

# DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

## MILL CREEK GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

### SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES COMMENTS RECEIVED IN WRITING

Date Received Name	Comments
June 19, 2008 James L. McLaughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mill Creek area should be open to the public:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horseback riding;</li> <li>○ ATV use;</li> <li>○ Fishing;</li> <li>○ Deer hunting; and</li> <li>○ Picnics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drivable as far as possible.</li> <li>• Guided tours by park officials are good, but people should be able to enjoy the trails on their own as well.</li> <li>• It is wrong that the park is locked up most of the year.</li> </ul>
June 26, 2008 Steve Bismarck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration vs. development:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take a stern look at the primacy of the restoration goal and determine how much of a limiter that goal constitutes with regard to development and access.</li> <li>○ Truly restoring the property to late seral forest would seem to favor far less development than the public desires.</li> <li>○ Travel routes create “dead zone corridors” that will not be occupied by species that are sensitive to human contact.</li> <li>○ <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> containment:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread by human transport (i.e. vehicles, etc.);</li> <li>• Allow access to areas where infection is not a high concern.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alternative designs vs. phased development:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Projection of probable use to influence development.</li> <li>○ Flexible, phased-development general plan:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin with a Medium to High Level Development option in mind as the ultimate design;</li> <li>• Proceed with development as far as actual patronage and funding allow;</li> <li>• Low Level Development would be the foundation;</li> <li>• Incremental development executed in realistic phases.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Philosophies of recreation trail use:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared-use is an appealing concept, but often difficult to implement in order to minimize conflict between user groups;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certain uses are incompatible with others;</li> <li>○ Motorized vehicles (ATV's, motorbikes, electric powered vehicles) should be limited to improved road surfaces;</li> <li>○ Hiking and equestrian trails are compatible;</li> <li>○ Develop a network of dedicated single-track trails for mountain bikes.</li> <li>○ It has been observed that single-track mountain bike trails are adopted by wildlife as game trails during early morning and evening hours.</li> </ul>
<p>June 30, 2008 Joyce Maire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As an equestrian rider, appreciates being able to ride in beautiful parks.</li> <li>● Leave-No-Trace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Always picking up trash (i.e. water bottles, coke cans, etc.) left by other users.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Would appreciate having a drive-in horse camp at Mill Creek.</li> </ul>
<p>June 30, 2008 Frank Galea Galea Wildlife Consulting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Does not care for any of the proposed alternatives for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Did not provide an ATV-only route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opportunity to draw thousands of people to the park;</li> <li>● No speeding, no overland stuff, no creek crossing, just a loop road for slow, safe ATV access;</li> <li>● ATV campground;</li> <li>● Would draw money into Del Norte County.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Not utilized the existing elk herd as a draw for the public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manage some areas to keep the herd viable and in the park;</li> <li>● Set up public viewing platforms 0.25 to 0.5 miles from elk foraging areas (preferably maintained open meadow).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● The alternatives will bring in no additional revenue.</li> <li>● We already have far more parks than we need.</li> <li>● Incorporate ideas into plans that will bring more tourism to the area.</li> <li>● Another park, with so few old-growth areas, is not going to draw anything.</li> </ul>
<p>June 30, 2008 Helen Brown Northwest Trail Riders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In agreement with the views outlined by Marge Lesina from Northwest Trail Riders.</li> <li>● Park should accommodate many users.</li> </ul>
<p>August 20, 2008 Joe Gillespie, President Eileen Cooper, Board member Friends of Del Norte</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Places trust in State Parks to uphold the public trust values, based on their stewardship of old growth redwoods in Del Norte County.</li> <li>● The Mill Creek Watershed was acquired to establish a refugia for salmonids and to restore the old growth redwood forests, and these directives should guide planning.</li> <li>● Support State Parks decision that OHV use would be incompatible with the public trust values for which the Mill Creek Watershed was acquired.</li> <li>● Support the provision for a 500 foot buffer surrounding marbled murrelet habitat adjacent to the old mill site; however, it won't be large enough to prevent impacts from Corvids (ravens and jays).</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public must be clearly informed of strict rules to not feed wildlife or leave food or trash (i.e., litter) in the vicinity of the old mill site, as a strategy for discouraging Corvids (ravens and jays) from frequenting the old mill site.</li> <li>• Support decision to not develop camping at the old mill site.</li> <li>• Support connecting the current Mill Creek campsite to the Mill Creek Watershed acquisition.</li> <li>• The roof of one or two of the buildings at the old mill site supports several breeding pairs of purple martins, a California Species of Special Concern. This is the largest extant breeding colony in Del Norte County.</li> <li>• Poorly managed horse activity can have negative impacts to natural resources; therefore we make the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horses must stay on designated trails and campsites.</li> <li>○ Important botanical areas should be posted and barriers or gates provided.</li> <li>○ Only allow certified seed free hay in the park.</li> <li>○ Post, publicize, and enforce the rules.</li> <li>○ An overnight horse camp at the old mill site would attract Corvids, and negatively impact marbled murrelets.</li> <li>○ Horse campsites should be separated from general campsites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>