CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING #2 FEEDBACK

On Wednesday, June 18th, California State Parks hosted a virtual stakeholder meeting to introduce the draft concept alternatives map and gather feedback from local groups and organizations. Fifteen representatives from agencies and organizations in the region attended the meeting. The meeting began with a brief overview of progress to date and a summary of each alternative, followed by an interactive online activity. For the activity, each emphasis area was paired with maps illustrating varying intensities of key improvements, including a large map of the entire park and an enlargement map of the primary day use and Kelsey Slough areas for more detailed input. Feedback received is listed below.

Are there other major issues that should be addressed in the General Plan?

- Desire to provide access for all tribal members, not just the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, as there is overlap between tribes. Tribal cultural resource review should continue going only to Big Valley, but there is desire for park access to be open to all.
- The Pomo are renown basket weavers and CLSP would be a good opportunity to collaborate on hosting tribal events, such as basket weaving events. Currently most tribal events are hosted at the casinos.
- Desire for more programs associated with the CLSP visitor center.
- How is the park addressing the new threat of golden mussels? CLSP has a boat inspection program for Quagga/Zebra mussels but is waiting for guidance from Lake County on golden mussels.
- Desire for a future working group of environmental educators, California Native American tribes, and artists to update the visitor center, leverage existing resources, and apply for grants for the visitor center.

- Desire to continue collaborating on local efforts to remove invasive species with Lake County Water Resources Department and mitigate wildfire with Lake County Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance.
- Consider expanding the park boundary to provide regional trails access. Need to mention private property constraints between the park and Mount Konocti.
- The County is working with Redwood Trails Alliance on trail planning for Mount Konocti and there is opportunity to collaborate on a unified plan.

Based on what you know so far, is there an alternative that you prefer?

Stakeholders voted on which alternative they initially preferred. The results are listed below:

- Resource Management Emphasis Alterative: 1 vote
- Recreation Emphasis Alternative: 0 votes
- Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative: 4 votes
- Undecided: 3 votes

Resource Management Emphasis Alternative Feedback

Comments on parkwide map:

- Cole Creek Campground does occasionally reach capacity and is popular with large groups
- Proposed trail along State Park Road would remove pedestrians from the park road and could be used for educational programming and wildlife viewing

Recreation Emphasis Alternative Feedback

Comments on parkwide map:

- The entrance station is not eligible for the historic register
- There is limited space to expand entrance station area as shown; there may be a need to relocate the facility due to potential resource impacts.
- Mount Konocti Trail is documented within the Konocti Regional Trails Plan and Lake County Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan. Lake County is working with Redwood Trails Alliance to develop a trail plan up Mount Konocti.
- The location of the trail connection between CLSP and Mount Konocti may change in future.

Comments on Kelsey Slough enlargement map:

- Treatment of harmful algal blooms aligns with Blue Ribbon goals/projects

Blended Recreation and Resource Emphasis Alternative Feedback

Comments on parkwide map:

- Could the area west of Kelsey Creek be a natural preserve?
- Tribal input will be important in the area west of Kelsey Creek
- Lake County Land Trust is in negotiations with landowner for a potential restoration west of the park boundary

Comments on Kelsey Slough enlargement map:

- We need to consider why past concessions failed at the park if proposing to reintroduce them. Concessions could work with the right business model.

Additional Comments

- One stakeholder brought up that State Parks previously considered a trailhead staging area along Clark Drive along Cole Creek with a trail up the ridge into the state park.
    - Response: This location was included in a traffic study as part of the General Plan but was not pursued as the best location for a trailhead and trail connection into the southern portion of the park.
- Preference for a cost benefit analysis at the alternatives stage, even if just showing magnitude of costs to better understand the costs for each alternative.
    - Response: Costs are not included as part of the General Plan as funding would be pursued in the future. State Parks doesn't want to remove aspirational items from the plan as it would limit their ability to improve the park in the future.
- General comment that the group prefers the Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative.
- General comment that plans with a focus on resource protection tend to limit recreational opportunities; recreation-focused plans do not tend to hinder resource management goals as much.