

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

*Public Meeting Number 1; EIR scoping meeting*

Presented by:

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Superintendent***

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*October 4, 2007*



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## Meeting Outline

- *Open House*
- *Opening Comments*
- *Planning Framework*
- *Steps to Date*
- *Environmental Review Process*
- *Public Comment: Break-out Groups*
- *Reconvene- Break-out group Presentations*



# Welcome

- Introduction to the Planning Team
  - State Parks
  - EDAW
  - National Parks




## Purpose of the General Plan Amendment

- *Integrate the Mill Creek Watershed Addition into the larger framework of the existing Redwood State and National Park General Management Plan/General Plan*
- *Serve as the primary management document for the park unit*
- *Confirm the acquisition's purpose within the existing GMP/GP*
- *Define a comprehensive framework that guides park unit development, ongoing management and public use*

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## General Plan Amendment Process:

- *Document existing conditions (ongoing)*
- *Identify and inform stakeholders (ongoing)*
- *Identify issues and concerns (late summer/fall 2007)*
- *Develop alternatives for site use (winter/spring 2007)*
- *Identify preferred alternative (spring 2008)*
- *Circulate Preliminary General Plan Amendment and Draft EIR for public review (fall 2008)*




# Planning Framework – State Park's Mission

*To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*



## Planning Framework – Existing Plans

- Redwood National and State Parks General Management Plan/General Plan
- Approved by State Park's Commission November 19, 1999
- Approved by NPS Regional Director April 6, 2000
- GPA will need to be consistent with and complimentary to this (GMP/GP) document




# Planning Framework – Planning Guidance

California State Parks Planning Handbook (February 2002) – update in progress

- Provides guidance for the different levels of State Park Planning:
  - Systemwide/Regional Planning
  - Unit Classification and Naming
  - General Planning
  - Management Planning
  - Specific Project Planning





# Planning Framework – Existing Information

- Mill Creek Property Interim Management Recommendations (August 2002) prepared to help identify management recommendations until GPA could be prepared
- Ongoing programs:
  - Road rehabilitation and sediment prevention
  - Fisheries monitoring
  - Instream habitat improvements
  - Forestry programs
  - Native plant nursery

# Steps to Date

Accommodate visitors:

- Site opened to the public on weekends in June
- Varied opportunities included driving tours, hikes, nature study, stargazing, berry picking
- Over 2000 visitors this past season



# Steps to date

Informational Meeting - June 21, 2007



# Steps to date

Site Tour – June 23, 2007



# Steps to Date

Road Network Tour - September 4, 2007





## Steps to Date - Planning

- Create mailing list
- Compile existing data
- Develop planning website – available at  
*[http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=24651](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=24651)*
- Circulate newsletter
- File Notice of Preparation (NOP) to solicit agency input
- Plan public meeting

# Next Steps

- Develop draft alternatives for General Plan Amendment
- Fill existing data gaps
- Continue public outreach
- Initiate environmental review





# Environmental Review

- GPA represents a project undertaken by a public agency and therefore is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- A program EIR will be prepared concurrently with the General Plan Amendment
- A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was filed with the State Clearinghouse on September 17, 2007
- This meeting serves as a scoping meeting for environmental review



# Purpose of the EIR



- *To analyze the preferred alternative's significant effects on the environment*
- *Environmental information for public disclosure and decisions about the General Plan Amendment*

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# Environmental Review Process

- GPA and EIR prepared concurrently
- GPA alternatives will seek to minimize environmental impact
- Program EIR analyzes impact of the preferred alternative
- Further CEQA analysis would be required for specific projects
- Additional plans (management plans, trail plan etc.) would be prepared subsequently



## EIR Timeline:

- *Notice of Preparation (NOP); filed September 17, 2007*
- *Scoping (agency and public input on what topics need to be analyzed in the EIR)*
- *Preparation of Preliminary GPA/Draft EIR*
- *Public and Agency Review of Draft EIR (45 days)*
- *Final GPA/Final EIR*
- *State Parks Commission adopts the GPA*



## Partners in Planning

- *California State Parks: North Coast Redwoods District*
- *GPA consultant: EDAW is lead consultant, Mad River Biologists & Pacific Watershed Associates are sub-consultants*
- *Mill Creek Advisory Committee*
- *National Park Service*
- *Local community*
- *Stakeholder groups*
- *Park visitors/users*



# Opportunities for Public Input

- *Public Workshop No.1 – Today – brainstorm ideas, EIR scoping meeting*
- *Public Workshop No.2 – Review GPA Alternatives*
- *Review Public Draft GPA and EIR*
- *Contact DPR by email or phone*
- *Follow the planning process on the planning website at*  
*[http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=24651](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=24651)*



# Public and Stakeholder Input

- *What is your vision for the future of the Mill Creek Watershed Addition?*
- *What are your key interests and concerns about the park unit's environment?*
- *What improvements would you like to see?*
- *Do you have information about the park unit that would be helpful to the planning process?*



# Ground Rules for Breakout Groups

- Be respectful of others
- Keep comments concise and focused, i.e. directly applicable to the GPA process
- Allow equal opportunity for all to provide input
- Review your comments to make sure they are recorded correctly
- Report results of breakout groups back to larger group

Thank you for coming!

*We hope you stay involved in  
the planning process!*



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