

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Alternative 1

Highlights

Parkwide Concept

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

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



Blend historic and compatible new development to support visitor use in Headquarters area



Use interpretation to increase the public's awareness of the park's diversity and opportunities



Headquarters Zone

- **Increase overnight accommodations.** Consider converting portions of North Escape Road and Sky Meadows group camp area to overnight cabins.
- **Relocate main park administration and campground registration functions to Saddle Mountain.** Retain some park operations services at Headquarters.
- **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.
- **Rehabilitate historic structures** for appropriate adaptive uses, to expand visitor services and interpretive activities.
- **Rehabilitate Big Basin Lodge** for multi-purpose functions, including concessions.
- **Protect the old growth redwoods,** native plants and wildlife habitats.
- **Protect cultural sites and features** and provide interpretation to educate and involve visitors in resource protection.
- **Continue existing staff residences** at Sky Meadows. These historic structures are proposed for a National Register Historic district designation.
- **Maintain existing maintenance center.**

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



Establish new entrance facilities at Saddle Mountain and improve traffic conditions, visitor services and park operations



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

South and North Entrance Zones

South Entrance at Saddle Mountain

- **Develop a new park Welcome Center** with visitor orientation, campground registration, camp store, and park offices.
- **Develop park shuttle/metro bus stop** with a day use park and ride lot.
- **Rehabilitate/upgrade former Gatehouse building** for park operations use.



North Entrance at China Grade

- **Redirect visitors to the South Entrance** at Saddle Mountain through coordination of highway signs with Caltrans.
- **Improve existing trailhead parking and signage.**

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



Acquire property and establish area as a public group use and special events destination area



Expand Big Basin day use and overnight opportunities, to serve evolving recreation trends



Little Basin Zone

- **Provide safe two-way public vehicle access** on Little Basin Road from Hwy. 236 to Little Basin through coordination with the County.
- **Retain/rehabilitate existing facilities** for group use, camping, overnight cabins, and operations support.



- **Adapt facilities for family and group use**, to support active recreation and special events with both outdoor and indoor facilities.
- **Develop an overnight lodge** with dining facilities and additional rustic overnight cabins.
- **Protect native plants**, wildlife habitats, cultural sites and features, and mitigate impacts to allow for compatible public uses.
- **Provide interpretation** to educate and involve visitors in resource protection, and interpret history and use of Little Basin by Hewlett-Packard Corp.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



Promote RDO as the western gateway to Big Basin, West Waddell Creek State Wilderness



Upgrade and expand day use parking and trailhead facilities



Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination

Rancho del Oso Zone

- **Develop a new distinctive “front door”** and safe entry that is welcoming and conveys a sense of arrival and area identity.
- **Retain the equestrian campground and staging area.** Allow tent, bike-in and walk-in camping.



- **Develop new camping facilities** near Quarry Road. Allow controlled authorized public vehicle access.
- **Upgrade/replace ranger station** and park interpretive facility, and improve provisions for bicycles, horse trailers and equestrian staging and enroute vehicle camping.
- **Improve entrance roads** for safe vehicle access from Highway 1 to inland trailheads and Nature and History Center.
- **Maintain parking and access facilities,** and upgrade facilities, as needed, to support beach and surfing activities.
- **Protect and interpret significant natural and cultural resources,** mitigate adverse impacts.

Alternative 1 Planning Zone Possibilities



Expand recreation opportunities while preserving the undeveloped character of the wilderness and backcountry areas



Wilderness and Backcountry Zone

- **Maintain and improve trails** for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography. Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks.
- **Use existing fire roads as an inland multi-use trail system.** Connect to the surrounding regional trail network.
- **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.
- **Maintain the existing roadbed into the wilderness** for bicycle access from the south and for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles.
- **Develop additional trailside camps**, where feasible.
- **Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation and education** to strengthen park resource protection and enjoyment of wilderness and backcountry areas.
- **Consider emerging forms of recreation** such as geocaching and evaluate benefits and potential impacts.
- **Continue management practices** to protect native plants and wildlife habitats, cultural sites and features, to allow for continued public access.