

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Alternative 2

Highlights

Parkwide Concept

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.

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities



Emphasis is on the preservation of the primary natural resources.



Highlight interpretation of Big Basin's natural resources.

Reduce visitor capacity and use intensity.

Headquarters Zone

- **Restore the health of redwood forest and ecosystem**, including the protection of marbled murrelet habitat.
- **Develop effective resource management policies and strategies** to protect sensitive resources.
- **Limit facilities to serve basic needs** of visitor access, public safety, and resource protection. No new developments in HQ core area.
- **Provide park shuttle service** to reduce HQ traffic congestion.
- **Remove or relocate existing facilities**, as necessary, to protect sensitive natural resources and significant cultural sites and features.
- **Relocate park administration and concession operations** to a new south park entrance at Saddle Mountain.
- **Rehabilitate Lodge building** and adapt as a multi-use facility for interpretive purposes and/or park operations.
- **Complete resource evaluations and prepare cultural landscape report.**
- **Continue existing staff residences** at Sky Meadows and RDO.

Alternative Z Planning Zone Possibilities



Improve traffic circulation, visitor services, and park operations



Develop park shuttle/metro bus stop with a day use park and ride lot.



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.



- **Consider relocation or removal of existing facilities** at Saddle Mountain when lease expires.
- **Rehabilitate/upgrade former Gatehouse building** for park operations use.
- **Maintain the auto touring experience** by preserving the scenic quality of park entrance road corridors.

North Entrance at China Grade

- **Redirect visitors with signage** to the South Entrance at Saddle Mountain.
- **Improve existing trailhead parking and signage.**

Alternative 2 Planning Zone Possibilities



Coordinate with the County to provide safe two-way public access on Little Basin Road.



Provide environmentally compatible and sustainable park facilities



Little Basin Zone

- **Acquire property** and establish an environmental education center and/or recreation facility to complement the Department's resources, interpretive and educational programs, and recreation.
- **Monitor public use** and develop management strategies to protect sensitive resources.
- **Remove or relocate existing facilities**, as necessary, to protect cultural sites and natural features.
- **Adapt facilities** for an indoor-outdoor environmental education center focused on management of redwood forest and coastal ecosystems.
- **Retain/rehabilitate** existing overnight, day use, and operations facilities as well as the caretaker's residence.
- **Convert existing group picnic area** into a formal amphitheater. Retain outdoor kitchen facilities.
- **Improve or replace utilities infrastructure** as necessary.
- **Remove ball field and playground** facilities, and maintain open space.
- **Remove dam and reservoir**, and reestablish creek and riparian habitat.
- **Provide park shuttle service** between Little Basin, Saddle Mountain and Big Basin HQ area.

Alternative Z Planning Zone Possibilities



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



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

Rancho del Oso Zone

- **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.
- **Develop park entrance** interpretive kiosk and parking adjacent to highway.
- **Protect and interpret significant natural and cultural resources**, mitigate adverse impacts.
- **Protect snowy plover nesting habitat**, monitor use and implement seasonal beach closures at the mouth of Waddell Creek, when necessary.
- **Support Waddell Beach coastal recreation** activities, within resource capacity limits.
- **Limit entrance road use** as a multi-use trail and access for authorized vehicles.
- **Retain the equestrian campground and staging area**. Allow tent, bike-in, walk-in, and enroute camping.

Alternative Z Planning Zone Possibilities



Consider expansion of wilderness boundaries to Gazos Creek Road for more effective management



Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks

Wilderness and Backcountry Zone

- **Preserve natural and cultural resource values** and continue to provide access opportunities for compatible recreation activities.
- **Maintain and improve trails** for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography.
- **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.
- **Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation and education** to strengthen park resource protection and visitor enjoyment of these natural areas.
- **Remove the roadbeds** through the state wilderness, and restore as trails for hikers and equestrian use.
- **Use existing fire roads as an inland multi-use trail system.** Connect to the surrounding regional trail network.
- **Increase ranger patrols** in the Backcountry to manage use and minimize resource impacts.