

Major concepts guiding management planning for protected lands

Management of Protected Lands

Environmental Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz

ENVS 196 – 01 Senior Seminar

August 7 2013 LECTURE

Discussion and Evaluation

Big Basin: Why Management Matters in Old Growth
and for Marbled Murrelet

Evaluation

Big Basin: Why Management Matters in Old Growth
and for Marbled Murrelet

Please answer

- How do you feel right now?
- What went well at Big Basin?
- What would you have liked to have done differently?

Discussion

Big Basin: Why Management Matters in Old Growth
and for Marbled Murrelet

Thoughts...

- What is Portia doing well?
- How could Portia improve her work?
- What concepts from the reading did you see illustrated at Big Basin?

Management Planning:

Reigning Policies

*“Plans are of little importance,
but planning is essential.”*

-Winston Churchill

Endangered Species Act

- State – protects plants AND vertebrates on private land
- Federal – protects animals on private land

Coastal Act

- Access
- ESHA
- Aesthetics

Coastal Act

● Access

- Protection of Public Access--section 30211:
“Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation.”

Coastal Act

- Access

- ESHA

- Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA)--section 30240: “(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.”
- "Environmentally sensitive area" means any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

Coastal Act

- Access

- ESHA

- Aesthetics

- Scenic and Visual Qualities--section 30251: “The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance.”

State Parks and the California Public Resources Code

General plan ([Section 5002.2](#))

- (a) Following classification or reclassification of a unit by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and prior to the development of any new facilities in any previously classified unit, the department shall prepare a general plan or revise any existing plan, as the case may be, for the unit. The general plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed land uses, facilities, concessions, operation of the unit, any environmental impacts, and the management of resources, and shall serve as a guide for the future development, management, and operation of the unit. The general plan constitutes a report on a project for the purposes of Section 21100. The general plan for a unit shall be submitted by the department to the State Park and Recreation Commission for approval.
- (b) The resource element of the general plan shall evaluate the unit as a constituent of an ecological region and as a distinct ecological entity, based upon historical and ecological research of plant-animal and soil-geological relationships and shall contain a declaration of purpose, setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the unit consistent with the unit's classification pursuant to Article 1.7 (commencing with Section 5019.50), and a declaration of resource management policy, setting forth the precise actions and limitations required for the achievement of the objectives established in the declaration of purpose.
- (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subdivision (a), the department is not required to prepare a general plan for a unit that has no general plan or to revise an existing plan, as the case may be, if the only development contemplated by the department consists of the repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of an existing facility; the construction of a temporary facility, so long as such construction does not result in the permanent commitment of a resource of the unit; any undertaking necessary for the protection of public health or safety; or any emergency measure necessary for the immediate protection of natural or cultural resources; or any combination thereof at a single unit. Any development is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental

State Park Policy

Carrying capacity

- California Public Resources Code Section 5001.96

Attendance at state park system units shall be held within limits established by carrying capacity determined in accordance with Section 5019.5.

- California Public Resources Code Section 5019.5

Before any park or recreational area developmental plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover.

CEQA and NEPA

- Public disclosure process
- Alternatives analysis
 - NEPA: full analysis; CEQA not so full

- Avoidance
- Minimization
- Mitigated
 - On site
 - Off site

Management Planning Complications

- How do you unify many policies?
- How do you coordinate between expertise: cultural, biological, visitor use(s)
- Setting priorities
- How specific do you get?
- CEQA/NEPA – alternatives analysis

Discussion (with Reference to Reading)

A Group Exercise with a Focus on a Case Study:
Management Planning for Big Basin State Park

WHO...?

PLANNING TEAM

California State Parks Planning Division, Sacramento Headquarters

Steve Musillami, Planning Division Chief (Acting)
David Keck, Landscape Architect, Project Manager
Ellen Wagner, Associate Landscape Architect
Dave Schaechtele, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Alan Kilgore, Research Analyst II (GIS)
Scott Green, Associate State Archaeologist
Julia Cox, Landscape Architect
Alan Tang, Associate Landscape Architect (retired)

California State Parks Santa Cruz District

Chet Bardo, District Superintendent
Shelia Branon, Mountains Sector Superintendent (Acting)
Paul Keel, San Mateo Coast Sector Superintendent
Victor Roth, Staff Park and Recreation Specialist
Mark Hylkema, Associate State Archeologist
Kevin Williams, Supervising Ranger
Rachel Arias, Park Maintenance Chief, Mountains Sector
Chris Spohrer, Environmental Scientist
Portia Halbert, Environmental Scientist
Karl Tallman, Mountains Sector Superintendent (retired)
Dave Vincent, District Superintendent (retired)

State Parks staff that made significant contributions to this plan:

Carolyn Schimandle, State Park Interpreter III, Interpretation & Education Division
Roy Martin, Environmental Scientist, Northern Service Center
Cyndy Shafer, Environmental Scientist, Diablo Vista District
Gudrun Baxter, Associate Landscape Architect (retired)
Jason Spann, Associate Landscape Architect, Northern Service Center
Kathleen Considine, Engineering Geologist
Robin Ettinger, Associate Landscape Architect (retired)
Robert Hare, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist (retired)

WHEN....?

POLICY...?

- Mission
- Classification
- Sub-Classification
- Park Purpose
- Regional Planning and Vision
- Park Vision
- General Plan
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Carrying Capacity

POLICY...?

Mission

“The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is 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.”

POLICY...?

Classification

“Big Basin Redwoods SP is classified as a State Park.”

POLICY...?

Classification

“PRC 5019.53. State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains. Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established. Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities.”

POLICY...?

Sub-Classification

“Big Basin Redwoods SP contains two of these sub-classifications: State Wilderness and Natural Preserve. The West Waddell Creek State Wilderness (5,810 acres) consists of a significant portion of the Waddell Creek watershed. The Theodore J. Hoover Natural Preserve (23 acres) is located near the mouth of the Waddell Creek watershed.”

POLICY...?

Sub-Classification

“PRC 5019.71. Natural preserves consist of distinct areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other State Park System units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geologic processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographical features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.”

POLICY...?

Sub-Classification

“PRC 5019.68. State wildernesses, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, are hereby recognized as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man and where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A state wilderness is further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned or leased land which has retained its primeval character and influence or has been substantially restored to a near-natural appearance, without permanent improvements or human habitation, other than semi-improved campgrounds, or structures which existed at the time of classification of the area as a state wilderness and which the State Park and Recreation Commission has determined may be maintained and used in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment, or primitive latrines, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions, and which: (a) Appears generally to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. (b) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. (c) Consists of at least 5,000 acres of land, either by itself or in combination with contiguous areas possessing wilderness characteristics, or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. (d) May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

POLICY...?

Park Purpose

“The purpose of Big Basin Redwoods State Park, which was established in 1902 as the first park unit of what is now the California State Park System, is to make available to the people forever, for their inspiration, enlightenment, and enjoyment, in an essentially natural condition, a Coast Redwood forest of the Santa Cruz Mountains, including the entire watersheds of Waddell and Año Nuevo Creeks, and embracing coastal chaparral, evergreen woodland, and ocean shore; together with the outstanding recreational resource of this area and all related scenic, historic, and scientific values.”

POLICY...?

General Plan

“This general plan document was prepared by the California State Parks to satisfy the requirements the California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2. The PRC specifies that a general plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed management of resources, land uses, facilities, concessions, operation of the unit, and any environmental impacts.”

POLICY...?

Vision

*“This vision statement provides an overview of **desired future conditions** within the park.*

Big Basin Redwoods State Park is a place of magnificent natural beauty combined with diverse recreation opportunities and a natural and cultural resources preservation ethic honoring its unique heritage and influence as California’s oldest state park. The park extends from the peaks of the Santa Cruz Mountains and inland stands of majestic old growth redwood forest to the beaches at Rancho del Oso, offering a great diversity of scenic and recreational environments. The park provides a variety of overnight and day use facilities, trails, and other recreation opportunities with interpretive information allowing visitors to enjoy and appreciate the unique resources of the park and the region.”

POLICY...?

Vision

“The park features a rehabilitated historic Headquarters area, which preserves the old growth redwoods and historic buildings dating from an important period in the park’s history. The 1930s setting has a pedestrian oriented atmosphere encouraging visitors to adopt a more leisurely pace so that they can perceive and appreciate traditional park values and understand the significance of important events and people associated with the park’s resource legacy. The south entrance on Highway 236 becomes the park’s welcome center for visitors, with park administration and visitor services located at Saddle Mountain, providing information to visitors about recreation opportunities throughout the park, leaving the historic core area less congested from vehicle traffic during peak visitation periods. Additional recreation facilities are made available at Little Basin for group use and special events outside the old growth forest.”

POLICY...?

Vision

“The park’s western entrance at Rancho del Oso offers direct access to park facilities on either side of Highway 1, providing highway travelers with uncomplicated routes to beach recreation activities and trails leading inland to wilderness and backcountry areas. Provisions are in place to accommodate bicyclists, backpackers, and equestrians traveling along the coastal routes or inland into the backcountry.”

What do you think about the Vision?

Does it describe desired future
conditions?

POLICY...?

- Mission
- Classification
- Sub-Classification
- Park Purpose
- Regional Planning and Vision
- Park Vision
- General Plan
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Carrying Capacity

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Coordinate with DFG and USFWS toward the long-term recovery and survival of the Santa Cruz Mountains marbled murrelet population.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Control corvid populations and reduce the human influences that support unnaturally high corvid populations and concentrations in certain areas, especially in the Headquarters Area and Rancho del Oso; consider corvid management through direct removal when other control measures prove inadequate, and consult with experts on appropriate methods of corvid control and/or removal.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Improve waste patrol and cleanup in visitor-use areas.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Educate visitors about the threatened status of the marbled murrelet and why they should not feed wildlife.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Minimize disturbances, trail building, and maintenance activities in old growth redwood habitat, including the use of loud motorized equipment, during the marbled murrelet breeding season (March – September).”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Coordinate the park’s Tree Safety Program with murrelet habitat protection, especially during the marbled murrelet breeding season.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Where possible, consider relocating camping and/or picnic facilities or rotating use in areas with marbled murrelet habitat.”

Exercise

What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Support and participate in marbled murrelet research that will contribute to the conservation of this species.”

Exercise

- Management goals...
- List alternative SMART management objectives for marbled murrelet
 - Specific
 - **M**easureable
 - **A**ttainable
 - **R**eaching
 - **T**ime bound

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What do you think of the management goals for marbled murrelet:?

“Support and participate in marbled murrelet research that will contribute to the conservation of this species.”

Exercise

- Management goals...
- What do you think of the carrying capacity analysis for marbled murrelet?

POLICY...?

Carrying Capacity

“Attendance at state park system units shall be held within limits established by carrying capacity determined in accordance with Section 5019.5”

“Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover.”

TABLE 4-1
DESIRED OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS
 (Carrying Capacity Objective)

Goals and Guidelines	Desired Outcomes	Indicators (Environmental and Social)	Potential Management Actions & Monitoring Activities
Natural Resources Protect all special status native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable populations of special status wildlife species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occurrence of special status native wildlife species. ▪ Active nest sites. ▪ Presence of suitable habitat. ▪ Abundance of prey species. ▪ Periodic sightings reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic field surveys. ▪ Check for active nest sites prior to construction activities. ▪ Avoid sensitive habitats and provide protective mitigation.

Exercise

What do you think of the monitoring protocol for marbled murrelet?

“Monitor marbled murrelet, snowy plover, and other special status animal species to identify population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation.”

Is State Parks Broken?

- Big Basin Plan – third general plan, third lawsuit in Santa Cruz County
- Oceano Dunes – lawsuit suggests culpability
- Hid \$53 million in state funds; lied in testimony before Legislature
- Scientists repeatedly suggest Mission not balanced/acheived.

Preparing For Friday

Sunset State Beach

Kriss Neuman
Bill Wolcott

