



Mount San Jacinto State Park

LONG VALLEY MANAGEMENT PLAN

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Long Valley Management Plan will describe the operations and management goals for Long Valley as well as show where relocated, refurbished and new facilities are proposed. The intent of the Plan is to guide management and development decisions for the betterment of public use and improved resource protection into the foreseeable future.

Following are some Highlights of the Plan:

- ***Protect the meadow:***



A major goal of the Plan is to provide greater protection to sensitive resources in the meadow. The Plan will accomplish this goal by moving heavily used trails slightly away from the meadow and removing one trail crossing while still allowing visitors to view and enjoy the area. In addition, picnic tables and the amphitheater will be moved away from the meadow and brush, down logs, and/or low fencing will be installed to reduce unintentional trampling of meadow vegetation.

- ***Re-locate facilities to Valley's north end:***



All facilities will be situated north of the trail that runs between the Ranger Station and Mountain Station (Tram) in the Long Valley Gateway Zone. This includes re-locating the Adventure Center and amphitheater which will reduce creek and meadow crossings. Confining facilities to this area provides further meadow protection, minimizes the disturbance footprint, allows for a transitional visitor experience to the wilderness leading away from the Tram Facility, and allows ranger staff to better respond to visitor's needs.

- ***Make trails in the Valley ADA accessible:***



The Plan proposes to improve most trails in the Valley to meet Department accessibility standards. This is a crucial improvement because a high proportion of trail users are casual sightseers, families with children, and elderly, not experienced hikers. Trails will be accessible up to Grubb's Notch and Notch 5. The Desert View Trail between Grubb's Notch and Notch 5 will not be accessible due to the steep terrain, but will be re-constructed in place to make it more sustainable and user friendly.

- ***Add and Improve visitor-use and interpretive facilities:***

With a high number of first-time, foreign and school children visitors to the Valley's wilderness setting, there is a great opportunity to educate them about the park's resources and provide high quality, passive recreation. New interpretive and visitor-use facilities can help accomplish these goals.



Proposed new facilities include:

- New Adventure Center with separate restroom building
- Outdoor activity area that accommodates snow play and synthetic ice rink
- Seasonally-staffed kiosk for visitor information and orientation
- Picnic area/amphitheater with rustic stage building for interpretive programs
- Area for a seasonal structure for summer equipment rentals
- Small equestrian staging area with corrals and water
- Funicular or electric cart for disabled access and medical transport



- ***Improve operations facilities:***

The existing Ranger Station is undersized and not suitable for current uses. A Station replacement is proposed that would increase the usable area, add a room for visitor contact, upsize the public restrooms, and add an attached cabin with restrooms and showers for overnight staff. In addition, the work shop is proposed to be expanded and a new tool/supply storage building and wood shed is to be built.

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 determined in management plans that build on the general plan framework.

Because the general plan identified the need for a Long Valley Management Plan, California State Parks is initiating this planning process. Public input plays a significant role in this process.

The Long Valley Management Plan is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). California State Parks will formally begin the CEQA process by preparing an Initial Study.

It will be available for public review and comment the Summer of 2011 following the May 11, 2011 public meeting. It will be available for viewing and download on the project web page <http://www.parks.ca.gov/msjplans>.

For further information about the Long Valley Management Plan contact Bob Patterson, Project Lead at bpatters@parks.ca.gov or (619) 220-5307

