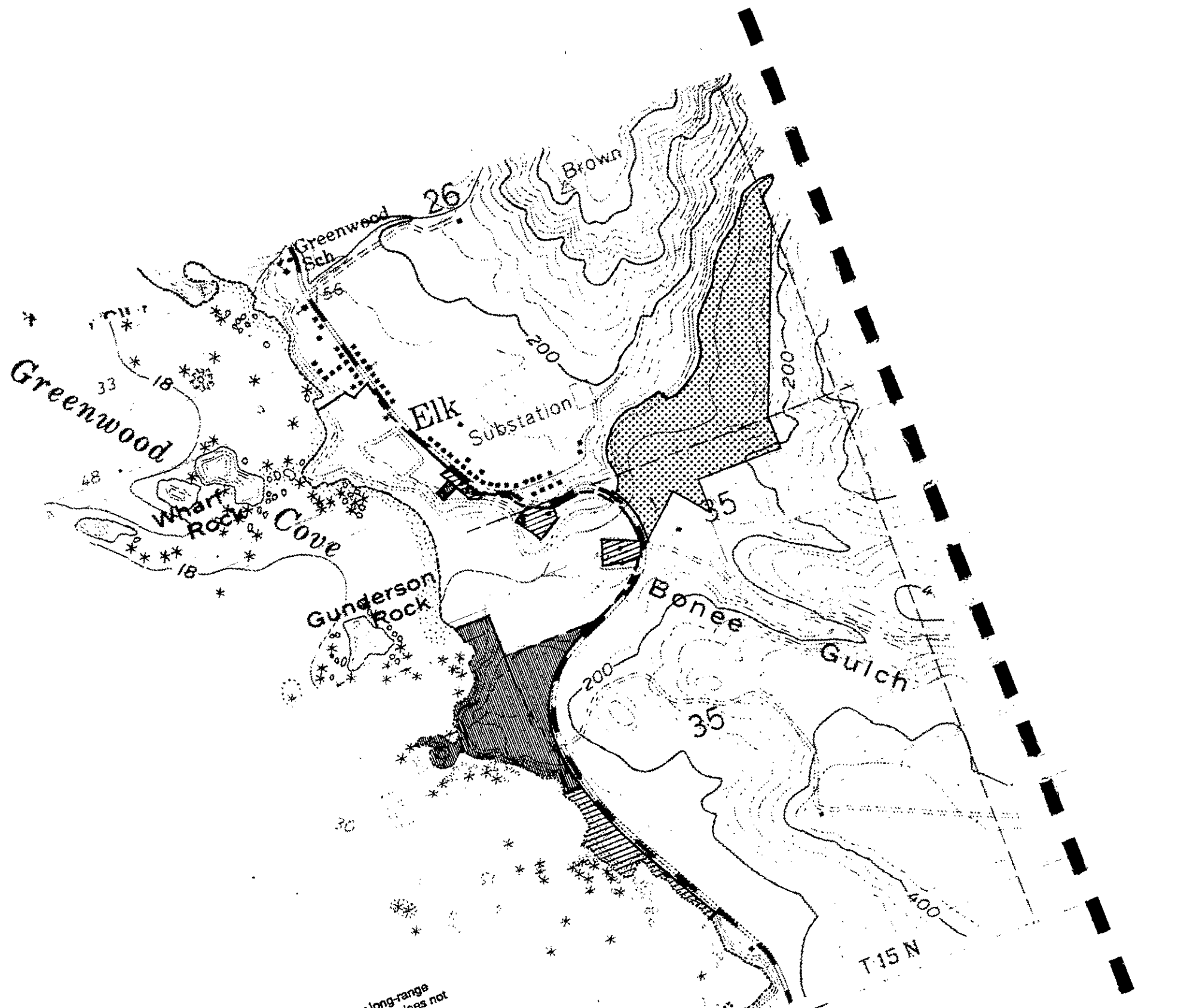
During the general plan process, park boundaries are examined to determine appropriate future additions that may enhance park protection, resource preservation, or provide additional recreation opportunities. The determination to expand park boundaries considers a variety of factors, including how potential changes in adjacent land use may endanger the integrity of parkland resources, the inherent resource values of those adjacent lands, and their ability to realize unmet park needs or achieve general plan goals and objectives. Since inappropriate acquisition can create problems, this determination serves as a tool for park managers and planners to use in evaluating acquisition proposals made to the department by private individuals and other government entities. However, although lands may be identified as desirable additions, numerous other factors may affect the department's ability to acquire them, including the availability of funds for purchase, and the willingness of an owner to sell. Therefore, a discussion of potential park boundary changes is for long-range planning purposes only, and does not represent an intent to acquire any of the lands discussed below or shown on the accompanying map.

There are lands adjacent to Greenwood Creek State Beach that contribute significantly to the park quality, the scale of open space, and the coastal resources. This includes the undeveloped marine terrace west of Highway 1 and south of the park. Overlooking Greenwood Cove and within the park's viewshed, the open space character of this land is essential to maintaining the park's visual quality. Development there could significantly detract from the park's spirit of place. This land and others, extending approximately three-quarters of a mile south along the coast, are significant for their coastal vistas and natural resource values. They may also have recreation potential as well as historic resource values that are worthy of consideration for acquisition.

Private holdings and easements within a park's boundaries often present operational problems and resource management or land use conflicts. Lands in this category could be considered as appropriate additions to the park and, if offered for sale, should be evaluated for acquisition. Five privately owned parcels west of Highway 1 fall into this category. One property extends onto the beach access road. Lack of park ownership of a portion of the road could impact continued pedestrian and emergency vehicle access to the beach — key to public use of this park. Activities on other properties in this area have resulted in various operational problems, including erosion, viewshed and trespass issues. In addition, the structures on some of the properties are historic, dating from the L.E. Lumber Co. era, and contribute to the historic theme and town character. Potential changes in use or appearance, or development would be of concern to the department.




A privately owned beach access easement crosses park property south of Greenwood Creek. Construction of a private access to the beach through the park could be highly damaging to natural and visual resources. The Department should attempt to acquire this easement.

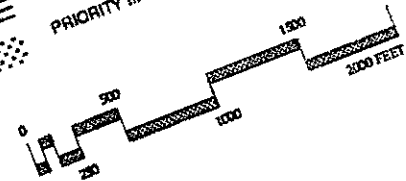
Lands within the watersheds of Greenwood Creek and Bonee Gulch include significant wetlands and riparian areas. Due to the threatened status statewide of wetlands and riparian areas, these lands adjacent to the park are considered a high priority for proper management and protection. If available in the future, they should be considered for addition to this park unit. To a great extent the open space category designated by County General Plan Coastal Element protects these lands from development that would be incompatible with State Park System values. For this reason, acquisition of these lands is not considered as high a priority as some other potential park additions.



NOTE: This map is for long-range planning purposes only and does not represent a commitment to acquire any of the lands shown hereon.

KEY

	PRIORITY I
	PRIORITY II
	PRIORITY III



APPROPRIATE FUTURE ADDITIONS

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
GENERAL PLAN - LAND USE ELEMENT

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 12 Drawing No. 26665

The following list of acquisition priorities, shown on the accompanying map, should be treated only as a guideline. Many factors influence the timing and desirability of acquisition. Strict adherence to these priorities could result in missed opportunities.

APPROPRIATE FUTURE ADDITIONS

Priority I

Priority 1 additions are abutting private lands with scenic or ecological values considered desirable for managing and protecting existing park resources and scenic and natural values.

- Fee title or an easement for the portion of the beach access road that runs through Mendocino County Assessor Parcel No. 127-24-03.
- The parcels overlooking Greenwood Cove immediately south of the park.
- The western half of the inholding (Mendocino County Assessor Parcel No. 127-20-05) overlooking the beach access road.

Priority II

Priority 2 additions are primarily inholdings within the existing park boundaries. Most are desirable to reduce problems with resource protection or with patrol and land management procedures. Some are desirable for their scenic or historic values that contribute to the significance and character of the park's setting.

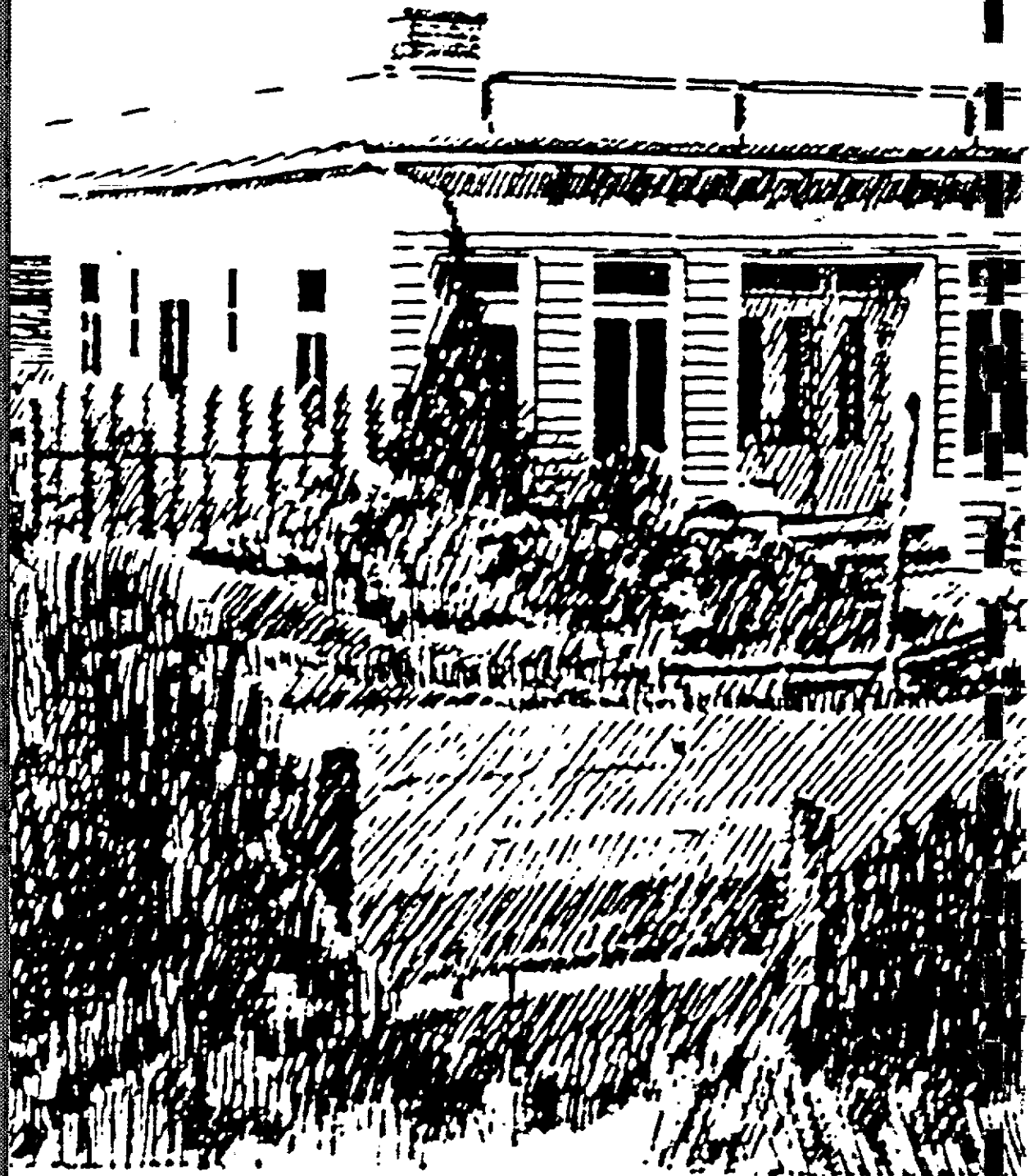
- The coastal bluffs stretching south approximately one-half mile along Highway 1, but only as long as the intervening properties between them and the park boundary are also acquired (see second listed item under Priority 1).
- The remaining inholdings between the park boundaries and Highway 1.

Priority III

Priority 3 lands contain ecological values that affect the well-being of the park's natural resources. Existing land use regulations are considered sufficient to protect them from change in the near future that would adversely affect the park.

- Upstream riparian lands within the watershed corridors of Greenwood Creek and Bonee Gulch, as long as any lands acquired are contiguous to the park.

Acq. lines highlighted (yellow) do not follow parcel lines on p. 150. (also highlighted)





FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Facilities Element follows up on the problems identified in the Land Use Element with recommendations for new facilities at the park and the removal or improvement of existing facilities. The Facilities Element's recommendations are designed to reflect the goals, objectives and concepts presented in the Land Use Element. The element also discusses utility concerns, and architectural and landscape design criteria to guide future facilities design. Recommendations for phasing of implementation are included.

Facilities

Facility proposals are detailed below. Access and circulation proposals are discussed first and followed by proposals for the individual park areas in the same sequence as they appeared in the Land Use Element. Proposed park facilities are indicated on the Facilities Plan, Map 13, page 121.

Park infrastructure

Access and circulation

Highway 1. The general plan recommends that facility changes that may generate increased park visitor traffic be accompanied by necessary safety improvements on Highway 1. Caltrans may require installation of a left-turn pocket on the highway. DPR will work to keep any road adjustments or widening minimal to avoid impacting the park, historic resources, and the rural village character of the highway.



A new park entrance and parking area south of the mill office will be created, utilizing the existing service/emergency access road.

Trails. The purpose of trail development is to provide pedestrian access to and between all destination areas in the park.

The beach access trail will remain closed to motorized traffic except for patrol, maintenance, and emergency vehicles. The source of on-going erosion problems will need to be found and corrected; the eroded roadbed will require fill, slope stabilization, possible replacement of culverts, and revegetation once the source of erosion is found.

A proposed new interpretive trail loop on the coastal terrace will be designed to accommodate visitors with a diversity of interests and physical abilities. Intermittent turn-outs for viewing, rest and picnic sites will be provided. Interpretive panels will highlight significant natural and historic features and resources.

The abalone access trail east of Wharf Rock cannot be improved and will be removed. A railing will be used to discourage visitors from using the trail extending out to Wharf Rock, and all volunteer and relocated trails will be removed and revegetated.

Due to its small size, equestrian use will not be permitted in the park. Bicycle racks will be provided near the parking area/mill office, but bicycle use will not be allowed on the coastal terrace, beach trail, or beach.

Utilities

The plan's recommendations for improved sanitary facilities at the park contemplate the use of flush toilets if additional water can be supplied to the park. The Elk Water District has indicated that water can be made available for public use. The existing septic tank and leach field are considered

adequate to serve new sanitary facilities at the park entrance/mill office. Alternative approaches to the beach level restroom will need to be considered due to the soils and proximity to the creek. Engineering recommendations include the use of either pump-out toilets or a sewer line with lift pump. In either case the existing roadbed of the beach access trail will need to be maintained for pump-out access or water/sewer line installation.

Visitor facilities

Day use at Greenwood Creek State Beach will be improved with facilities that increase the diversity of activities available to visitors and modestly increase visitor capacity.

Marine Terrace

Entrance/Parking. Facility improvements at the park entrance are aimed at creating a more attractive entry experience and establishing park identity. A new park entrance south of the mill office will be created, and a new parking area for 25-30 cars will be provided paralleling Highway 1. This new parking area replaces a portion of the existing beach access parking area across from the grocery store. About 8-10 spaces will remain in a separate section at the existing parking area for use by park visitors wanting to use the commercial businesses along Highway 1. A small partially screened parking area of 6-8 spaces will be developed north of the post office to accommodate park staff and docents.

Mill Office/Post Office. Conversion of the mill office as a visitor center will continue with space allocated for interpretive displays, a park office, and docent work areas. The post office will act as a house museum for interpretation of this historic use. Exteriors of the building will retain their



Trail improvements will encourage visitors to explore the park on foot, minimizing the use of the automobile.

historic appearance, supplemented by historic fencing and landscaping along the front facade. A new comfort station will be located behind the mill office, incorporating architectural elements in harmony with the historic building.

Picnicking. The existing picnic area on the lower bluff-edge terrace will remain. Existing drainage problems associated with the burner ring will be remedied. The perpetuation of this sheltered area should be considered in the development of a future Vegetation Management Plan.

The existing picnic area and comfort station southwest of the existing beach access/grocery store parking area will be removed. These picnic tables will be relocated to disbursed sites along the new interpretive loop trail, and supplemented with some additional ones, increasing the number of sites from 4 to 6-10.

	Existing	Proposed	Total
Historic Buildings	1	0	1
Parking spaces			
Existing beach access	25	-15	8-10
Day use/visitor center parking	0	+25-30	25-30
Post office	6	-6	0
Administrative/docent parking	0	+6-8	6-8
Picnic sites			
Coastal terrace	8	+2-6	10-14
Beach	2	0	2
Sanitary facilities			
Compost toilets	2	-2	0
Comfort stations	0	+2	2

Beach/Cove

Picnic sites and firepits in this area will remain, although some may be relocated and disbursed so that they are out of the main traffic flow to the beach. The existing sanitary facility in the cove will be replaced with a new comfort station located a short distance to the south where it can be more conveniently reached by maintenance vehicles. Some landscaping may be installed to screen the building from views from the highway and the coastal terrace above. Native vegetation will be allowed to grow over the portion of the beach access trail that turns east onto private property in order to discourage park visitors from trespassing. Some trail realignment in this area can also help reduce the possibility of trespass.

Concessions

Little need is foreseen for concessions at this unit in the near future. The adjacent town provides several necessary goods and services for the comfort and convenience of park visitors. If, in the future, unmet visitor needs become apparent, concessions may be appropriate to enhance recreational use and enjoyment of the unit; the propriety of concessions in state park system units is governed by standard departmental policies (see Appendix F: Policies governing concessions in the State Park System). The operational and economic feasibility of proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any proposals requiring a permanent commitment of park resources will require a general plan amendment.

Visitor capacity

As a result of park development, the theoretical visitor capacity of the park will increase. As the visitor center is developed and interpretive exhibits installed, the number of visitors here will increase. Increases in beach use and picnicking are also anticipated.

Future visitation levels for the park have been estimated, primarily in order to quantitatively analyze the range of impacts on the environment that would result from implementation of the proposals contained in this document. Maximum visitation levels have been calculated based on the estimated capacity of existing and proposed parking facilities. This figure is supplemented by an additional 10% to account for visitors who arrive by foot or bicycle. Along the Mendocino coast these visitors account for less than 5% of a park's total visitation. However, many Elk residents walk to the park and will continue to do so. Decisions about the numbers of parking spaces proposed in the plan were made by the planning team based on a number of factors, using

professional judgment and experience to project needed capacity and balance it with the physical constraints of the site and environmental and resource sensitivities.

The figures are not absolute limits or desired goals. On the one hand, special events and good-weather weekends could periodically exceed the suggested levels without significant long-term effects. On the other hand, weather conditions, in particular, may always keep visitation below the suggested levels. However, based on present visitation patterns, maximum visitation levels would most likely occur on about 10-15 good-weather weekend days per year.

Although the figures should not be considered as carrying capacities, they could be used as a starting point from which future studies might be done in response to the monitoring of any physical damage. Practical management measures will have to be developed to maintain use levels within the desired limits.

Table 5. Maximum visitation levels

Use area/facility	Maximum visitation (people) at any one time ^(a)	
	Existing visitors	Proposed visitors
Existing beach access/day use parking	80	30
New visitor center/ day use parking	0	96
Administrative/docent parking	0	26
Walk-in visitation	10	15
Total visitor capacity	109	167

^(a) Maximum visitation levels are based on the estimated capacities of the existing and proposed facilities. For day-use facilities, parking sites were multiplied by a factor of 3.2, representing the State Park System standard for average number of visitors per vehicle.

Design criteria

The purpose of design criteria is to provide guidelines for appropriate and environmentally compatible improvements in the park. Design criteria ensure that development reflects general plan intent and reinforces the park's spirit of place. Design criteria generally applicable to the entire park are outlined below, followed by design criteria specific to a particular area or facility.

General design criteria

Architecture

- Outside the historic land use area, new buildings at the park will be designed as contemporary structures. Building materials should convey a rustic simplicity in harmony with the natural character of the park. Buildings should reflect the landscape type in which they are sited. If located on the marine terrace and visible from Highway 1, any building shall also be compatible with the rural village character of the town.
- Buildings will be no larger than necessary to fulfill their function.
- Buildings shall be accessible to disabled persons.
- Buildings shall be energy efficient.
- Comfort stations should be sited unobtrusively and should not be a focal point upon arrival.
- Park structures should be screened by grading and/or landscaping from critical views within and outside the park.

Landscaping and irrigation

- Grading should respect the natural contours of the lands as much as possible.
- Plantings of native vegetation on the marine terrace will be encouraged for wildlife habitat as well as erosion control.
- Unless otherwise indicated, plant materials should be indigenous to the appropriate plant community and regional plant gene pool.
- Irrigation systems should be used only for establishing new landscaping.

Signs

Four kinds of signs are used in state parks: directional signs indicate routes; informational signs impart general information; identification signs identify specific elements; and regulatory signs give operational requirements, restriction, or warnings. The following guidelines will apply to the design and placement of signs at Greenwood Creek State Beach:

- To maintain the natural and open character of the park, signs should be kept to a minimum consistent with relating all material on resource values and regulations necessary to properly inform visitors.
- Uniform sign styles, materials and sizes, reflecting the natural character and spirit of place, should be used consistently throughout the park.
- Signs should be placed in unified systems when possible to avoid sign clutter.
- Informational signs should be placed at natural gathering spots, integrated into the design of the site furniture, if possible.
- Signs should not interfere with pedestrian or other traffic, door openings or vehicle operation.
- Lettering styles and graphic symbols should be as bold and simple as possible.
- Outdoor signs should be weather- and vandal-resistant.

Access and circulation

Site accessibility

The accessibility of any public outdoor area hinges on the physical relationships between design elements both inside and outside the space. Unless there is a relationship of continuous accessibility between forms of transportation, site elements, and building/facility entries, the value in making any one of these components more accessible is lost. Consequently, it is imperative that all elements of circulation be made as easily accessible as possible.

- Offsite highway signs should alert travellers to the park's upcoming presence.
- The park entrance should be well identified and have an obvious relationship to the sites it serves,

with signs to direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic to destinations in the park.

- Signs should be provided at parking areas to direct pedestrians and vehicles to various destinations or areas of the site.
- Drop-off zones should be located as close to a building entry or facility as possible. There should be no abrupt grade change between the road surface and adjacent walkways or trails. Direct sight connections between park areas, drop-off points and site entrances are important. Signs should be provided to direct both vehicles and pedestrians to more distant destinations served by the drop-off.
- Walkways or connecting trails between facilities should provide clear, direct, and attractive routes throughout the site. Paved surfaces should be firm and level, with curb cuts and ramps provided where necessary. Unpaved trails should have firm surfaces, free from obstacles.
- Parking areas should be related directly to buildings or facilities that they serve, with parking for disabled visitors no more than 100 feet from building entries or picnic areas for disabled persons.
- Building entries should be clearly identified. Alternative means of entry for disabled individuals should also be clearly marked.
- Interiors of buildings marked as accessible for the disabled should be functionally usable by disabled individuals.

Trails

- Trails in natural areas shall be maintained in an informal appearance.
- Existing trails should be obliterated where they do not contribute to trails shown on Map 10 and where necessary for public safety or resource protection purposes.
- "Volunteer trails" will be removed by returning their routes to natural contours and replanting.
- Trails on the marine terrace shall be finished with a hard surface, such as soil cement, colored concrete or asphalt paving, to allow use by persons in wheelchairs.

Marine terrace

Landscaping

- Native vegetation on the marine terrace is to be maintained and encouraged. Natural plant succession will be allowed to occur, although, as larger native shrubs and trees appear, care should be taken to maintain vistas that help establish the park's character and spirit of place, and perspectives critical to scenic views and interpretation. Examples include any existing ocean views from the highway or mill office and of the town from the park. A corridor of unobstructed view to the bluff should also be maintained from the walkway bordering the parking area so that visitors have a sense of orientation to the ocean.
- Exotic trees along the bluff edge, backing the lower terrace picnic area, and lining the beach access trail may be replaced with lower-growing native plants which will not interfere with ocean views from the park or neighboring properties.
- Height of vegetation should be managed along the bluff edge so that it does not interfere with ocean views from adjacent trails and picnic sites.

Entrance/parking area

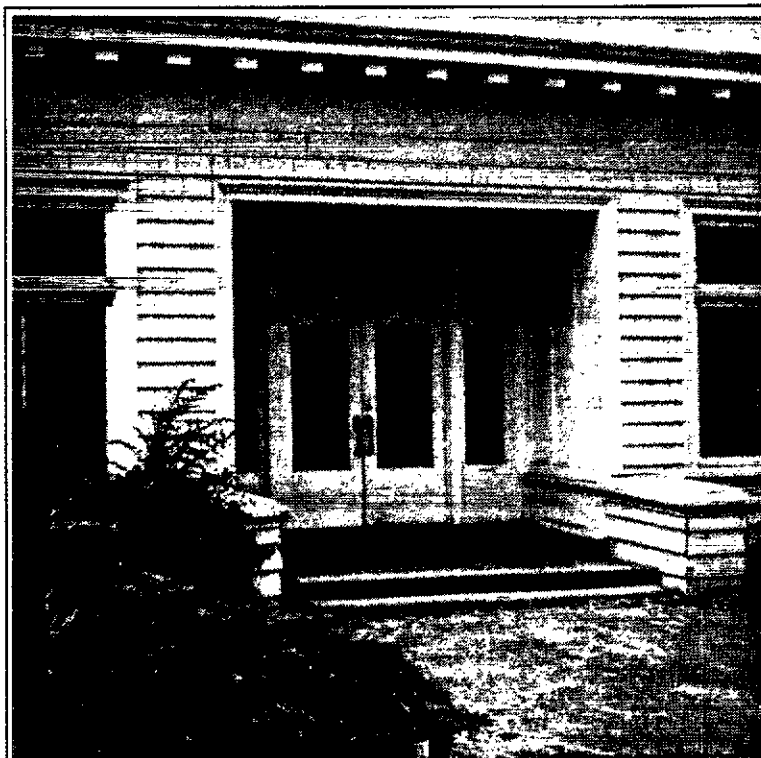
- The primary purpose for the entrance area is to get park visitors safely in and out of the park, while getting people oriented to begin their transition into the park. The entrance and parking facilities, although not historic, are affected by the fact that they are within a county designated "rural village" with distinct architectural character. This means that although facilities use modern building codes, materials, and designs, they still must comply with design fitting to the character and quality of the architecture and town and the spirit of the place. Signs, gates, and fences should be of modern materials, designs, and construction and to the required state and local codes, but still reflect the spirit of place in the choice of historic

colors, styles, lettering, and textures.

- Gravel surfacing of parking areas with asphalt paved drive-ways, entrances and exits is recommended as being more compatible with both the historic scene and character of the park and community than total asphalt paving.
- Additional grading of the proposed new day use/visitor center parking should be undertaken to further lower its level, facilitating screening of the paving surface and to reduce visibility of the cars. When unoccupied, the parking spaces as viewed from Highway 1 will not be visibly identifiable as a developed facility. Landscaping between the parking area and Highway 1 should be provided, and grading of the land to create a slight mounding effect may be desirable. However, plant masses and heights should not interfere with ocean views or visitor and traffic safety. Railings or fencing used shall have a casual, rustic, and unobtrusive appearance and color that blend with the natural landscape or fit with typical village/historic fencing.

Mill office/post office

- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the mill office/post office. The new work shall be differentiated from the old, and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the building and its environment.
- Restoration of landscaping along the front



Mill office entrance.

facade shall duplicate the materials, design and configuration of fencing depicted in historic photographs of the building, to the extent feasible.

- Signs in the historic area will be kept to an absolute minimum. Only those signs that are absolutely necessary for health, safety, and interpretation should be visible. General information should be distributed from inside the mill office/visitor center.
- Handicap accessibility should be provided in all designs and restoration projects. Assessability projects installed must not significantly impact the original fabric of the structure and must be screened or otherwise not be visible.

Comfort Station

- The proposed detached comfort station to be located next to the mill office will be sited so that the building does not interfere with ocean

views from the mill office. The building will be designed as a contemporary building for minimal visual impact, using architecture compatible with the historic mill office and rural village character. It should be disabled accessible, energy- and water-efficient, with fire retardant roof and wood material.

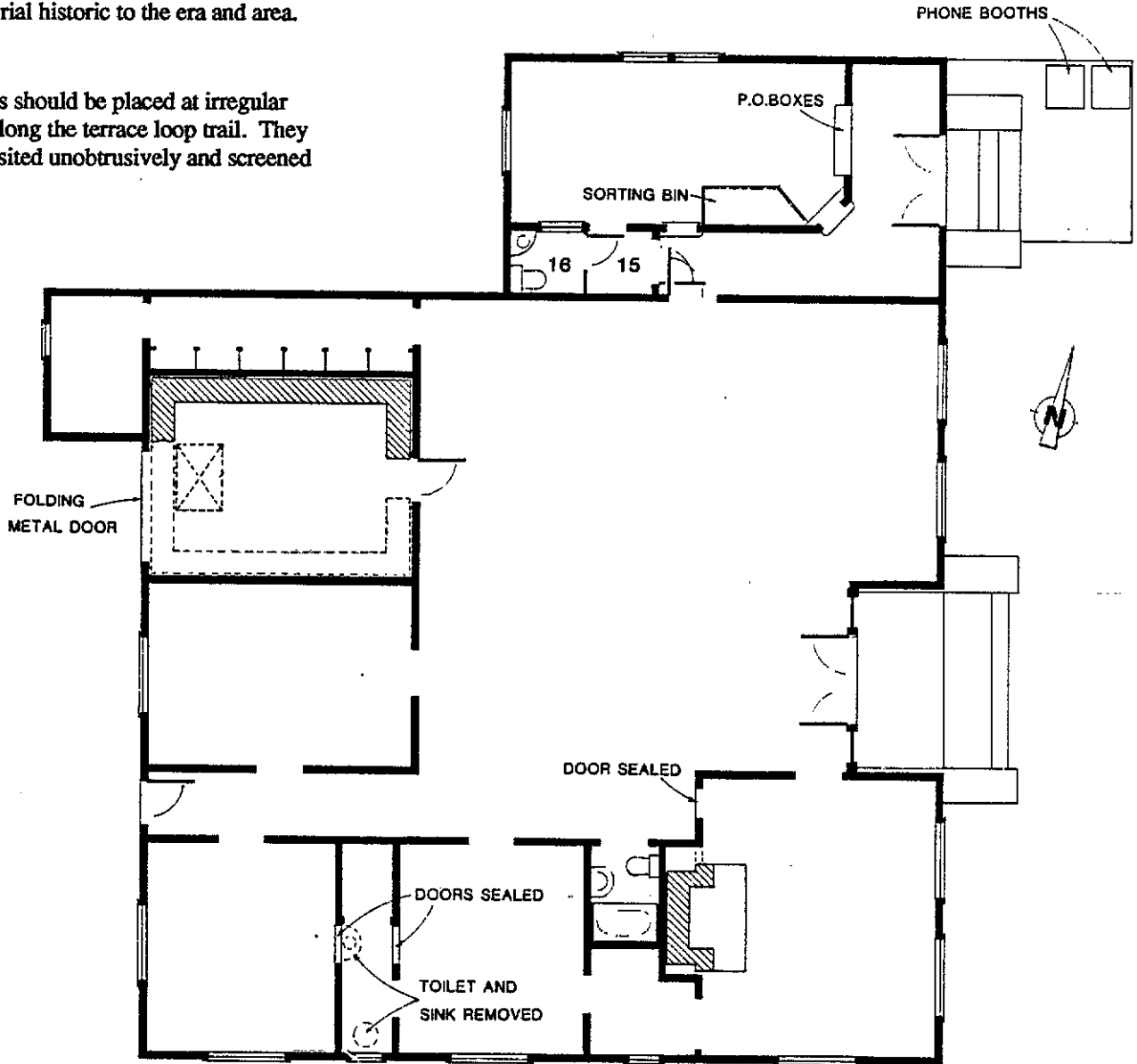
- Landscaping will be provided to partially screen the building using native vegetation or plant material historic to the era and area.

Picnic areas

- Picnic sites should be placed at irregular intervals along the terrace loop trail. They should be sited unobtrusively and screened

from the historic zone. Placement of a picnic site shall not interfere with ocean vistas from any other area of the park.

- Pads for picnic sites shall be gravel or other permeable surface, except for hard surfacing of 2-3 sites to accommodate wheelchair use.



Floor plan of the mill office/post office.

Priorities for implementation

The general priorities established in this section are intended to guide budget decisions in order to accomplish the most important things first. Criteria for establishing importance include visitors' health and safety, the protection of park resources, and public access and enjoyment. This program will be carried out over a long period of time; consequently, the passage of time and the availability of funds or staff may cause priorities to change. As each phase of work is accomplished, it will be prudent to evaluate how the completed facilities are being used and to examine the appropriateness of the next phase.

Priority I actions are those that should occur soon and are changes needed to protect visitor health and safety, remedy or prevent problems that lead directly to resource impacts, or must be accomplished in order to implement Priority II or III actions. Some of these are relatively minor changes to existing conditions and will require little or no additional park staff to operate and maintain.

Many of the Priority II and III projects are more costly. These projects emphasize increased access, and interpretation and protection of the park's resources. There is no pressing need for the Priority III projects to occur soon although some of them may be the among the easiest to accomplish using volunteers or as part of a docent program.

Some plans and programs can proceed independently, without regard to development or the completion of other items. These include resource management programs, e.g, fire protection, and the Historic Structures Report for the mill office/post office.

Individual actions in each group are presented in a recommended sequence. However, many factors can influence this development program, and it should be treated only as a guideline.

PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Priority I

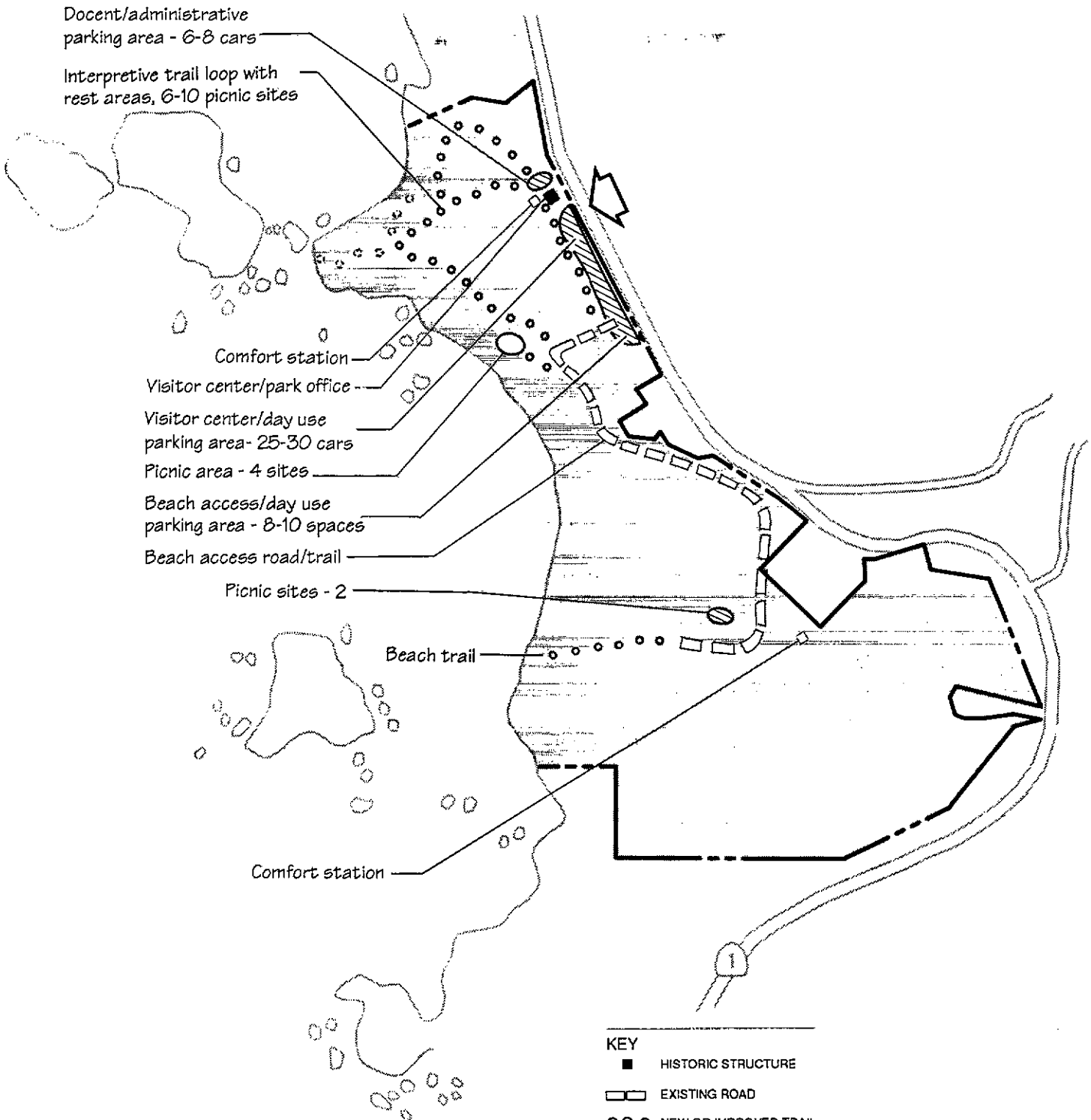
- Repair beach access road.
- Remedy drainage problems at burner ring picnic area.
- Close abalone access bluff trail and install bluff railings and regulatory signs.
- Relocate beach area picnic tables and firepits.

Priority II

- Complete adaptation of mill office/post office to visitor center. Install exhibits and provide handicapped access.
- Provide new entrance/parking area.
- Install new comfort station.

Priority III

- Install loop trail and interpretive panels.
- Replace existing beach level sanitary facility with a new comfort station.
- Install new picnic sites along loop trail and relocate existing designated sites.
- Provide administrative/docent parking.

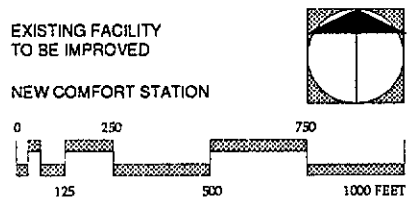


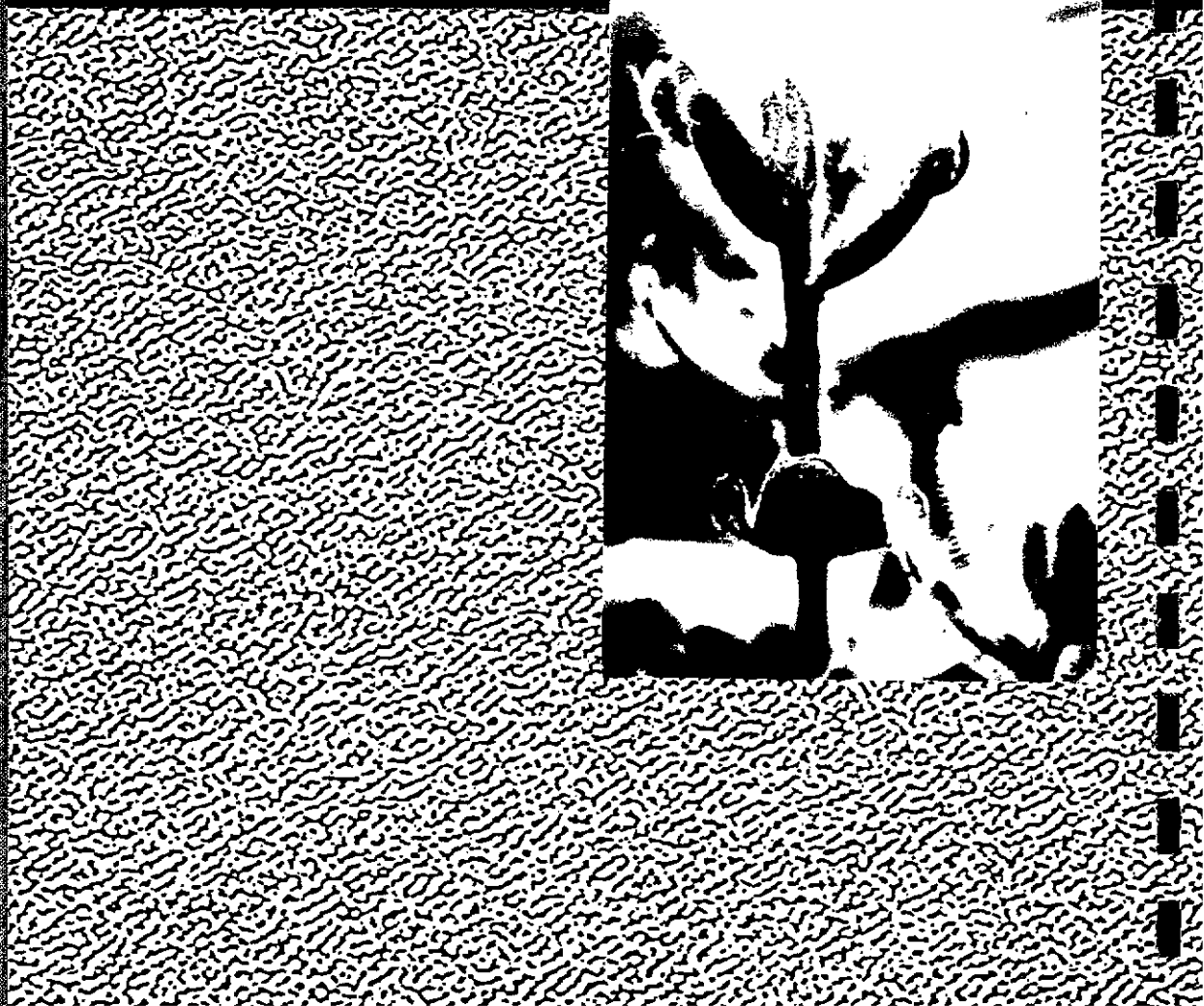
FACILITIES PLAN

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach GENERAL PLAN - FACILITIES ELEMENT

California Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation Map 13 Drawing No. 26666

- KEY**
- HISTORIC STRUCTURE
 - ▭ EXISTING ROAD
 - ○ ○ NEW OR IMPROVED TRAIL
 - ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ TRAIL TO BE REMOVED
 - ⌂ NEW AUTO ENTRANCE
 - ⊗ NEW FACILITY
 - EXISTING FACILITY TO BE IMPROVED
 - NEW COMFORT STATION







ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The General Plan, with all its elements, constitutes an environmental impact report (EIR), as required by Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq. Site specific development and resource management projects for this unit will be subject to subsequent CEQA compliance as they are proposed. The discussion of impacts here is commensurate with the level of specificity of the general plan.

The General Plan proposes facility changes, resource management directives, and classification recommendations. Facility proposals are summarized on page 110. Impacts are those commonly associated with visitor use and facility development. Proposed mitigation requires resource specialists to review and select sites that avoid or reduce potential impacts.

Environmental impact element

Project Description

The Resource, Land Use, Facilities, Interpretive, Concession, and Operations Elements in the General Plan propose development, operation, designate appropriate land uses, resource management, etc. These elements constitute the project description.

Description of the environmental setting

Refer to the Existing Conditions chapter, the Resource Summary of the Resource Element, and Appendix B (Regional Land Use Conditions and Trends) for a description of the existing environment. Additional traffic and air quality information is below.

Air quality

The Mendocino coast is within the North Coast Air Basin. Air quality data for the North Coast Air Basin were reviewed from the 1988 Summary of Gaseous and Particulate Pollutants by the California Air Resources Board, Technical Support Division. Pollutants were monitored at several stations, mostly in the populated areas. There were no monitoring stations for gaseous pollutants along the Mendocino coast; one station along the coast, at Fort Bragg, monitored particulates.

Air quality along the Mendocino coast is generally good due to the inflow of clean air from the Pacific Ocean, and should be superior to that at most of the monitoring stations. The monitoring stations in the air basin did not record any days where the gaseous pollutants exceeded state or federal standards. There were 25 days when particulate samples exceeded state standards and 3 days when federal standards were exceeded.

Traffic

According to CalTrans 1992 Traffic Volumes on California State Highways, the peak hour traffic was 210 vehicles per hour, and the peak month and annual ADT are 1750, and 1300, respectively.

Significant environmental effects of the proposed project

1. The marine terrace, and lagoon and beach areas are culturally sensitive. Any facility development in these areas has the potential to impact cultural resources.
2. There is the potential for loss of threatened and endangered plant species through the construction of facilities and trails, maintenance activities, vandalism, and the inadvertent destruction by visitors. Locations, tolerance and habitat requirements are not precisely known. One sensitive plant species, Mendocino coast Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja mendocinensis*, CNPS 1B, Federal C2, is found on the coastal bluff in the unit.
3. Increased public use may result in degradation of the red alder riparian forest along Greenwood Creek, and the north coast riparian scrub in Li Foo's Gulch, both CNDDDB rare natural communities. The proposed beach comfort station is located within the red alder riparian forest.
4. Greenwood Creek State Beach is within the range of the California red-legged frog, a species of special concern. Increase in public use and facility development potentially may result in disturbance, destruction, or displacement of individuals, or loss of habitat.

Mitigation measures

1. Site specific development will be reviewed by Departmental historians and archeologists to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources. The alteration or removal of any historic features will be subject to Public Resources Code 5024 review requirements. A Departmental historian will record the structures prior to removal or modification.
2. Prior to construction of facilities and trails, areas of potential sensitive plant species will be surveyed by a Departmental resource specialist to determine the presence of known sensitive plant species. Trail alignments and facility sites will be selected to avoid direct impacts to any sensitive plant species. The Department will consult with the Department of Fish and Game if there is a potential for the direct take of special species.
3. Generally, proposed development has been sited outside of the rare natural communities. The beach comfort station, when constructed, will be designed and sited to minimize impact.
4. The Department will consult with the Department of Fish and Game to determine appropriate mitigation when any site specific project may affect a species of special concern.

Unavoidable environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented

Modification of the historic mill office building could remove historic fabric of the structure. Facilities and trails can be removed and sites restored to an essentially pre-project condition if necessary. The structure could be restored to its historic configuration; however, the original material would be lost.

Alternatives to the proposed project

Alternatives considered in the General Plan preparation are: (1) Minimum Visual Change, (2) Maximum Natural Appearance, (3) Education/History, and (4) Recreation. The alternatives are listed and their characteristics described in Appendix F. CEQA also requires the consideration of a "No Project" alternative — no change in existing facilities, operation, or management.

1. Minimum Visual Change

Environmental impacts would be insignificant, because there would be no substantial changes. The historic mill office would be stabilized and interpretive exhibits would be established on trails and at use areas.

2. Maximum Natural Appearance

Visual impact would be beneficial with relocation of parking areas out of the viewshed of the highway. Recreation opportunities will be lost with the removal of the firepits on the beach. Stabilization of the mill office will protect the historic structure. Removal of some trails will reduce recreation opportunities, but reduce visitor impacts as well. Generally the environmental impacts would be beneficial or not be significant.

3. Education/History

Recreation opportunities will be enhanced by increased interpretation, additional picnicking facilities, and the development of a new comfort station. The restoration of historic landscaping and fencing in front of the mill office will be an improvement of the highway viewshed.

4. Recreation

Recreation opportunities will be enhanced by interpretive exhibits, a comfort station with showers, and picnicking facilities. The construction of facilities will require soil disturbance and vegetation loss.

5. No Project

There would be no change in facilities, management or operation. The mill office will not be stabilized resulting in probable deterioration of the historic structure. Recreation opportunities would not be enhanced.

The environmentally preferred alternative is the Maximum Natural Appearance alternative which would have the least impact on the natural resources and a beneficial impact on the cultural resources. This alternative, however, does not provide the recreation opportunities called for in the Declaration of Purpose for the unit.

Relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity

The proposed short-term uses, recreation and resource protection, should not affect the long-term productivity of the unit. The protection and preservation of the resources will not diminish any potential productive use; however, these resources were not acquired for their potential production, conversion or harvesting for marketable products.

There are short-term impacts to the esthetics and viewshed, air quality, and soil erosion, resulting from construction of facilities and resource management activities. The long-term effects would be an improvement of the environment through the restoration of native plant communities, improvement of riparian habitat, viewshed enhancement with landscaping, and improvement of recreation opportunities.

Significant irreversible environmental changes if the project is implemented

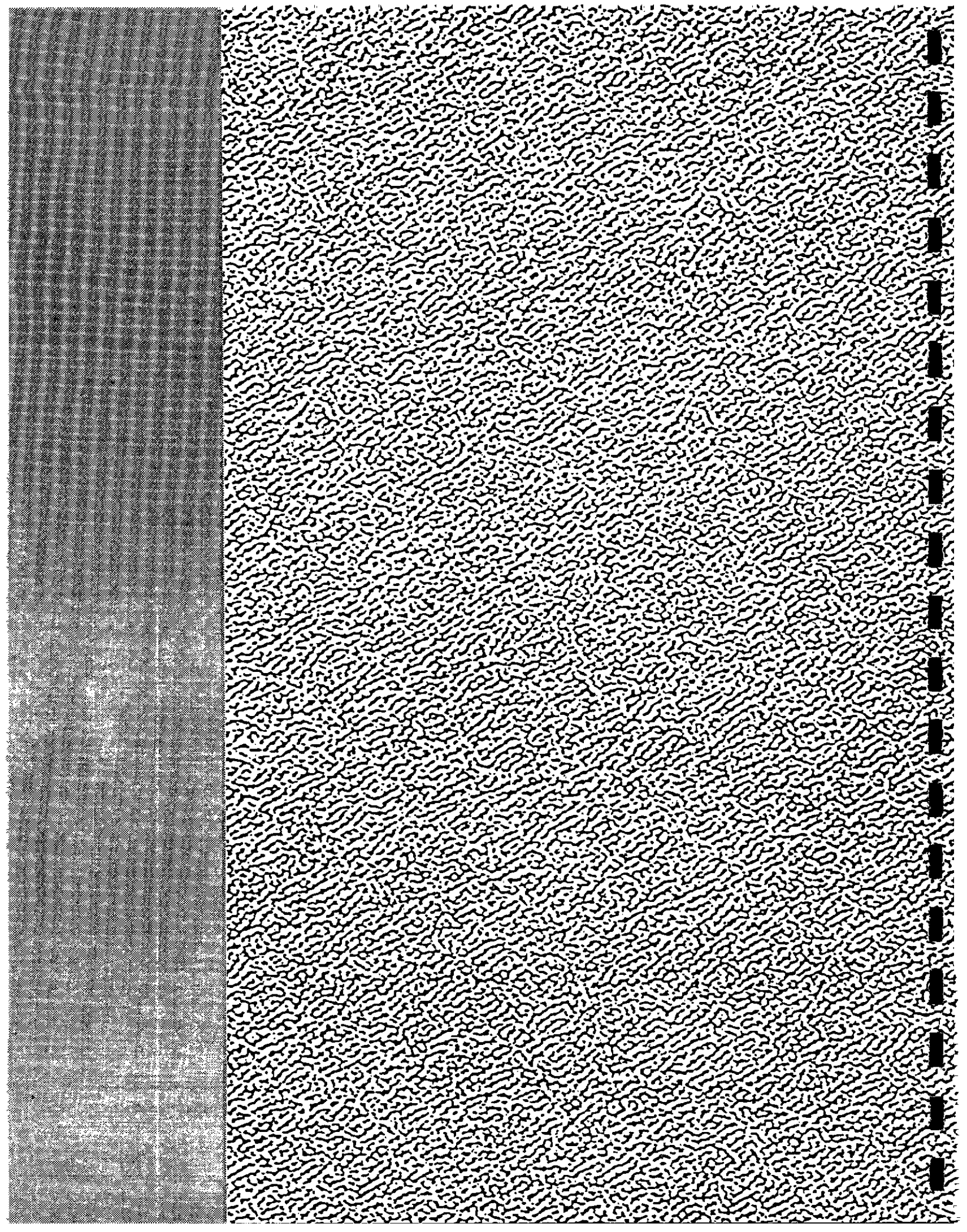
The modification of the mill office building may be an irreversible destruction of historic fabric. The impact may be reduced to a non-significant level with mitigation.

Growth inducing impact of the proposed project

The proposed project may have a minor cumulative impact on growth inducement in the area. Any improvement or increase in capacity can encourage increased use which translates into additional tourism and its attendant demand for services.

Effects found not to be significant

1. The potential increase in traffic was not considered significant because the increase in visitor capacity facilities is not substantial. Improvements to the entrance could reduce traffic problems.
2. Estimated water consumption is low due to the relatively low public use of the unit. Estimated water consumption for day use is about 5 gallons per day per visitor; 1992 visitation was approximately 20,000. Visitation should not substantially increase. Based on CORRP and PARIS, recreational demand is projected to increase approximately 3% annually.
3. Sewage requirements are not projected to increase substantially. The unit has a sewer system that adequately serves existing facilities. A leach field exists for future need at the mill office. Pump out or vault toilets may be used on the beach where it is not feasible to connect the sewer system.
4. Air quality will not significantly deteriorate as a result of project implementation. No substantial increase in visitation, and, therefore, traffic-generated pollutants is expected.
5. No substantial change in energy use is projected. Lighting of facilities is independent of level of use.



APPENDICES



Appendix A: Public meeting notices and newsletters



California Department
of Parks and Recreation

Schooner Gulch Greenwood Creek Manchester State Beach



On July 9 come take part
in planning their future.



Mendocino Coast State Park Units

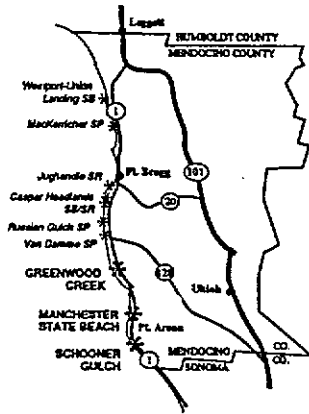
Scenic seashores

There are several beautiful State Park System units on the Mendocino coastline, offering us spectacular scenery, historic perspectives, and natural qualities unique to California. State park planners are developing plans to guide the future of ten of these important seashore units - plans to provide countless opportunities for inspiration and enjoyment while maintaining the qualities that make them so attractive. These plans must fulfill many public expectations, not just those of the people of today, but the needs of generations of visitors to come.

We ask you...

... the users of these coastal lands and waters to help the Mendocino Coast State Park planning team in this job. We are seeking your advice to ensure that these ten coastal state park units provide quality places for you and your families to enjoy. We want to get your ideas on what recreation opportunities are needed, what lands should remain open, natural, and untouched, and what facilities, if any, you'd like developed or improved.

Beginning with the three southern units, Schooner Gulch, Manchester State Beach, and Greenwood Creek, park planners will be conducting public workshops for all of these Mendocino parks over the next several months. A workshop to discuss



the first three units has been scheduled and we are requesting your active participation on this date:

**July 9 Monday 7pm
Veterans Memorial Building
451 School Street
Point Arena**

The planning team will describe lands and resources within the park units and share proposed staff recommendations for classifying and naming

First public meeting notice

the two currently unclassified projects, Greenwood Creek and Schooner Gulch. We want you to tell us about your issues and concerns.

The parks today

These three coastal units, with about 5,330 acres of land and almost 4 miles of seashore, offer a range of experiences from exploration and education to just plain fun. Their animals, birds, and plants are preserved in a wide variety of habitats - beach, bluff, headland, sand dune, forest, and wetland.

Manchester is classified as a "state beach," designed to provide outdoor recreational opportunities: swimming, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, sightseeing, nature study, and many more.

Schooner Gulch and Greenwood Creek projects were acquired to insure continued public beach access at those locations and for landscape preservation and viewshed protection. These project areas will be classified and named prior to completion of their general plans. Classification as a state park, beach, recreation area, or reserve, etc., provides a framework for how an area is to be developed, managed, and operated.

The general plan

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is two-fold: to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the State Park System, and to provide public recreation and use. As part of that mission, the general plan guides the

management and protection of the park's resources and the development of facilities for park operation and visitor use over a twenty-year period. The plan consists of several elements:

- The Resource Element evaluates the park's natural and cultural resources, and sets management policies for protection, restoration and use of these resources.
- The Interpretive Element proposes programs and facilities for public information and interpretation of the park's natural and cultural resource values.
- The Operations Element describes specific operational and maintenance requirements unique to the park.
- The Concessions Element summarizes opportunities to provide appropriate goods or services to the public through concessions in existing or proposed facilities.
- The Land Use Element describes current land uses and relevant planning issues, outlines land use objectives and recommendations for the park, and determines future land uses.
- The Facilities Element describes existing facilities, recommends improvements and new facilities, and establishes priorities for park development.
- The Environmental Impact Element serves as the Environmental impact report required by the California Environmental Quality Act. It assesses environmental effects and proposes mitigation measures and alternatives.

Public involvement

Public involvement is an integral part of the planning process. Your ideas help determine what kind of place the park should be. With knowledge of your issues and concerns gleaned

at the first workshop, planners develop alternative plans for resource preservation and facility development that are presented at a second public workshop. There you will be asked to review the alternatives and help formulate a single plan. The planning team then prepares a Preliminary General Plan document that becomes available for public review and comment before it is submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for approval. Commission action on the plan takes place at a public hearing where you will again have the opportunity to make comments.

Persons who want additional information about the workshop, the Department of Parks and Recreation planning process, or who want to submit comments about the park units should write to the address listed at the bottom.

REMINDER...

First planning workshop for
Manchester State Beach
Greenwood Creek project
Schooner Gulch project:

7PM Monday July 9
Veterans Memorial Building
451 School Street
Point Arena, CA 95468

PLEASE COME AND
PARTICIPATE!



California Department of Parks and Recreation
Mendocino Coast State Parks General Plan Team
Robert Acra, Project Manager
P.O. Box 924896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

UPDATE

A Newsletter of the Southern Mendocino Coast State Parks General Plan



Number One
November 1990

A NOTE FROM THE GENERAL PLAN PROJECT MANAGER

Last May, when we started planning for the Mendocino Coast state park units, and then in July, at the first public meeting, we promised those of you who participated in the first stage of our public involvement effort that we would keep you informed of our progress. Here is our first newsletter - *Update*, and with it we want to share with you the ideas we received at the public meeting and through visitor surveys, and to show you how the general plan team has translated those ideas into recommendations for future park use, development, and resource management.

In the first phase of our public involvement effort, the general task of exploring the horizons of the parks' future was initiated in an open public meeting held in July 1990. After the meeting, we compiled, studied, and categorized the ideas we heard, and a summary of these is presented in the newsletter. In addition, we received a number of comments by mail from people who were unable to attend the meeting and we are including some of those comments as well. The results of a 1990 use season visitor survey were tallied and have provided us with detailed information about visitor demographics and preferences. That information, too, is included here.

This issue of *Update* represents the second major stage of public involvement in planning for the future of the three southern Mendocino Coast state park units. Your concern and assistance are again needed to provide the critical feedback we believe is a constructive part of park planning.

From the thoughts and ideas that surfaced in phase one, the general plan team assembled alternative approaches for visitor use and enjoyment of the parks based on our concerns for preserving and protecting the parks' resources. Now in phase two we are presenting you with our proposals for the ultimate development of these park units. We are contacting you at this jun-

ture in the planning effort to be sure that the direction we are headed takes into account your ideas and concerns. We ask that you provide us with comments and recommendations concerning our proposals at our next public meeting December 5, 1990, 7PM, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Point Arena.

Upon completion of this phase, we will analyze your input and prepare a DRAFT GENERAL PLAN (GP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT containing what we believe to be the most feasible plan for the management and use of the park. The draft GP will contain the recommended alternative and a full impact discussion of all the alternatives considered. We expect to have the draft ready for your review by next spring. Remember a draft plan is just that - a draft which is subject to change depending on information and discussion during the public review.

We want to thank you for your enthusiastic response to the survey and public meeting, and to ask for your continued support and assistance. We always welcome your thoughts and ideas - whether you write to us or come by and see us in person. Be assured that we will continue to keep you informed about our progress in future issues of *Update*.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Acra
Mendocino Coast General Plan Project Manager
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001
(916) 322-8350

What's the Next Step?

Public Meeting

Manchester State Beach
Greenwood Creek
Schooner Gulch

Come hear the general plan team's proposed plans for resource management, park use, and development of facilities, and give us your comments and recommendations.

7PM
Wednesday
December 5
Veterans Memorial Building
451 School Street
Point Arena

Ideas from the Public

In July, about sixty interested citizens, some of them representing organizations with hundreds of members, took part in our first public workshop at Point Arena, and gave us their thoughts on the future of Manchester State Beach and Greenwood Creek and Schooner Gulch projects. Here is a summary of the ideas, arranged by unit, mentioned most frequently by people attending the meeting. Comments include those we heard at the meeting as well as excerpts from several letters we received following the meeting.

Schooner Gulch

- Provide safe access to the park.
- Ensure that park use does not negatively impact rights of adjacent private property owners.
- Cooperate with Caltrans/County to provide a solution for safe park access and parking.
- Support resource protection efforts by local groups.

- Improve locations of existing sanitary facilities.
- Make use of the existing historic structure.
- Provide barrier-free trails and facilities if possible.
- Maintain the scenic qualities of the park.
- Restore fishery resources.
- Use the park for educational purposes.
- Preserve bird habitat/feeding areas.

Samples of Comments

"...more environmental campsites are needed on the Mendocino Coast."

"Restrooms are poorly located: one restroom is visible from highway, door flaps open in wind, and building has displaced a popular sunning spot; the other restroom is located in a popular spot for picnics and weddings."

"Parks should do something about nudity and indiscriminate use of the roadside pull-out (on private property) by scuba divers."

"The State property should be developed for public use; it takes too long to develop

property after acquisition."

"Make beach leash-optional."

"No dogs on beach; loose dogs kill our sheep."

"We need more information on classification ...prefer 'reserve' classification over 'state beach'".

"This ...along with all the other biologic activity, ...suggests a policy of human use with minimum impact: no camping, no unleashed dogs, no vehicles, ...considerable care in beach cleanups...and no further development beyond the existing privies and parking lot."

Manchester State Beach

- Provide better access to the environmental campsites.
- Ensure that park campgrounds do not compete with private industry.
- Keep facilities primitive.
- Generally upgrade accessibility to areas in park.
- Interpret cultural and natural resources.
- Provide more interpretive

programs.

- Use the park for educational opportunities.
- Utilize existing bluff-top houses.
- Protect wetland areas.
- Manage rare and endangered plant and animal species.

- Restore fishery resources.
- Protect bird nesting/feeding habitat.
- Restore and maintain the scenic quality of park lands.
- Don't develop the Stoneboro Road area - keep it primitive and low-key.

"...the general character of Manchester should be maintained. For the most part is is minimally developed, and exists in a more or less natural state. I believe all efforts should be directed to keep it that way."

Samples of Comments

"The mouth of the Garcia River and tundra swan wetlands should be considered for acquisition."

"To my mind it is far more than just a beach, and I believe it should be redesignated to include the name 'park' in the title."

"...the general character of the park should be maintained. For the most part is is minimally developed, and exists in a more or less natural state. I believe all efforts should be directed to keep it that way."

"...a close liaison with the local schools should be developed so that young children can learn to appreciate their surroundings, ...to preserve their natural heritage."

"...a close look at liner collected would probably reveal something about the sources of it and possibly how to control it..."

"...The fact that they (the campgrounds) are not elaborate with hook-ups for power, water, and sewage is a real plus! There are still plenty of campers that like thing rustic. For those who would carry all the amenities of the city to the country for their...camping, there are numerous camping places along the coast to cater to their needs, e.g., a KOA right next door."

Greenwood Creek

- Provide for continued post office use of the mill office.
- Provide facilities for civic events.
- Provide better sanitary facilities for park users.
- Interpret the area's history and natural features.
- Restore fishery resources.
- Restore and maintain scenic qualities of park lands.
- Don't overdevelop the park. No campgrounds.
- Work with local groups on resource protection issues.
- Promote local economy by encouraging tourism: provide quality visitor experiences and park facilities.
- Provide barrier-free trails and facilities where feasible.
- Ensure that park facilities do not compete with private industry.
- Provide more information about activities and facilities in and near the park.

Samples of Comments

"...the state should contribute to the Elk Community Water District."
"Our businesses across the street are impacted by park visitors wanting to use our restrooms. Improve the

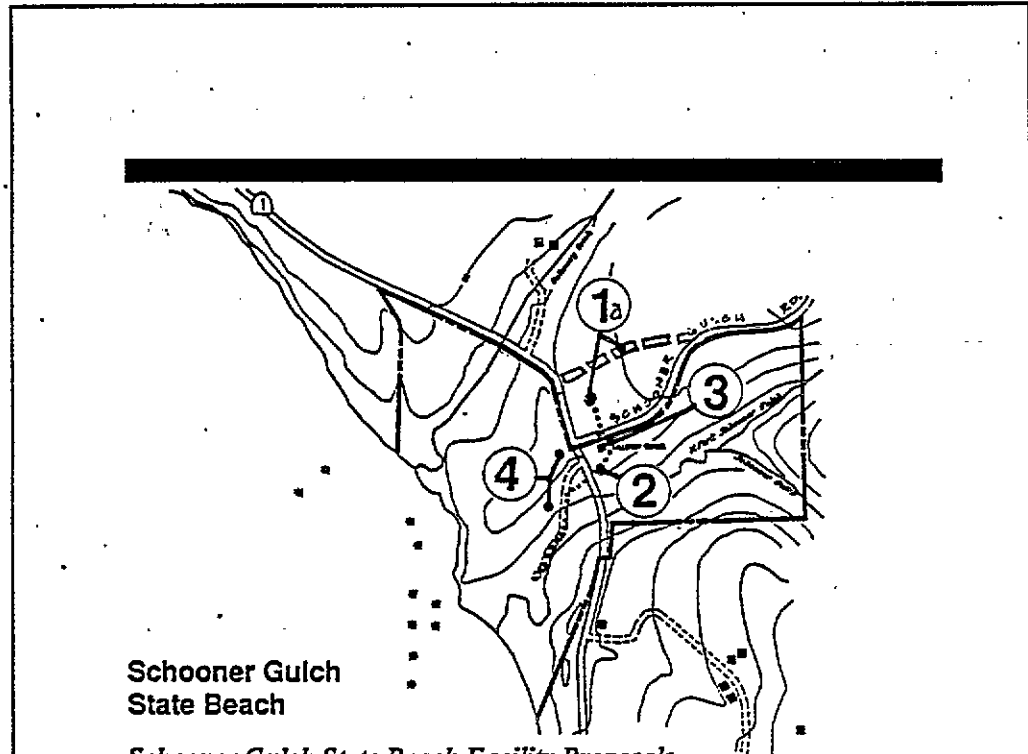
restrooms at the park."
"Garbage cans are good!"
"Cut back grass on the trails...brush on the bluff is overgrown - it's a potential fire hazard."
"The post office has always been in the mill office; we want it to stay."

location and are a fire hazard."
"I'm concerned about invasive plant species on the bluff, like broom and pampas grass."
"Stop erosion, especially on the road down to the beach."
"Integrate a recycling program into park's trash disposal system."

"...tourist use of the Beach ...directly affects our lives in ways that are unprecedented... people knocking on our door wanting to use our bathroom, people picnicking on our front porch and leaving their garbage there, state park workers cutting shrubs on the headland ...so that dust blows in our faces for six months while the shrubs grow back..."

"Don't expand the existing facilities; there is already a problem with camping in the day-use parking lot."
"We don't want overnight use at this park - it's too small. Camping would impact water, businesses, increase vandalism."
"Bicyclists could use some facilities...like places to stay overnight off the road. How about campsites just for bicyclists?"
"Tables, toilet, fire rings impact esthetics of area, block beach views. Fire rings are in poor

"The trees (in Li Fu Gulch) need to be kept trimmed..."
"...I like the day use only. I firmly believe in the 'no wheeled vehicles' to the beach... This area is pristine and fragile."
"...we are very much against re-(sic)classification as a State Beach or State Park. We favor a Preserve."
"...Greenwood Creek estuary...needs restoration and protection..."
"Number One in preserving Greenwood Creek ... stop the overlogging of it..."



**Schooner Gulch
State Beach**

Schooner Gulch State Beach Facility Proposals

1 - Provide safe access and parking area. (1a) If additional land north of Schooner Gulch Road becomes available for acquisition, State Parks should coordinate with the County to realign the road northward to intersect Highway 1 at crest of hill; develop new a 20-35 car parking area and comfort station north of school building on new lands with access off Schooner Gulch

Road. (1b) Alternative solution: work with Caltrans to realign Highway 1 curve (requires major grading and bank removal on park property) and develop comfort station and 20-35 car parking area around the school building with access off Schooner Gulch Road.

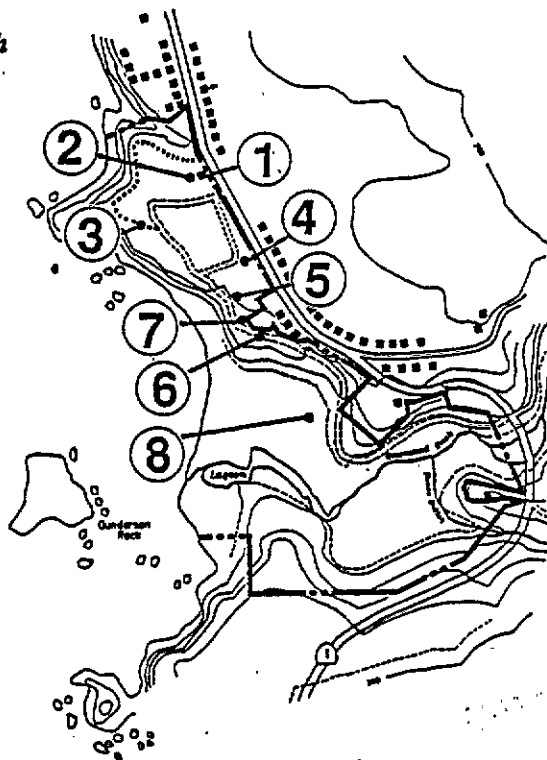
2 - Locate new beach access trail under highway bridge connecting new parking area to existing beach trail

3 west of highway.
- Restore and maintain historic facade of schoolhouse; future adaptive use of the building may be appropriate, e.g., interpretive use if a volunteer/docent group or additional park staff were available to operate it.

4 - Remove sanitary facility on terrace; reposition and screen or relocate sanitary facility closest to beach.

Facility Proposals
Greenwood State Beach

- 1** - Adapt southern portion of mill office for use as visitor center and restrooms ; continue post office use in northern portion and add handicapped access ramp and truck loading area. Relocate telephones and restore historic building facade and fencing.
- 2** - Provide new parking area behind mill office with access off Highway 1 for both post office/visitor center and beach users.
- 3** - Develop handicapped-accessible interpretive trail with overlooks and wayside interpretive exhibits along the bluff-top. Provide 5-10 picnic sites near new parking area.
- 4** - Remove existing parking area and restore site.
- 5** - Retain existing bluff-top picnic areas and restroom.
- 6** - Improve existing beach/emergency vehicle access road by solving drainage/erosion problems.
- 7** - Plant vegetative screening between beach road and adjacent private residences.
- 8** - Retain sanitary facility on beach. Relocate or reduce picnic sites and fire rings.



Greenwood State Beach

**Facility Proposals
Manchester State Beach**

ALDER CREEK BEACH ACCESS

- 1 Develop new 15-25 car parking area (where park service road now joins Alder Creek Road).
- 2 Close Alder Creek Road to vehicles north of new parking area. (Requires county abandonment of road north of private property). Remove existing parking at end of Alder Creek Road and provide comfort station; retain roadway as pedestrian/emergency vehicle beach access.
- 3 Remove houses on bluff-top and restore site.

DAVIS HOUSE AREA

- 4 Retain environmental camps (12).
- 5 Restore Davis House for use as an interpretive center with trailhead and restrooms.
- 6 Develop wetlands interpretive trail/boardwalk with wayside exhibits.
- 7 Relocate access from highway and improve entrance road.
- 8 Develop new gated 35-50 car parking area screened from highway for day-users and environmental campers.

SERVICE/MAINTENANCE AREA

- 9 Retain employee trailer pads.
- 10 Improve park office; designate public parking (2-4 spaces).

KINNEY ROAD CAMPGROUND

- 11 Enlarge campground eastward (15-25 additional sites). When necessary, relocate any existing campsite impacting mountain beaver habitat. Improve sanitary facilities,

maintaining their rustic, low-key character.

- 12 Retain trailer sanitation station.
- 13 Retain campfire center.
- 14 Improve entrance and provide new contact station. Preferred solution is to develop a new contact station on Kinney Road that would serve both the campground and beach day-use area. (This would require consent of private property owners south and west of the road and county abandonment of the road at the park boundary).

- 15 Provide new designated trails and provide better signing for existing trails.

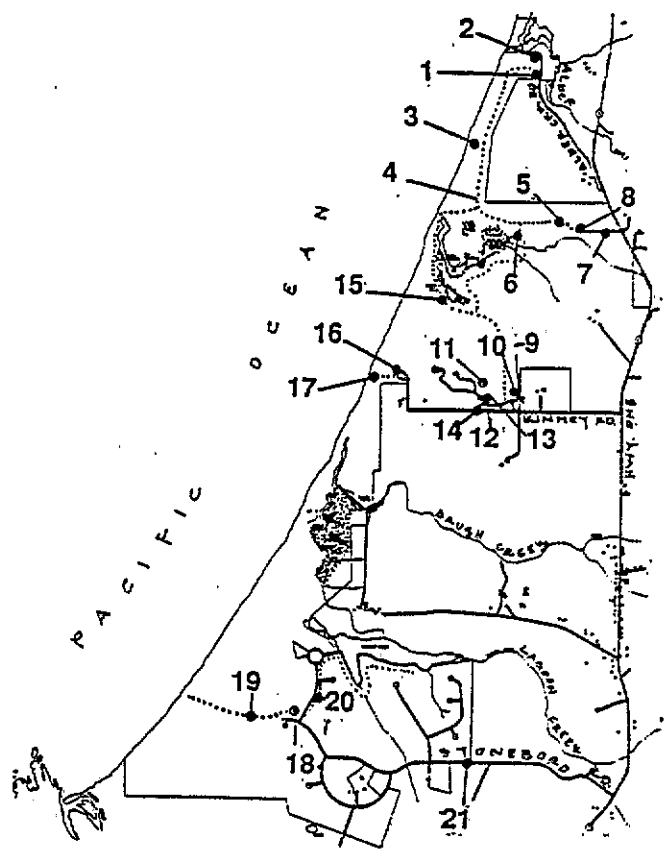
KINNEY ROAD BEACH ACCESS

- 16 Improve and enlarge the existing day-use parking area (50-75 cars). Provide comfort station.
- 17 Provide designated trail to beach. Eliminate volunteer trails over dunes. Improve trails from beach to campground and KOA.

STONEBORO ROAD AREA

- 18 Provide new 50-car day-use parking area, comfort station, and 10-15 picnic sites. (Or provide two smaller parking areas: acquire and improve the existing beach access parking area in addition to developing a new 25-car parking area, comfort station, and picnic area).
- 19 Designate beach access trail. Eliminate volunteer trails.
- 20 Develop handicapped accessible wetlands trail/boardwalk.
- 21 Develop gated access on Stoneboro Road. When inholdings and private rights-of-way become available for acquisition, the county road should be abandoned west of the park boundary.

Manchester State Beach



Next Public Meeting

• • •

Wednesday
December 5
7 PM

Veterans Memorial
Building
451 School Street
Point Arena

• • •

Come hear and respond to
the general plan team's pro-
posals for resource preser-
vation and management,
future land use, and devel-
opment of facilities for:

Schooner Gulch
Manchester State Beach
Greenwood Creek

• • •

Third Greenwood Creek State Beach general plan public meeting notice

STATE OF CALIFORNIA--THE RESOURCES AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 942898
SACRAMENTO 94298-0001



(916) 322-8350

January 4, 1991

TO: Elk Participant/December 5th Meeting

Thank you for attending our December general plan meeting for the Greenwood Creek Unit. During that meeting, I agreed to meet with interested residents of Elk to continue the discussion on proposals of the general plan.

I have reserved the Elk Community Center for January 14th at 6:30 pm for this purpose and if you are interested, you are invited to attend this informal discussion.

The purpose of the discussion is to exchange ideas on local and visitor needs related to this State Park unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Acree".

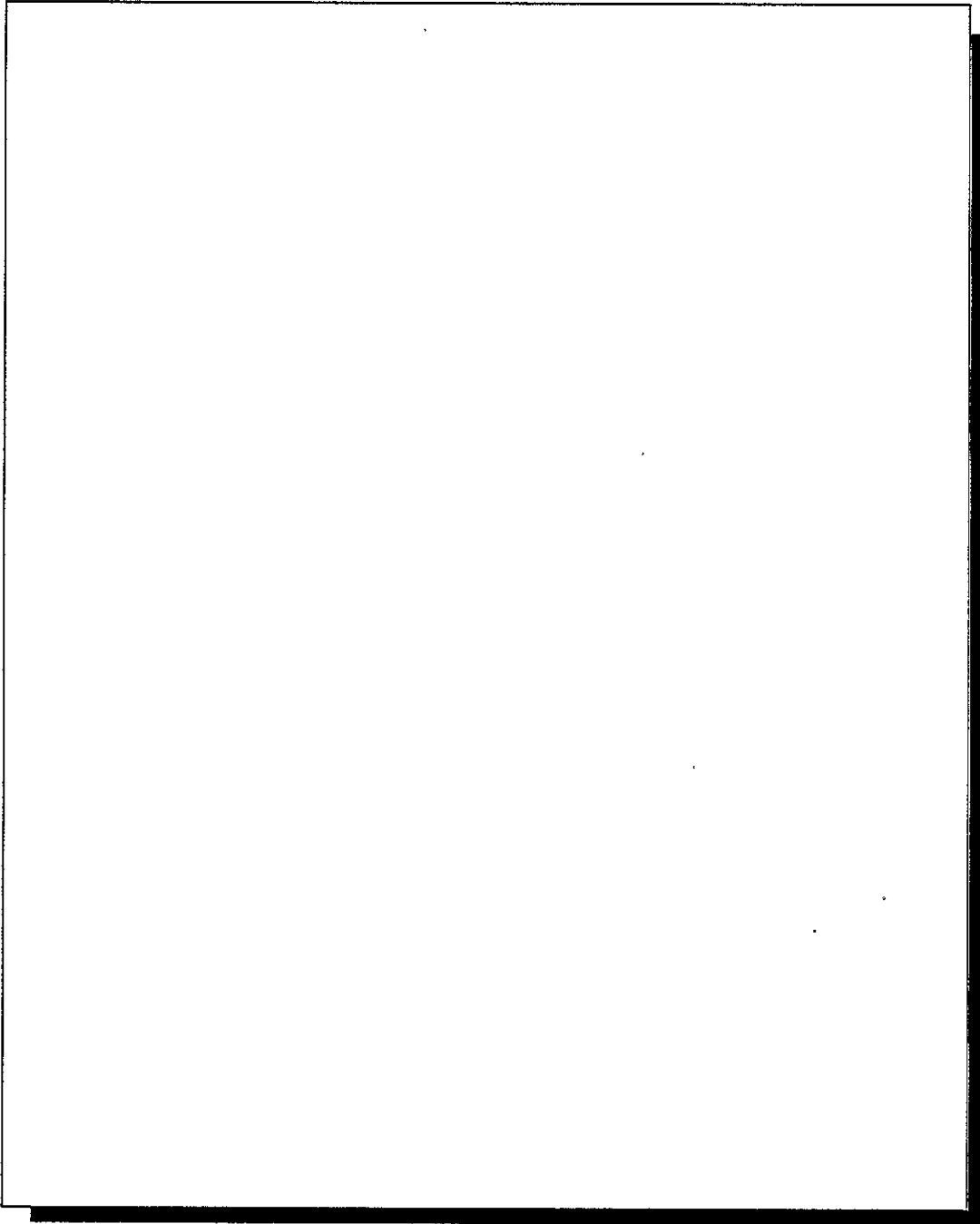
Robert M. Acree
General Plan Project Manager
Department of Parks and Recreation

STATE PARK NOTICE

BOB ACREA, THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE GREENWOOD CREEK GENERAL PLAN, WILL BE AT THE ELK COMMUNITY CENTER JANUARY 14TH AT 6:30 PM TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL PLAN PROPOSALS PRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 5TH PUBLIC MEETING.

ELK RESIDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION IS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON LOCAL AND VISITOR NEEDS RELATED TO THIS STATE PARK UNIT.

Fourth Greenwood Creek State Beach general plan public meeting notice





Appendix B: Regional land use conditions and trends

Population

The present land use pattern in Mendocino County is a rural one with abundant timber and agricultural lands. The population of approximately 80,000 people (July 1990) is generally concentrated along the sea coast, Highway 101, and in a few interior valleys. More than two-thirds of them live in unincorporated and rural areas. The four incorporated towns — Ukiah and Willits inland on Highway 101 and Fort Bragg and Point Arena on Highway 1 along the coast — are small. Ukiah, the county seat and largest community, is the only one with a population exceeding 10,000 (about 14,000 in 1988). Ukiah is also the center of economic activity and offers the greatest range of employment and residential options.

As is typical of most of California, Mendocino county's population has increased substantially over the last twenty years. In the 1960s, the population grew by only .1%, but between 1970 and 1980, Mendocino's total population increased by 30.6%, or about 3% per year. In the 1980-90 decade the growth rate slowed to about 2% per year. Almost 60% of this gain resulted from net migration. The California Department of Finance projects that the county's population will exceed 100,000 people by the year 2010.

Transportation

The regional transportation network links Mendocino County with the San Francisco Bay Area, Eureka, and areas north by way of U.S. Highway 101 and Pacific Coast Highway 1.

Between Highways 1 and 101 in Mendocino county, State Highway 20 connects Fort Bragg, Willits, and Ukiah with Sacramento via Lake County and Interstate 5; State Route 128 provides links to the coast from inland and Sonoma County. The Ukiah Municipal Airport, with a 5,000-foot-

runway, has complete facilities, including charter flight surface and ground transportation on to San Francisco International Airport seven days a week. Mendocino Transit Authority provides bus service throughout the county, and Greyhound has regular interstate service on Highway 101 plus north to Fort Bragg via Highway 128. Falcon busline operates daily between Fort Bragg, Santa Rosa, and San Francisco. Shipping can be done by Greyhound, United Parcel, Federal Express, and by Northwestern Pacific/Eureka Southern rail from Sonoma County to Eureka.

Economy

Timber and agriculture are mainstays of the county's economy. Wine grape production rivals commercial and sportfishing as the second major industry. Pears also remain strong, and throughout Mendocino County one finds a wide variety of traditional agricultural enterprises, such as cattle, sheep, apples, nursery and field crops, Christmas trees, and even llamas. As the north coast continues to grow as a premier wine region, and other commodities stay in demand, agriculture will continue to play an essential role in the county's economy and rural lifestyle.

Tourism is becoming an increasingly important part of the area's economy. The trend in this industry is one of sporadic but sustained growth, with a continuing increase and diversification of small business enterprises. The scenic beauty of the area, particularly the large expanses of privately managed timberlands, and the unique resources of the 14 coastal units of the State Park System are the primary bases for recreation and tourism.

Regional recreation profile

Land Ownership

Approximately 466,000 acres in Mendocino County or 21% of the county are in public ownership, almost all of which is technically available for park and recreation use. However, difficult access effectively precludes public recreation use of much of these lands. The largest single public landowner is the federal government with approximately 372,700 acres distributed between various federal agencies (primarily U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management).

These lands consist of largely undeveloped natural environment areas, with small scattered sites that provide developed recreation facilities (U.S. Forest Service) or occasional primitive hunter camps (Bureau of Land Management). More developed recreation opportunities at Lake Mendocino, operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, include boating, swimming, water-skiing, camping, picnicking, and hiking.

State-owned lands in the county total approximately 83,000 acres, 20,678 of which are controlled by the Department of Parks and Recreation. This acreage is distributed between 22 state parks, beaches, reserves, and recreation areas ranging in size from three-acre Caspar Headlands State Reserve to 7,315-acre Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. These lands are used primarily for recreation, with emphasis on passive activities, such as hiking, camping, and picnicking, within strong programs of open space and natural resource preservation. Most State Park System lands have good access and receive moderate to heavy recreation use during the summer, with lighter use in the spring and fall.

Currently, lands in county ownership for outdoor recreation purposes total approximately 500 acres. Gualala Point Regional Park fronts on the coast and has developed hiking trails, picnicking,

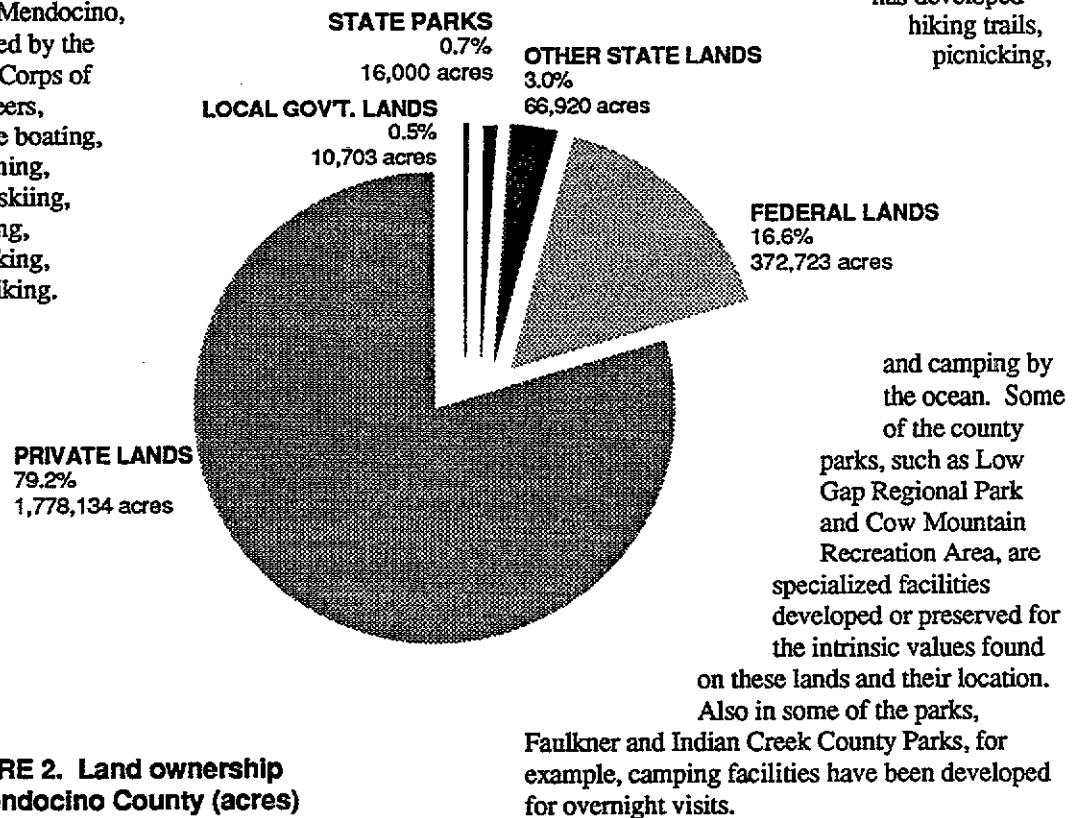


FIGURE 2. Land ownership in Mendocino County (acres)

Local park and recreational needs are met through provisions established by the various incorporated areas of the county. In addition to local park and special use areas, recreation programs such as sports leagues, tiny tot's programs, senior citizen programs, adult education classes, and arts and crafts programs help to meet the needs of their clientele. However, analysis by the Department of Parks and Recreation (California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan) indicates that the existing acreage of local park lands is less than one-tenth of that needed to serve the population now residing in the county's incorporated cities, and less than 3% of that needed to meet the needs of the county's present population. As a result, State Park System units often serve as local parks.

The importance of the private sector in meeting recreation needs should not be overlooked. Of the approximate 1.8 million acres of private land in Mendocino County, 460,000 acres (26%) are available for recreation. Much of the acreage is accounted for by ranches, farms, and timberlands (used for hunting), but the private sector also provides campgrounds, marinas, launching and mooring facilities, theme parks, golfing, fishing, equestrian use, and picnicking.

Coastal recreation

Within Mendocino County, the coast is the primary recreation and tourist destination area and is considered a recreation and tourist impact area. Most recreation and tourist use in this area is attracted from outside the county. The diversity and relatively unspoiled character of the Mendocino coast's natural and human-made environment invite the visitor to spend a day or week there. A basic attraction is sightseeing by driving along Highway 1, admiring the dramatic vistas of sea and shoreline. Tourists are attracted by the coast's natural habitats, the tide pools, estuaries, and coves, its "uncrowded" rural character, and the charm of its villages and towns. Popular activities include hiking and walking, picnicking, bicycling, fishing, abalone diving, birdwatching, whale-watching, and photography. Leading attractions at specific points include the town of Mendocino, renowned for its quaint Cape Cod-style architecture and spectacular natural setting, the Skunk Train from Fort Bragg to Willits, fishing activity at Noyo Harbor, and the coastal State Park System units.

Other public recreation sites along the coast are the Wildlife Conservation Board fishing or boating access points at Noyo and the Caltrans Chadbourne Gulch scenic easement. There are 15 private campgrounds in the coastal zone, five of which have shoreline access (Wages Creek, Doyle Creek, Albion Flat, Anchor Bay, Gualala River Redwood Park).

State park coastal facilities and visitation

State Park System units are the largest, best known, and most heavily used recreational sites along the coast. Thirteen state park units along the coast account for approximately 38 miles of shoreline, or about 32% of the county total. In all, Mendocino County has 22 State Park System units, 13 of which are coastal units and attract a substantial majority of the visitors to the region. Most of them stress the preservation of significant natural heritage resources and passive recreational pursuits typical of the north coast, such as nature observation and beachcombing. Several units help preserve the magnificent stands of coast redwood forest.

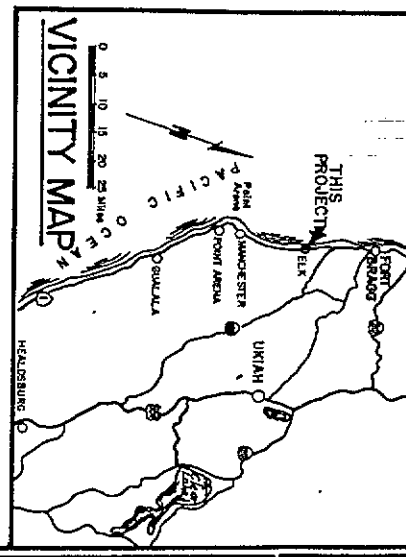
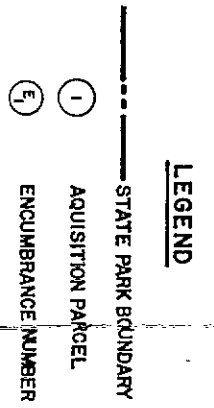
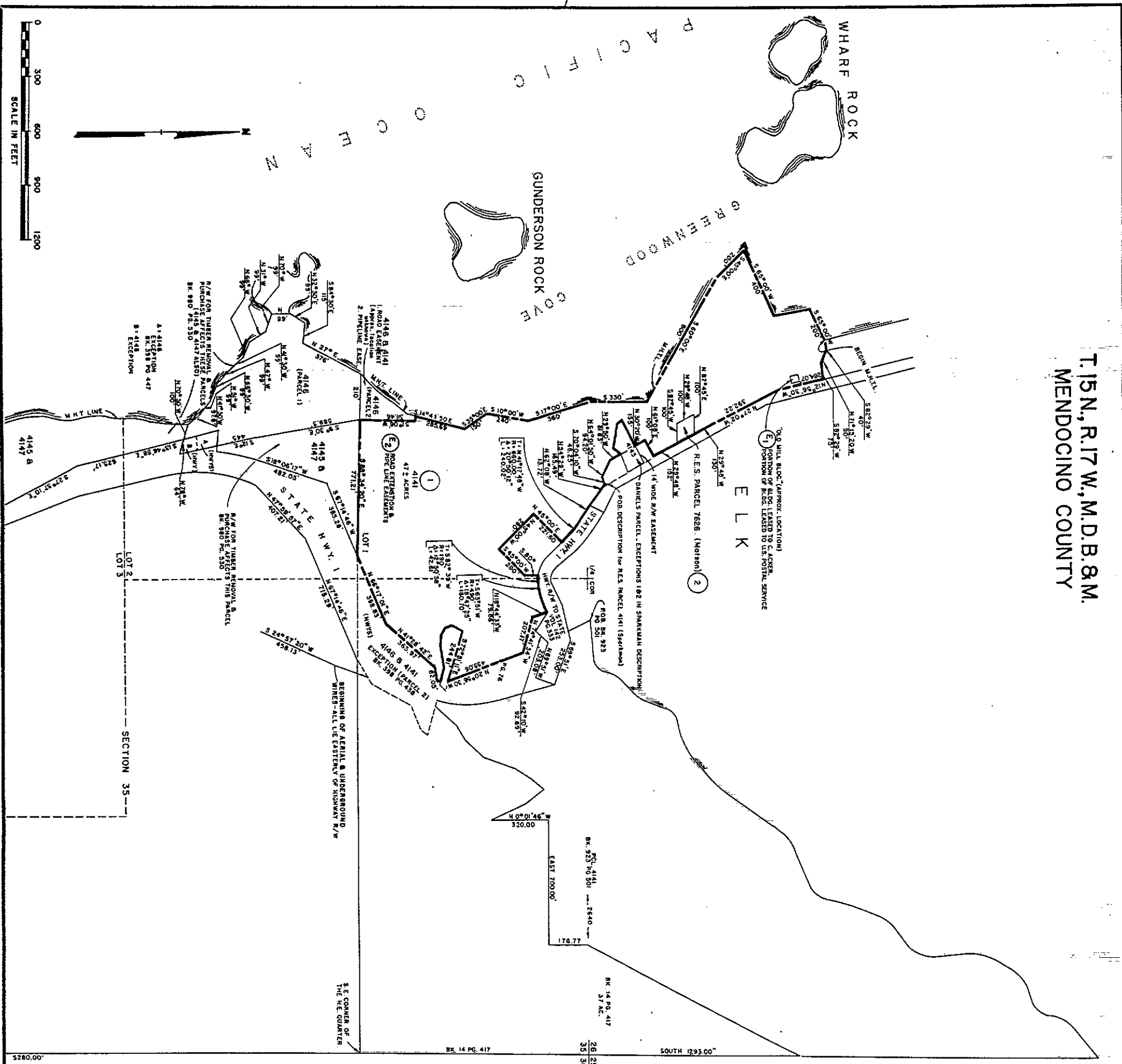
As of June 1990, there were a total of 886 campsites, 83 picnic sites, and 117 miles of trails within the State Park System units in Mendocino County, of which 716 campsites, 63 picnic sites, and 108 miles of trail were located in the coastal units. Visitor attendance countywide at State Park System units in fiscal year 1988-89 was 2,348,423. Visitation in units along the coast (2,151,363) accounted for 92% of the countywide total; 1,907,435 (or 89%) of the coastal visitation was day use.

In the coastal area of Mendocino, the County General Plan (Coastal Element) estimates that on a peak summer weekend day, when all accommodations are filled, there could be 2,600 visitor parties on the coast, 90% of whom will spend the night there. As of 1980, there were approximately 2,206 overnight accommodation units, including motels, inns, state park campgrounds, and private campgrounds in the county's coastal zone, not including those within incorporated cities. Based on the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan (CORRP) and PARIS (Park and Recreation Information System) data, as well as traffic trends on Highway 1, the county projects tourism to

increase 3% per year (not compounded) for the next 20 years. By the year 2000, peak day use could increase 60% to 4,160 parties. If the need for accommodations were to increase at the same rate as visitors, an additional 1,324 units would be needed, for a total of 3,530 units. The county's Coastal Element plans and allows for an increase to 3,086 overnight accommodation units by the year 2000.

The 716 coastal state park campsites account for 23% of the county's total projected overnight accommodations in the coastal zone. Since 1980 when the Coastal Element was prepared, all of the 260 additional camp units allocated to state parks to meet future needs have been installed. Yet the need for camping facilities is still unmet in certain areas.

T.15N., R.17W., M.D.B. & M.
MENDOCINO COUNTY



PCL NO.	GRANTOR	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	RECORDING DATE	BOOK & PAGE	PARCEL ACREAGE	TOTAL ACREAGE
4141	JACK W. SPARKMAN	GRANT	12-19-78	185-192	4.71	0.22
7828	MELVIN R. MATSON, ET UX	DEED	11-23-85	1534-123		

ENCUMBRANCE	GRANTEE	TYPE OF DOCUMENT	TERMINATION DATE	DOCUMENT DATE	RECORDING DATE	BOOK & PAGE
E1	CHARLES ACKER	LEASE	MONTHLY	1-1-79	PARKS & REC. FILE - LEASE 6493	
E2	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	LEASE	MONTHLY	5-1-80	PARKS & REC. FILE - LEASE 6496	
E2	LEGRANDE C. SHERWOOD, ET UX	GRANT	INDEFINITE	3-21-80	5-3-80 539-306	

NOTE 1. SEE P&R FILE 419.4 FOR PERMITS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.
NOTE 2. SEE P&R FILES 419.5 AND 419.8 FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO TITLE AND ENCUMBRANCES.
NOTE 3. SEE P&R FILE 429.6 FOR USE AGREEMENTS, ETC.
NOTE 4. FOR BENEFIT OF STATE PARKS USE AND OPERATION ONLY.

REFERENCE MAPS
MAP CASE 2, DRAWER 41 PAGE 72
MAP CASE 1, DRAWER 10 PAGE 112 OF OFFICIAL SURVEYS
MAP CASE 2, DRAWER 1 PAGE 30 OF OFFICIAL SURVEYS
USGS QUAD "ELK" 7 1/2 MIN.
USGS QUAD "MOLLO PASS GREEN" 7 1/2 MIN.

Land ownership record

DBP-529
DPR-821

GREENWOOD CREEK STATE BEACH
LAND OWNERSHIP RECORD
APPENDIX C

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED *Robbinson* DATE 12-21-84
RIGHT OF WAY AND OWNERSHIP MAPPING

REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
ADDED 4 NOTES, GENERAL REVISIONS	S.C. 11-30-87	T. SHIMIZU
ADDED REF. MAPS & PARCEL NO. 2	PUS 12-10-87	DRAWN T. SHIMIZU
		CHECKED

DRAWING NO. 17555
151

Appendix D:

Pertinent Mendocino County General Plan Coastal Element Policies

3.1 Habitats and Natural Resources

- 3.1-1 The various resources designations may be overcome only with additional information that can be shown to be a more accurate representation of the existing situation. Such showing shall be done in the context of a minor amendment to the land use plan.
- 3.1-2 Development proposals in environmentally sensitive habitat areas such as wetlands, riparian zones on streams, or sensitive plant or wildlife habitats shall be subject to special review to determine the current extent of the sensitive resource. Such development should be approved only if specific findings are made which are based upon substantial evidence that the resource as identified will not be significantly degraded by the proposed development.
- 3.1-4 Development in wetland areas shall be limited. Development for nature study purposes is permitted.
- 3.1-6 In the wetland portions of Ten Mile River and Big River, development shall be limited to wetland restoration, nature study, and salmon restoration projects.
- 3.1-7 A buffer area shall be established adjacent to all environmentally sensitive habitat areas to provide for a sufficient area to protect the environmentally sensitive habitat from significant degradation resulting from future developments. The width of the buffer area shall be a minimum of 100 feet. The buffer area shall be measured from the outside edge of the environmentally sensitive habitat areas, and shall not be less than 50 feet in width. Developments permitted in a buffer area shall generally be the same as those uses permitted in the adjacent environ-

mentally sensitive habitat area, and must comply at a minimum with each of the following standards.

1. It shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas;
 2. It shall be compatible with continuance of such habitat areas by maintaining their functional capacity, their ability to be self-sustaining, and to maintain natural species diversity; and
 3. Structures will be allowed in the buffer area only if there is no other feasible site available on the parcel. Mitigation measures, such as planting riparian vegetation, shall be required to replace the protective values of the buffer area on the parcel, at a minimum ratio of 1:1, which are lost as a result of development under this solution.
- 3.1-10 Areas where riparian vegetation exists, such as riparian corridors, are environmentally sensitive habitat areas, and development in such areas shall be limited to only those uses which are dependent on the riparian resources.
- 3.1-11 When development activities require removal or disturbance of riparian vegetation, replanting with appropriate native plants shall be required at a minimum ratio of 1:1.
- 3.1-12 Vehicle traffic in wetlands and riparian areas shall be confined to roads. Multi-use non-motorized trails and access to riparian areas are permitted if no long-term adverse impacts would result from their construction, maintenance, and public use. Trails should be made from porous materials.

- 3.1-15 Dunes shall be preserved and protected as environmentally sensitive habitats for scientific, educational, and passive recreational uses. Vehicle traffic shall be prohibited. Where public access through dunes is permitted, well-defined footpaths or other means of directing use and minimizing adverse impacts shall be developed and used. New development on dune parcels shall be located in the least environmentally damaging location, and shall minimize removal of natural vegetation and alteration of natural landforms.
- 3.1-18 Public access to sensitive wildlife habitats such as rookeries or haulout areas shall be regulated to ensure that public access will not significantly adversely affect the sensitive resources being protected.
- 3.1-20 Soil constraints to conventional septic tank and leachfield systems such as those on Noyo and Blacklock soils and similar soils shall be recognized, and use of alternative systems shall be encouraged. Water quality control regulations shall be enforced.
- 3.1-21 Pygmy forests are unique ecosystems which may contain species of rare or endangered plants, and if they do, they are environmentally sensitive habitat areas. Other pygmy forest areas that do not contain species of rare or endangered plants will not be included in the environmentally sensitive habitat areas. New development on parcels with pygmy vegetation shall be located in the least environmentally damaging locations, and shall minimize removal of native vegetation and alteration of natural landforms.
- 3.1-22 Mendocino County should support a brush management program to control gorse, scotch broom, pampas grass, and other introduced plant pests, with emphasis on those areas where brush is a fire hazard. Fire and/or mechanical means of pest control shall be preferred.
- 3.1-25 The Mendocino coast is an area containing many types of marine resources of state-wide significance. Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and, where feasible, restored; areas and species of special biologic or economic significance shall be given special protection; and the biologic productivity of coastal waters shall be sustained.
- 3.1-26 In order to protect, enhance, restore, and preserve the quality of the coastal marine ecosystem, it is the policy of Mendocino County to oppose any exploration for or development of mineral resources, including petroleum products, offshore of Mendocino County.
- 3.1-30 Vehicle traffic shall be prohibited from all public beach areas except for emergency purposes and maintenance, unless specifically designated for vehicular use.
- 3.1-31 Structures or projects involving a diversion of water from streams appearing as dotted or dashed blue lines on 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps shall be sited and designed to not impede upstream or downstream movement of native fish, or to reduce stream flows to a level which will have a significant adverse affect on the biological productivity of the stream and its associated aquatic organisms.

3.4 Hazards

- 3.4-4 The county shall require that water, sewer, electrical, and other transmission and distribution lines which cross fault lines be subject to additional safety standards beyond those required for normal installations, including emergency shutoff where applicable.
- 3.4-7 The county shall require that new structures be set back a sufficient distance from the edges of bluffs to ensure their safety from bluff erosion and cliff retreat during their economic life spans (75 years).
- 3.4-9 Any development landward of the blufftop setback shall be constructed so as to ensure that surface and subsurface drainage does not contribute to erosion of the bluff face, or to the instability of the bluff itself.
- 3.4-10 No development shall be permitted on the bluff face because of the fragility of this environment, and the potential for resultant increase in bluff and beach erosion due to poorly-sited development. However, where they would substantially further the public welfare, developments such as staircase accessways to beaches may be allowed as conditional uses, following a full environmental, geologic, and engineering review, on the determinations that no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative is available, and that feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize all adverse environmental effects.
- 3.4-12 Seawalls, breakwaters, revetments, groins, harbor channels, and other structures altering natural shoreline processes or retaining walls shall not be permitted unless judged necessary for protection of existing development, public beaches, or coastal-dependent uses.
- 3.4-13 All new development shall meet the requirements for fire protection and fire prevention as recommended by responsible fire agencies.

3.5 Visual Resources; Special Communities and Archeological Resources

- 3.5-1 State Highway 1 in rural areas of the Mendocino County coastal zone shall remain a scenic two-lane road.

The scenic and visual qualities of Mendocino County coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize alteration of natural landforms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas designated by the County of Mendocino Coastal Element shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.

- 3.5-2 Communities including Caspar, Little River, Albion, Elk, and Manchester shall have special protection to the extent that new development shall remain within the scope and character of existing development by meeting the standards of implementing ordinances. The community of Westport shall be excluded from the requirements of this policy.
- 3.5-3 The visual resource areas listed below shall be designated as "highly scenic areas," in which new development shall be subordinate to the character of its setting. Any development permitted in these areas shall provide for protection of ocean and coastal views from public areas, including highways, roads, coastal trails, vista points, beaches, parks, coastal streams, and waters used for recreational purposes.
- The entire coastal zone from the Ten Mile River estuary north to the Hardy Creek Bridge.

- Portions of the coastal zone in the highly scenic areas west of Highway 1 between the Ten Mile River estuary south to the Navarro River, with noted exceptions and inclusions of certain areas east of Highway 1.
- Portions of the coastal zone in the highly scenic area west of Highway 1 between the Navarro River and the north boundary of the City of Point Arena as mapped, with noted exceptions and inclusions of certain areas east of Highway 1.
- Portions of the coastal zone in the highly scenic area west of Highway 1 between the south boundary of the City of Point Arena and the Gualala River, with noted exceptions and inclusions of certain areas east of Highway 1.

New development west of Highway 1 in designated "highly scenic areas" is limited to one-story (above natural grade) unless an increase in height would not affect public views to the ocean, or be out of character with surrounding structures. New development should be subordinate to natural setting, and minimize reflective surfaces.

- 3.5-4 Buildings and building groups that must be sited in the highly scenic area shall be sited near the toe of a slope, below rather than on a ridge, or in or near the edge of a wooded area. Development in the middle of large, open areas shall be avoided if an alternative site exists.

Minimize visual impact of development on hillsides by (1) requiring grading or construction to follow the natural contours; (2) re-siting or prohibiting new development that requires grading, cutting, and filling that would significantly and permanently alter or destroy the appearance of natural landforms; (3) designing structures to fit hillside sites rather than altering landform to accommodate buildings designed for level sites; (4) concentrating development near existing major

vegetation; and (5) promoting roof angles and exterior finish which blend with hillside. Minimize visual impacts of development on terraces by (1) avoiding development in large open areas if an alternative site exists; (2) minimize the number of structures, and cluster them near existing vegetation, natural landforms, or artificial berms; (3) provide bluff setbacks for development adjacent to or near public areas along the shoreline; (4) design development to be in scale with the rural character of the area. Minimize visual impact of development on ridges by (1) prohibiting development that projects above the ridgeline; (2) if no alternative site is available below the ridgeline, development shall be sited and designed to reduce visual impacts by using existing vegetation, structural orientation, landscaping, and shall be limited to a single story above the natural elevation; (3) prohibiting removal of tree masses which destroy the ridgeline silhouette.

- 3.5-5 Provide that trees will not block coastal views from public areas such as roads, parks, and trails; tree planting to screen buildings shall be encouraged. In specific areas, identified and adopted on the Coastal Element land use plan maps, trees currently blocking views to and along the coast shall be required to be removed or thinned as a condition of new development in those specific areas. New development shall not allow trees to block ocean views.

- 3.5-6 Development on a parcel located partly in the highly scenic areas shall be located on the portion outside the viewshed if feasible.

- 3.5-7 Off-site advertising signs, other than small directional signs not exceeding 2 square feet, will not be permitted in designated "highly scenic areas." Direction, access, and business identification signs shall minimize disruption of scenic qualities through appropriate use of materials, scale, and location. Appropriate handcrafted signs should be encouraged.

3.5-8 Power transmission lines shall be located along established corridors. Elsewhere, transmission lines shall be located to minimize visual prominence. Where overhead transmission lines cannot be located along established corridors, and are visually intrusive in a "highly scenic area," the lines shall be placed underground west of Highway 1, and below ridgelines east of Highway 1, if technically feasible.

3.5-9 The location of all new access roads and driveways in rural areas shall ensure safe location and minimum visual disturbance. Direct access to Highway 1 shall not be permitted where it is feasible to connect to an existing or proposed public road, or to combine access points for two or more parcels.

3.5-10 Prior to approval of any proposed development in an area of known or probable archeological or paleontological significance, a limited field survey by a qualified professional shall be required.

3.6 Shoreline Access

3.6-1 The State Department of Parks and Recreation and other appropriate agencies shall be requested to initiate a public relations program for protection and enhancement of coastal resources, particularly coastal access.

3.6-6 Shoreline access points shall be at frequent rather than infrequent intervals for the convenience of both residents and visitors, and to minimize impacts on marine resources at any one point. Wherever appropriate and feasible, public access facilities, including parking areas, shall be distributed throughout the coastal area so as to mitigate against the impacts, social or otherwise, of overcrowding or overuse by the public of any single area.

3.6-14 New and existing public accessways shall be conspicuously posted by the appropriate agency, and shall have advance highway signs. Additional signs shall designate parking areas and regulations for their use, and shall include regulations for protection of marine life and warning of hazards, including high tides that extend to the bluffs.

All accessways shall be designed and constructed to safety standards adequate for their intended use. Hazardous blufftops shall be marked, or, if lateral access use is intended, shall have a cable or other clear barrier marking the trail or limit of safe approach to the bluff edge.

3.6-15 The Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, and appropriate county departments and agencies should be requested to monitor public access to sensitive coastal resource areas such as wetlands, dunes, riparian areas, tidepools, rocky intertidal areas, and other wildlife habitats. DFG should, in consultation with the operating agency at each access point, prepare regulations

governing use which shall be prominently posted. DFG should determine whether use of specific access points should be controlled to avoid degradation and allow resource recovery by limiting the number of users, by requiring supervision of users, or by closing the access point seasonally or periodically.

3.6-16 Access to the beach and to blufftop viewpoints shall be provided for handicapped persons where parking areas can be close enough to beach or viewing level to be reachable by wheelchair ramp. The wheelchair symbol shall be displayed on road signs designating these access points where the means of access is not obvious from the main road.

3.6-18 Along sections of the highway where development intensity will result in pedestrian use, or where this is the siting of the county designated coastal trail, a 15-foot accessway measured from the right-of-way of Highway 1 shall be offered for dedication as a condition of permit approval if the topography is deemed suitable for pathway development.

3.6-19 Along intensively developed sections of Highway 1 (such as between Cleone and Albion, or in Gualala), Caltrans shall be requested to build a separate pedestrian, equestrian path parallel to the highway, where pedestrian traffic warrants and physical conditions permit.

3.6-20 Paved 4-foot shoulders should be provided by Caltrans along the entire length of Highway 1 wherever construction is feasible without unacceptable environmental effects.

3.6-21 The County of Mendocino coastal trail shall be integrated with the coastal trails in the cities of Fort Bragg and Point Arena, and with Humboldt County to the north and Sonoma County to the south, so as to provide a continuously identifiable trail along the Mendocino County coast.

3.6-23 Public fishing access for such craft as canoes, rowboats, or small boats using trolling-type motors shall be maintained, protected, and encouraged at Ten Mile River, Big River, and Navarro River.

3.6-26 Prior to opening, advertising, or use of any accessway, the responsible individuals or agency shall prepare a management plan for that accessway, which is acceptable to the County of Mendocino, sufficient to protect the natural resources and maintain the property.

3.7 Recreation and Visitor Serving Facilities

3.7-1 The Mendocino County Coastal Element land use plan designates the existing visitor-serving facilities, and reserves appropriate sites for future or potential visitor-serving facilities.

3.7-2 Because unrestricted development of visitor facilities would destroy those qualities that attract both residents and tourists, limitations on visitor facilities by type and location shall be as set by Policy 3.7-1 and illustrated by Table 3.7-2, which reflects a tabulation based on land use maps to avoid highway congestion, degradation of special communities, and disruption of enjoyment of the coast.

3.7-3 The precise intensity of visitor accommodations and development standards shall be specified by zoning regulations so the developments will be compatible with the natural setting and surrounding development.

3.7-4 Any visitor-serving facility not shown on the LUP maps shall require an LUP amendment.

3.7-6 The Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to complete all funded acquisitions.

3.7-7 Within two (2) years of the certification of the local coastal plan, the State Department of Parks and Recreation shall develop a comprehensive land use plan and management program for their lands on the Mendocino coast prior to any additional development or relinquishment of DPR lands. Such plan shall include a tree removal program on all Department of Parks and Recreation lands where so designated on the LUP maps. Exempted from this requirement for a development plan is any development necessary to ensure the health and safety of the general public.



Appendix E:

State Park System concession policies

Concession operations within this State Park System unit shall be governed in part by Public Resources Code, Section 5080.02 et seq. and by the California State Park and Recreation Commission Policies (especially Policy No. 19).

General definition

A concession is defined as authority to permit specific use of State Park System lands and/or facilities for a specified period of time. The intent is to provide the public with goods, services, or facilities which the department cannot provide as conveniently or efficiently and that are not reasonably available outside the unit, or to permit limited uses of State Park System lands for other purposes compatible with the public interest, and consistent with the Public Resources Code.

Purpose and compatibility

It is the department's policy to enter into concession contracts for the provision of services, products, facilities, programs, management, and visitor services which will provide for the enhancement of visitor use and enjoyment, as well as visitor safety and convenience. Such concessions should not create added financial burdens on the state, and, wherever possible, shall reduce costs and/or generate revenues to aid in maintaining and expanding the State Park System.

Concession developments, programs, or services must be compatible with this unit's classification and the objectives and provisions of the general plan.

Concession opportunities may be considered at all stages of planning and operation.

General concession policies

Regarding concessions, it is the policy of the Department of Parks and Recreation:

- To study the economic feasibility of proposed concessions to determine viability as well as contract terms and conditions. Final approval for development and operation of a proposed concession will be made by the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- To cultivate and encourage small business and ethnic minorities as concessionaires.
- To avoid entering into convenience-type concession agreements for facilities, products, or programs that are adequately provided within a short distance outside unit boundaries, when such travel will not unduly endanger or inconvenience visitors, or lead to unreasonable consumption of transportation fuels.
- That concessions shall provide facilities, products, programs, or services at prices competitive with similar businesses outside State Park System units.

Limitations

Appropriate concession activities for this State Park System unit are limited to:

1. Special events.
2. Commercial/retail-type concessions for which there is a need.
3. Concessions which enhance this state beach's theme and policies.



Appendix F: Alternative land use and facility proposals

Following the determination of the major issues affecting park management and development, the planning team developed four alternative scenarios for the future of the park. Each alternative related to one of the four basic park philosophies expressed by the public: (A) minimum visible change — things are okay the way they are today; (B) maximum natural appearance — wherever possible, restore natural qualities and hold development to a minimum; (C) education/history — the park is an ideal learning environment, and visitors need a lot of help to get maximum enjoyment and benefit from it; (D) recreation — the park is a place that offers many opportunities for leisure activities. All of the alternatives protected ecologically sensitive areas, retained significant historic structures, and proposed facilities only in areas suitable for development.

These combinations of proposals simply represented one way of organizing the many possibilities for the park's future into a convenient format. The individual proposals could be interchanged or eliminated by the team members, resulting in a single plan that was a combination of the proposals and philosophies for land use and development. These scenarios are shown on the table below.

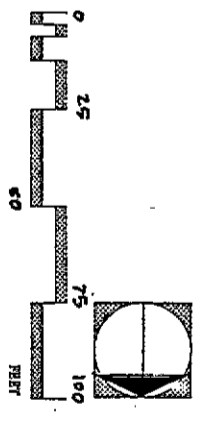
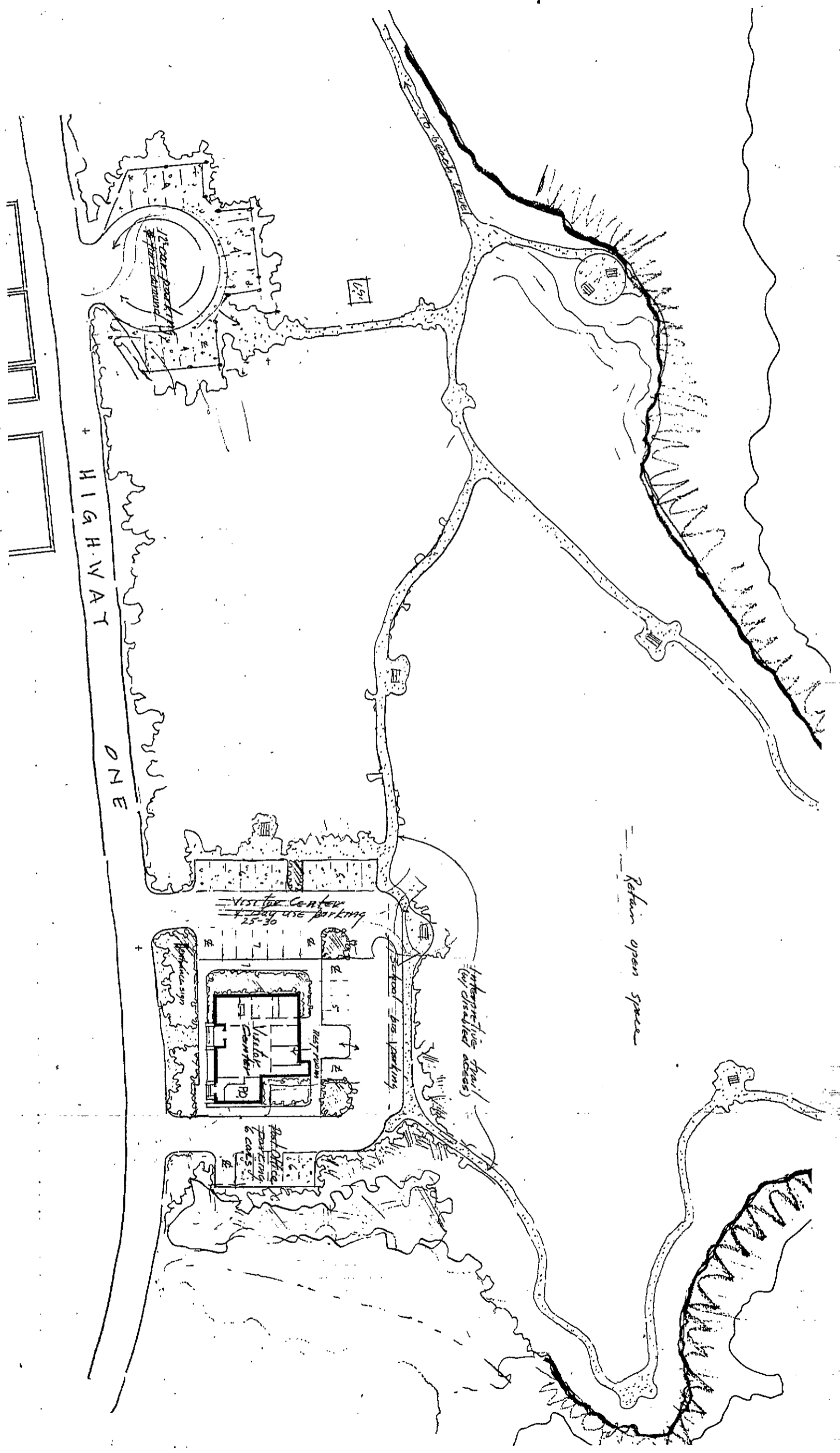
Following the second public meeting in which these scenarios were discussed, two alternative concept plans were delineated and presented to interested residents of Elk. One of these alternative plans is shown on the accompanying Alternative Land Use Concept map. The final plan described in the Land Use and Facilities Elements is a more detailed version of the second alternative which was preferred by those attending the meeting.

Alternatives with:

	Minimum visual change	Maximum natural appearance	Education/history	Recreation
Access	Retain day-use and post office accesses.	Relocate north of post office.	Eliminate existing and relocate south of mill office.	Retain existing.
Parking	Retain both day-use and post office parking areas.	Remove existing parking areas; develop new parking behind post office screened with new landscaping.	Remove existing parking area; develop new parking south of mill office.	Retain parking on north side of post office; enlarge and pave day-use parking area; new parking near mill office.
Sanitary facilities	Retain existing Shasta-type.	Relocate existing or screen.	Develop new comfort station.	Construct flush-type comfort station with shower/changing area.
Picnicking	Retain as is.	Remove tables/firepits on beach.	Place picnic tables along bluff north of mill office.	Develop formal picnic area with water/tables/stoves/landscaping.
Historic structures	Stabilize mill office/post office building.	Stabilize mill office/post office building.	Adapt mill office/post office for house museum.	Adapt mill office for interpretive facility; retain post office.
Interpretation	Install wayside exhibits on trails and at use areas.		Provide wayside exhibits, guided tours, and docent association.	Install wayside exhibits; organize special events.
Trails		Obliterate trails not related to basic access patterns.	Develop a self-guiding trail.	
Other facilities			Restore historic landscaping and fencing in front of mill office/post office.	

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

GREENWOOD CREEK State Beach
 GENERAL PLAN
 California Resources Agency
 Department of Parks and Recreation Map 14





**Appendix G:
CEQA comments
and responses**

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