



# Long Valley Management Plan

---

*Mount San Jacinto State Park*

A guide for the operation and management of Long Valley for the betterment of public use and improved resource protection into the future.



[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## *California State Parks Mission*

*The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valuable natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*

## *Declaration of Purpose – Mount San Jacinto State Park*

*The purpose of Mount San Jacinto State Park is to preserve and protect for the public enjoyment and inspiration, the scenic grandeur of the granite peaks, forest, and mountain meadows of the San Jacinto Mountain range. The sheer escarpment soaring up to one of the highest peaks in Southern California, the panoramic desert views, the wilderness and the opportunity for solitude, will remain available for future generations.*

*California State Parks will preserve, protect, and interpret natural and cultural resources making these features available to the public for their educational, scientific, and recreational benefits. California State Parks will establish interpretive programs for visitors that instill an appreciation for the Park's special features and maintain cooperative partnerships with adjoining entities to foster mutual conservation and natural resource management goals.*

## **Management Plan Inquiries**

The Long Valley Management Plan was prepared by California State Parks' Southern Service Center. For general information about the document contact the Southern Service Center at (619) 220-5300, or direct correspondence to:

California Department of Recreation  
Southern Service Center  
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108  
Attn: Long Valley Management Plan Team

# Long Valley Management Plan

---

*Mount San Jacinto State Park*

A guide for the operation and management of Long Valley for the betterment of public use and improved resource protection into the future.

*January 2012*



[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	5	Appendix 1 - Long Valley Statistics .....	31
Park Location (Figures 1 & 2) .....	5	Appendix 2 - List of Abbreviations and Glossary .....	32
Long Valley Location (Figure 3) .....	6	Appendix 3 - Preliminary Building Programs	33
Long Valley Area (Figure 4) .....	7	Appendix 4 - References .....	34
Project Background .....	8	Appendix 5 - Guiding Principle for Quality Aesthetic Design at State Parks .....	35
Summary of Existing Conditions and Issues .....	10	Acknowledgments .....	36
Setting .....	10	Planning Team .....	37
Proximity .....	10	Planning Assistance .....	37
Transition .....	10		
Importance of Long Valley to Visitors’ Experience .....	10		
Ease of Access .....	11		
Visitor Use .....	11		
Existing Facilities .....	11		
Management Zones .....	13		
Natural Resources .....	13		
Cultural Resources .....	14		
Historic Resources .....	14		
Interpretation .....	15		
The Plan .....	16		
Provide Greater Protections for Long Valley Meadow and Creek .....	16		
Improve Trail Conditions and Accessibility ..	18		
Add and Improve Visitor-use Facilities .....	21		
Add New Interpretive Facilities .....	25		
Provide Better Operations Facilities .....	26		
Facility Design Guidelines .....	28		
Proposed Improvements Plan (Figure 5) .....	29		
Proposed Improvements Plan (Blow-Up) (Figure 6) .....	30		
Appendices .....	31		



## Introduction



### Park Location (Figures 1 & 2)

Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness (the Park) is located in Southern California's western Riverside County, along the northern edge of the San Jacinto Mountains. It is almost entirely surrounded by the San Jacinto Wilderness, which is part of the San Bernardino National Forest. The Park lies between the communities of Palm Springs and Idyllwild.

Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness is approximately 13,718 acres in size and includes the second highest summit in Southern California, San Jacinto Peak which reaches an elevation of 10,834 feet above sea level.

---

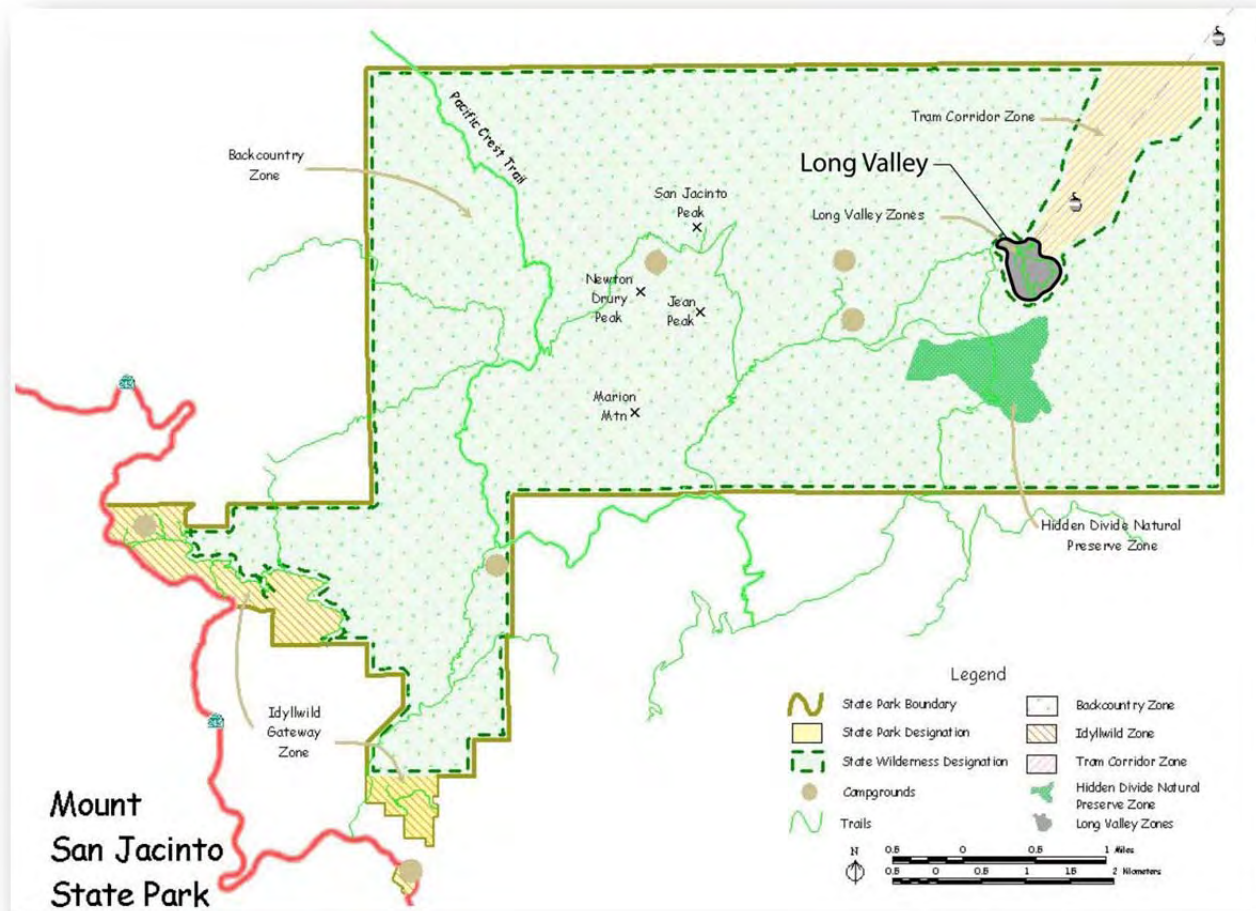
*The view from Mount San Jacinto "was the most sublime spectacle to be found anywhere on this earth."*

*- attributed to John Muir*

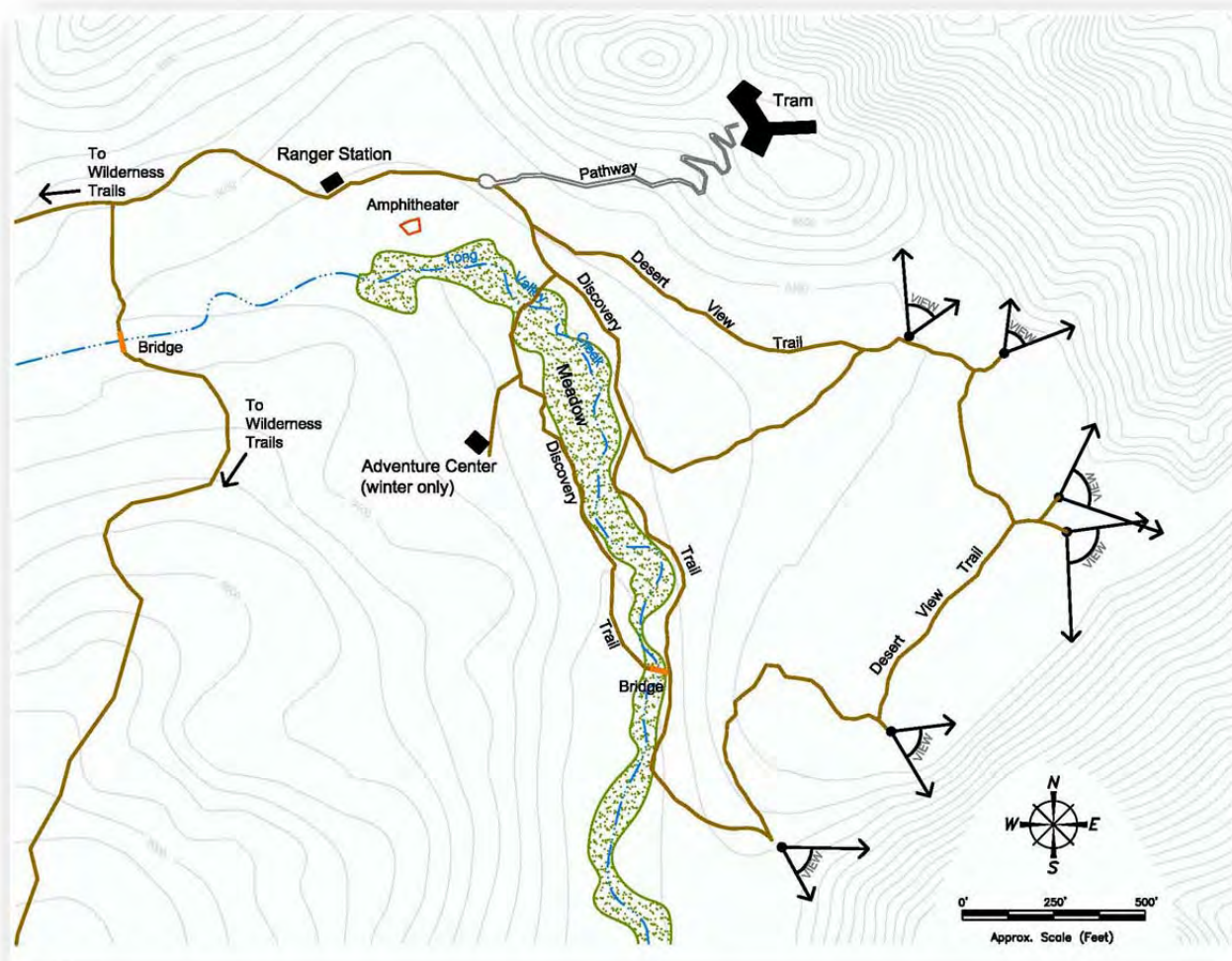
---

### Long Valley Location (Figure 3)

At an elevation of approximately 8,400 feet above sea level, Long Valley is found in the northeastern corner of Mount San Jacinto State Park, at the base of a 0.21-mile (375-yard) pathway leading from the Mountain Station terminus of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (the Tram) operated by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway organization (PSAT) which is part of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority (WPA). Long Valley sits near the edge of one of the steepest escarpments in the nation, which takes a dramatic northeastward plunge from the nearby Mountain Station toward Palm Springs.



Long Valley Creek enters Long Valley from the west, with its upper headwaters beginning at San Jacinto Peak and Jean Peak before flowing through Tamarack Valley and Round Valley. Once in Long Valley, the creek takes a southward turn then exits at the southern end before turning eastward and cascading down San Jacinto Mountain toward the Coachella Valley.



### Long Valley Area (Figure 4)

Long Valley is flanked on the east by a ridge overlooking the Coachella Valley and on the west by intermediate peaks leading upward toward Round Valley and San Jacinto Peak. Long Valley generally has an elongated “bowl” shape that slopes downhill slightly from north to south. Running along the mid-line of this “bowl” is the flat and easy, 0.55-mile Discovery Trail which loops along both sides of Long Valley Creek and Long Valley Meadow, and passes by the Adventure Center, a snow-play equipment rental building operated in winter by the PSAT. The 0.82-mile Desert View Trail generally travels along Long Valley’s eastern ridge to six viewpoints overlooking the Coachella Valley 8,000 feet below. A trail leading past the ranger station and amphitheater rises gently out of Long Valley to the farther reaches of the Park’s wilderness areas beyond. Connecting Long Valley with the PSAT’s Mountain Station is a relatively short but steep concrete pathway.





## Project Background

### Planning for the Future of Long Valley

The Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan, approved in 2002, provides the overall and long-range vision for Park management. Rather than prescribing specific facilities, capacities, or locations, its broad goals and guidelines give general direction for the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. Specific future actions are determined by parameters outlined in management plans that build on the general plan framework.

Because the general plan identified the need for a Long Valley Management Plan, and because of the many important issues needing to be addressed, California State Parks (State Parks) initiated the planning process with funds earmarked from State Proposition 84 (Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements, Bonds, Initiative Statute of 2006).

This Long Valley Management Plan serves as a guide for the operation, develop-



Bob Petterson

*Long Valley Creek*

ment, and management of Long Valley. As such, it shows where relocated, refurbished, and new facilities are proposed in order to improve resource protection and provide better facilities, as well as foster increased public enjoyment and appreciation of this unique area.

The recommendations contained in this Plan are consistent with State Parks' Mission and the General Plan for Mount San Jacinto State Park.

### Importance of Long Valley

Mount San Jacinto State Park was designated a unit of the State Park System in 1933. The primary impetus behind acquiring the land for public use was its value as wilderness. Since that time, the Park's importance as a relatively untouched wilderness area remains its highest purpose and value. With its location at the terminus of the Tram, Long Valley acts as the Park's doorstep and serves as a gateway to the wilderness areas beyond. Long Valley's proximity to urban populations and ease of access make it a unique and valuable recreational resource.

At the center of Long Valley is Long Valley Meadow.



Through this relatively level meadow, Long Valley Creek meanders slowly, nourishing sensitive plants and creating habitat for many animal species. This meadow is an exceedingly uncommon and fragile wetland habitat, made all the more rare by its isolation high above the Southern California desert. Protecting this rare and sensitive resource is a high priority of California State Parks.

### **Purpose of the Management Plan**

In calling for a management plan to be completed for Long Valley, the authors of the General Plan recognized that there were issues of importance that needed to be addressed in greater detail than the General Plan effort could accomplish at that time. The Management Plan picks up where the General Plan left off by adhering to and using the management zone prescriptions contained in the General Plan. Building on the prescriptions of the General Plan, the Management Plan further defines the types of facilities that will be offered in Long Valley and where they will be located.

### **A Note about Environmental Review**

The subject of the Long Valley Management Plan involves a property under public ownership - Long Valley - which is a part of Mount San Jacinto State Park. As such, the document is subject to public review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of environmental review documentation for the Long Valley Management Plan in compliance with CEQA as required by California Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et. seq. Environmental review, specific mitigation proposals, and monitoring may be required under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152 and 15385 for this Long Valley Management Plan. All potentially significant new adverse impacts indicated in the Plan should be avoided, minimized, or mitigated below a level of significance.

### **Purpose of the Management Plan**

The purpose of the Long Valley Management Plan is to define the general scope, scale, character and location of proposed facilities, including trails, buildings, and other structures, as well as describe the means to better protect Long Valley's resources, in particular the montane meadow habitat, from human impacts.

## Summary of Existing Conditions and Issues

### Setting

The approximately 67-acre Long Valley is perched high in the San Jacinto Mountain Range at the northeast corner of Mount San Jacinto State Park. At about 8,400 feet above sea level it exhibits similar characteristics to valleys in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains: a high-elevation, snow-fed, intermittent stream meandering through a wide, sedge-covered meadow surrounded by coniferous forest. It is one of only three major valleys in Mount San Jacinto State Park and its fragile montane meadow is a very rare resource especially in Southern California.

### Proximity

One truly unique quality of Long Valley is its proximity to highly urbanized areas and easy access to millions of people. The Tram carries about 400,000 people up to the Park each year and many of those walk down the 0.21-mile (375-yard) path-way to Long Valley, entering an environment that, without the Tram, only seasoned hikers on a multi-hour

journey would normally encounter.

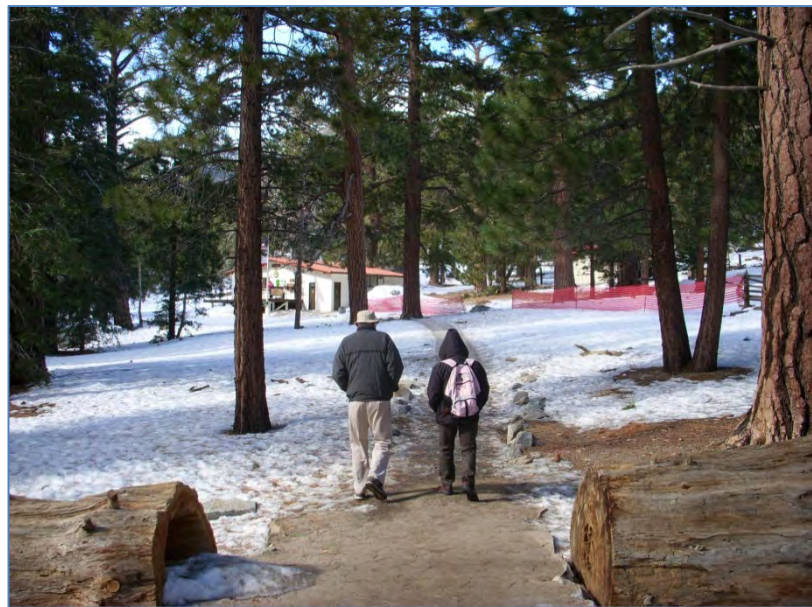
### Transition

In the span of only 15-minutes, the time it takes to ride the Tram and walk down the pathway into Long Valley, a visitor goes from an often dry, hot desert to a cool, mountain oasis. The excitement, crowds, noise and confinement of the Tram ride and Mountain Station make this seemingly "instant" transformation to the calm, spacious, and quiet wilderness setting even more dramatic. Once in Long Valley, the noise and crowds of the Tram and Mountain Station seem far away. One's senses quickly become attuned to subtle sights, sounds and smells such as a

lizard scooting across the trail, the flap of a raven's wings as they strike the cool mountain air, or the scent of pine duff as it is warmed by the sun.

### Importance of Long Valley to Visitors' Experience

A large majority (about 80%) of visitors to Mount San Jacinto State Park come by way of the Tram and a majority of people who hike down the pathway into the park stay within Long Valley during their visit. Therefore, a visitor's experience of Long Valley is crucial to their impression of the park, as a whole. Many who come to Long Valley are first-time or infrequent visitors to wilderness. They include



*Hikers on the Trail Leading to the Ranger Station*

inner-city school children on field trips, international travelers, family groups with young children, casual sightseers, and senior groups on day trips.

### Ease of Access

Despite being a forested wilderness high in the mountains, Long Valley is easy to get to thanks to the Tram. And because Long Valley is easy to travel through, it allows people of



Bob Patterson

*Pathway from Mountain Station to Long Valley*

all ages, experience, and ability to discover, enjoy and appreciate the rare, natural setting. The generally level, easy trails in Long Valley (particularly the Discovery Trail) make it simple for visitors of even marginal ability or limited experience to hike amongst its scenery.

And the fact that Long Valley is relatively compact in size makes seeing a representative sample of the park quick and simple, which is preferable to most visitors to Long Valley. Despite this ease of access, the hike down and back up the concrete pathway from the Mountain Station is relatively short but steep, and is an impediment to those with mobility impairments (the pathway is 0.21 miles [375 yards] and the elevation difference between the Mountain Station and Long Valley is approximately 120 feet, which averages to a 10% slope, but is steeper in some locations). A system for transporting these people from the Mountain Station to Long Valley and back again is needed. In addition, the trails on Long Valley's floor can be improved to State Parks accessibility standards so that disabled persons can make their way around and to each facility and feature in Long Valley. But overall, Long Valley is uniquely situated and assembled to provide an easily available, enjoyable experience for people of all abilities.

### Visitor Use

A majority of visitors come to Long Valley to spend a few hours walking the trails and enjoying the mountain scenery. In wintertime, most who visit are families excited to play in the snow. Some visitors pass through Long Valley on their way to hike to other locations within the park, such as Round Valley or San Jacinto Peak. A few visitors enter Long Valley on horseback from the west and are interested in a brief stop to rest and water their horses as they take in the amenities at the Mountain Station.

Some school groups use Long Valley as an outdoor classroom by learning about the park's resources through interpreter-led programs or self-guided discovery.

There are no designated campsites and no overnight use is allowed within Long Valley.

### Existing Facilities

Besides trails, trail bridges, on-grade and above-grade utility lines, and leach fields operated by the PSAT, most of the existing facilities within Long Valley are situated at the north and west sides of Long Valley.



The main facilities are the State Park ranger station located at the north end, and the Adventure Center, operated by the PSAT, at the west side of Long Valley.

The Long Valley Ranger Station, built in 1963, is currently in serviceable condition but is undersized for current staff functions as well as visitor needs. For example there are only two, single-stall restrooms (men's and women's) available to service all visitors to Long Valley, including large school groups. In addition, the visitor contact area, sleeping quarters, staff offices and storage areas are all too small to accommodate current operations.

The Adventure Center was built in the 1970s and is in a dilapidated state. Its location at the west side of Long Valley inadvertently causes visitors to cross the creek and meadow. During winter, the snowpack usually protects the meadow from disturbance. However, during spring and fall, the snow cover may be so minimal that such foot traffic results in damage to meadow vegetation. The Adventure Center needs to be moved to a place in Long Valley that

does not encourage visitors to cross the meadow and is closer to the ranger station, so that winter activities can be more closely and easily monitored in one area.

The remaining facilities consist of an amphitheater and picnic tables spaced randomly near Long Valley Creek and at the base of the pathway from the Mountain Station to Long Valley. These are mostly placed too close

to the creek and meadow, and dispersed such that access to them causes unnecessary trampling of vegetation. Relocation of these facilities away from the Creek will better protect sensitive resources.

The waste water system for the Mountain Station and Long Valley Ranger Station consists of septic tanks and leach fields that are largely located within the Long



Bob Patterson

Long Valley Meadow in winter 2010

Valley Gateway Zone. These components were originally built away from Long Valley Creek, such that no affect to the creek's water quality would be expected. However, the results of water quality monitoring by the WPA has not been reported to State Parks, and no water quality monitoring by State Parks has taken place, so the actual effect of these facilities is uncertain at this time. In addition, the potential effect of additional and/or larger waste water systems associated with any new development within Long Valley would need to be evaluated.

The fire suppression system for the Long Valley Ranger Station and other structures within Long Valley consists of a 120,000 gallon above-ground dedicated fire water tank and booster pump system, powered by an auxiliary generator. The tank is supplemented every spring with water from Long Valley Creek. The fire suppression system is currently deemed adequate. However, any additional structures added to Long Valley will need to meet current fire codes, be approved by the State Fire Marshal, and may require additional fire suppression

resources and facilities. In addition, the potential impacts to water resources and habitat due to withdraw of water from the creek needs to be evaluated and addressed prior to the implementation of any additional development.

### **Management Zones**

The Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan designates "management zones" for all areas of the Park. The intent of these management zones is to establish and define the general resource character and management, visitor experiences and uses, and possible range of proposed facilities for the varied areas of the Park. In particular for Long Valley, the General Plan describes three management zones: the Long Valley Gateway Zone, the Long Valley Meadow Zone, and the Seasonal-Use Zone. Each zone varies in character with the corresponding needs and intent of each different area. In general, the Long Valley Gateway Zone designates an area of fewer sensitive resources, potentially greater numbers of visitors, and a concentration of Long Valley's facilities including the PSAT's Mountain Station. The Long Valley Meadow Zone has the priority of

providing maximum protection for the meadow and limiting facilities to trails and minor interpretive elements. The Seasonal-Use Zone was established to recognize an area of Long Valley that is used only during the winter season for snow play activities. The Long Valley Management Plan follows the direction established for each of these management zones and incorporates their boundaries in the "Proposed Improvements" figures presented in this document.

### **Natural Resources**

The most sensitive and important habitat located within Long Valley is the montane meadow habitat found along Long Valley Creek. This is characterized by a dense growth of sedges and other perennial wetland species. Several sensitive plant taxa potentially occur in Long Valley Meadow. In addition, several sensitive animal species potentially exist in Long Valley. Natural resources of concern have been classified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and surrounded by fencing to prevent inadvertent encroachment and provide long-term protection (See Proposed

Improvements Plan (Figure 5)):

Vegetation classification types within Long Valley include the Mixed Conifer Forest and Montane Meadow (A *Manual of California Vegetation* by J. Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995). Wildlife habitat classifications include the Sierran Mixed Conifer and Wet Meadow habitats (California Wildlife Habitat Relationship classification system).

### Cultural Resources

There are seven recorded archaeological sites located in and adjacent to Long Valley. Of these, three are prehistoric including two isolated artifacts within Long

Valley and a bedrock grinding area near the ranger station. The remaining five sites are historic archaeological features including historic graffiti, a rock and cement bench, and the remnants of a rock structure.

There are also geographic formations within the Park, including San Jacinto Peak, that are held sacred by the Cahuilla Indians. However, consultation with Native American groups during the General Plan process did not indicate any specific concerns for Long Valley at that time.

### Historic Resources

There are three potentially historic structures located within Long Valley. The first

is the curving pedestrian pathway leading down from the Mountain Station to the valley floor. Constructed in 1963, the pathway originally contained electrical heating elements buried in its concrete pavement for de-icing its surface during the winter. The pavement has been reconstructed several times in its nearly 50-year history and is currently in need of additional repair or replacement.

The second potentially historic resource is the Long Valley Ranger Station. Based on an original 1962 design by noted California State Parks Architect Robert Uhte; the building was completed in 1964 by the same architectural firm that designed the nearby Mountain Station.

Uhte also designed a separate combination wood shop and stable building in conjunction with the Ranger Station. Currently used as a Utility Building, it still contains a section of its original corral fence in the rear storage area.



Department files

Long Valley Ranger Station ca. 1963



## Interpretation

A State Park Interpreter is currently stationed in Long Valley to coordinate and lead school group programs as well as train park aids and provide support to the Park volunteers. Park aids conduct many of the summertime programs. Volunteers provide guided nature walks, conduct roving interpretation, assist at the ranger station, give campfire and Junior Ranger programs, and are school program docents.

Within Long Valley there is a very popular and heavily used self-guided nature trail called the Discovery Trail. Along the trail there are ten engraved stone interpretive panels which talk about Long Valley's resources.

### Interpretation Master Plan

An Interpretation Master Plan (IMP) for Mount San Jacinto State Park is being developed concurrently with this Management Plan by State Park staff. The IMP provides objectives and strategies for development and delivery of future interpretation projects, programs and services.

Contact the Inland Empire District at (951) 443-2423 for more information or to obtain a copy of the IMP.



## The Plan

The following section contains specific management actions and facility recommendations for Long Valley, consistent with and in support of State Parks' Mission and the Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan. The general intent of these actions is to provide better protection of resources in Long Valley as well as improve visitors' enjoyment and appreciation of Mount San Jacinto State Park. The actions and recommendations proposed in this Plan are subject to future funding and approval of State Parks management (See Proposed Improvements Plans (Figures 5 & 6).

### Provide Greater Protections for Long Valley Meadow and Creek

Long Valley Meadow contains some of the most sensitive natural resources within the Park. Long Valley Creek nourishes the meadow's sedges and other perennial vegetation which, in turn, provide habitat for many animal species. The meadow is a natural draw for visitors for its beauty and openness within the surrounding forest. The Discovery Trail circumnavigates the meadow and in some locations is poorly located too close to the riparian habitat. In addition, volunteer trails and natural open areas unintentionally invite visitors to venture into the creek and meadow. This causes trampling of sensitive vegetation and results in degradation of the meadow habitat. Greater protection for Long Valley Meadow will be accomplished in the following ways:

#### Re-locate Facilities to Long Valley's North End

All facilities other than trails, trail bridges, and interpretive panels will be situated north of the trail that runs between the ranger station and terminus of the

pathway from/to the Mountain Station, and kept within the Long Valley Gateway Zone. This includes re-locating the Adventure Center and amphitheater. By locating facilities within this area, visitors will be less likely to enter the creek or cross the meadow.

#### Build New Sections of the Discovery Trail to Avoid the Existing Meadow Crossing

The new sections will extend the Discovery Trail by about 1,480 lineal feet (0.28 miles) and include a new footbridge over Long Valley Creek upstream (west) of the meadow. The footbridge will be similar to the existing bridge at the southern-most portion of the Discovery Trail. This new trail alignment will avoid



*The Discovery Trail at the southern end of Long Valley*

crossing the meadow and establish a new crossing point that is out of the creek. In addition to the environmental benefits, the new trail alignment will cause users to pass by the ranger station, which offers them an opportunity to stop in for maps and information.

### **Remove the Trail Crossing through the Meadow and its Corresponding Footbridge**

Because of the proposed new alignment of the Discovery Trail (see prior bullet point), the existing section of trail that passes through the meadow and the corresponding footbridge over the creek is no longer needed and will be removed. Removing this creek crossing will reduce visitors' unintentional trampling of native vegetation in this area.

### **Re-Locate Sections of the Discovery Trail that Encroach on the Meadow's Edge**

Where sections of the Discovery Trail enter the meadow, the trail will be moved away to keep a buffer area between the trail and meadow, to deter unintentional trampling of meadow vegetation and erosion of meadow soils. It is proposed that the Discovery Trail be moved outside the riparian habitat of the meadow environment. Its current alignment impacts the meadow and related sensitive species. The actual trail re-route will be flagged by a team consisting of staff from the State Parks' trail program, District resource specialists, and ranger staff. Trail staff will have the responsibility of finding a suitable final alignment within the flagged route. In addition to moving the trail away from the meadow's edge, periodic rest stops are proposed along the meadow-side of the Discovery Trail that will allow viewpoints into the meadow.

### **Redirect Inadvertent Foot Traffic away from the Meadow and Creek through Natural Screening and Fencing**

At the terminus of the pathway to/from the Mountain Station, where the current Discovery Trail and the trail to the ranger station branch off, visitors have a clear view of Long Valley Creek across an open area. This clear view and the open area entice visitors to hike off-trail to the creek, bypassing established trails and causing unintentional disturbance of the open area and creek edges.

It is proposed that techniques of natural screening and/or fencing be employed to reduce the amount of open area that is visible to the public and discourage visitors from crossing the open area to the creek. In particular, existing downed logs, downed brush, and/or new split rail fencing (in limited quantity) will be placed between Long Valley Creek and the terminus of the pathway connecting the ranger station and Mountain Station, as well as potentially in other open, sensitive areas that are susceptible to unintentional disturbance. A team of selected District and other State Parks staff will determine the final locations and types of barriers.

### **Move and Establish Accessible Locations for Picnic Areas away from the Creek and Meadow**

Currently, several existing picnic tables are located close to Long Valley Creek and Meadow. These picnic tables entice visitors to access these areas causing additional unintentional resource damage. It is proposed that these picnic



tables be moved away from the creek and meadow to areas closer to the ranger station and trail heads. In addition, the picnic areas need to be designed to comply with State Parks accessibility standards. The final location and design of these picnic areas will be determined by District staff and with assistance of State Parks trail program staff.

### **Revegetate and Enhance Habitat along Long Valley Creek**

Concentrated foot traffic has contributed to vegetation trampling and soil compaction along the margins of the creek creating large patches of bare dirt in some locations. Revegetation with plant species native to the area will serve to protect the wetland from encroachment, control erosion into the creek, alleviate soil compaction, and improve habitat quality. Methods of revegetation and strategies for excluding foot traffic will be devised to address specific on-site conditions, and will be determined by District and other State Parks specialists.

### **Monitor and Protect Water Resources**

With the current waste water and fire suppression systems in Long Valley, it is uncertain if the quality of ground water and water within the creek is being affected. In addition, any new development in the valley may pose new or increased impacts to water quality. For this reason, a water monitoring program shall be implemented. Several water quality parameters should be regularly sampled, and assessed by trained personnel. These should include pH,

dissolved oxygen, biological oxygen demand (BOD), temperature, conductivity, turbidity, and discharge or flow measurements. Fecal coliform samples should also be collected by trained personnel, and tested by a certified laboratory. Should the data reveal significant degradation of water quality, additional mitigation measures shall be implemented to alleviate potential sources of pollution and restore acceptable water quality levels. In addition, the source of supplemental water for fire suppression tanks shall no longer be withdrawn from Long Valley Creek but instead from imported water delivered by way of the Tram.

### **Improve Trail Conditions and Accessibility**

The two main trails in Long Valley, the Discovery Trail and the Desert View Trail, are very popular and well used by visitors. They allow visitors to access most areas of Long Valley, such as the creek and meadow, as well as take them to vantage points with spectacular views of the Coachella Valley. Because of the ease of access to Long Valley by way of the Tram, many visitors come unprepared for rigorous hiking conditions. For this reason, Long Valley's trails need to be designed for a wider range of ability levels and to the highest level of accessibility that topography and natural and cultural resources will allow. In addition, the trails need to be improved from user-created routes to sustainable trail designs that represents minimal impact to the resources, low maintenance cycles, and high quality recreational experiences.

### **Discovery Trail**

The Discovery Trail is a relatively easy, level, 0.55-mile trail that travels around the meadow and has two crossings over Long Valley Creek, one wooden foot bridge and one metal puncheon (a small, bridge-type structure built close to the ground, generally 3-feet tall or less, with or without handrails, that may be used to cross small drainages, streams, and wet areas). The trail is useable by Park visitors, but is entrenched and impacts the high mountain ecosystem in many areas. The puncheon is a resource concern because it was placed without high-water clearances and crosses the creek at a location without adequate bank heights. This causes the puncheon at high flow to be inundated with water and catch debris, forcing hikers to bypass the puncheon and inadvertently trample the riparian vegetation. State Parks' Trail Program staff has recently built a wooden bridge over Long Valley Creek at the southern end of the Discovery Trail where it branches off to the Desert View Trail. This bridge, as well as its accessory abutments and causeway, were placed to allow for high flows from snow melt and summer thunderstorms. They were constructed for low maintenance, durability, and compatibility with the forest setting. By removing the current puncheon and installing a similar bridge upstream, in an appropriate location for high water flow and away from the meadow, resource protection would be improved and lower maintenance achieved. In addition, sections of the Discovery Trail need to be re-routed away from Long Valley Meadow in order to deter visitors from entering the sensitive habitat. Because the Discovery Trail follows gentle terrain, it is suitable for a change in use to an accessible trail which will connect facilities and features within Long Valley.

### **Desert View Trail**

The Desert View Trail is generally steeper, longer and a more challenging hike than the Discovery Trail. This trail developed over time by visitors desiring the dramatic desert views. The 0.82-mile trail branches off in three locations from the Discovery Trail and navigates the eastern ridge of Long Valley which overlooks the Coachella Valley. Six overlook locations along the trail (Grubb's Notch, and Notch 1 through Notch 5) offer different vantage points. Many visitors, regardless of experience or ability, make the trek along the Desert View Trail to obtain these views. Not being designed but user-created, the overall condition of the trail is not to State Parks design standards and loses sediment (which ends up in the fragile meadow ecosystem) from the high use. The trail is generally too steep, travels across elevation contours, and/or is entrenched. This creates difficult hiking conditions and is unsustainable for long term maintenance. The Desert View Trail is in need of re-routing and/or re-construction. Because the six overlook areas are heavily used, they are in need of leveling and widening to make them more sustainable and user-friendly.

The unofficial "Skyline Route" enters/departs Long Valley and intersects the Desert View Trail at Grubb's Notch. There, it descends the mountainside roughly 8,000 feet to Palm Springs. Currently unresolved issues such as land ownership, potential impacts to Peninsular Big Horn Sheep, and connections to the regional trail system will likely affect its use in the future. For this reason it will remain an "unofficial" route until these issues are addressed.

Improving trail accessibility and conditions will be accomplished through the following actions (See Proposed Improvements Plan [Figure 5]):

### **🌲 Improve Trails to Meet State Parks Accessibility Standards**

All portions of the Discovery Trail (including new sections) and sections of the Desert View Trail up to Grubb’s Notch and Notch 5 (approximately 5,872 lineal feet or 1.11 miles) will be re-routed and/or reconstructed to meet State Parks’ “accessible” trail standards (admission, passage, circulation, and full use of buildings, facilities, programs, and the various elements within or the combination of them, to persons with disabilities). The section of the Desert View Trail between Grubb’s Notch and Notch 5 (approximately 2,690 lineal feet or 0.51 miles) cannot be brought up to accessibility standards because of steep and difficult terrain. This portion of the



Bob Patterson

*View of Coachella Valley from the Desert View Trail “Notch 3”*

trail will be re-routed and re-constructed to improve usability and bring it up to Department design standards, thus improving sustainability.

### **🌲 Establish New Sections of Trail to Connect With The Round Valley Loop Trail and the Willow Creek Trail.**

With the proposed creek crossing (foot bridge) upstream from Long Valley Meadow, there is the opportunity to establish two new trail sections connecting this portion of the Discovery Trail to the Round Valley Loop Trail and the Willow Creek Trail (approximately 818 lineal feet or 0.15 miles). These new sections will eliminate the need for the section of the Willow Creek Trail (approximately 447 lineal feet or .085 miles) that crosses the creek and allow for the removal of its existing, small wooden puncheon, which does not meet Department design standards. In addition, placement of a new trail section north of the creek will allow for removal of the portion of the Round Valley Loop Trail between the ranger station and the intersection with the Willow Creek Trail (approximately 667 lineal feet or 0.13 miles). This portion needs to be abandoned due to its steep alignment, deep ruts, and unsustainability. New trail sections will be designed to avoid sensitive resources and will be approved by State Parks resource specialists and operations staff.

### **🌲 Re-Route Sections of the Desert View Trail**

Sections of the Desert View Trail will be re-routed (approximately 2,230 lineal feet or 0.42 miles) so that the trail alignment



better follows slope contours, thereby reducing the steepness of grade. This will make for a better user experience and will result in less maintenance requirements over the long term. Where sections of the trail cannot be re-routed, such as between Notch 4 and Notch 5, it will be re-constructed in place for the purpose of reducing maintenance needs and creating a better trail for hikers to use. All re-routed trail alignments will be designed to avoid sensitive resources and approved by State Parks resource specialists and operations staff.

### **Re-Construct All Six Overlooks of the Desert View Trail**

Although situated to take advantage of the best views, the current overlooks are un-defined, sometimes steep, semi-cleared areas that were formed by visitor foot traffic. All six overlooks will be reconstructed in-place to provide a cleared and level pad area. This will be accomplished by building low, native rock retaining walls along the view-side of the overlook. Only about 6-inches of each retaining wall will be visible while standing at the overlook while the rest will be hidden below and would only be seen if looking back at the overlook from the view-side. Each re-constructed overlook will keep to the same size footprint as the original.

### **Rehabilitate Closed Trail Sections**

Following closure of the selected trail sections, and removal of the existing small foot bridge (puncheon), restoration will be conducted to prevent the continued and inadvertent use of the pathways. The trail surface will be

decompacted and/or regraded, and downed vegetation (e.g., logs, shrubs) could be placed to block or obscure entry to the closed sections. Broadcast seeding or container plantings may also be used to revegetate the trail; thereby reestablishing native habitat and promoting recovery over the long-term.

## **Add and Improve Visitor-use Facilities**

Current visitor-use facilities in Long Valley consist of trails, restrooms at the ranger station, amphitheater, picnic tables, and an Adventure Center. The Adventure Center is a winter-only snow-play equipment rental building operated by the PSAT. All of these facilities are in need of some form of improvement. The restrooms in the ranger station and the leach fields that service them are undersized to handle current capacity. The picnic tables need to be re-located away from the meadow and creek to reduce existing impacts to the riparian area. The Adventure Center is dilapidated and in a location that encourages visitors to cross the meadow and creek, inadvertently causing resource damage.

In addition, because so many people come to Long Valley in winter to enjoy snow-play activities, there is an opportunity to provide additional recreational activities that are consistent with the use of Long Valley and in keeping with the guidelines of the General Plan. These activities can provide additional quality recreational experiences consistent with the State Parks' Mission.

Following are proposed additional and improved facilities (See Proposed Improvements Plan (Blow Up) (Figure 6)):

### **New Adventure Center**

A new Adventure Center is to be located at the site of the former equestrian stables (the existing abandoned equestrian stables, barn and storage sheds will be removed). This generally cleared area has seen significant past disturbance from the former mule-ride concession, it sits on several feet of decomposed manure, has few sensitive resources, is away from the creek and meadow, and is close to the ranger station. For these reasons it is a good location for the new Adventure Center and associated snow-play activities.

The Adventure Center will be built, maintained, and operated by the PSAT to function as a snow-play equipment rental concession. When not in winter use, it may be maintained for group use by reservation, staff functions, and its deck used for picnicking.

Because the building site has many feet of unconsolidated fill (decomposed manure), a pier or stem wall foundation that extends through the fill to the underlying native soil may be required.



Bob Patterson

*Existing Adventure Center*

The building will be designed to blend with the natural setting and be compatible with other, rustic structures in the vicinity, such as the ranger station, maintenance shop, and water storage tanks.

The existing Adventure Center will be demolished. Materials will be either salvaged and stored at the maintenance shop or removed from the park and disposed of at an appropriate off-site facility. Rehabilitation measures to return the Adventure Center area landscape to a natural setting (e.g., regrading, revegetation) will be determined by site assessment.

### **Outdoor Activity Area**

An outdoor activity area, suitable for various recreational, interpretive, and operational needs, is proposed for the former equestrian stables area adjacent to the new Adventure Center. The intent of this area is to be a flexible space for winter activities such as snow play and skating (see “Synthetic Ice Rink”), as well as for school group activities, gatherings for educational programs, and other various uses at any time of the year.

The outdoor activity area will be located at the previously disturbed former equestrian stables area. This area is relatively level making it well suited for the intended activities.

### **Synthetic Ice Rink**

Winter-time skating could be a popular visitor activity that is similar to and an extension of the current snow-play activities in Long Valley. A synthetic ice

rink; installed, operated, and maintained by the PSAT; is proposed to be located at the outdoor activity area for this purpose.

The synthetic ice rink would be used during the winter season and afterward disassembled so that potential noise and high levels of use would occur only during the winter months to coincide with snow-play activities. The synthetic ice rink will not require any major permanent utility or equipment infrastructure, and is a temporary facility.

The synthetic ice rink shall be blended as best possible with the natural setting and terrain. This can be accomplished through creative siting, rustic railings and/or barriers, equipment screening, and maintaining a small footprint. In addition, the facility will be designed, installed, and maintained so as to reduce potential sound, crowding, and visual impacts to the greatest extent possible.

### **Funicular**

Currently, there is no way for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility to access Long Valley. The existing concrete pathway from the Mountain Station to Long Valley is too steep for wheelchairs and too long for many people with disabilities. Providing access to Long Valley for the elderly and people with mobility impairments is a desire of California State Parks and the PSAT. Having this access will allow all visitors to have a first-hand experience of Long Valley instead of merely looking at Long Valley from the Mountain Station.

The proposed funicular device, funded and operated by the PSAT, will serve the

purpose of transporting people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility from the Mountain Station to Long Valley's floor. It would be used only for this purpose and fees could not be charged for its use.

A feasibility study is also proposed to determine the most suitable type of funicular and alignment, as well as establish cost and operational parameters. This feasibility study would be an independent analysis, funded by the PSAT and subject to State Parks approval.

### **New Restroom Building**

A restroom building and associated septic tank and leach field, of adequate size to serve the needs of visitors who are using the Adventure Center, outdoor activity area, and synthetic ice rink, is to be built adjacent or attached to the Adventure Center. The restroom building will be designed to blend with the natural setting and be compatible with other rustic structures in the vicinity, such as the ranger station, maintenance shop, and water storage tanks.

### **Equestrian Staging Area**

A small, compact equestrian staging area, with room for up to six horses, is proposed for visitors to Long Valley who arrive on horseback and wish to take a break from trail riding and rest their horses. The location is proposed between the new ranger station, Adventure Center, and maintenance shop in a suitable, already-cleared open area. The equestrian staging area will include a corral, shade ramada, hitching post, and



watering device. The area will be available for day use only (no overnight use) and no horse washing facilities will be available. All facilities in the equestrian staging area will be rustic in appearance, blend as best possible with the natural terrain and setting, and match as closely as possible to other structures in the vicinity. Responsibility for maintaining and cleaning this facility will be State Parks staff and/or volunteers.

### **Area for Summer Equipment Rental Seasonal Structure**

An area for a seasonal structure to house a summer equipment rental (climbing gear, etc., for areas within the park and north of Long Valley) is proposed for a suitable, already-cleared open area located near the outdoor activity area. The temporary structure could be a tent on elevated platform, such as a yurt or canvas-walled structure, which can be easily set up and dismantled after the climbing season is over (once winter weather begins). Funding, operation, and maintenance of the seasonal structure would be the sole responsibility of the concessionaire with oversight by the PSAT.

### **Replacement Concrete Pathway and Handrail**

The existing, 0.21-mile (375-yard) concrete pathway from the Mountain Station to Long Valley, although recently replaced, is already deteriorating and poses a slipping hazard in several locations. For this reason, a replacement pathway is proposed for the entire length. Level, pull-out areas for wheelchair users

that are strong enough to navigate the steep pathway are needed at regular intervals so that they may rest. In addition, the pathway is in need of a new handrail along the entire length that will provide a more reliable hand-hold and prevent children from passing underneath. The pathway and handrail replacement will be designed to comply with all applicable codes including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Care will be taken to maintain the existing pathway's historic alignment. The pathway and handrail replacement will be paid for by the PSAT and will be considered a high priority due to the need for reliable and safe access to and from Long Valley.

### **New Benches along Concrete Pathway**

The 0.21-mile (375-yard) concrete pathway from the Mountain Station to Long Valley is relatively steep. While walking this pathway, many visitors tire and need a place to rest. It is proposed that new benches be installed at appropriate places along the pathway, such as at switchbacks and at regular intervals, to provide resting places for visitors walking to or from Long Valley. These benches will be rustic in appearance to blend with the natural surroundings while remaining durable in extreme weather conditions. Larger benches will be considered at switchbacks as long as fencing or other barriers are erected to deter people from traveling off trail.

## Add New Interpretive Facilities

With a high number of first-time, foreign and school-age visitors to Long Valley's wilderness setting, there is a great opportunity to inform and educate them about the Park's resources and recreation activities. New interpretive facilities are proposed that will help accomplish this goal.

### Amphitheater with Rustic Stage for Interpretive Programs

In a clearing just north of the terminus of the pathway leading from the Mountain Station into Long Valley, an amphitheater with seating for up to 100 people is proposed to replace the existing amphitheater located between the ranger station and Long Valley Creek. Moving the amphitheater to this location, which currently serves as an informal picnic area and has already incurred ground disturbance, will significantly reduce foot traffic damage in and around the creek. In addition, the location at the pathway bottom is a more strategic location for interpretive programs and large, school group presentations. When not in use as an amphitheater, the seating areas may be used by the public for picnicking, resting, and observing nature.

On the site of the new amphitheater, a rustic pavilion with a stage is proposed for conducting school group programs and interpretive presentations to the public. The amphitheater will blend with the forested setting and match the rustic appearance of the nearby, existing water storage tank. Split logs will be used for seating at the amphitheater.

At the existing amphitheater, the seating, fire pit, and electrical outlets will be removed and may be re-used for other park purposes. The area will then be reviewed to evaluate the level of disturbance, so that District and State Parks specialists can develop, and subsequently implement, suitable methods of habitat restoration and/or enhancement.

### Visitor Contact Kiosk

For many visitors to Long Valley it is their first time to the Park and many are uncertain what there is to see and do. In addition, many of these visitors have not been introduced to wilderness conditions and may not understand the value and importance of the Park's resources. For this reason, there is a great opportunity for a State Parks' employee or volunteer to greet the public as they enter Long Valley and offer trail maps and information, Park brochures, and public safety information, to direct hikers to the ranger station for wilderness permits and answer visitor's questions, as needed.

A small, moveable, rustic-appearing kiosk is proposed that will serve as a meet-and-greet station and storage area for hand-outs and interpretive materials. The intent of this kiosk is to be set up intermittently at the terminus of the concrete pathway from the Mountain Station. This could be done during any busy season, such as winter holidays, then removed and stored until it is needed again.

### Sign Plan

In many locations throughout Long Valley, signs are needed to better inform visitors of Park regulations, identify trails, and provide information about Park resources consistent with the intent of the 2011 Interpretation Master Plan (IMP) for Mount San Jacinto State Park. For example, a sign informing visitors that they are entering a wilderness setting is needed somewhere along the pathway leading from the Mountain Station to Long Valley, to warn visitors of a potentially harsh environment beyond the confines of the Mountain Station.

A comprehensive sign plan is proposed that would accomplish these goals. This plan will consider all types of signs such as those for trail identification, information and interpretation, regulatory, way-finding, and building identification. The scale of signs in Long Valley will be as minimal as possible and their appearance will be compatible with the natural surroundings and rustic buildings and structures.

### **Provide Better Operations Facilities**

To help make the staff and volunteer work environment more hospitable and efficient to use, as well as provide new and improved areas where staff can interact with visitors, the following operations facilities within Long Valley will be replaced with new, more efficient facilities (See Appendix 3 – Preliminary Building Programs).

### Expanded Ranger Station Complex

The existing 1964-built Long Valley Ranger Station and Utility Building will be rehabilitated as part of a new, expanded Ranger Station Complex. An additional building (or buildings) will accommodate current and future staff levels and uses, including a larger and improved visitor contact area, work stations, storage, and sleeping quarters (sleeping quarters are needed because of the area's remote location and for multi-day assignments).

Designers will consider the option of having the multiple buildings interconnected by covered walkways or decks to improve accessibility to each.

The appearance of the new building(s) will complement but not mimic the original Ranger Station. Like the latter, the new building(s) will blend in with the natural surroundings, as well as work into the existing grade.

### New Maintenance Shop, Storage Building, and Wood Shed

A new larger structure will be built near



Bob Patterson

*Existing Ranger Station*



the original Utility Building for additional maintenance, heavy equipment, and wood storage space. Additional space will be provided for shop tables, tool racks, and work areas.

An additional smaller storage building is proposed with cabinets, racks, and shelves to store supplies, chemicals, paint, lubricants, etc. A new wood storage shed will also be constructed nearby to house all of the wood and other building materials needed for repair and refurbishment of State Parks-maintained structures in the Park. A rustic fence will surround the maintenance shop, storage building, and wood shed to provide a secure area for working and material storage.

*See Appendix 3 for Preliminary Building Programs – Long Valley Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Storage Building and Wood Storage Shed*

### **Improve Electrical Service**

Currently, electrical service for facilities in Long Valley is supplied by way of overhead lines from the Mountain Station. These lines and the poles which support them impact the natural scenery. In addition, the electrical power available from these lines is insufficient to supply all the power needs of the existing ranger station. For this reason, the ranger

station has an auxiliary generator. This generator runs frequently and contributes to noise impacts in the wilderness setting.

It is proposed that the existing auxiliary generator be removed once the proposed expanded ranger station complex and other buildings are constructed in Long Valley. This generator will be replaced with:

- 1) new and improved electrical lines from the Mountain Station, preferably placed underground if soil conditions are favorable and if existing natural and cultural resources can be protected; and/or
- 2) solar power for each building; and/or
- 3) tying into the auxiliary power at the Mountain Station.







The final solution will be sustainable, cost effective, and have the least effect on the environment.

### **New Animal-Proof Trash and Recycling Enclosures**

At a location near the terminus of the concrete pathway from the Mountain Station to Long Valley there is a fenced area designated for trash containers. The current containers are not animal-proof. By not providing animal-proof receptacles there is the potential to lure bears and other wildlife from adjacent wilderness areas to Long Valley. It is proposed that new animal-proof trash and recycling enclosures be installed in place of the existing containers. Besides being animal-proof these enclosures will be ADA compliant, as well as blend as best possible with the natural setting.

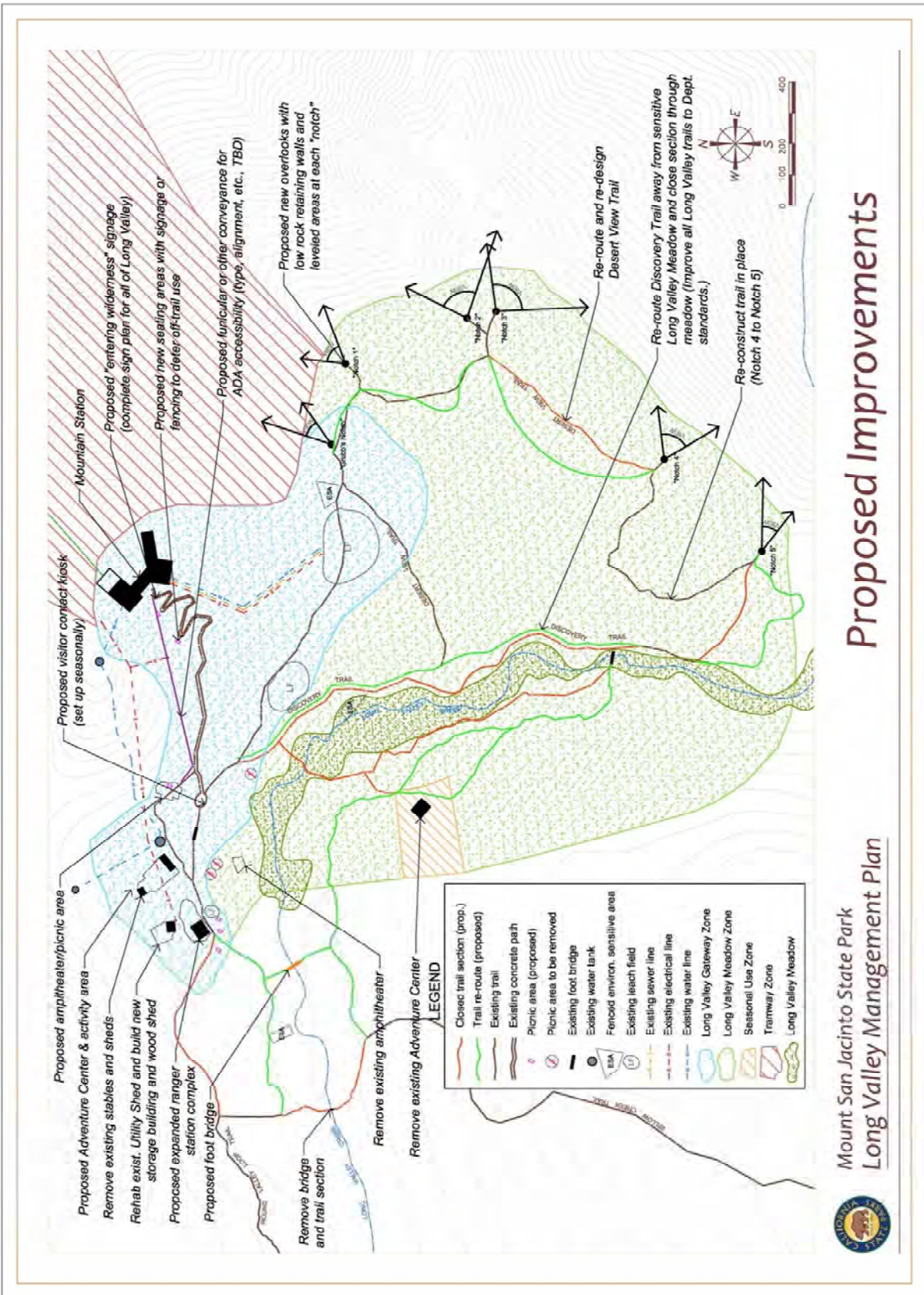
## Facility Design Guidelines

When the design of buildings and structures dominates, competes with, or ignores a Park's natural surroundings, it can detract from a visitor's overall Park experience as well as diminish their appreciation of the natural environment. To help guide the design of facilities proposed in this Management Plan, the following guidelines are presented to help create an integrated and aesthetically pleasing park setting. In addition to these guidelines, further recommendations are found in Appendix 5 – "Guiding Principle for Quality Aesthetic Design at State Parks".

-  Development will blend with and compliment the natural surroundings. Structures will not dominate the site but rather remain in harmony with the native landscape.
-  Disturbance of native vegetation will be avoided or minimized by integrating structures with the native landscape and topography. Whenever possible, place structures in open areas rather than removing trees or vegetation.
-  Sustainable design and maintenance practices will be followed that promote energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and other resource conservation practices.
-  Textures of the development, whether of material or the overall physical profile, will be reflective of the surrounding environment.
-  Night lighting will be designed so as not to obscure or intrude upon the night sky. Activities such as star gazing will be fully considered in developing lighting options. If required for visitor safety, energy efficient light fixtures set low to the ground plane, should be used to reduce glare and light pollution.
-  Both existing and future utilities such as telephone and electrical lines will be installed underground wherever possible.

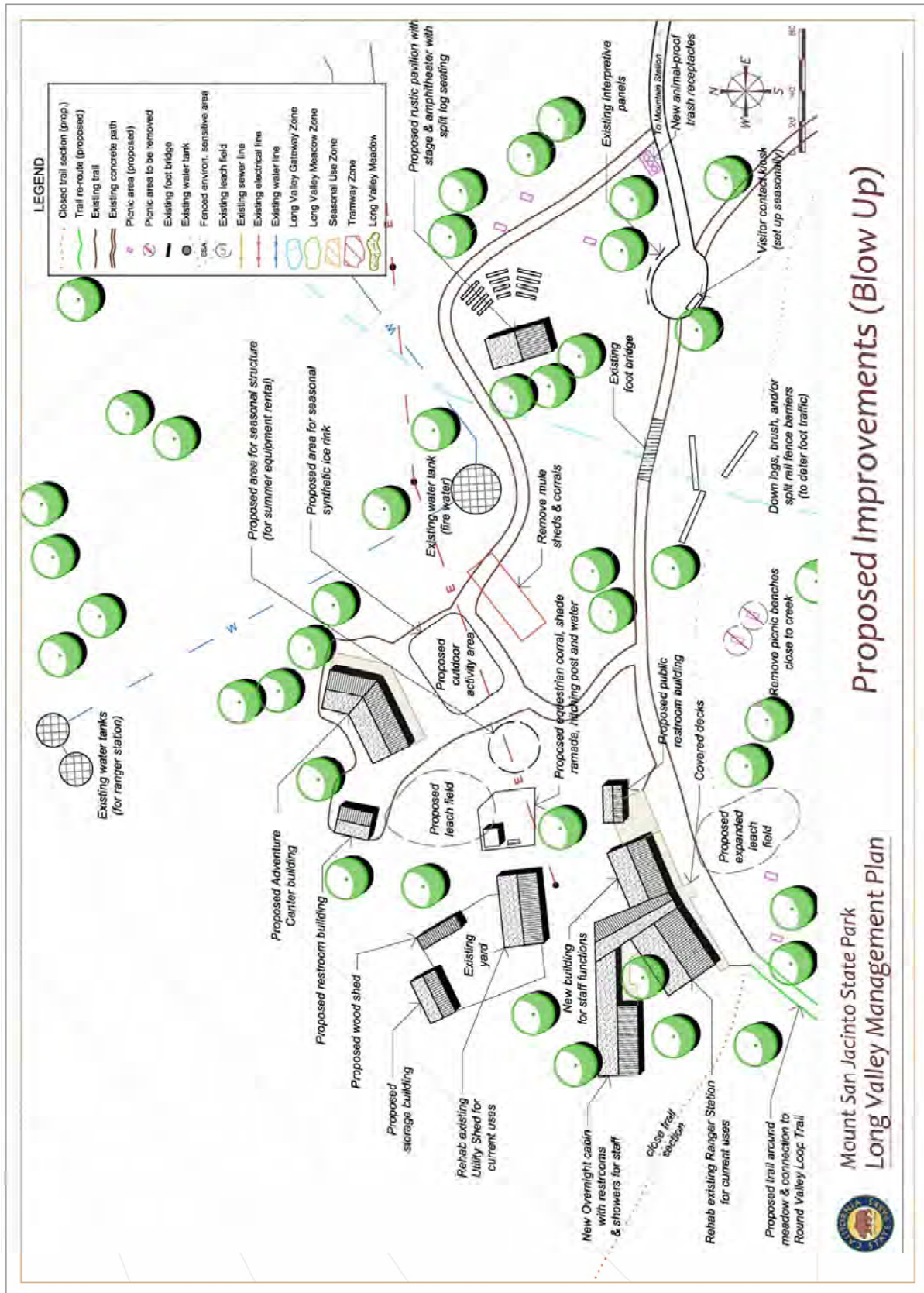


## Proposed Improvements Plan (Figure 5)





## Proposed Improvements Plan (Blow-Up) (Figure 6)





## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Long Valley Statistics

**Park:** Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness

**State Parks District:** Inland Empire District

**State Parks Sector:** San Jacinto Sector

**County, State:** Riverside, California

**State Designations:** State Park, Wilderness

**Total Acres:** 13,718

**State Park Designation Acreage:** 3,818

**Wilderness Designation Acreage:** 9,900

**Long Valley Meadow Acreage:** 6.16

**Palm Springs Aerial Tramway – Average**

**Annual Ridership 1999 - 2008:** 390,430

**Cooperative Associations:** Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association

#### Trails

**Number of Trails:** 4

**Trail Names:**

- Discovery Trail
- Desert View Trail
- Round Valley Loop Trail
- Willow Creek Trail

**Total Feet of Trail:** 9,917 lf (1.88 miles)

**Feet of Accessible Trails:** 432 lf (.08 miles)

**Length of Concrete Pathway from**

**Mountain Station to Long Valley:** 1,123 lf (0.21 miles), (375 yards)

**Trailheads:** 2

**Trail Bridges and Puncheons:** 4

**Trail Viewpoints:** 6

#### Facilities

**Campsites:** 0

**Ranger Station:** 1 (1000 sq. ft.)

**Restrooms:** 2 (1 women's, 1 men's)

**Picnic Areas:** 2

**Amphitheaters:** 1

**Interpretive Signs:** 12 (2 large, 10 small on Discovery Trail)

**State Parks Buildings:** 2

**PSAT Buildings:** 3

**Water Tanks:** 3 (not including the tank for the Mountain Station)

**Fenced Vegetation Restoration Areas:** 3

**Leach Fields:** 3

#### Natural Resources

**Wildlife Habitats:** Sierran Mixed Conifer, Wet Meadow

**Vegetation Types:** Mixed Conifer Forest, Montane Meadow

**Perennial Streams:** Long Valley Creek

**Length of Long Valley Creek through Long Valley:** 3,160 lf (0.60 miles)

**Soils:** Sandy, unstable, formed from weathered granite

#### Cultural Resources

**Archaeological Features/Sites:** 7

**Historic Resources:** 2 (1 existing, 1 potential)

#### Interpretive Programs

**Guided nature walks:** Mid-May through Mid-October

**Junior Ranger Programs:** Self-guided, Junior Ranger activity guides

**Family Days:** One Saturday each month in summer

**School Programs:** April through Mid-October, weather permitting

*Note: Data are for general reference only. Measurements shown are approximate*

## Appendix 2 - List of Abbreviations and Glossary

<b>Accessible</b>	Admission, passage, circulation, and full use of buildings, facilities, programs, and the various elements within or the combination of them, to persons with disabilities (per <i>California State Parks, 2009, Accessibility Guidelines</i> ).
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>CEQA</b>	California Environmental Quality Act
<b>IMP</b>	Interpretation Master Plan (for Mount San Jacinto State Park)
<b>PSAT</b>	Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The organization that operates and maintains the Tram.
<b>Puncheon</b>	A small, bridge-type structure built close to the ground (generally 3-feet tall or less), with or without handrails, that may be used to cross small drainages, streams, and wet areas.
<b>WPA</b>	Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority. The governing body of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. A public agency and public corporation of the State of California.



Bob Patterson

*View of San Geronio Mountain from Desert View Trail "Notch 3"*

## Appendix 3 - Preliminary Building Programs

### Long Valley Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Storage Building, and Wood Storage Shed

#### Long Valley Ranger Station Complex

- Building(s) will accommodate at least ten (10) staff working simultaneously
- Multi-purpose room with seating for about fifteen (15), to serve as training room, incident command post, park aide office, and overflow sleeping area. Equip with projector and screen, copy machine, smart board, and at least two (2) computer stations with flat panel monitors
- Ranger office: space for three desks, three file cabinets, gun safe, secure fax line, lost and found/evidence storage
- Two (2) bunk rooms, with sleeping capacity of (4) four per room
- Two (2) staff restrooms with shower, towel hooks, toiletry cabinet for each employee
- Locker room with ten (10) wall lockers (lockers 2'-wide X 6'-high due to large amount of winter gear)
- Visitor contact room (approx. 300 sf)
- Kitchen with pantry space for ten (10)
- Fitness room
- Communications area for base station radio and battery chargers
- Animal-proof garbage and recycle receptacles
- Adequate electrical outlets and storage
- Adequate propane storage tanks, propane water heaters, and automatic generator for electrical power outages and periods of insufficient electrical supply

- Building(s) will evoke the spirit and minimal-rustic feel of the original ranger station

#### Maintenance Shop

- Insulated Maintenance Shop with roll up door (for tractor)
- Washer/dryer hookups
- Sink
- Chemical/paint/lubricant storage locker
- Emergency shower and bathroom
- Assembly shop table with dust collection system
- Lumber rack
- Tool tables
- Hand tool rack
- Attached or integrated pull-through carport for trailer

#### Storage Building

- Non-insulated Storage Building with roll up door
- Chemical/paint/lubricant storage lockers
- Shelving, racks, and storage compartments

#### Wood Storage Shed

- Non-insulated, wood storage shed with roof and enclosed back and sides to insulate wood and building materials from weather
- Racks of various sizes to accommodate random sizes of lumber and various types of building materials

## Appendix 4 - References


- Bevil, Alex, State Historian II, California State Parks, E-mail 6/2011.
- Bevil, Alex and Mealey, Marla, 2001 Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Resources Inventory – Cultural Section.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2002. Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, Concessions and Reservations Office, 1996. Operating Agreement for Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2011, Interpretive Master Plan for Mount San Jacinto State Park.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2008, Project Evaluation for Long Valley Interpretive/Directional Sign, for P.R.C. 5024, 5024.5 and E.O. W-26-92.
- California Legislature, Fifty Sixth Session, 1945, Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority Act, Statutes 1945, Chapter 1040.
- California State Parks, 2009, Accessibility Guidelines
- California State Parks, 2002, Mount San Jacinto State Park Map
- Chester, Tom; Stith, Dave; and Dillane, James; 2008, Flora of Tamarack, Round and Long Valleys, San Jacinto Mountains, [http://tchester.org/sb/plants/floras/round\\_et\\_al\\_valleys.html](http://tchester.org/sb/plants/floras/round_et_al_valleys.html).
- Mealey, Marla, Associate State Archaeologist with Southern Service Center, California State Parks, E-mail 6/2011.
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, 2004, Visitor Guide & Map.
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, 2009, Ridership History, FY 1998/1999 – 2008/2009.
- Rischbieter, Douglas, 2000, Reconnaissance Evaluation - Select Hydrologic Resources of Mt. San Jacinto State Park and State Wilderness: Long Valley Meadow, Round Valley, Hidden Lake.
- San Diego Natural History Museum, 2008, San Jacinto Centennial Resurvey, <http://www.sdnhm.org/research/sanjacinto/index.php>.
- Wassenberg, Katherine; Hendricks, William W, Ph.D.; Greenwood, Jerusha B., Ph.D., 2008, Mount San Jacinto State Park Visitor Survey, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration.







## Appendix 5 - Guiding Principle for Quality Aesthetic Design at State Parks

**Guiding Principle for Quality Aesthetic Design at State Parks**

Design of park facilities should embody the same vigor and spirit that the Department applies to its Mission while evoking forward thinking design theories, producing meaningful places and spaces, worthy of preservation by future generations.



- Design should evolve from a collaborative and visual process that is led by a design professional, and involves the users, the District staff, and resource professionals and other stakeholders.
- Design decisions should be sensitive to the contextual nature of the site, including the region's cultural and physical environment in which the project is located. The design should recognize and respect the past but not necessarily mimic a style or era.
- Design dialogues should extend throughout the department and beyond, to ensure that the meaningful places and spaces are designed and maintained, in keeping with the richness and grandeur of the State Park system.
- Sustainable design, universal accessibility, new technology and materials should be embraced while the project's economics and practicality in terms of construction, operations and maintenance, should remain grounded and be achieved through sound but innovative design decisions.

## Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all of the people who have helped support and develop this project. The staff of the California State Parks Headquarters, Inland Empire District and San Jacinto Sector provided considerable assistance and knowledge. Special thank you goes to staff at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Their help in providing a wonderful venue for the public meeting is greatly appreciated. And finally we wish to thank the many public citizens who helped shape this plan through their participation at the workshops and meetings.

Sincerely,

**Ron Krueper**

District Superintendent  
Inland Empire District

**Bob Patterson**

Project Leader  
Southern Service Center

---

*“The clearest way to the Universe is through a forest  
wilderness”*

*–attributed to John Muir*

---

## Planning Team

**Ellen Absher**

State Park Interpreter II  
Perris Sector

**Garratt Aitchison**

Sector Superintendent  
San Jacinto Sector

**Enrique Arroyo**

Associate Park and Recreation Specialist  
Inland Empire District

**Larrynn Carver**

Associate State Archaeologist  
Inland Empire District

**Lynn Earls-Holliday**

Park Maintenance Chief III  
Inland Empire District

**Rob Howard**

State Park Interpreter I  
San Jacinto Sector

**Ken Kietzer**

Environmental Scientist  
Inland Empire District

**Ron Krueper**

District Superintendent  
Inland Empire District

**Bob Patterson**

Associate Landscape Architect  
Southern Service Center



## Planning Assistance

**Alexander Bevil**

State Historian II  
Southern Service Center

**Mike Bonk**

Research Program Specialist I (GIS)  
Southern Service Center

**Rich Burg**

Senior Environmental Scientist  
Southern Service Center

**Bart Grant**

Supervising Park Ranger  
San Jacinto Sector

**Karl Knapp**

Staff Park and Recreation Specialist  
Facilities Management Division

**Barney Matsumoto**

Supervising Landscape Architect  
Southern Service Center

**Marla Mealey**

Associate Archaeologist  
Southern Service Center

**Steve Musillami**

Associate Landscape Architect  
Planning Division

**Luke Serna**

Park and Recreation Specialist  
Southern Service Center

**Debbie Waldecker**

Environmental Scientist  
Southern Service Center







Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources

Ruth Coleman  
Director of Parks and Recreation

State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001



Printed on 30% post-consumer waste recycled paper