



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

West Sacramento, CA

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STAFF REPORT: Classification and Naming Process

STAFF: Alexandra Stehl, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Classification and Naming Process Overview

OBJECTIVE

This staff report provides an overview of the State Park property classification and naming process and includes related laws and statutes.

INTRODUCTION

Following the acquisition or transfer of property to California State Parks for inclusion into the State Park System, the Department will provide the Commission with a recommendation regarding the unit's permanent name and classification. Once acquired, the property becomes the responsibility of the Department to manage its protection of resource values and, in many cases, provide access for public use.

Classification and Naming Process

Resource Inventories

When the property is transferred to State ownership, Department staff receive access permission to begin on-site surveys, assessments, inventories, and resource studies. Generally, this is the first opportunity to identify and determine significant natural and cultural sites and potential recreation opportunities. Knowing the significant values and sensitivities of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as the historical uses of the land, guides Department planning staff in determining the appropriate unit classification. This level of resource inventory is intended to provide a broad understanding of the significant resource values and is not a detailed accounting of all sites and features.

Prepare Inventory of Features

The Inventory of Features (Resource Summary) document summarizes the property's significant resource values and is the culmination of the initial research and site investigations. This inventory will satisfy the requirements of the Public Resources Code (PRC) Section [5002.1](#). It must be included in the document package submitted to the Commission for consideration when classifying (or reclassifying) a unit.

Evaluate Natural, Cultural, Recreational, and Interpretive Opportunities

An analysis of the opportunities to provide outdoor recreation facilities for future park visitors and to interpret and protect natural and cultural resources should be identified. These opportunities should expand on the purpose of the unit while addressing how the unit will serve the people of California and what constraints or challenges may exist.

Recommend Unit Classification

Following the Inventory of Features, Department staff will evaluate the information and recommend unit classification. For statutory definitions of state park classifications, see Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7. The classification recommendation is then submitted to the Policy and Planning Committee (PAC) with the Inventory of Features for review, comment, and recommendation to the Director. Districts will often hold a public meeting (optional) to obtain public input and feedback from the local community on the possible classification and name of the park property.

It is important to note that the classification of internal units or “sub-units” (Cultural Preserve, Natural Preserve, State Recreation Area, or State Wilderness) may be proposed at any time following the unit classification through a similar administrative process. Generally, sub-classifications are identified and proposed while preparing a general plan, and a more detailed resource inventory is required to determine resource significance and appropriate boundaries. The resource summary in the general plan document (and any supplemental resource materials prepared during the planning effort) serves as the proposed sub-unit’s Inventory of Features.

Recommend Unit Name

Frequently, units are given a name to which they have been accustomed due to location, association, history, and general usage. Occasionally, land will be acquired into the State Park System, which has deed restrictions, easements, or naming requirements. Typically, staff will recommend alternative names for consideration, indicating the preferred alternative and justifying the preferred name.

Refer to the California State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy, Policy II.2 - Classification and Naming Units, Features, Groves, and Trails of the State Park System, found on the State Parks website under State Park and Recreation Commission, Authorities and Responsibilities of the Commission:
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=933.

Select Preferred Name and Unit Classification

The Director selects and recommends the preferred name and unit classification based on PAC review and executive staff recommendations. The Inventory of Features (Resource Summary) and the Department's recommendation for naming and classification are forwarded to the Commission for their consideration and approval. This classification proposal shall include a discussion of classification alternatives and a map depicting the unit boundary and acreage involved.

Submit the Proposed Classification to the State Park & Recreation Commission

The Commission is responsible for classifying units in the State Park System. The classification document will be submitted with a letter of transmittal, or staff report, to the Commission for review prior to the scheduled hearing date. It will include the Inventory of Features (Resource Summary), the recommended unit name, and justification for classification and designation.

Conduct Naming and Classification State Park & Recreation Commission Hearing

The Department will provide proper public notice and present the resource, interpretive, and recreational values, as well as the classification proposal, at a scheduled public hearing of the State Park and Recreation Commission, allowing the public to provide testimony on the unit classification and name.

Per PRC [Section 5002.3](#), a public hearing shall be scheduled and noticed by the State Park and Recreation Commission to consider each matter of classification or reclassification of a unit. Notice of the hearing shall be posted per the requirements of PRC Section 5002.3. The content of this notice shall substantially comply with the requirements of Section 11346.5 of the Government Code. Copies of the Department's Inventory of Features (Resource Summary) with the recommendation and justification for name and classification shall be made available to the public at the Department's appropriate district offices on the last date of publication of the notice.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

For information only.