

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK MILL CREEK WATERSHED ADDITION GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

ALTERNATIVES REVIEW AND REFINEMENT PUBLIC WORKSHOP

JUNE 19, 2008

The following notes were recorded on easels in each of three breakout groups led by EDAW facilitators Petra Unger, Vance Howard, and Phil Hendricks. Participants in each group were asked to provide feedback on the Alternatives presented and provide feedback on what other elements they would like incorporated. Summaries are provided by breakout group. When provided, name and affiliation of the commenters are given. Comments provided in written form will be summarized separately.

PETRA'S (RED STAR) GROUP

JIM WALDVOGEL; SMITH RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ▶ Fishing should be allowed on the property, but East Fork and West Branch should be closed for fishing above the confluence to prevent the catch of smolts;
- ▶ Improved roads should have a gravel surface, roads should not be paved as paved roads are harder to maintain and more treacherous when icy.
- ▶ 60% of Chinook smolt are produced in the segment of the West Branch paralleling "old lady road"; a new road proposed in this area would need to be constructed away from the stream to prevent adverse effects;
- ▶ Great opportunities to observe spawning salmon along this segment of the West Branch.

DENNIS MAYO; BLUE RIBBON COALITION

- ▶ Need to provide camping and RV parking at the Mill Site to compensate for loss of RV camping opportunity on the spit in Orick;
- ▶ GPA needs to include designation of emergency access through property;

- ▶ Would like to see OHV access to developed loops; would like to discuss green sticker vehicle use;
- ▶ Talk about funding restrictions is getting old; consult outside expertise, don't keep all the planning internal.

RON PLECHATY – LAKE EARL GRANGE

- ▶ Secondary access needs to be provided on the site to provide for safety in the event of fire or emergency;
- ▶ Provide ADA access and access for senior citizens; provide electric ATV rentals, share trails;
- ▶ Would like to request classification of portions of the property as SRA.
- ▶ Prefers high development plan to support maximum access.

SHAWN

- ▶ Would like to see ATV use allowed on the property.

JACK B.

- ▶ Would like to see a longer open season for the Mill Creek campground;
- ▶ Would like to see more bike trails.
- ▶ Explore opportunities for partnerships in maintaining campgrounds etc;
- ▶ Is there a way for State Parks to partner up with Forest Service and others to provide info on access to Rattlesnake Ridge?

MAX

- ▶ Would like to see elements of the GPA in stages with longer and more access being a high priority.

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- ▶ OHV Commission should participate in the GPA process;
- ▶ NEPA study must be completed with economic analysis as per statutory law required in this case.

- ▶ Would like to see “wild and scenic” status explored for Mill Creek.
- ▶ What is the difference between the high level of development alternative and the preferred Alternative?

Answer: They are very similar, as many of the desired uses are accommodated. There are slight differences in the proposed entrance/exist circulation. The preferred alternative proposes Hamilton Road as the main entrance, with a new two way road connecting Hamilton Road to the Mill Creek Campground, the existing Mill Creek Campground Road would remain, but would be used for administrative purposes only; the same scenario was included in the medium level of access and development alternative.

PHIL’S (GREEN STAR) GROUP

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Would like to see mountain biking;
 - Provide mountain bike access from trailheads
 - Provide a network of looped trails using existing roads converted to trails and new single track trails.
- ▶ Re-introduce burning cycles to remove invasive species;
- ▶ Need a secondary fire road/exit in case the main road is blocked;
- ▶ The trail system is a critical component:
 - Development of a trails plan is a critical element of the project.
 - Connectivity.
 - Provide connections to regional trails and adjacent lands.
 - Provide a network of interconnected trails throughout the site.
 - Dedicated Use Trails:

- Desire is to separate users, providing separate hiking, and mountain bikes and equestrian trails.
 - Hiking should be allowed everywhere.
 - Multi-use trails should be wide enough to accommodate multi users.
 - Would like to see trail access from the Mill Site
 - Provide trailhead at Mill Site.
 - Provide a network of trails starting at the Mill Site, providing more immediate trails access.
 - Would like to see interconnected trail loops.
- ▶ Interpretation:
 - Would like to an interpretive center proving both indoor and outdoor areas. Provide weather protection for visitors;
 - Accessible for all.
 - Center could be phased over time utilizing existing buildings and equipment
- ▶ Resource Protection:
 - Would like to see facilities developed to protect the site resources.
 - Development should be moved away from Marbled Murrelet habitat
 - Would like to see exhibits/interpretation of historic logging (logging and mill equipment, demonstrations, etc.).
- ▶ Equestrian Facilities:
 - Would like to see a stable;
 - Need to develop trail heads to accommodate equestrians.

VANCE'S (BLUE STAR) GROUP

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Would like to see mountain bike access and accommodation:
 - Shared use and dedicated single track mounting biking trails.
- ▶ Equestrian groups would work with State Parks to maintain equestrian facilities;
- ▶ Believe that paving the road to the Mill Creek Campground would ruin a great trail (Picnic Road) and views (Note: no paving of Picnic Road is proposed – the new road to the campground would be constructed in a new locations);
- ▶ Picnic Road would make a good ADA accessible trail to the campground;
- ▶ Would like to see a horse camp built at the back end of the Mill Creek Campground;
- ▶ The proposed backcountry equestrian camp is too far out; it should be 8-18 miles out at a maximum;
- ▶ Would like to see a drive-in equestrian camp:
 - Examples are: Cuneo Camp (in Humboldt Redwoods State Park) and Willow Prairie (between Crescent City and Klamath Falls).
- ▶ When is the trails map coming out?

Answer: A Road and Trail Plan is typically developed after the adoption of the General Plan.

- ▶ There is support for the group and lookout cabins;
- ▶ Believe that the High Level Development Alternative would hamper/limit success of restoration goals;
- ▶ Need Day-Use Equestrian facilities near the Mill Site;
- ▶ Would like to see Little Bald Hills-style (Orick) horse trails/loops with signs indicating how many hours they take to ride;

- ▶ Believe that all trails should be multi-use;
- ▶ A potential equestrian staging area could be located at the old Boy Scout Camp on Picnic Road.