

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Park Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation legacy As California's first state park, Big Basin's unique legacy is in preserving central California coast old growth redwoods, influence on the American Conservation Movement, and establishing state park system traditions. ▪ Redwood forest health In some areas, development and visitor activity has created conditions detrimental to redwood forest and wildlife health. ▪ Historic sites and features Cultural landscape and historic building conditions has somewhat deteriorated from long-term use and age. ▪ Wildlife habitat Marbled murrelet populations are declining in the region, partly due to nest predation by corvids, development, and human activity in critical habitat areas. ▪ Recreation demand Recreation demand is increasing for camping, day use, group use, and trails in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Population diversity promotes varied interests and activities for access and use of natural wild lands near urban communities. ▪ Interpretation Headquarters interpretation needs updating. Exhibits and locations are somewhat disconnected. Outdoor interpretation is limited at RDO. ▪ Traffic and congestion Continuing traffic and congestion adversely affects park visitor experiences. 	<p>Parkwide Concept <i>Emphasis is on visitor opportunities and enjoyment of the park's resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance visitor experiences to meet changing conditions and recreational trends. ▪ Improve visitor access for traditional and new park experiences. ▪ Provide additional park facilities where appropriate, to increase public access and recreation opportunities. ▪ Use interpretation to increase the public's awareness of the park's diversity and opportunities. Reconnect visitors with the natural world, cultural history, and varied outdoor recreational activities. 	<p>Parkwide Concept <i>Emphasis is on the preservation of the primary natural resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve coastal redwood forests, natural resources, and living systems. ▪ Implement sustainable management practices to improve redwood forest health. ▪ Relocate or remove some existing development, activities, or services to preserve the redwood forest health. ▪ Highlight interpretation of Big Basin's natural resources. ▪ Reduce visitor capacity and use intensity to improve visitor experiences of natural resources. 	<p>Parkwide Concept <i>Emphasis is on preserving the prime natural and cultural features and maintaining traditional park activities and programs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve and interpret Big Basin's heritage and cultural traditions. ▪ Preserve historic buildings, structures, landscapes, archeological sites, and the old growth redwood forest. ▪ Relocate or remove some non-historic development elements if they diminish the cultural integrity of the Headquarters area. ▪ Focus visitor experiences on Big Basin's legacy and traditions. Interpret the founding of California Redwood State Park, early park recreation, interpretation, and natural resource management, facility development, and land use history.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Park Headquarters Zone	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old growth redwood forest and historic park rustic style development are key features of the park's identity and are a seminal influence on entire park system. ▪ The prime interpretive period is 1902-1941, emphasizing the early park years and the environmental conservation movement (including the CCC era of 1933-1941). ▪ Planning zone consists of: 1) the historic Headquarters core area; and 2) the park's developed campgrounds, maintenance center, and staff residence areas. ▪ There are numerous memorial groves throughout the redwood forest. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highway 236 provides vehicular access to HQ area from Boulder Creek and the Bay Area. Peak season traffic congestion and visitor capacities have some degree of impact on the area's natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences, facilities, and park operations. ▪ Many visitor services, interpretation programs, concession services and park administration are located in the historic core area. This centralized activity contributes to high use intensity and traffic congestion during the peak use season. ▪ Campgrounds are located in areas immediately south and to the east of the historic core area. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasize enhancing and expanding visitor opportunities and experiences. ▪ Provide structural rehabilitation and adaptive use of existing facilities, with some new development to meet changing demographics and visitor needs. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change park's main access and circulation. Redirect visitor traffic to the south entrance on Hwy. 236. ▪ Establish primary visitor contact and campground registration at the south entrance on Hwy. 236 (Saddle Mtn.). ▪ Blend historic and compatible new development to support visitor use. ▪ Rehabilitate historic buildings for appropriate adaptive uses to expand visitor services or interpretive activities. ▪ Rehabilitate the Lodge building for multi-purpose functions, including concessions. ▪ Develop appropriate new facilities and expand recreational activities. ▪ Provide additional group facilities. ▪ Increase overnight accommodations. Consider converting part of North Escape Road and the Sky Meadows group area to overnight cabins. ▪ Provide park shuttle and satellite parking areas to reduce HQ traffic congestion. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasize preservation of natural resources, ecosystems and wildlife habitats. ▪ Reduce visitor capacity and use intensity, and emphasize natural resource appreciation. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change park's main access and circulation. Redirect visitor traffic to the south entrance on Hwy. 236. ▪ Establish primary visitor contact and campground registration at south entrance on Hwy. 236 (Saddle Mtn.). ▪ Limit facilities to serve basic needs of visitor access, public safety, and resource protection. ▪ No new developments in HQ core area. ▪ Relocate park administration and concession operations to the south park entrance at Saddle Mtn.. ▪ Rehabilitate Lodge building and adapt as a multi-use facility for interpretive purposes and/or park operations. ▪ Evaluate existing development for possible reduction, relocation, or removal to achieve resource management objectives. ▪ Provide park shuttle and satellite parking areas to reduce HQ congestion. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasize preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings, characteristics and traditions related to early park history. ▪ Emphasize traditional visitor experiences. ▪ Increase interpretive program activities to enhance visitor experiences and appreciation of Big Basin's cultural history and traditions. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain existing access and circulation patterns, with modifications for visitor contact and vehicle parking in the headquarters area. ▪ Retain primary visitor contact and campground registration in Park HQ. ▪ Designate HQ core area as a historic district and rehabilitate historic buildings and landscape. No new structures in HQ historic core area. ▪ Rehabilitate the Lodge building. Adapt as a central park interpretive center by consolidating existing interpretive features and providing new adaptive use interpretive facilities. ▪ Provide park administration and visitor services facilities at Saddle Mtn.

B I G B A S I N R E D W O O D S S T A T E P A R K
Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts
FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- *All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.*
- *All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.*
- *The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.*
- *It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.*

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Park Headquarters Zone (continued)	<p>Natural & Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old growth redwood forest, Opal Creek ecosystem, historic park development and the cultural features, such as Slippery Rock, are the prime resource features of the park and this zone. ▪ Long-term peak season visitor use has impacted forest ecosystem health, marbled murrelet habitat, and condition of historic structures. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve the redwood forest and protect native plants and wildlife habitats. ▪ Protect and rehabilitate historic structures. ▪ Protect cultural sites and features and provide interpretation to educate and involve visitors in resource protection. ▪ Monitor public use and develop management strategies to protect sensitive resources. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect/enhance/restore health of redwood forest and ecosystem, including marbled murrelet habitat. ▪ Restore forest understory vegetation and reduce soil compaction. ▪ Protect and rehabilitate historic structures. ▪ Complete resource evaluations and prepare cultural landscape report. ▪ Continue efforts to develop effective resource management policies and strategies to protect sensitive resources. ▪ Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect sensitive natural resources and significant cultural sites and features. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish Park HQ area as a National Register Historic District. ▪ Protect and rehabilitate HQ historic structures and cultural landscape. Adapt historic structures to appropriate uses. ▪ Provide alternative trail access to avoid impacts on cultural sites at Slippery Rock. ▪ Protect the health of the redwood forest.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Saddle Mountain (south) and China Grade (north) Entrance Zones	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highway 236 and Highway 9 are the two main park entrances that provide access to the park from the Bay Area (north) and Boulder Creek and Santa Cruz (south). ▪ Highway 236 traverses through the park and provides access to Big Basin facilities, campgrounds, and day use areas. ▪ Automobile touring is the most common visitor experience in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Big Basin. Peak season traffic congestion degrades the quality of this experience. <p><u>South Entrance at Saddle Mountain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is a recent acquisition – property leased to non-profit organization (Exploring New Horizons). No existing State Park development yet. ▪ Former restaurant/motel/cabins development is now adapted and operated under a lease agreement as a non-profit environmental education camp for children. ▪ Highway 236 provides access from Boulder Creek and Saratoga Gap. ▪ A vacant historic building (former Gatehouse and residence) remains near the south entrance, and is in need of repair and upgrades. <p><u>North Entrance at China Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Located at the intersection of Highway 236 and China Grade Rd. Signs direct visitor traffic into headquarters area from this direction. Informal parking exists for trail use, with regional trail connections nearby. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept Improve traffic circulation, visitor services, park operations efficiencies, and reduce traffic congestion by establishing new entrance facilities at Saddle Mountain.</p> <p><u>Park Development & Circulation South Entrance at Saddle Mountain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider relocation of existing environmental education program when lease expires. ▪ Remove existing facilities and develop new park welcome center, campground registration, camp store, and park offices. ▪ Develop park shuttle/metro bus stop with a day use park and ride lot. ▪ Rehabilitate/upgrade Gatehouse for park operations use. <p><u>North Entrance at China Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate highway signs with Caltrans to redirect visitors to the South Entrance at Saddle Mountain. ▪ Improve existing trailhead parking and signage. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept Emphasize improved visitor contact, orientation and operational efficiencies, to enhance visitor's park entry experience.</p> <p><u>Park Development & Circulation South Entrance at Saddle Mountain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider relocation of existing environmental education program when lease expires. ▪ Remove existing facilities and develop new park welcome center, campground registration, camp store, and park offices. ▪ Develop park shuttle/metro bus stop with a day use park-and-ride lot. ▪ Rehabilitate/upgrade Gatehouse for park operations use. ▪ Maintain the automobile touring experience by preserving the scenic quality of park road corridors. <p><u>North Entrance at China Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate highway signs with Caltrans to redirect visitors to the South Entrance at Saddle Mountain. ▪ Improve existing trailhead parking and signage. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept Maintain existing park circulation as a part of continuing traditional access, use patterns, and services in HQ area.</p> <p><u>Park Development & Circulation South Entrance at Saddle Mountain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 existing south and north park entrance access to the Headquarters area. ▪ Continue a sense of park entry around the Gatehouse/South Highway 236 boundary and park arrival at the Headquarters area. ▪ Rehabilitate Gatehouse for adaptive use. <p><u>North Entrance at China Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue existing north park entrance access and maintain the automobile touring experience by preserving the scenic quality of park road corridors. ▪ Improve existing trailhead parking, highway turnouts, and directional signage.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Little Basin Zone	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little Basin is a 535-acre private recreation development adjacent to Big Basin's southern boundary. ▪ Property was developed by Hewlett Packard for large company picnics and camping. ▪ Provides a wide variety of active group recreation and special event opportunities with supporting facilities. ▪ State Parks is working with current owners (Sempervirens Fund and POST) towards adding Little Basin to Big Basin Redwoods SP. Facilities are currently operated as a private recreation area. <p>Access & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little Basin Road is a single-lane county road (1.7 miles) that provides access to Little Basin from Hwy. 236. ▪ Narrow and winding road needs improvement to accommodate safe two-way traffic and increase in public use. <p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing development of day use and overnight use group recreation facilities. ▪ Rehabilitation of facilities, utilities and infrastructure are needed for full public use. ▪ Property may have potential for expansion of overnight and day use facilities. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquire Little Basin property and establish area as a public group use area and special events destination that expands Big Basin day use and overnight opportunities, and also serves evolving recreation trends. <p>Park Development & Visitor Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate with County to upgrade Little Basin Road, to provide public access from Hwy. 236 to Little Basin. ▪ Provide park shuttle service for visitor travel between Little Basin, Saddle Mountain and Big Basin headquarters area. ▪ Upgrade and expand facilities where possible to accommodate family and group recreational use, and for special events with both outdoor and indoor facilities. ▪ Retain/rehabilitate developed recreation facilities, including playfield, picnic areas and campsites, cabins, and operations facilities. ▪ Develop an overnight lodge with dining facilities and additional rustic cabins. ▪ Upgrade utility systems and infrastructure, as necessary. ▪ Consider converting existing group picnic area into a formal amphitheater. ▪ Interpret site history and use of Little Basin by Hewlett-Packard Corp. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquire Little Basin property and establish an environmental education center and recreation facility to complement the Department's interpretation and educational programs and available recreation resources. <p>Park Development & Visitor Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate with County to upgrade Little Basin Road, to provide public access from Hwy. 236 to Little Basin. ▪ Provide park shuttle service for visitor travel between Little Basin, Saddle Mountain and Big Basin headquarters area. ▪ Adapt facilities for use as an indoor-outdoor environmental education center focused on redwood forest and coastal ecosystems. ▪ Retain/rehabilitate existing overnight and day use facilities. ▪ Consider converting existing group picnic area into a formal amphitheater. ▪ Retain operations facilities and caretaker's residence. ▪ Upgrade utility systems and infrastructure as necessary. ▪ Remove ball field and playground recreation facilities. ▪ Remove dam and reservoir, and re-establish creek and riparian habitat 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquire Little Basin property and rehabilitate existing recreation facilities for public access and use, to supplement existing Big Basin recreational opportunities. <p>Park Development & Visitor Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate with County to upgrade Little Basin Road to provide public access from Highway 236 to Little Basin. ▪ Provide recreation facilities consistent with traditional state park activities, such as camping (including cabins), hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, interpretive and group activities. ▪ Improve access and utilities infrastructure. ▪ Interpret area history. ▪ Rehabilitate existing overnight and group facilities to serve group uses and special programs/events. ▪ Retain operations facilities and caretaker's residence. ▪ Remove ball field and playground recreation facilities.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
	<p>Natural & Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial natural resource surveys have been conducted. No sensitive natural resources have been identified. ▪ Initial cultural resource surveys have been conducted. A few archaeological sites have been identified. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete inventories and resource evaluations. ▪ Monitor public use and develop effective resource management policies and strategies to protect sensitive resources. ▪ Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect sensitive natural resources and significant cultural sites and features. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete inventories and resource evaluations. ▪ Protect and interpret significant cultural resources. ▪ Remove or relocate existing facilities, as necessary, to protect natural and cultural resources.
Rancho del Oso Zone	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rancho del Oso (RDO) consists of areas at the mouth of Waddell Creek watershed and the T.J. Hoover Natural Preserve on the inland side of Hwy. 1, and Waddell Beach on the coast side of State Hwy 1. ▪ Private residential & agricultural properties occupy lower portions of Waddell Creek adjacent to State Park property. ▪ Open vistas of the ocean and Waddell Creek watershed are visible from State Highway 1. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Highway 1 provides vehicle access to inland areas and beach parking lot. ▪ Caltrans is considering replacing the Highway 1 Bridge at Waddell Creek to address traffic safety, sea level rise, and estuarine habitat and hydrology issues. ▪ RDO is the western terminus of the Skyline-to-Sea Trail through Big Basin, which intersects with the Pacific Coast Bike Route providing access for bicyclists traveling on State Highway 1. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote RDO as the western gateway to Big Basin and the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness, with a new distinctive "front door" and safe entry that is welcoming and conveys a sense of arrival and area identity. ▪ Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination area. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve entrance roads for safe vehicle access from the highway to the inland trailheads and Nature and History Center. ▪ Coordinate with Caltrans on improving the bridge crossing and circulation at the mouth of Waddell Creek. ▪ Maintain and upgrade, as feasible, Waddell Beach parking facilities to support beach activities. ▪ Retain the equestrian campground, and provide accommodations for tent, bike-in, or walk-in camping. ▪ Develop additional facilities near Quarry Road for tent, walk-in, bike-in, and enroute 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve the long-term health of the Waddell Creek watershed, ecosystem, wildlife, and coastal beach environment. ▪ Plan development and manage human activity to achieve resource management objectives, with continued trail access to inland areas. ▪ Support Waddell Beach coastal recreation activities within resource capacity limits. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop limited parking and interpretive kiosk at the park entrance on the north side of the natural preserve. ▪ Limit entrance road use as a multi-use trail and access for authorized vehicles only. ▪ Improve public vehicular road access to the Nature and History Center. ▪ Coordinate with Caltrans on Waddell Creek Bridge replacement to improve hydrology processes and provide for coastal access and public safety. ▪ Rehabilitate the Nature and History Center building and facilities to serve as the RDO park office and interpretive center. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase visitor awareness, understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultural resources and history associated with this area. ▪ Maintain current level of access and opportunities for visitor use. ▪ Continue Waddell Beach as a coastal recreation and special events destination area. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain existing vehicular access to the inland trailhead and ranger station. ▪ 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. ▪ Upgrade existing ranger station. ▪ Retain the equestrian campground, mitigate adverse impacts, and protect and interpret natural and cultural resources. Allow tent, bike-in camping at existing equestrian camp.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
Rancho del Oso Zone (continued)	<p><u>Inland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation opportunities include: hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, nature study, geocaching, interpretive activities, etc. ▪ RDO Ranger Station and interpretive facility, equestrian campground, interpretive trail and display panels, Nature and History Center, maintenance materials building, park staff residences and equipment storage. ▪ Ranger Station and a staff residence are located near the trailhead parking lot and equestrian campground. ▪ Interpretive Association operates the Nature and History Center. A staff residence is also located here. <p><u>Coast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation opportunities include: beach activities, surfing, coastal recreation events, and roadside sightseeing. Waddell Beach is a major kite-surfing destination. ▪ Day use roadside parking area adjacent to Hwy. 1, restrooms, interpretive signs. ▪ Beach parking lot occupies part of Caltrans right-of-way. Caltrans clears the eroded bluff material as needed. <p>Natural & Cultural Resources</p> <p><u>Inland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ T.J. Hoover Natural Preserve is an inland wetland with special status species near the mouth of Waddell Creek. ▪ Archeological sites are present in the area. 	<p>vehicle camping, allowing controlled public vehicle access to this point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade and expand day use parking and trailhead facilities, as possible, with provisions for bicycles, horse trailers and equestrian staging or enroute vehicle camping. ▪ Upgrade/replace ranger station and park interpretive facility. ▪ Retain park staff residences. ▪ Improve road and trail connections between the ranger station, highway and the Nature and History Center. <p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement resource management and protective measures to mitigate human impacts on significant natural and cultural resources. ▪ Protect sensitive plant and wildlife habitats, preserving natural values in and around the Natural Preserve and at the mouth of Waddell Creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove park office and relocate functions to the Nature and History Center area. ▪ Retain equestrian campground, with added provisions for tent, bike-in and walk-in camping. ▪ Continue trail access and support facilities for hikers, equestrians, and bicycle use. ▪ Retain park staff residences. <p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote restoration of natural systems and protection of significant natural and cultural resources. ▪ Protect sensitive plant and wildlife habitats, preserving natural values in and around the Natural Preserve. ▪ Protect snowy plover nesting habitat, monitor use, and implement seasonal beach closures at the mouth of Waddell Creek, if appropriate. ▪ Mitigate adverse impacts, and protect and interpret significant natural and cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue authorized public vehicle access. ▪ Continue trail access and support facilities for hikers, equestrians, and bicycle use. ▪ Increase on-site interpretation, publications, and historical information available to visitors about RDO prehistory and history. ▪ Retain park staff residences. <p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpret the area's cultural history related to early inhabitants, explorers, and ranching and the use of natural resources. ▪ Protect sensitive habitats and preserve natural values in and around the Natural Preserve. ▪ Protect snowy plover nesting habitat, monitor use, and implement seasonal beach closures at the mouth of Waddell Creek, if appropriate.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts

FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.
- All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.
- It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
	<p><u>Coast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waddell Beach, coastal wetlands and related dunes. ▪ Snowy plover nesting habitat on the beach at the mouth of Waddell Creek 			
Wilderness and Backcountry Zone	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The State Wilderness and Backcountry areas encompass the largest portion of the park. ▪ These areas are characterized by dense redwood and Douglas-fir forests in rugged mountainous terrain. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous trailheads in the park and the surrounding region provide access to an extensive park and regional trail network. ▪ Trails in the wilderness are for hiking and equestrians only. Mountain bikes are not allowed within the designated wilderness boundaries. ▪ The remains of an old roadway extend into the wilderness area from RDO. This road corridor is technically outside the wilderness boundary, and currently provides limited bicycle access to a trailhead near Berry Creek Falls. ▪ A continuous trail for mountain bike use from the ridge tops to the coast does not exist through the park. ▪ Trailside camps are designated in various backcountry locations. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand recreation opportunities, where appropriate, while preserving the undeveloped character of the wilderness and backcountry areas. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve trailhead access into the backcountry and develop additional trailside camps, where feasible. ▪ Provide a continuous trail from the ridge tops to the coast (outside of the wilderness) 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 wilderness and backcountry areas. ▪ Maintain the roadbed into the wilderness for bicycle access from the south and for authorized emergency and patrol vehicles. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve natural and cultural resource values and continue to provide opportunities for compatible recreation activities. ▪ Consider expansion of Wilderness boundaries for more effective management of resources and recreation uses. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain trails for hikers and equestrians, and establish sustainable creek crossings and drainages to reduce erosion and stream sedimentation. ▪ Increase ranger patrols in the backcountry, to manage use and minimize resource impacts. ▪ Remove old roadbeds through the state wilderness, and restore as trails for hikers and equestrian use. Park patrols and emergency response in the State Wilderness would be from the air, by horse, or all-terrain vehicles. 	<p>Planning Zone Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage for the long-term health of the Backcountry and the Waddell Creek watershed, ecosystem, wildlife, and coastal beach environment. ▪ Continue current resource management programs and make primitive areas available for low-intensity recreation and visitor experiences. <p>Park Development & Circulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide access for low-impact recreation opportunities. ▪ Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry interpretation to strengthen park resource protection and enjoyment of wilderness and backcountry areas. ▪ Maintain roadbed into the wilderness for authorized emergency access and multi-use trail.

B I G B A S I N R E D W O O D S S T A T E P A R K
Summary of Alternative Planning Concepts
FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Assumptions:

- *All special status species and habitats, including old growth redwood, will be protected and managed as required by state and federal regulations.*
- *All treatments to designated and eligible historic structures and landscapes will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.*
- *The overall level of recreational use will be maintained and recreation opportunities expanded, where appropriate.*
- *It is anticipated that the Little Basin property will be acquired as an addition to Big Basin Redwoods State Park; an evaluation of this property is included in this general planning effort.*

	Current Park Conditions	Alternative 1 Connecting People with Big Basin	Alternative 2 Preserving and Enjoying the Redwood Forest and its Ecosystems	Alternative 3 Preserving Big Basin's Legacy and Traditions
	<p>Natural & Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wilderness designation restricts facilities development and mechanized uses, which minimizes any modification of the natural landscape. These restrictions also help to preserve the primitive visitor experience. ▪ Prescribed burns and other tools for resource management are implemented. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue management practices to protect native plants and wildlife habitats, cultural sites and features, to allow for continued public access. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor public use and its effects on resource management and protection – mitigate adverse impacts or modify uses. ▪ Expand Wilderness boundaries to Gazos Creek Road for manageable boundary. ▪ Enhance Wilderness and Backcountry resources interpretation. 	<p>Natural & Cultural Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete resource inventories and prepare management plans for long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.