

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Alternative 3

Highlights

Parkwide Concept

This concept emphasizes the preservation and interpretation of the prime natural and cultural features and maintains traditional park activities and programs. It calls for rehabilitation and adaptive use of historic structures and the preservation of cultural landscapes, with no new development in the historic core area.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities



Emphasize preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings, characteristics and traditions related to early park history.



Focus visitor experiences on Big Basin's legacy and traditions. Interpret the founding of California Redwood State Park, early park recreation, and natural resource management

Headquarters Zone

- **Rehabilitate HQ historic structures and restore cultural landscape.** Adapt historic structures to appropriate uses. No new structures in HQ historic core area.
- **Relocate or remove some non-historic development** if they diminish the cultural integrity of the historic HQ area.
- **Rehabilitate the Lodge building.** Adapt as a central park interpretive center by consolidating existing interpretive features and providing new adaptive use interpretive facilities.
- **Increase interpretive program activities** to enhance visitor experiences and appreciation of Big Basin's cultural history and traditions.
- **Maintain existing access and circulation patterns,** with modifications for visitor contact and vehicle parking in the headquarters area.
- **Maintain traditional campground registration** in Park Headquarters area.
- **Avoid impacts on cultural sites at Slippery Rock** by providing alternative trail access
- **Continue existing staff residences** at Sky Meadows and RDO
- **Establish Park HQ area as a National Register Historic District**

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities

Maintain existing park circulation and continue traditional access, use patterns, and services in HQ area.



Former restaurant, motel, and cabins were adapted into a non-profit environmental education camp for children



South and North Entrance Zones

South Entrance at Saddle Mountain

- **Continue existing south and north park entrance** access to the Headquarters area.
- **Consider relocation of existing environmental education program** when lease expires.
- **Remove or rehabilitate existing Saddle Mountain facilities**, and develop a visitor orientation center and parking lot as supportive/supplemental services to HQ services.
- **Continue a sense of park entry around the Gatehouse/South Highway 236 boundary.** Rehabilitate Gatehouse for adaptive use.



North Entrance at China Grade

- **Continue existing north park entrance access**; no change in road infrastructure.
- **Maintain the automobile touring experience on north entrance** by preserving the scenic quality of park road corridors and reducing traffic congestion.
- **Improve existing trailhead parking and signage**

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities

*Provide recreation
consistent with
traditional state park
activities*



*Existing recreation
facilities and activities
include tent camping,
cabins, hiking trails,
fishing, ball fields,
playground and
group picnic areas*



*Ball field and
playground
recreation facilities
would be removed*

Little Basin Zone

- **Acquire property and rehabilitate existing recreation facilities** for public access, and use to supplement existing Big Basin recreation uses.
- **Coordinate with the County to upgrade Little Basin Road**, to provide safe two-way public access road from Hwy. 236 to 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.
- **Retain operations and maintenance facilities** and caretaker's residence.
- **Complete inventories and resource evaluations.** Protect and interpret significant cultural resources.
- **Remove or relocate existing facilities**, as necessary, to protect cultural sites and sensitive natural resources.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities



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

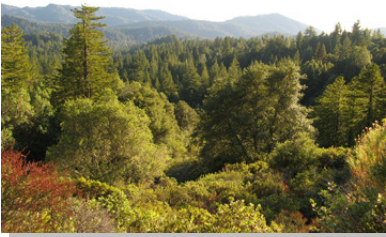
Emphasize the diverse cultural resources and broad area history associated with this area.



Rancho del Oso Zone

- **Maintain existing inland vehicular access,** trailhead, ranger station, and park staff residence. Continue existing visitor opportunities for hikers, equestrians, and bicycle use.
- **Retain the equestrian campground,** mitigate adverse impacts and protect and interpret natural and cultural resources. Allow tent, bike-in at existing equestrian camp.
- **Improve public vehicular road access** to the Nature and History Center.
- **Coordinate with Caltrans** on improving the Waddell Creek highway bridge crossing and circulation, including safe trail access from RDO to Waddell Beach.
- **Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination.** Improve facilities as needed.
- **Protect sensitive habitats** and preserve natural values in and around the T. J. Hoover Natural Preserve.
- **Protect snowy plover nesting habitat,** monitor use, and implement seasonal beach closures at the mouth of Waddell Creek if appropriate.

Alternative 3 Planning Zone Possibilities



Emphasize managing long-term health of the Backcountry and the Waddell Creek watershed, ecosystem, wildlife, and coastal beach environment.



Wilderness and Backcountry Zone

- **Continue current resource management programs** and provide for primitive areas available for low-intensity recreation and visitor experiences.
- **Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation and education** to strengthen park resource protection and enjoyment of wilderness and backcountry areas.



- **Provide access** for low-impact recreation opportunities.
- **Maintain the existing roadbed into the wilderness** for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles.
- **Complete resource inventories and prepare management plans** for long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.
- **Maintain and improve trails** for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography. Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks.