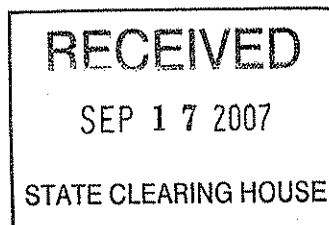




State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



## Notice of Preparation

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Individuals

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a program Environmental Impact Report for the  
**Mill Creek Watershed Addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park  
General Plan Amendment**

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Redwood Coast Sector  
North Coast Redwood District  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
Contact: Bruce Lynn, Superintendent

**Consultant:** EDAW, Inc.  
2022 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
Contact: Petra Unger, Curtis Alling

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), as the Lead Agency, will prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mill Creek Addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park General Plan Amendment. We would like to know the views of interested individuals, organizations, and agencies as to the scope and content of the information to be included and analyzed in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the elements of the potential effects on any resources that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description and location of the proposed project are included in this Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, **but not later than 30 days** after issuance of this notice, which establishes the final deadline as **October 17, 2007**.

Please send your written response to Bruce Lynn, Superintendent, Redwood Coast Sector, at the address shown above. Responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency.

A planning workshop and EIR scoping meeting has been scheduled to give the public an opportunity to comment on the scope, focus, and content of the Mill Creek Watershed Addition General Plan Amendment and EIR. The meeting will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on October 4, 2007 at the Elk Valley Community Center at 2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City, CA 95531.

### **PROJECT TITLE**

Mill Creek Watershed Addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park General Plan Amendment

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The Mill Creek Watershed Addition is located approximately 6 miles southeast of Crescent City in Del Norte County (Exhibit 1).

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

State Parks' North Coast Redwood District office is in the process of developing a General Plan Amendment for the Mill Creek Watershed Addition to Del Norte Coasts Redwoods State Park ("Park") in accordance with Public Resources Code §5002.2 referencing General Plan guidelines and §21000 et seq. concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the General Plan Amendment is to guide future outdoor recreation use activities and natural and cultural resources management objectives at the Park.

The Mill Creek Watershed Addition General Plan Amendment planning area covers approximately 25,000 acres. The property is bordered by Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to the north, Six Rivers National Forest to the east, and private industrial timber lands to the south and encompasses large portions of the Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds.

The Mill Creek Watershed Addition is characterized by steep, mountainous terrain. Between 1954 and 2000, the property was intensively managed for commercial timber production. In support of the timber harvest, an extensive network of logging roads and skid trails was constructed. Today, the property is characterized by mostly young forests that were planted after timber harvesting efforts. The Park offers many opportunities for restoration and watershed protection, recreation, and interpretation. The Mill Creek watershed is known to support important habitat for several federally and state-listed fish species.

Preparation of the General Plan Amendment is in its early stages, so ultimate land use and resource management provisions have not yet been determined. State Parks is currently in the process of evaluating existing resources and management opportunities and constraints at the Park that will aid in the development of the General Plan Amendment, with plan provisions to minimize any potential environmental impact.

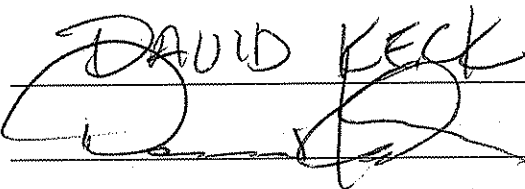
Issues that will be considered as part of the General Plan Amendment process include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Protection and long-term management of sensitive natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources;
- ▶ Potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and sensitive natural habitats;

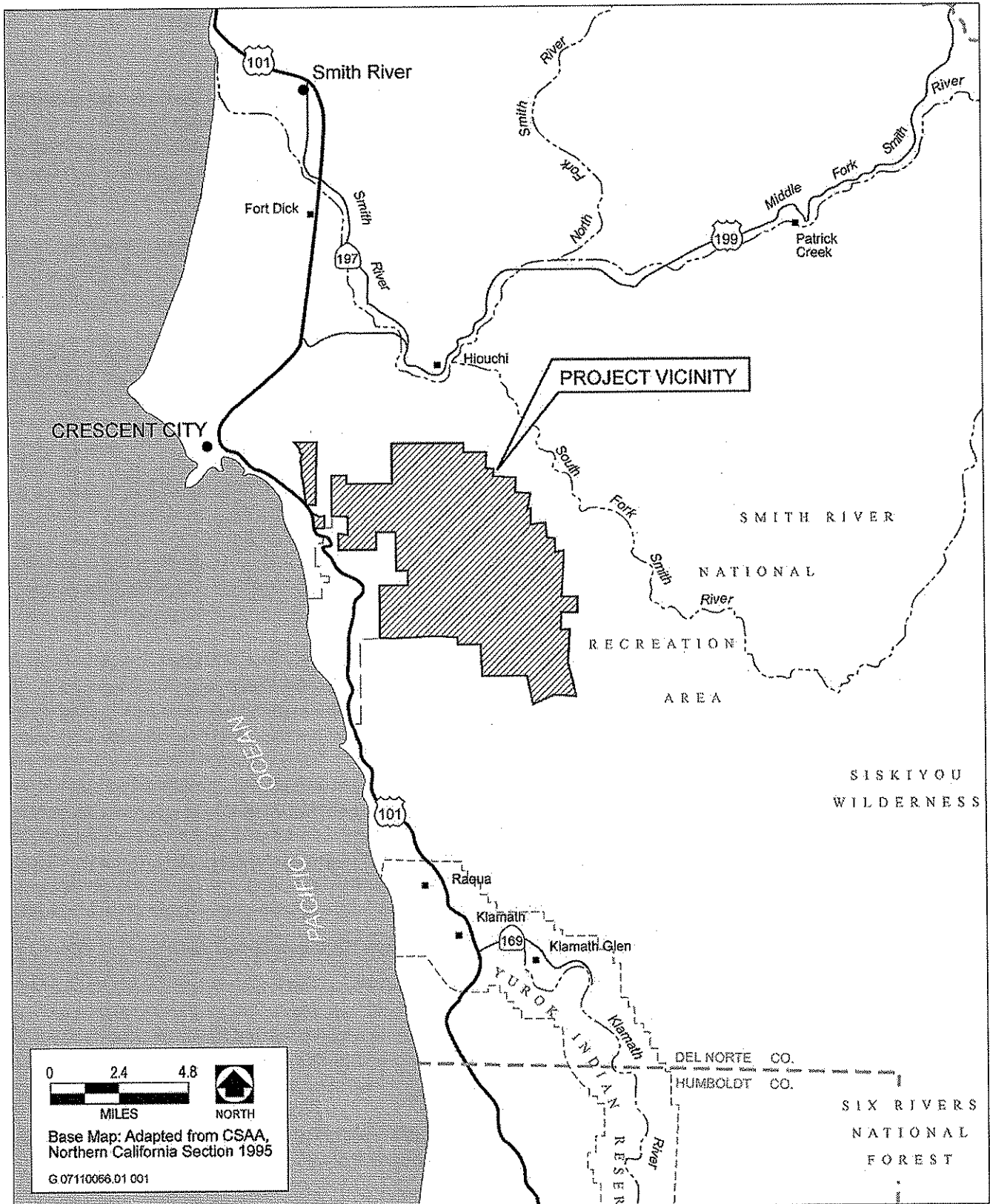
- ▶ Invasive species management and restoration of natural ecosystems;
- ▶ Public Access & Recreational opportunities;
- ▶ Erosion control and slope stability issues;
- ▶ Water quality issues;
- ▶ Interpretive services at the park;

**INTENDED USES OF THE EIR**

State Parks and the Parks and Recreation Commission will use the EIR component of the General Plan Amendment to consider the environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives, when reviewing the proposed General Plan Amendment for approval. The program EIR will serve as the State's CEQA compliance document for adoption of the General Plan Amendment. In its role as the programmatic environmental document for Park management, it may be referenced in implementing future actions included in the General Plan Amendment. Subsequent project-level activities identified in the General Plan Amendment will be examined in light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared prior to project approval and implementation (pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15168 (c)). Responsible agencies may also use the EIR for subsequent discretionary action, as needed.

By: DAVID KECK  
Signature:   
Title: Manager, Statewide General Plan Program  
Date: September 17, 2007

**Attachment:** Exhibit 1: Regional Location of the Mill Creek Watershed Addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park



Source: Adapted by EDAW in 2007

**Regional Location Mill Creek Watershed Addition,  
Del Norte Coast Redwood State Park**

**Exhibit 1**