Welcome to the Open House in preparation of the Big Basin Redwoods SP General Plan

- Provide information to public on the status of the Big Basin Redwoods SP General Plan
- Present the alternative concepts for resource protection, public access, and recreational opportunities
- Receive public comments



General Plan Purpose

- Establishes primary purpose of park
- Vision for future
- Long term goals and guidelines provide framework for more detailed park development, management, and public use.
- Plan duration: at least 20 Years



Planning Schedule

Evaluate Alternatives February 4th and 6th

Obtain public input and feedback on planning concepts and alternatives

Preferred Alternative Summer 2010

Analyze additional information and develop a preferred alternative

Preliminary General Plan / Draft EIR Fall-Winter 2010

 Analyze the potential environmental impacts and prepare and distribute a Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for the 45-day public review and comment period

Final Environmental Impact Report Spring 2011

State Park and Rec. Commission Hearing Summer 2011

Present General Plan/Final EIR to the Commission for consideration and approval



Key Issues and Opportunities

- Plan and manage the parks in a regional context
- Address increasing recreational demand and provide more diversified and accessible recreation opportunities
- Improve public access and circulation
- Protect wildlife and habitat, especially species of special concern



Management Considerations

Coordinate with area state parks, other public agencies, and nonprofits on:

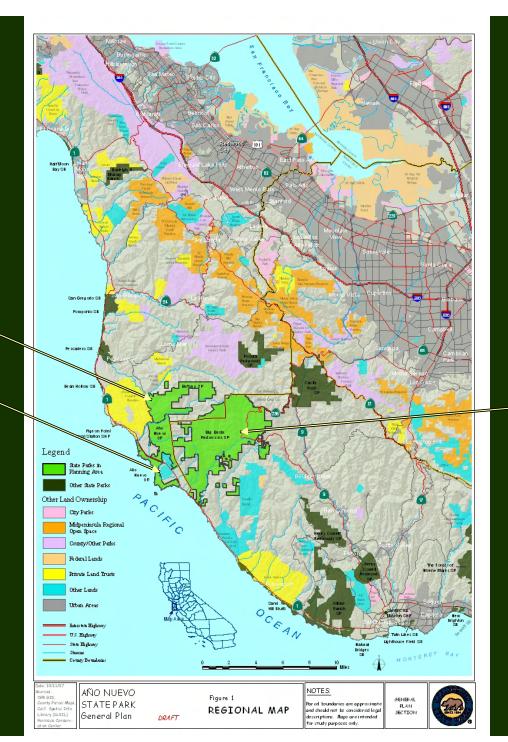
- Regional open space management
- Sensitive resource protection and habitat linkages
- Recreation, trail networks
- Education and interpretation



Regional Map

Butano SP

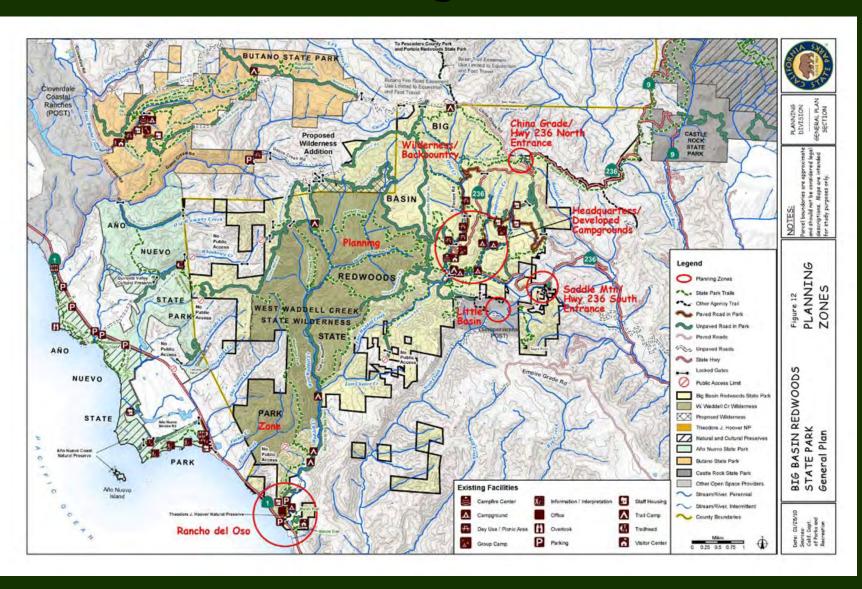
Año Nuevo SR/SP



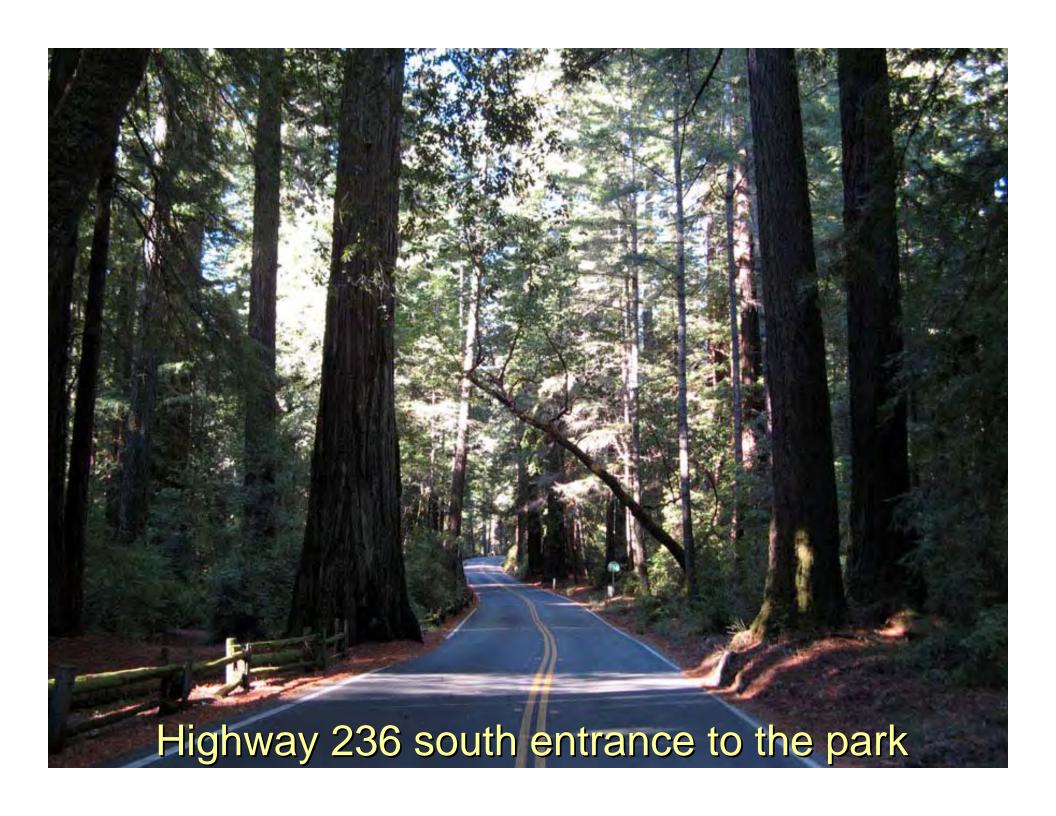
Big Basin Redwoods SP



Planning Zones







Headquarters' Area



- Historic buildings
- Parking
- Campgrounds
- Visitor services

Park Headquarters







Campfire center

- Interpretive programs
- Special events





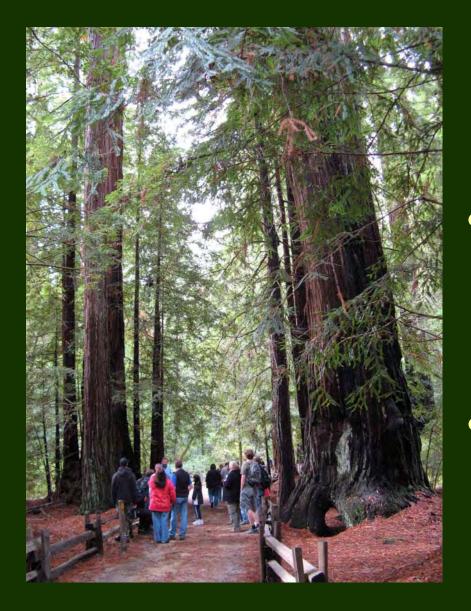
Interpretive Exhibits











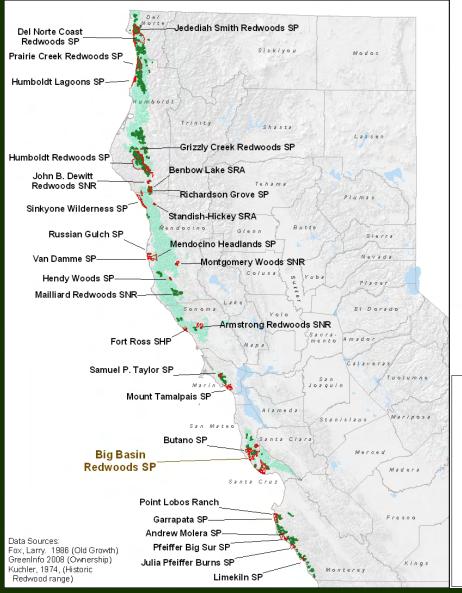
Redwood Trail

 Self guiding tour of the park's oldest redwoods

 Critical habitat for marbled murrelet



Remaining Old Growth Redwoods



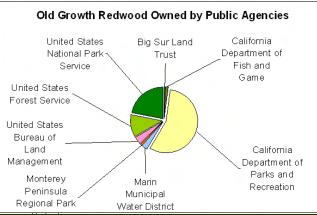
Then and Now;

the disappearance of Old Growth Redwoods, and the role of Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation in their Protection.



Redwood Historical Range......1,970,800 acres.

Old Growth Redwood Protected by Public Agencies in 1986:.....108,300 acres, approximately 5% of historical range.







State Wilderness



 The park includes 8,000 acres designated as State Wilderness





Berry Creek Falls

Outstanding scenic views from the ridge tops along Chalks Road







Waddell Beach

State Highway 1 at the mouth of Waddell Creek



Popular destination for kite surfing



Resource Management

GOALS:

- Maintain, enhance, or restore the movement of native species through the park and regional ecosystems in order to protect and promote species abundance and diversity.
- Implement appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs in heavily impacted or disturbed areas.



Animals native to Rancho del Oso and Ano Nuevo SB





Special animals found in Big Basin Redwoods State Park



Marbled murrelet at sea

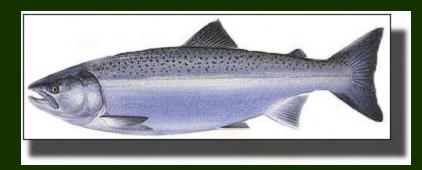


Snowy Plover habitat at the mouth of Waddell Beach





Big Basin provides habitat for these Special animals



Coho salmon



Red legged frog



Steelhead



Cultural Resources



Wardens Office 1939

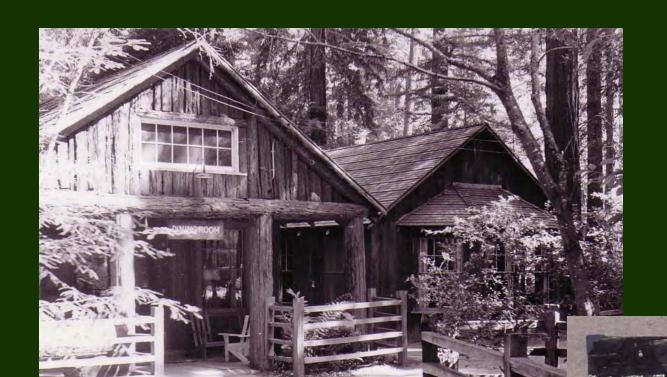


Historic District



 National Register Historic District designation proposed for the historic core area to acknowledge and recognize the significance and integrity of the historic park rustic features and landscape.





Big Basin Lodge with outdoor dining area







 Site included 50 cabins, swimming pond, and dance floor







Sky Meadows Residences area

 A distinct example of post-WWII development, is proposed for a National Register Historic District





GOAL:

 Protect and preserve important and significant cultural resources, including Native California Indian sites and historic landscapes.







- California Indians: Ohlone lifeways, hunting, gathering, basketry, shell manufacturing and trade
- Spanish contact period: Portola Expedition, Missions, California Indian relocation, resistance
- Mexican period: ranching, land grants
- American period: maritime history,logging, dairies, agriculture

Francis Chappy gape Thomas or garle 1980 by Soll Service

BASKETRY OF THE MISSION INDIANG (A) X



Tribes of the Ohlone People inhabited area of the coast and Santa Cruz Mountains



Portraits of Indians of California

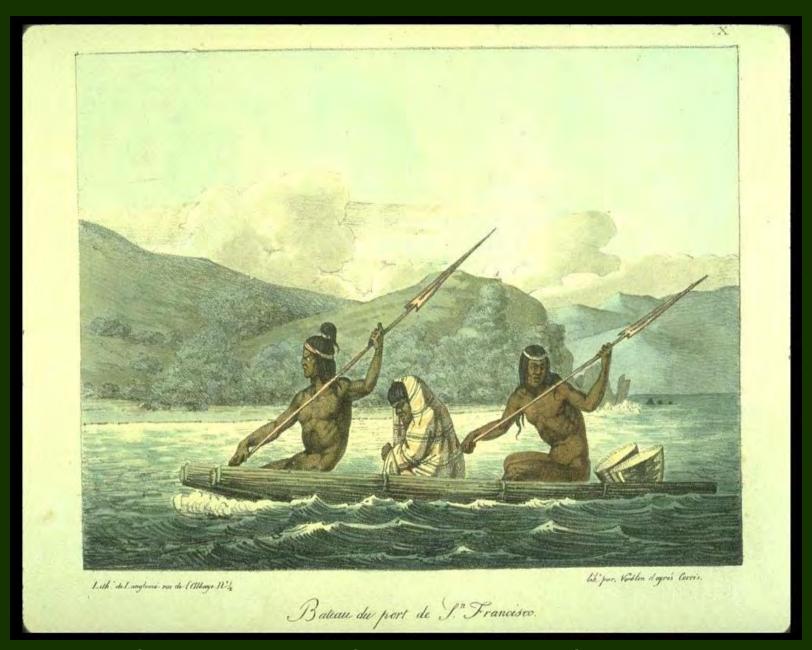
L. Choris c.1816





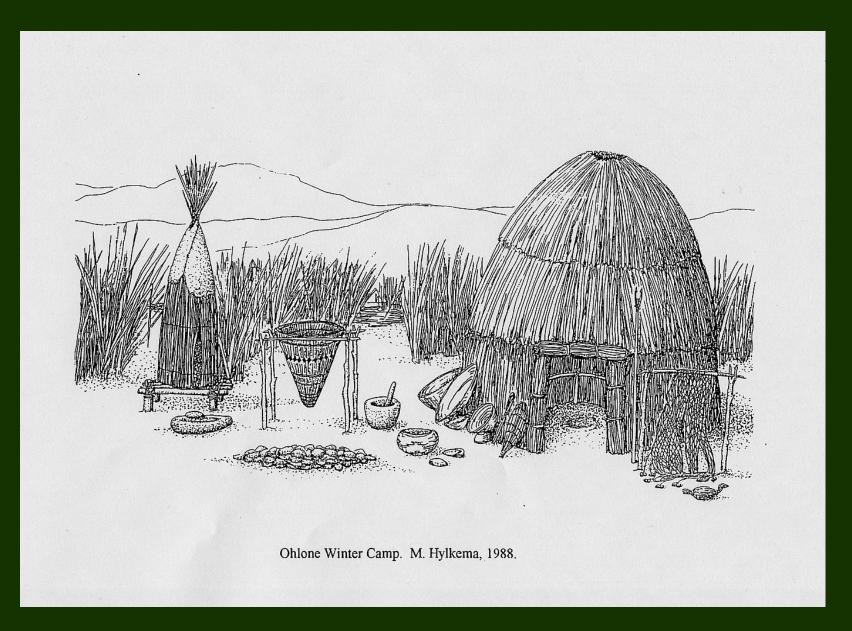
Indians of California – Ludwig Choris c 1816 Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, UCB





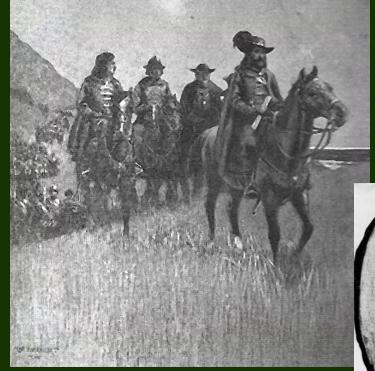






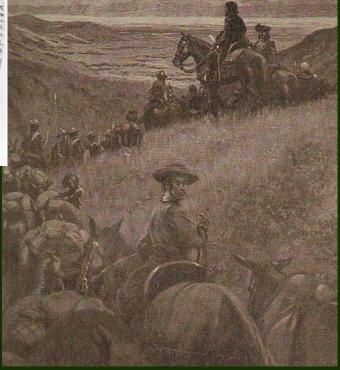








Portola Expedition in search of Monterey Bay camped at Waddell Creek in October 1769, days later they "discover" San Francisco Bay.





Recreation Resources

GOAL:

 Provide a range of high quality recreational opportunities to allow visitors to enjoy, experience, and appreciate the important natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources of the park.







GOAL:

- Provide a trail system that offers a range of trail experiences, including hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use.
- Provide trails for access to park areas and to connect with regional and statewide trail systems.







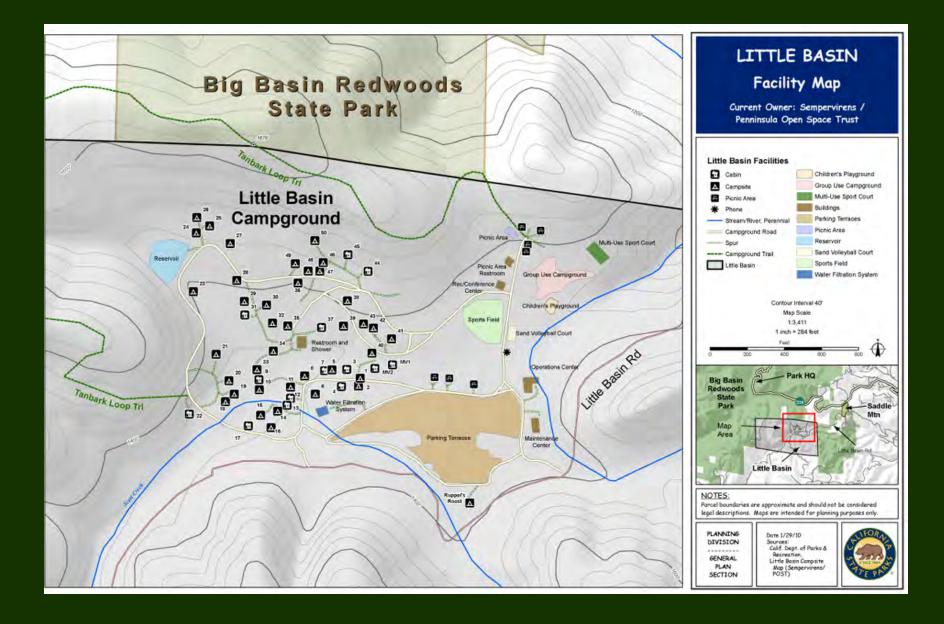
Little Basin

(Private Property)



 State Parks is pursuing the acquisition of Little Basin, as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park







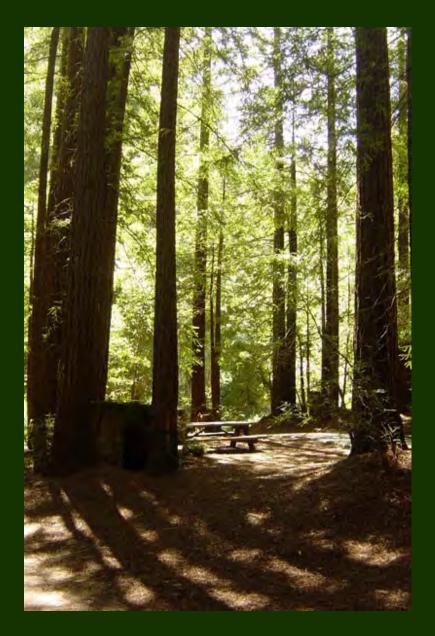




























Alternatives and Planning Zone Possibilities

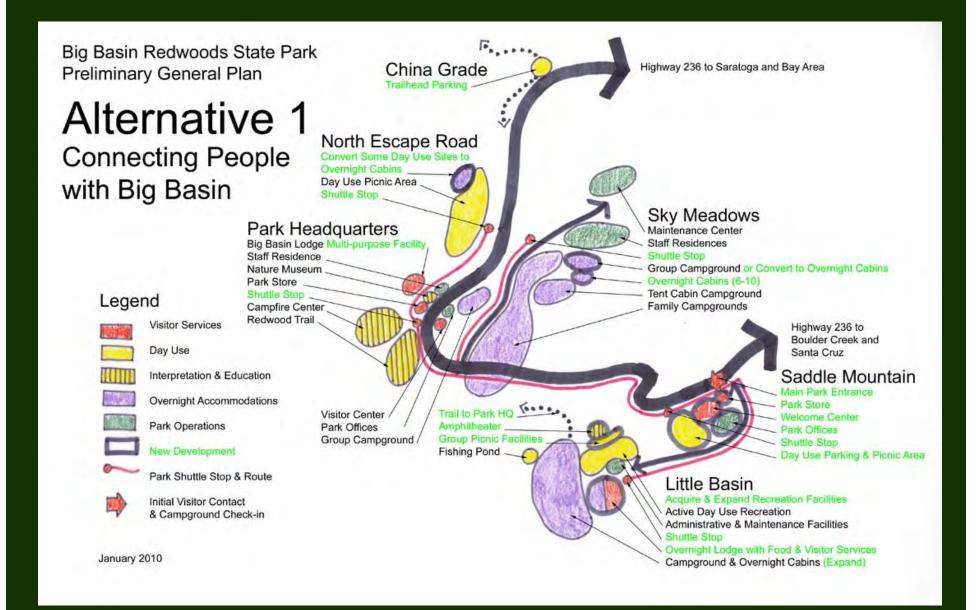
The following slides present alternative concepts for planning the future of Big Basin Redwoods State Park



Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin

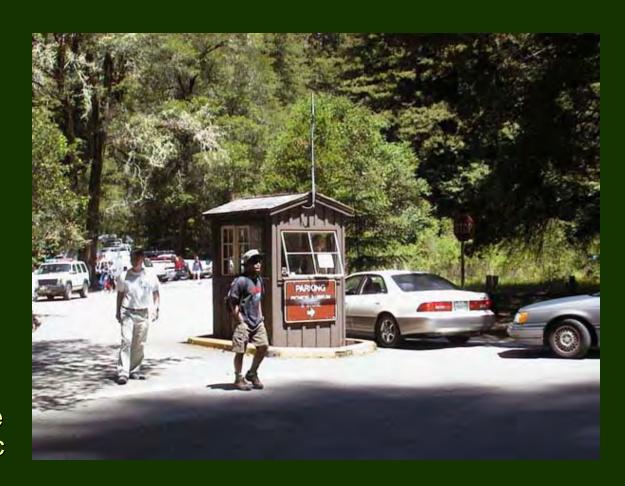
 This concept provides additional park facilities, where appropriate, and emphasizes visitor opportunities to increase public access, recreation opportunities, and visitor enjoyment of park resources.







- Change park's main access and circulation for improved visitor contact and orientation.
- Redirect visitor traffic to the south entrance on Hwy. 236, and provide park shuttle service to reduce HQ traffic congestion.





Campground Registration



- Relocate
 campground
 registration
 functions to
 Saddle
 Mountain.
- Retain some park operations services at Headquarters.



- Increase overnight accommodations.
- Consider
 converting portions
 of North Escape
 Road and Sky
 Meadows group
 camp area to
 overnight cabins.







Rehabilitate
 Big Basin
 Lodge for
 multi purpose
 functions,
 including
 concessions.





Saddle Mountain



Develop a new park Welcome Center with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.









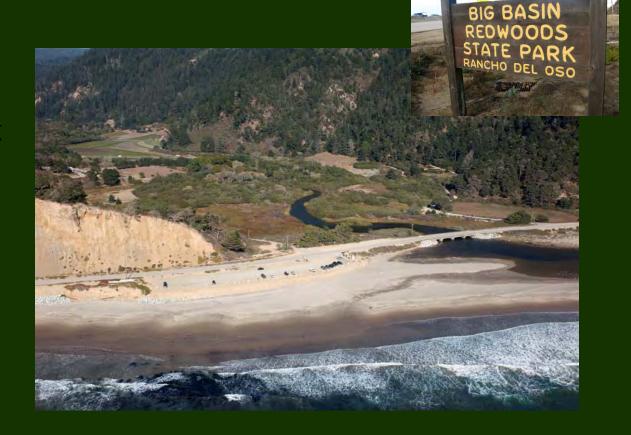


 Consider relocation or removal of existing facilities at Saddle Mountain when lease expires.

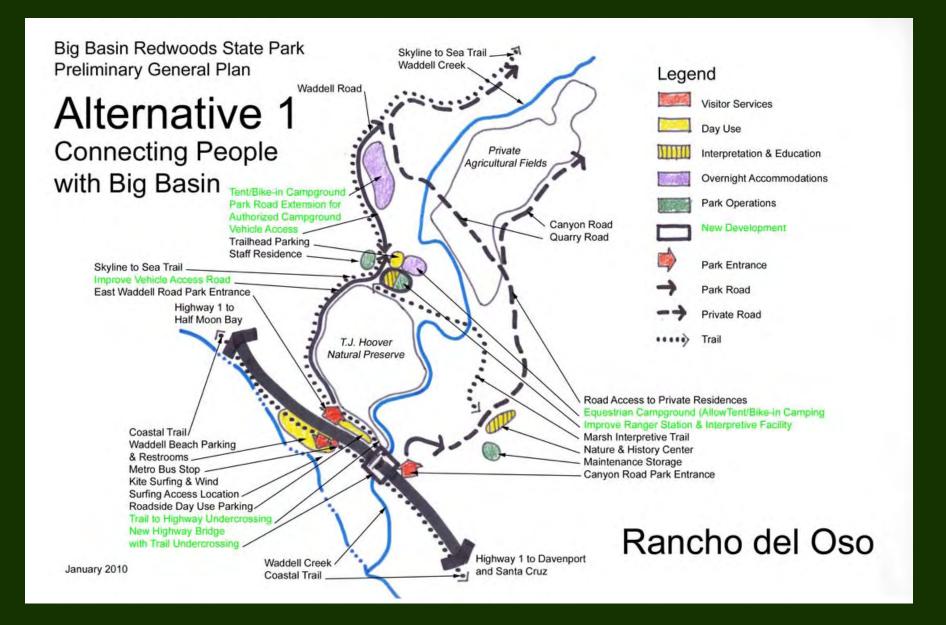


Rancho del Oso

Develop a new distinctive "front door" and safe entry that is welcoming and conveys a sense of arrival and area identity.









- Upgrade/replace ranger station and park interpretive facility
- Improve provisions for bicycles, horse trailers and equestrian staging and enroute vehicle camping.
- Develop new camping facilities near Quarry Road. Allow controlled authorized public vehicle access.





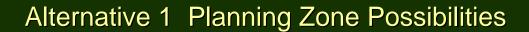




 Retain the equestrian campground and staging area.

 Allow tent, bike-in and walk-in camping.







Improve
 entrance roads
 for safe vehicle
 access from
 Highway 1 to
 inland
 trailheads and
 Nature and
 History Center.







 Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination







Wilderness & Backcountry



 Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation and education to strengthen park resource protection and enjoyment of wilderness and backcountry areas.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



 Maintain the existing roadbed into the wilderness for bicycle access from the south and for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles.





Little Basin

- Acquire property and establish area as a public group use and special events destination area
- Adapt facilities for family and group use, to support active recreation and special events with both outdoor and indoor facilities.





Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities





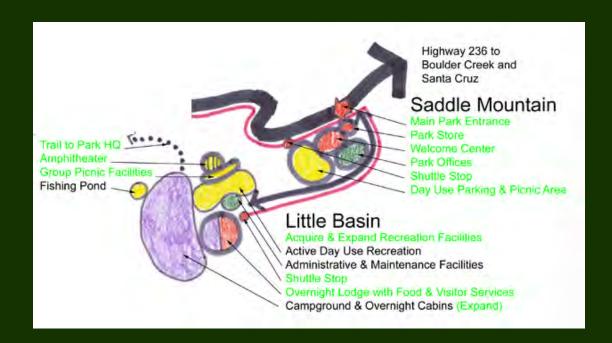
 Retain existing facilities for group use, camping, overnight cabins, and operations support.











 Develop an overnight lodge with dining facilities and additional rustic overnight cabins.











- Expand Big Basin day use and overnight opportunities, to serve evolving recreation trends
- Provide safe two-way public vehicle access on Little Basin Road from Hwy. 236 to Little Basin through coordination with the County.





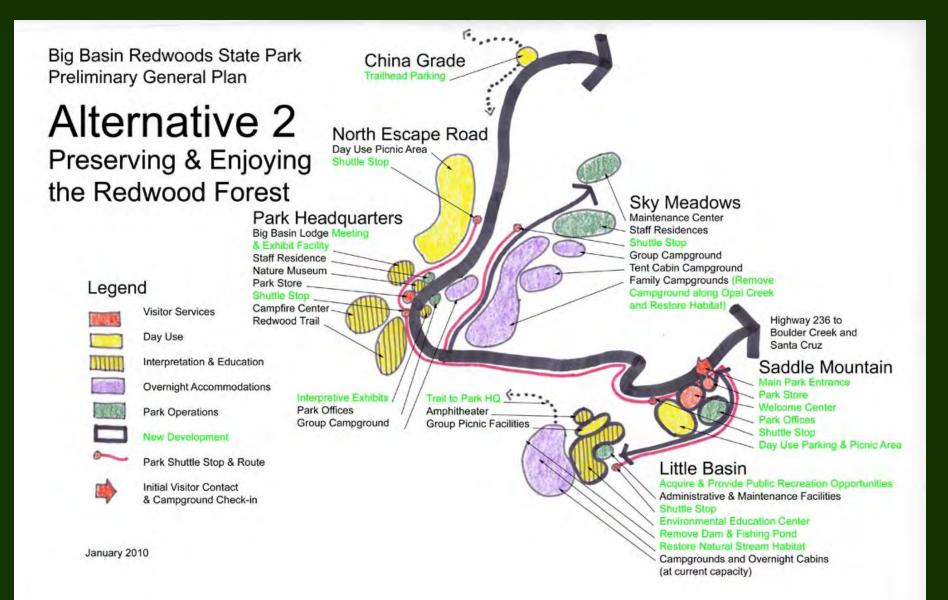




Alternative 2 Preserving & Enjoying the Redwood Forest

This concept emphasizes
 preservation of the primary natural
 resources, with possible relocation
 or removal of some existing
 development, activities, or services
 to preserve redwood forest.







Headquarters Area

 Restore the health of redwood forest and ecosystem, including the protection of marbled murrelet habitat.







 Limit facilities to serve basic needs of visitor access, public safety, and resource protection.

 No new developments in HQ core area.



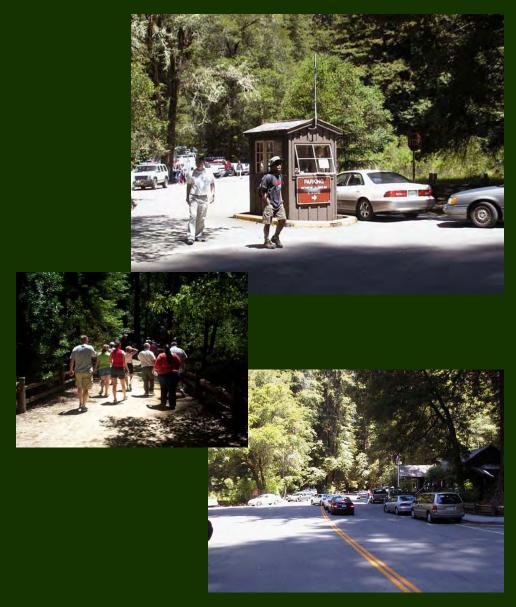


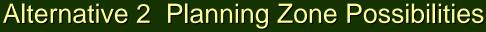




 Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect sensitive natural resources and significant cultural sites and features.

 Restore forest understory vegetation and reduce soil erosion.

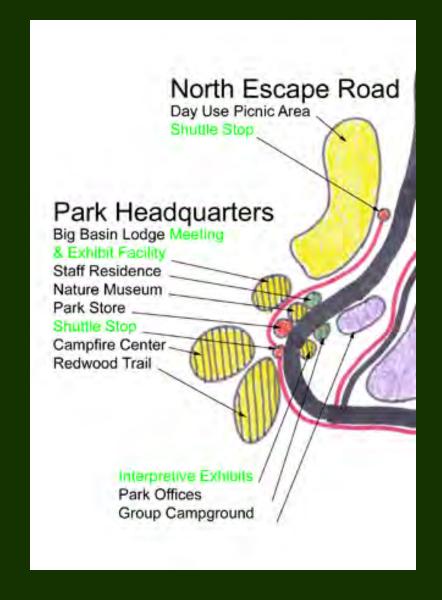






 Provide park shuttle and satellite parking areas to reduce HQ traffic congestion.











 Rehabilitate Lodge building and adapt as a multi-use facility for interpretive purposes and/or park operations.





 Relocate park administration and concession operations to a new south park entrance at Saddle Mountain.





Saddle Mountain

 Develop a new park Welcome Center with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.





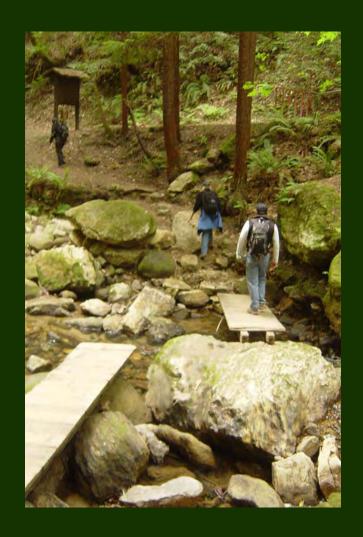
 Rehabilitate former Gatehouse building for park operations use.





State Wilderness

- Remove the roadbeds through the state wilderness, and restore as trails for hikers and equestrian use.
- Consider expansion of wilderness boundaries to Gazos Creek Road for more effective management











 Provide a continuous trail (outside of the wilderness) from the ridge tops to the coast for bicycle access to natural areas and scenic points of interest.







Rancho del Oso (RDO)

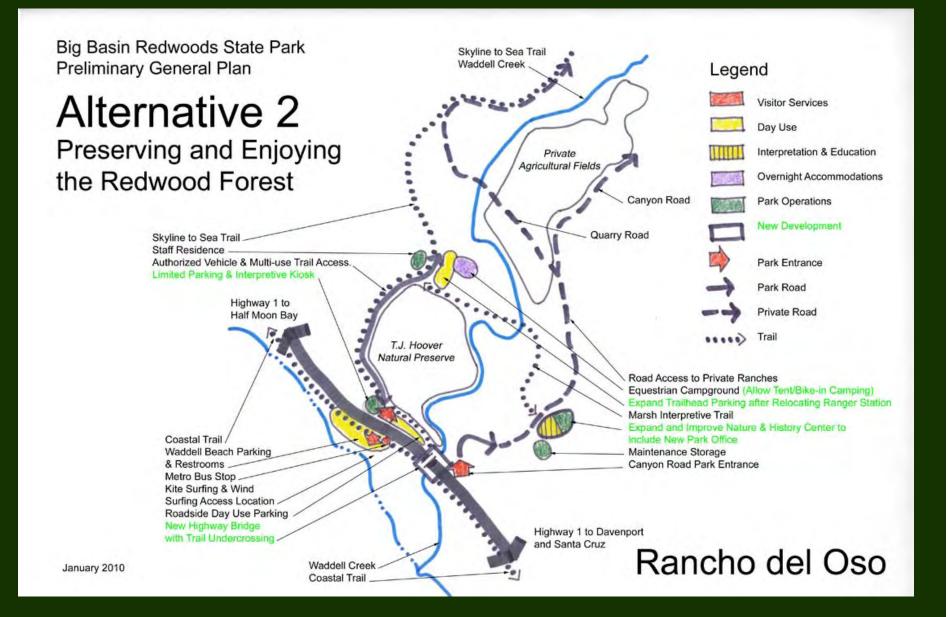
 Develop park entrance interpretive kiosk and parking adjacent to highway.



 Limit entrance road use as a multi-use trail and access for authorized vehicles.













 Coordinate with Caltrans on the Waddell Creek bridge replacement project to improve hydrology processes and provide safe beach access





 Manage development and human activity to achieve resource management objectives and support trail access to inland areas for hikers, equestrians, and bicycle use









- Protect sensitive plant and wildlife habitats, preserving natural values in and around the T. J. Hoover Natural Preserve.
- Rehabilitate the Nature and History Center building and facilities to serve as the RDO park office and interpretive center. Remove existing park office.









Little Basin

Acquire property and establish an environmental education center and recreation facility to complement the Department's resources, interpretive and educational programs, and recreation.









 Remove ball field and playground facilities, and maintain open space.



 Remove dam and reservoir, and reestablish creek and riparian habitat.

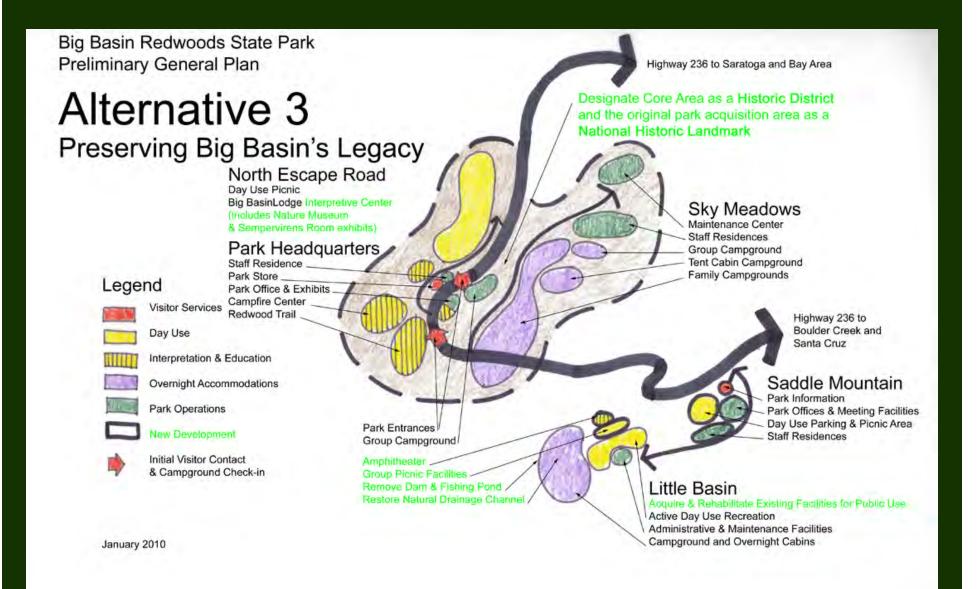




Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions

 This concept emphasizes the preservation and interpretation of the prime natural and cultural features and maintains traditional park activities and programs.







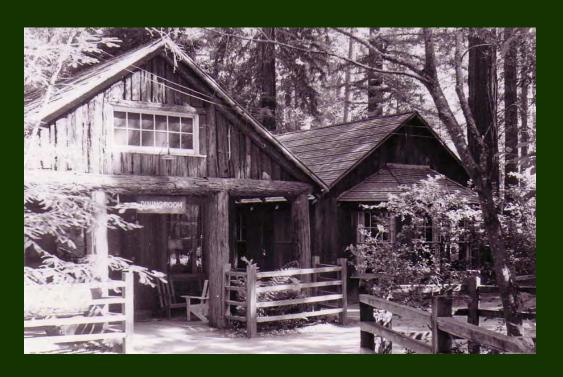
Headquarters Area

- Rehabilitate HQ
 historic structures
 and restore
 cultural landscape.
- Adapt historic structures to appropriate uses.
- No new structures in HQ historic core area.





- Rehabilitate the Lodge building.
- Adapt as a central park interpretive center by consolidating existing interpretive features







 Increase interpretive programs to enhance visitor experiences and appreciation of Big Basin's cultural history and traditions.



 Maintain traditional campground registration in Park Headquarters area.





Saddle Mountain

- Continue existing south and north park entrance access to the Headquarters area.
- Develop a visitor
 orientation center and
 parking lot as
 supportive/supplemental
 services to HQ services.

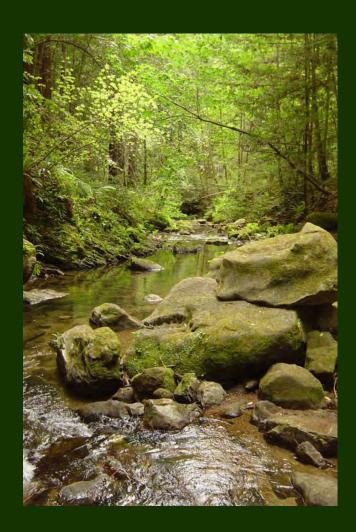








Wilderness & Backcountry



- Maintain and improve trails for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography.
- Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities



Rancho Del Oso

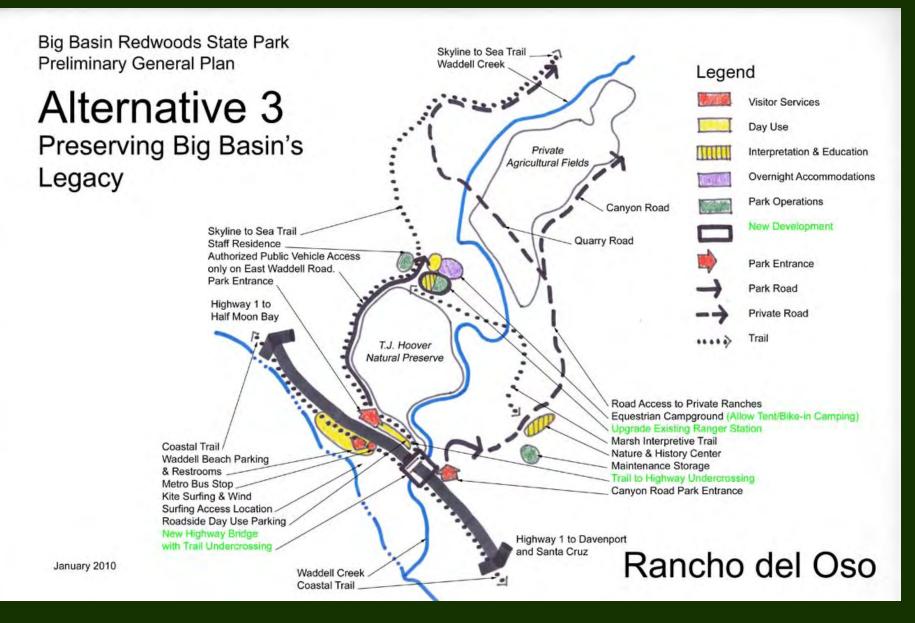
- Maintain existing inland vehicular access, trailhead, ranger station, and park staff residence.
- Retain the equestrian campground, mitigate adverse impacts and protect and interpret natural and cultural resources.



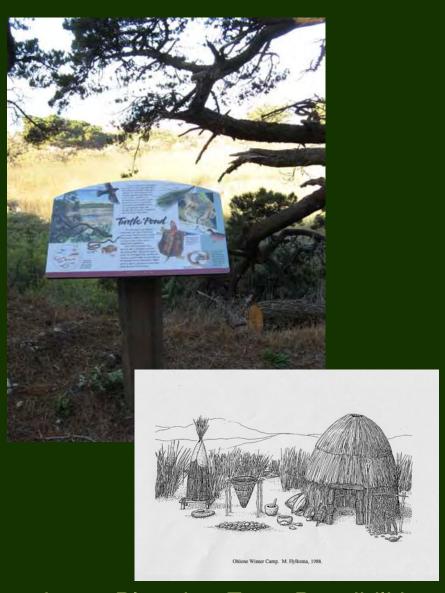


Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities









 Increase on-site interpretation, publications, and historical information available to visitors about RDO prehistory and history.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities



Little basin

- Rehabilitate existing overnight and group facilities to serve group uses and special programs/events.
- Improve access and utilities infrastructure.







- Provide natural and cultural resource interpretation, and interpret Little Basin recreation history.
- Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect cultural sites and sensitive natural resources.









Thank you for attending our open house

- Please take a few moments to stop by the various planning stations
- Ask questions and provide comments
- Enjoy a few refreshments
- Visit a State Park soon!

