

# BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK



*A Century of Resource Preservation and Public Enjoyment*

General Plan Newsletter #3

August 2003

**Attend the  
August 27 Meeting:  
"Evaluating Planning  
Possibilities"**

**Please join us** in planning the future of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Our second workshop will be held:

Wednesday  
**August 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:00 p.m.**  
**Boulder Creek Elementary  
School**  
400 W. Lomond St.  
Boulder Creek

In this "Hands-On" Workshop you will work with others to help focus planning options for resolving major park issues

## ***What we've completed to date***

To date the planning team has completed the resource inventory, the resource analysis, resource sensitivity mapping, and analysis of planning possibilities.

## ***Big Basin General Plan now coordinated with Three other State Park Plans in Progress***

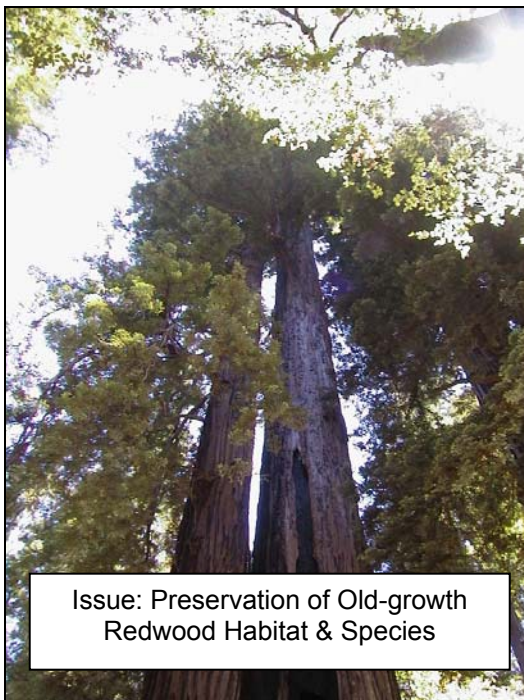
State Parks is now preparing general plans for Butano State Park, Ano Nuevo State Park, and Ano Nuevo State Reserve. We are coordinating our general planning efforts and sharing information between the current Big Basin General Planning process and these new planning activities to ensure a broad and integrated park planning perspective. A general plan meeting to discuss the issues for these three park units will be held on August 26 from 7-9:30 pm at the La Honda-Pescadero School District office at 620 N. Street in Pescadero.

## ***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 developing 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. Though the plan will not define specific projects, 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



### ***Help guide the future of Big Basin State Park!***

The Department of Parks and Recreation has the responsibility to create a plan that optimizes and harmonizes natural and cultural resource protection *and* recreational and educational opportunities, activities, and facilities. Balancing these

often contradictory needs is the main challenge of this planning effort. For example, Big Basin's Headquarters area contains prime old growth redwoods (which is nesting habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet), irreplaceable 1920s and 1930s park rustic architecture, and popular camping and day-use recreational opportunities. A primary purpose of this plan is to identify the park's major conflicts and to provide general direction on how to resolve these issues.

The planning team has identified about 50 possibilities for mitigating the park's major issues. Some of these planning possibilities weigh more heavily towards natural or cultural resource protection while others emphasize recreational improvements. We emphasize that ***these ideas are planning possibilities — not actual proposals.***

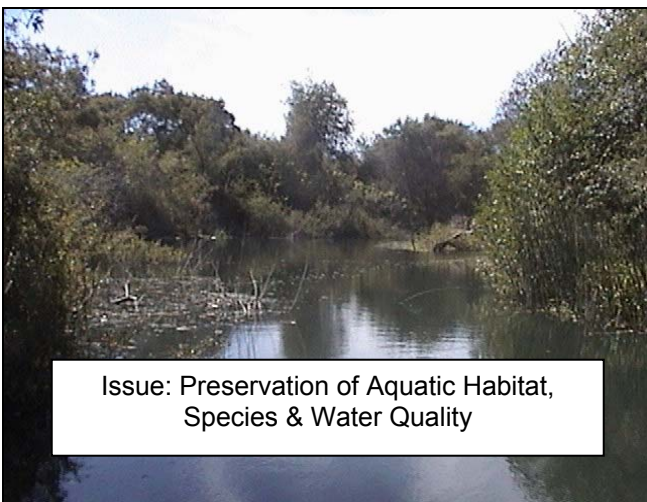
The planning team has analyzed the issues identified at our last public meeting and those brought up by park staff and other agencies. We studied the regional and local context of these issues, resource sensitivities and values, and existing recreational demand and opportunities. We developed planning maps that included the three other local state park units now being planned (Ano Nuevo State Reserve, Ano Nuevo State Park, and Butano State Park). The interim result of these efforts is the list of reasonable planning possibilities we will present to you at the August 27 Workshop for your review and comment. This workshop is designed to give you an opportunity to tell the planning team which of these planning possibilities you support and to add your own ideas.



Issue: Preservation of Cultural Resources

### ***What we'll do at the Planning Meeting***

The workshop will be conducted in two parts. Part one will be a review and analysis of the information that has been gathered on cultural, natural, and recreational resources. This will give participants the tools to evaluate the list of possibilities and determine what kind of place the park should be. *Note: The background information on this planning process can now be reviewed on our website at the following address:*  
[www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=21486](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21486)

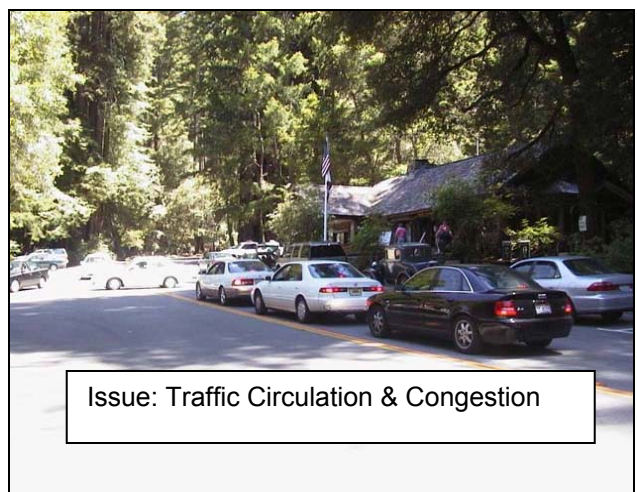


Issue: Preservation of Aquatic Habitat, Species & Water Quality

Part two of the workshop will begin by organizing participants into working groups representing diverse interests. Groups will follow simple instructions in reviewing the possibilities and try to reach a consensus on what they support. **Each group will make a presentation of the planning possibilities they support.** Participants can also respond individually after the workshop by taking information home with them and mailing their responses to us.

### ***What we'll do with the input we receive***

After the workshop, we will analyze the comments we receive on these planning possibilities from the workshop groups, from individuals who comment after the workshop, and from public agencies and organizations. The Planning team will also consider statewide needs of those not able to attend the workshops. This analysis will help finalize the actual proposals we will forward in the preliminary plan, which will be available for further comment during the subsequent public review period and at the State Park Commission hearing.



Issue: Traffic Circulation & Congestion

## The Public Input Process

- ✓ Workshop #1 (September 2001):  
Orientation, Review Resource  
Inventory, Issues and Concerns

- ✎ **Workshop #2**  
**Present and Discuss Planning  
Possibilities**

- (Possibilities refined into preliminary  
plan proposals). CEQA Public  
Review/comment on Preliminary  
Planning Document
- Park Commission considers  
approving preliminary plan as final  
document

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If you wish to send written comments, please contact us at this address:  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, Robin Ettinger, Northern Service Center, P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001; Telephone: (916) 445-8905  
For park information, please call (831) 338-8860.

### *Big Basin Redwoods State Park General Plan*



*P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001*



**August 27 "Planning  
Possibilities" Meeting!**