

Mill Creek Watershed Addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

General Management Plan/General Plan Amendment

MCAC GPA Input Workshop

January 10, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Redwoods National and State Parks Office

Meeting Notes

Goal for the meeting: Receive input from MCAC regarding the Amendment to the Redwood National and State Parks GMP/GP for the Mill Creek watershed addition

- Vision
 - Mill Creek is a unique place. It is going to take time to achieve the long term goals for Mill Creek. Along the way there will be opportunities for observation and for understanding the transition of the forest to a more mature stage over time. Vision needs to be on a long term scale and recognize steps/stages along the way.
 - Vision includes one day being able to walk between the forests in Jedediah Smith State Park and Mill Creek and not notice the difference.
 - Park-community partnership is critical for success of the Park. There is a unique opportunity to be leaders/innovators in establishing and implementing park-community partnerships.

Input Session

Natural Resource Management and Protection

1. Assessing escape of salmonids is critical. Monitor and management of fisheries working towards eventual delisting of species.
2. Mill Creek is unique because almost the entire whole watershed is in public ownership.
3. Consider timber management on the acquisition property. Fire danger on the property is high. This provides a great opportunity to boost local economy.
4. Consider a Demonstration State Forest on some of the acquisition property.
5. Need a lodge on the site – timber could be used to construct the lodge.
6. Consider “transitional management” during near future that moves Park toward late seral forest goal.

7. Consider monitoring and documenting the forest as it goes through this transition from post harvest forest to late seral forest; demonstrate how “timber farm” is turned into a more mature forest. Demonstration State Forest is a good tool/process for accomplishing this.
8. Consider all possible uses during each stage of the transition from present condition to late seral forest.
9. Put time into determining goals and objectives for management of the acquisition area.
10. Consider that salmon recovery was a key component of the acquisition.
11. Consider protection of the forest from harmful activities.
12. Consider a variety of management techniques as an opportunity to see/study how forest transitions.
13. Consider “memorial groves” in the acquisition area – for existing old growth groves and for planting new groves; “groves of the future”
14. Look into partnership with UC system to use site for research.
15. Would like to see Del Norte County as institute for forestry and watershed restoration, focused on redwood ecology.
16. Concrete pads at former mill site need to be evaluated in light of impacts to creek.
17. Parking lots need oil traps.

Cultural Resource Management and Protection

1. Consider staging the story of logging through interpretation.
2. Consider preserving old logging equipment for use.
3. Property provides an opportunity to stage what logging was like in the past.
4. Property also provides opportunities to interpret cultural resources.
5. Consider reintroduction of prescribed fire similar to how Native Americans managed forest, but also with modern understanding of fire management.

Relationship with Native Americans

1. Ensure consultation with Native Americans as part of the planning process.

Education and Interpretation

1. Consider a museum about logging and history of logging. Old equipment in a museum as well as live demonstration.
2. Consider telling the living history of the area in a museum/lodge – wing for logging history, wing for European American history, wing for natural history, wing for Native American history.
3. Consider salmon viewing facilities/clear panel on creek
4. Consider videos for interpretation – like in Orick.
5. Consider High Desert Museum as a model – indoor and outdoor facilities/activities/exhibits.
6. Consider local students as interns/volunteers.
7. Consider a research station for university level study – consider partnership with UC Reserve System.
8. Aim for Del Norte County to be the institute for forest management and watershed restoration with a focus on redwood ecology.

9. Consider K-12 environmental education opportunities.
10. Engage community in educational opportunities (i.e. life-long learning).
11. Conduct economic viability studies to support good decisions for development of facilities and uses in the park.
12. Become leaders and innovators for Park-community partnership that benefits both.
13. Consider existing charter school activities in facility and use of the acquisition area.
14. Consider how lodge and research/educational programs could support each other.
15. Consider language in Amendment that says concessionaire agreement funds or park fees brought in on site stay on site.
16. Consider involving local residents in telling the story of the area at a visitor/interpretive center.
17. Cedar Ridge Watershed Center in Washington State is a good example of a partnership with the University of Washington.

Public Use, Recreation, and Visitor Safety

1. Consider building a lodge in the Park. Consider concessionaire for lodge.
2. Consider multiple uses in Park.
3. Make sure staffing is adequate for visitor safety.
4. Consider all options for equestrian use (e.g. horse camps, day use, guided tours).
5. Manage vista points to maintain views.
6. Consider a variety of camping options (e.g. environmental, vehicle, etc.)
7. CDF is responsible agency for fire protection, Alder Camp facility conducts training at Mill Creek.
8. State Parks resource ecologist works with Calfire.

Visitor Access and Circulation/Roads

1. Consider mountain bike use on the roads and trails in the acquisition area.
2. Consider making vistas “accessible” and provide opportunities for overnight stays.
3. Consider connections and providing linkages to trails in adjacent jurisdictions.
4. Consider relationship to Coast-to-Crest Trail.
5. Consider connections of the two Mill Creek parks.
6. Consider agreement with the County for maintenance of select roads in the acquisition area.
7. Consider route for realignment of State Route 101 in case of failure.
8. Consider fire management and safety access in road planning and maintenance. Roads need to be able to accommodate management techniques.
9. Consider the concept of “water trails” and use of Mill Creek for boating (raft, kayak) and required access points.
10. Consider power company encumbrances on roads in the acquisition area.
11. Need to evaluate which roads are really needed.
12. Clarify rules and regulations for floating down the creek; will this be included in the GPA?
13. Balance the need for road decommissioning with the need for fire protection.

Interdependence of Parks and Communities

1. Focus needs to be on looking forward, not looking back. Use positive interactions with community and parks as an example and build on these. There are important positive interactions going on now.
2. Look for opportunities to get people more actively involved.
3. Explore public-private partnership and sponsorship.
4. Consider potential future utility needs of the community (e.g. cell towers, utilities corridors).
5. Consider designing concessionaire agreements so that revenues stay in the Park and in the community.
6. Explore use of partnerships (for example with the League or “Friends of” nonprofit group) to bring in donor funding for special projects and particular uses. (e.g. State Parks Foundation, Save the Redwoods League, Smith River Alliance).
7. There should be a mechanism for fees that are generated in the Park to stay in the Park – look at models for this such as educational centers. Most successful centers are multi-agency. Other agency models include project money brought in through concessions – this money is used to build new facilities;
8. Provide opportunities for connecting with the community of Klamath.
9. Explore policy to allow State Parks to keep generated revenue in park.
10. Consider a community interaction plan and dialogue with the Chamber of Commerce.

Administrative Facilities

1. Consider careful siting and use of water storage tanks and use of surface water for facilities and fire suppression.
2. Evaluate potential for use of existing water facilities at the Mill site.
3. Discuss and coordinate fire management with CDF so that response time in the acquisition area is adequate.
4. Evaluate use of existing reservoir for fire protection
5. Consider uses beyond Parks-specific uses (e.g. research station).
6. Assess feasibility of Mill site for facilities development. Need to consider ecological impacts, economic viability, etc.
7. Consider potential environmental impacts of facilities (e.g. oil runoff from parking lots).
8. Consider conference center facilities at the Mill site.
9. Site new facilities on previously disturbed areas.
10. Aubell will provide overall maintenance, but a smaller shop is needed onsite.

Land Acquisitions

1. Consider potential acquisitions in southern Mill Creek watershed; some of the watershed is in private ownership.
2. Consider potential “no net loss” policy being considered by the County.
3. Consider partnerships with the County to provide desired uses and management.

Future Action Plans Needed

1. Consider process/policy/guidance for interaction with the Chamber of Commerce.

Carbon Sequestration Study

1. Consider use of the acquisition area for carbon sequestration banking through restoration and management.

Several members of the public also attended the meeting. Input received from members of the public is noted below.

- Key Interests and Concerns
 - *There is concern that the current GMP/GP won't allow for a lodge.*
 - *Be sure that "protection" is inclusive of human activity. Words like "protection" are terrifying to some in the community.*
 - *Old GMP/GP has failed at meeting user projections and promised economic input in the community.*
 - *Public doesn't understand classification of acquisition area and what uses are allowed.*
 - *Not enough public input into acquisition of Mill Creek property.*
 - *Need another forum for public input and questions – possibly at the Grange.*
 - *Share on the web what uses can and cannot be allowed in acquisition area.*
 - *Share with the public the guidelines used for developing State Parks general plans.*
 - *Does adjustment of NPS boundary affect State Parks management of the acquisition area?*
 - *Concern that NPS may someday "trump" State Parks on certain issues and will be more restrictive.*
 - *Current Management Plan fails to bring in enough tourists who stay in the area long enough.*
 - *What is the scope of the MCAC?*

Answer: State Parks are considered inholdings. Redwood National and State Parks follow the same General Management Plan/General Plan which was adopted by both agencies. The role of the MCAC is to provide input and guidance for management of the property with Del Norte County added as a "local voice"

- Helpful Information
 - *What is a late seral forest?* Refers to the later phases of succession in a given vegetation community.

Input Session

Natural Resource Management and Protection

1. *Consider protection that is inclusive of human activities.*
2. *Consider management of the acquisition to support deer and elk herds so that the needs of the herd can be met onsite and negative impacts to adjacent private property can be avoided.*

Cultural Resource Management and Protection

1. *Seek direct input from Native Americans and loggers.*

Relationship with Native Americans

1. *Should have a permanent representative from local Native American Tribes on this committee!*

Education and Interpretation

1. *Consider hiring local residents for jobs at the lodge/museum.*
2. *Consider how facilities/activities described above affect economic well-being of the community.*
3. *Facilities/uses/activities should support economic viability of community and the Park.*

Public Use, Recreation, and Visitor Safety

1. *Consider electric carts and other means for getting older people “out of their cars” and into the Park and facilities.*
2. *Consider accessibility (e.g., ADA, infirm and elderly users) in all activities and uses – consider innovative means (e.g. OHV, electric OHV, power wheelchairs) and basic design elements (e.g. where paving is located, gravel size on paths).*
3. *Consider equestrian use on trails. Provide facilities, such as horse stalls.*
4. *Consider OHV use in the Park. Provide trails and roads for OHV use. These users are important to community economic viability.*
5. *Consider OHV concessionaire to provide tours, control of use, decibels.*
6. *Consider different uses in different parts of the Park where they are most appropriate.*
7. *Consider reclassification of allowed uses of the acquisition area to accommodate desires of the community.*
8. *Consider campgrounds at vista points.*

Visitor Access and Circulation/Roads

1. *Consider OHV use on some roads. Also consider guided OHV use. Consider different levels of OHV use.*
2. *Consider access via County and Park roads for hunting access to adjacent areas. There was historic use (handshake agreement) of the property to access adjacent areas.*

Interdependence of Parks and Communities

1. *Chamber of Commerce has pointed out projections from the 60s have not been realized. This has had impacts on local businesses and residents.*
2. *Nexus between the Park and the community affects economic viability of the community.*
3. *Consider providing activities (e.g. horseback riding, escorted ATV riding through the Parks) in the Parks that will support economic health of the gateway communities.*
4. *Consider all concessionaire opportunities and provide the local community/businesses the chance to bid on those concessions.*
5. *Include process for continued community input and involvement during implementation of the GMP/GP (e.g. forums, committees, etc.) as well as specific actions.*
6. *General Plan is lacking a discussion of economy; the human element needs to be taken into consideration.*

Boundary Map Adjustments

1. *Explain management relationship of NPS and State Parks and what it means that the State Park is within the congressional boundary.*

Future Action Plans Needed

1. *Consider a “community engagement plan.”*

Attendees:

MCAC members:

Phil Bairrington, CDFG

David Finnigan, BOS

Daniel Porter, SRL

Ruskin Hartley, SRL

Deborah Hirst, SCC

Liza Riddle, SCC

Karyn Gear, SCC

Grant Werschull, SRA
Michael Sullivan, BOS
Gerry Hemmingsen, BOS
Chris Howard, Chamber of Commerce

RSNP staff:

Bruce Lynn, State Parks
Brian Merrill, State Parks

EDAW Staff:

Petra Unger, Project Manager
Vance Howard, Restoration Ecologist
Phil Hendricks, Senior Landscape Architect/Recreation Planner

Member of the Public:

A.L. Trinitapoli, Lake Earl Grange
Helen Ferguson, Lake Earl Grange
Ron Plechaty, Lake Earl Grange, Blue Ribbon Coalition