

# BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK



## *A Century of Resource Preservation and Public Enjoyment*

General Plan Newsletter

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

September 14, 2002

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### ***Planning process is defining how we can best preserve and enjoy Big Basin's unique values and resources***

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is in the middle of a planning process to develop a long-range general plan for Big Basin Redwoods State Park. General plans are broad policy documents that direct park management and future development. Big Basin Redwoods State Park (which we'll simply call "Big Basin") does not have a general plan, though much planning has been done for this park since its founding in 1902.

The Big Basin General Plan will guide the park's development, management, and public use. Specifically, it will:

- Identify significant natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational values and resources
- Determine land uses and visitor activities that are appropriate and compatible with the park resources and surrounding areas
- Establish guidelines for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of resources and development of facilities
- Identify significant environmental effects of land uses and visitor activities and possible mitigations

### ***What we've completed***

To date the planning team has completed the Resource Inventory and the Resource analysis.

**Resource Inventory.** The planning team has compiled information on natural, cultural, educational, and recreational resources on Big Basin and its regional context. The resource inventory is really never completed as new information will be added to improve Big Basin's *Unit Data File*. We now have sufficient information to begin making planning decisions, which is the next step.

**Resource Analysis.** The planning team has completed resource sensitivity mapping for Big Basin. We have also divided the park into planning zones based on management and public use needs. These planning zones will help us to more effectively plan and more clearly communicate the advantages and disadvantages of various alternatives.

### ***Send us your comments on the Preliminary Declaration of Purpose and Vision Statement***

Below are the preliminary *Declaration of Purpose* and *Vision Statement* for the park. Please send us your comments on these

important guiding purpose and vision statements. You may send us your recommended changes to these versions or completely rewrite them.

## **The preliminary Declaration of Purpose**

The *Declaration of Purpose* describes a park unit's *existing* prime resource significance and its *current* recreational value to Californians.

### *Preliminary Declaration of Purpose*

*The purpose of Big Basin Redwoods State Park is to preserve and make available for public inspiration, education, and enjoyment the park's outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values. Established in 1902 as California Redwood Park, Big Basin became one of the original units when the California State Park System was established in 1927. It represents one of the first successful efforts to save an ancient Coast Redwood forest habitat from logging and help create the preservation movement.*

*Big Basin Redwoods State Park contains the largest contiguous stands of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco. The park includes 18,000 acres of old growth and recovering redwood forest, mixed conifer, oak, chaparral and riparian habitats, along with the outstanding recreational, scenic, historic and scientific resources.*

*California State Parks will manage these resources to preserve them in perpetuity for the continuing benefit for the people of California. State Parks will interpret these resources effectively; and will provide facilities and services, consistent with the purposes of the park, as are necessary for the full enjoyment by the park visitor.*

## **The preliminary Vision Statement**

The *Vision Statement* attempts to describe how we want a park unit to be in the future *after its general plan goals have been met*. This vision tries to capture both how we want the park to physically appear and how visitors will relate to it emotionally and spiritually.

### *Preliminary Vision Statement*

*Big Basin Redwoods State Park is an island of nature surrounded by encroaching urbanism from development in the San Francisco Bay area. As part of the Santa Cruz Mountains region, the park contains an important mix of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources that are of great value to the people who live in these adjacent urban areas.*

*Along with other open space providers, and local, county and State Parks, Big Basin Redwoods State Park is a focal point for the Santa Cruz Mountains regional open space. Its primary purpose is to protect the natural resource values and provide recreational opportunities on which the first and subsequent acquisitions were made. With an integrated planning effort coordinated with other open space and recreation providers, open space can be preserved, habitats and special status species protected, and appropriate recreation opportunities provided on a regional basis.*

*Big Basin Redwood State Park contains many historic features, which make up important historic cultural landscapes. The Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930's built many of these features and concessionaires added features later establishing the "Park Rustic" style of park design. This style has become a tradition within parks. These features, which include trails, picnic and overnight accommodations shall continue to provide recreational access to millions of visitors.*

*Big Basin Redwoods State Park is a place for visitors to seek personal renewal and gain inspiration from nature's beauty and enjoy the traditions of our first State Park.*

## **What's next**

The planning team is now developing a list of possible park resource and recreation enhancements. These planning possibilities will provide the public an opportunity to evaluate different management goals and land-uses to best protect the park's resources and provide recreational opportunities. These possibilities will be presented at Workshop #2. The planning team will then prepare a preferred plan from the input we receive.

### **The Public Input Process**

- ✓ Workshop #1 (September 2001):  
Orientation, Review Resource Inventory, Issues and Concerns
- ➡ **Workshop #2**  
***Present and Discuss Planning Possibilities***
- Workshop #3:  
Present and Discuss Preliminary Planning Document
- CEQA Public Review/comment on Preliminary Planning Document
- Park Commission considers approving preliminary plan as final document

## **We want to hear from you!**

The Big Basin planning team invites individuals, groups, and agencies to send us your ideas and written suggestions on what facilities and accommodations you think are appropriate to meet future needs for the park. As we move forward in considering alternatives, we would like to learn more about what recreational services and facilities people want and where they think these should be located from a regional perspective. This can include suggestions for facilities in other nearby state parks and the relocation current Big Basin activities within the park or to other parks in the area.

If you are not currently on our mailing list, and would like to receive the newsletter and notice about future workshops, or if you wish to send written comments, please contact us at this address:

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS  
Robin Ettinger, Northern Service Center  
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Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
e-mail: [Retti@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Retti@parks.ca.gov)

Telephone: (916) 445-8905

For park information, please call (831) 338-8860.

For more information about Big Basin Redwoods State Park and other State Park units visit: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## ***Announcing a New General Planning Activity!***

***Butano State Park  
Ano Nuevo State Park  
Ano Nuevo State Reserve***

State Parks will soon begin preparing general plans for Butano State Park, Ano Nuevo State Park, and Ano Nuevo State Reserve. We will coordinate our general planning efforts and share information between the current Big Basin General Planning process and these new planning activities to develop an integrated regional view for park planning.

***Please let us know if you wish to be involved in this new planning activity by sending an E-mail or letter to Robin Ettinger at the above address.***

## ***See Web site for Planning Information***

To review the *Big Basin Redwoods State Park Resource Inventory*, access the Big Basin Redwoods State Park Web site at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) and:

- 1) click on "Find A Park"
- 2) select "Big Basin Redwoods"
- 3) click "go"
- 4) click on "General Plan Information" (in right column)