

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RECORD OF DECISION FOR
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
HUMBOLDT AND DEL NORTE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190) and the regulations promulgated by the Council of Environmental Quality (40 CFR Part 1500), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has prepared this Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) concerning the General Management Plan/General Plan (GMP\GP) for Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP), California. This 105,516-acre area of contiguous federal and state parkland is located along the northwest California coast. It is comprised of Redwood National Park, a unit of the National Park System, and three units of the California State Parks System-Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, which are managed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This FEIS/GMP incorporates all elements of an Environmental Impact Report/General Plan (EIR/GP), which was prepared concurrently by the State of California's Department of Parks and Recreation, and is thus a joint EIS/R/GMP/GP. While the comprehensive plan is a joint conservation planning and environmental impact analysis document resulting and benefiting from a cooperative effort by the two agencies, each agency has slightly different requirements for conducting and implementing conservation planning and management actions. This decision reflects those differences. The FEIS addresses all issues, developments, and trends affecting RNSP; the GMP\GP describes a comprehensive programmatic plan to guide managers over the next 15-20 years.

DECISION: The National Park Service (NPS) will implement programs and actions encompassed in *the Proposed Action* alternative (Alternative 1), as described in the FEIS issued in November 1999, and initially identified and analyzed in a Draft EIS (DEIS) issued in August 1998. Substantive changes and factual corrections to this alternative were made in the FEIS in response to public comments; an additional correction has been made, as described in an Errata section. Major actions to be implemented are summarized below.

SELECTED ACTION: The action selected emphasizes the protection of RNSP resources and values and provides various opportunities for visitors to enjoy the entire spectrum of resources. The selected action includes major programs and some specific actions. Major park developments will be focused along U.S. Highways 101 and 199. A series of more detailed plans, accompanied by site-specific environmental analysis, endangered species consultations, and, where applicable, federal coastal zone

consistency determinations, will be prepared to guide implementation of some of the programs and actions described programmatically in the GMP/GP.

The selected action includes management goals, strategies, and zones that will be used to guide management of resources, lands, and programs for which the GMP/GP does not describe specific actions. Major goals include preservation and protection of the parks' natural and cultural resources, providing for public enjoyment and visitor appreciation of the parks, and maintaining collaborative relationships with gateway communities and local American Indian tribes. The GMP/GP describes strategies for natural and cultural resource management and protection; education and interpretation; public use, recreation, and visitor safety; visitor access and circulation/roads; interdependence of parks and communities; administrative facilities; land acquisition; and wilderness proposals. Nine management zones prescribe a full range of desired resource conditions and appropriate visitor experiences throughout the parks, and facilities and developments consistent with these conditions and experiences. The management zones are the developed zone (0.1% of the total RNSP acreage); frontcountry zone (1.4%); mechanized backcountry zone (42.1%); non-mechanized backcountry zone (13.3%); primitive zone (32.6%); transportation zone (1.7%); Bald Hills zone (3.4%); cultural resource zone (0.4%); and marine management zone (5%).

Major programs include watershed restoration within and outside of the parks; vegetation management; cultural resource management, interpretation and education; and facility development to serve visitors and park administration. In the watershed restoration program within RNSP, abandoned logging roads that are contributing unnatural amounts of sediment into streams or threatening redwoods along park streams will be removed or treated to reduce erosion. If additional funding becomes available, restoration will be increased over current levels, emphasizing the obliteration of major roads and selected minor roads over a 17-year period. The watershed restoration program also includes inventorying and monitoring of other areas/watersheds outside RNSP and conducting cooperative erosion control efforts, depending on the opportunities offered by landowners and available funding. The NPS will take a leadership role in organizing a multi-jurisdictional multidisciplinary approach to restoring the Redwood Creek estuary. The vegetation management program includes use of silvicultural techniques in second-growth forests to accelerate the return of characteristics found in old-growth forests; restoration of oak woodlands, prairies, forest openings, and coastal vegetation communities; control of exotic plant species that adversely affect native plant communities; and management of fire to support resource management strategies, including restoration of fire in old-growth forests. The parks' archeological, historic, and ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes will be identified, documented, evaluated, protected, and preserved as appropriate. The emphasis in actions involving both cultural and natural resources will be weighted towards protecting and preserving whichever resources would be most easily damaged.

Because much of the lands within RNSP comprise the aboriginal territory of several American Indian tribes, RNSP staff will work in concert with local tribes and groups to achieve mutual goals in the areas of consultations, government-to-government relations, interpretation, traditional activities, resource management, and sustainable economic development. In particular, RNSP staff will continue to develop and maintain a government-to-government relation with the Yurok Tribe.

RNSP staff will work with federal, state, and local government transportation agencies that own and manage portions of highways and roads that pass through the park to ensure that visitors will have a world-class scenic travel experience while traveling on the Highway 101 and 199 corridors, to address issues related to traffic needs and foster improvements in tourism and travel information, and to ensure that environmentally sensitive maintenance operations are used on portions of the highways and roads owned by these agencies.

In-depth interpretation of the parks' natural and cultural resources will be provided both in facilities such as visitor and information centers and on-site among the resources. The Redwood Information Center will retain its functions and remain in its present location, but if the building is damaged or destroyed by future events, a new primary visitor center will be built adjacent to Highway 101 between Orick and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The functions of the Hiouchi Information Center and the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park visitor center will be combined into a new facility built in the Hiouchi area, with the present state park visitor center retained to support campground operations. The Crescent City visitor center will continue to have information and orientation services until incorporated into a multi-agency information center in the area.

The existing RNSP trails will serve as the nucleus of an expanded regional trail system with high priority given to establishing links between the Coastal Trail and the inland trails, to connecting RNSP trails with trails in adjacent jurisdictions and gateway communities, and to connecting existing trails within RNSP. Opportunities for primitive camping will be increased in the backcountry and a greater number and variety of developed campsites will be provided if visitor demand exists, but no vehicle-accessible campgrounds will be constructed in the Bald Hills.

No federal lands within RNSP were proposed for wilderness designation because of the road access and heavy construction equipment required to conduct watershed rehabilitation activities on the largest block of contiguous federal lands. However, two state wilderness areas of approximately 5,500 and 6,600 acres were proposed and approved within RNSP.

Freshwater Spit will be designated day-use only, with overnight camping phased out over 3 years during which time a fee will be charged. NPS regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle use in national parks will be enforced except for that vehicle use essential to provide access for commercial surf fishing. Off-road vehicle use associated with commercial surf fishing will continue by renewable, nontransferable permit, with only permits issued between March 1996 and September 1, 1999 renewed and no new permits issued. The NPS acknowledges its obligations under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, to consult with the California Coastal Commission on the most appropriate form of Commission review for implementation of management actions at Freshwater Spit and elsewhere, if those actions will affect federal lands within the Coastal Zone boundaries.

RNSP management plans, visitor services, and marketing efforts will be coordinated with local interests to achieve mutual strategies and develop common objectives for public services and facilities, tourism, and preservation of community values.

In addition, the selected action includes wildlife and fish protection measures developed during previous and ongoing informal and formal consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the *threatened* northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, western snowy plover, bald eagle, and coho salmon, and the endangered beach layia, brown pelican, and tidewater goby, and their *designated* critical habitats, if any. Because the general nature of the plan and FEIS do not provide enough specific information about on-the-ground impacts to determine the potential for adverse effects on listed species and the extent of incidental take, the USFWS and NMFS have agreed that programmatic review is appropriate, and that the NPS has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act. The NPS will consult under Section 7(a)(2) on all future plans, programs, and activities that may affect listed species or their designated critical habitat, and will complete consultations prior to permitting, funding, approving, or carrying out actions flowing from the GMP/GP. The GMP/GP acknowledges the NPS's obligations to

complete NEPA and Section 7 consultations during the development of future action plans and on future site-specific planning for implementation of GMP/GP actions and development projects.

The major outcomes from implementing this alternative are the same as those described in the *Proposed Action* (Alternative 1) in the FEIS. The outcomes of watershed restoration are decreased rates of soil erosion and improved downstream terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitat resulting from watershed restoration, and floodplain and wetland restoration, and improved water quality and fish habitat resulting from Redwood Creek estuary restoration. Cultural resource protection, preservation, management, and interpretation will be enhanced. Facility construction and a projected increase in visitor use are anticipated to result in substantial economic benefits in the two-county area. The selected action also improves cooperative management of, and planning, for the CDPR and NPS lands within the congressionally authorized boundaries of Redwood National Park, thus increasing the operational efficiency between the NPS and CDPR and resulting in enhanced protection of park resources and improved service to the public. The collaborative government-to-government relationships between the NPS/CDPR and local American Indian tribes proposed and envisioned in the selected action will also enhance management and protection of the parks' natural resources, and identification, management, protection, and interpretation of their cultural resources and values.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: In addition to the selected action, three alternatives were identified and analyzed in the DEIS.

The *No Action* alternative (Alternative 2) provided for a continuation of existing trends and programs in natural and cultural resource protection, preservation, and restoration. Orientation information would be provided primarily in interpretive facilities, and in-depth interpretation would be provided through a combination of personal services and interpretive media. RNSP managers would encourage development of visitor services and facilities outside the parks. Watershed restoration in the parks would proceed at the current rate under existing funding, requiring at least 66 years to complete. The hydrologic processes and flood control structures along lower Redwood Creek would be retained to protect natural and cultural resources and existing land uses. Second-growth forests would be allowed to mature without intervention. The Bald Hills prairies and oak woodlands and the fire management program would be managed under current approved management plans. Visitor centers would remain in their present locations. Campgrounds, campsites, and trails would be constructed if called for in approved plans. Management of overnight camping at Freshwater Spit would continue. Regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle use would be enforced except for that off-road vehicle use that is essential to provide access for commercial surf fishing. Off-road vehicle use for commercial surf fishing would continue by permit only. RNSP staff would provide technical assistance and support and assist local communities in efforts to foster economic development, to develop infrastructure needed for community development and RNSP facilities, and to develop services and facilities that support tourism. No wilderness would be proposed. The major outcomes of the No Action alternative would be a risk of major resource damage because of the length of time required to complete the watershed restoration program; continuation of major adverse impacts on floodplain, wetland, and wildlife and fisheries functions and values of Redwood Creek estuary because no restoration would occur; and moderate regional economic benefits from facility construction and growth in visitor use.

The *Preservation Emphasis* alternative (Alternative 3) would focus on preservation and restoration of the parks' resources, with opportunities for public use and enjoyment of RNSP limited to those experiences consistent with a high degree of emphasis on resource stewardship. Interpretation would be provided only in ways that do not affect sensitive resources, and educational programs would emphasize the

public's role in resource protection. Most new visitor services and facilities would be provided outside the parks, including a new primary visitor center to replace the Redwood Information Center which would be salvaged and the site converted to some other day-use operation. The Hiouchi Information Center would be removed. Watershed restoration would emphasize complete landform restoration following obliteration of all roads, and would be completed in about 17 years if funding were significantly increased. The Redwood Creek estuary and associated creeks and sloughs would be restored to pre-levee and pre-breaching conditions. The parks' second growth forests would be managed to reduce the time needed for these forests to restrain old-growth characteristics; prairies and oak woodlands would be restored; and the fire management program would emphasize prescribed and wildland fire use to support land use and resource management strategies. Cultural resource management would have a stronger emphasis on preservation than other alternatives. Primitive camping would be restricted to existing designated sites. Trail maintenance would be emphasized over new construction. Freshwater Spit would be designated as day-use only. Regulations prohibiting off-road vehicle use would be enforced but off-road vehicle use associated with commercial surf fishing would continue until the year 2001 by permit only. Some park roads would be converted to trails. RNSP staff would support and assist local communities in efforts to foster sustainable development. No federal wilderness would be proposed but state wilderness areas would be created in all three state parks. The major outcomes under this alternative would be the greatest benefits of any alternative to aquatic, wildlife, and fisheries resources and wetlands from watershed and Redwood Creek estuary restoration; and a slight diminishment of visitor enjoyment from decreased vehicle access to some areas of the parks.

The *Visitor Use Emphasis* alternative (Alternative 4) would provide a wide spectrum of visitor experiences that relate to the parks' resources, consistent with the overarching NPS responsibility to protect the parks' resources and values. Watershed restoration would be basically be the same as under the proposed action and would be completed in 17 years. The Redwood Creek estuary would be managed as under the No Action alternative. Priority in second growth forest management would be given to areas where visitor use and enjoyment would be enhanced, and other areas would be allowed to mature without intervention. The fire program would be managed to enhance visitor enjoyment of park resources. Cultural resource management would have a stronger emphasis on on-site interpretation, adaptive rehabilitation, and visitor use of the resources. Additional cultural demonstrations would be available for visitors, and research and collections would be more readily available to the public. Interpretation, orientation, and visitor facilities would be provided at many locations throughout the parks to facilitate hands-on experiences. New visitor services and facilities would be provided in and near RNSP by both park agencies and in partnership with others. A new primary visitor center adjacent to the parks could be constructed in cooperation with RNSP staff by tribal governments or a private entity, possibly in connection with a destination lodge. The functions of the Redwood Information Center would be relocated to the new visitor center, the building salvaged, and the site converted to day-use. The Hiouchi Information Center would be removed, and a new larger visitor center constructed in the area. A greater number and variety of developed campsites and primitive camping experiences would be provided and new campgrounds possibly added in the state parks. More trails and more trail connections would be developed than under the selected action. Overnight camping at Freshwater Spit would be reduced and restricted to the north end of the spit, and a fee charged. NPS regulations that prohibit off-road vehicle use in national parks would be enforced; however, off-road vehicle use essential to provide access for commercial surf fishing would be allowed under a permit system. Significant improvements would be made to park roads. RNSP staff would support and assist local communities in efforts to foster sustainable development. The major outcomes under the *Visitor Use Emphasis* alternative are improvements to downstream terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitat from watershed restoration, major benefits to visitor enjoyment from increased vehicle access, and substantial regional economic benefits from facility construction and growth in visitor use.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE: The *Preservation Emphasis* alternative is the option which would result in the greatest benefit to natural and cultural resources because of the emphasis on restoration and limitations on visitor use of the resources. Facilities presently located in sensitive resource areas would be considered for relocation to less sensitive areas with subsequent restoration of the sites; most new facilities and visitor services would be provided outside the parks; and no new impacts would be allowed in areas with sensitive resources. More than half the parks' acreage would be in the primitive zone, with no new development allowed and restrictions on allowable uses. State wilderness would be designated in all three state parks. The watershed restoration program would emphasize complete restoration of abandoned roads and the Redwood Creek estuary. Management of second growth forests would focus on forest stands critical to ecosystem restoration rather than stands important for visitor use and enjoyment, and natural fire regimes would be reestablished even if visitor enjoyment were temporarily reduced. The cultural resource program would emphasize preservation of cultural sites over visitor use of sites. Interpretive activities would take place primarily through publications and via programs conducted in visitor centers and in developed areas, with limited opportunities for visitors to visit sensitive resource areas. Some roads and visitor areas would be closed; camping would be limited to existing sites and campgrounds; campsites in sensitive resource areas would be considered for removal; and only limited expansion of the trail system would occur.

This alternative was not selected because it substantially restricts visitor use of the parks and their enjoyment of park resources and values, and because the benefits to resources under this alternative compared to the benefits under the selected action do not warrant the severe restriction on visitor enjoyment of the parks. The enhanced opportunities for visitors to enjoy the resources and values of RNSP provided under the selected action compared to the preservation emphasis alternative are entirely consistent with the statutory purposes of the parks and do not result in impairment or derogation of the parks' resources.

BASIS FOR DECISION: The NPS determined that the selected action (alternative 1) provides the greatest benefit to both the biological and human environments in the parks and the surrounding communities. Based upon detailed environmental analysis and with consideration of American Indian tribe, public, and agency comments on all four alternatives, this alternative was deemed to achieve best the statutory mandates of both the NPS and CDPR to ensure long-term natural and cultural resource preservation, while accommodating appropriate levels of visitor use and providing appropriate means of visitor enjoyment. It is the option which best reconciles the many needs and desires expressed by extremely diverse reviewers (including neighboring communities, American Indian tribes and groups, advocacy groups, regional, state, and national publics, and multiple local, state and federal agencies). The selected action best achieves the numerous goals and objectives which guided this conservation planning\impact analysis process, and fulfills the purposes of the parks as described in the legislation that established and expanded the national park (P.L. 90-545 and P.L. 95-250) and the declarations of the California State Park and Recreation Commission that set forth the purpose of the three state parks. The California State Park and Recreation Commission issued a resolution on November 17, 1999, following a public hearing on the FEIR/GP, unanimously approving the *Proposed Action* (alternative 1) as it appeared in the FEIS/R as the option under which the three state parks will be managed.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS: There are no impacts under the selected action for which there are no mitigating actions or those that could not be mitigated to a level of insignificance.

RELATIONSHIP OF SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY: Under the selected action, soils previously disturbed by logging and vegetation that has re-grown following cessation of logging will be re-disturbed in the course of watershed restoration and management of second-growth forests.

Watershed restoration and second-growth forest management will enhance the long-term productivity of these disturbed areas through restoration of the damaged lands to more natural conditions that existed prior to logging. Watershed restoration, including restoration of the Redwood Creek estuary, will enhance long-term productivity by reducing or eliminating the adverse effects of previous land use and unnatural levels of soil erosion on aquatic environments and redwood forests adjacent to streams.

Recreational uses will not have significant adverse effects on long-term productivity of the parks. The primary recreational uses will include viewing of scenery and wildlife from roads, trails, and overlooks; picnicking; camping in developed and primitive campgrounds with some dispersed camping in appropriate management zones; and trail use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians consistent with management zoning. These uses are anticipated to promote and enhance the development of ecotourism in the region and thus to be economically beneficial to gateway communities while increasing visitors' appreciation of the role of parks in preserving America's natural and cultural heritage over the long term.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES: Under the selected action, all archeological sites will be avoided where possible. Where this is not possible, disturbance to all archeological sites will be mitigated through recovery of cultural information and significant artifacts. However, some losses of archeological objects and cultural information may occur because of vandalism or collecting. These losses will be irreversible.

Although most developed areas could be restored to previous conditions over time, the use of land, construction materials, energy, and financial resources required to implement the selected action will, in a practical sense, be an irretrievable commitment of resources.

The energy and financial resources required to restore watersheds damaged by previous land-use can also be considered an irretrievable commitment of financial and energy resources to programs and activities that clearly have environmentally beneficial effects. The watershed restoration program and the second-growth forest management program are intended to reverse the effects of past land uses; to determine the extent to which severe impacts on natural resources and processes can be reversed through commitments of financial and energy resources; and to set the stage to retrieve lost values over time.

MEASURES TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM: The FEIS\GMP is programmatic and addresses the management of RNSP at a broad level. It includes practicable means at a programmatic level to avoid or minimize environmental harm. More detailed site-specific environmental analyses for specific projects and programs will follow in tiered environmental documents as appropriate. The NPS will continue to consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the Yurok Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and other affected federal, state, and local agencies as implementation of the selected action occurs. No significant adverse environmental impacts are

anticipated to occur due to implementing the selected action. All practicable measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that could result from implementing the selected action have been identified and committed to, including protection of floodplains, wetlands, and water resources; protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and protection of properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Mitigation for facility construction includes use of previously disturbed areas, erosion control measures such as silt fencing and mulching, and salvaging topsoil and vegetation for use in later revegetation. To protect riparian zones and aquatic resources, a vegetation buffer zone would be maintained along streams, and construction equipment would be checked frequently for petrochemical leaks that would be promptly repaired. Mitigation measures pursuant to § 106-110 of the National Historic Preservation Act are contained in Appendix H of the FEIS/R.

Additionally, all reasonable and prudent measures resulting from informal and formal consultations with the USFWS and NMFS on this GMP/GP and other plans, and on-going programs and activities have been incorporated into the selected action. As noted in the DEIS, the NPS will comply with all nondiscretionary terms and conditions for implementing the reasonable and prudent measures. In summary, reasonable and prudent measures to minimize take (i.e., harm, harassment, pursuit, killing, captures, or collection) of certain listed species include the following:

Beach layia: The NPS will monitor occurrences and habitat, minimize threats from invasive non-native species, protect habitat and sites where this species occurs from disturbance by visitors to the greatest extent possible, and survey likely habitat for additional occurrences.

Northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets: The NPS will evaluate trees that are potential suitable nesting habitat prior to removal; take measures to reduce noise disturbance and loss of suitable habitat within A mile of occupied and potential unsurveyed suitable nesting habitat by operating outside the breeding season, by use of quiet equipment, or, as determined through formal consultation, by implementing daily limited operating periods for heavy equipment during the breeding seasons; and will institute protective buffer zones around known owl nest sites and murrelet habitat where visitor use activities are likely to result in disturbance to these species.

Bald eagles: The NPS will evaluate trees that are potential nest sites; establish protective buffer zones around known nest sites where visitor use activities are likely to disturb the birds; and protect nests from noise disturbance.

Western snowy plovers: The NPS will perform surveys prior to initiating activities that might disturb nesting plovers, and will establish protective buffer zones around known nest sites where visitor use activities are likely to disturb the birds.

Coho salmon and other listed Pacific salmonids: The NPS will work closely with NMFS in landscape planning for watershed restoration activities to ensure that short-term adverse impacts are fully addressed and considered in the context of cumulative effects, and that the risks to listed Pacific salmonids that may be associated with short-term impacts of restoration projects are carefully weighed in light of the status of listed Pacific salmonids. The NPS will also monitor public use of RNSP and undertake appropriate management actions, including educational efforts, to reduce human impacts to listed Pacific salmonids resulting from recreation use. Finally, the NPS will seek to develop and adopt a streamlining process with NMFS for consultations under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.

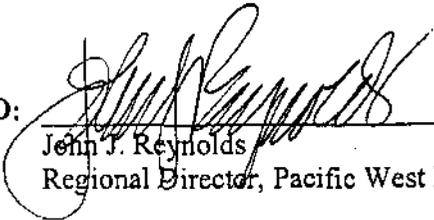
PLANNING HISTORY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The previous management guidance for the parks was contained in a GMP completed in 1980 for the national park and a 1985 GP for the 3 state parks. The 1980.GMP was based on an assumption that the three state parks would be conveyed through donation to the NPS. This did not occur, which nullified portions of the GMP that applied to state park lands, and meant that portions of the management plan that applied to the state parks were never implemented. In 1994, the NPS and the CDPR signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperative management of RNSP to improve protection of resources, better serve visitors, and realize fiscal benefits from reducing duplicated services. Both the NPS and the CDPR agreed that a new joint management plan was needed to define joint goals and strategies for managing RNSP as a whole and to coordinate development of facilities and operations.

Public involvement was fostered throughout this conservation planning and impact analysis process through a series of meetings; newsletters; direct mailings; radio, television, and newspaper announcements, articles, and inserts; and Internet publications. Newsletters announcing the commencement of the planning process and the results of scoping were mailed to several hundred individuals, organizations, agencies, and American Indian groups in May 1996 and February 1997. Public scoping meetings attended by about 120 people were held in June 1996 in Eureka, Crick, Klamath, and Crescent City, California and Brookings, Oregon. Local American Indian tribes and groups first met with NPS staff in a scoping workshop in June 1996. The NPS met regularly with the Yurok Tribe throughout the course of the planning process. Yurok Tribe staff were active participants throughout the planning process. An article soliciting input from park visitors appeared in the Summer 1997 Visitor Guide distributed at park visitor centers and offices. Focus group meetings for federal, state, and local agencies; conservation organizations; and local Chambers of Commerce, as well as general public meetings on the DEIS/R were held in September 1998 during the public comment period for the DEIS/R. About 250 copies of the DEIS/R were mailed to individuals, organizations, agencies, local libraries and news media for a 60-day review period beginning in August 1998. Approximately 15,000 DEIS/R summaries were distributed at the beginning of the DEIS/R public review period as inserts in the two daily newspapers serving Del Norte and Humboldt counties. At the request of reviewers, the review period was extended an additional 30 days, ending in November 1998. The NPS and CDPR received over 600 comments on the DEIS/R. Approximately 150 copies of the complete FEIS/R and over 300 copies of the FEIS/R summary were distributed after October 1999.

Finally, in addition to the extensive public involvement, consultation was undertaken and maintained with the USFWS, the NMFS, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Office, the Yurok Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and the Yurok Tribe. NPS responses to agencies and all substantive public comments on the DEIS are contained in the FEIS.

Federal actions and activities that will affect federal lands in the California Coastal Zone were also subject to additional public involvement through the federal coastal consistency determination process in compliance with Section 930.34 *et seq.* of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Federal Consistency Regulations (Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations Part 930). In accordance with the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the NPS determined that the GMP was consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program, pursuant to the requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended. The California Coastal Commission held a public hearing on March 14, 2000 in Camel, California, following which the Commission unanimously approved the consistency determination submitted by the NPS. The public hearing was announced according to the Coastal Commission's requirements, which included announcements of the hearing mailed to about 100 agencies and individuals from a list provided by the NPS.

CONCLUSION: The above factors and considerations warrant the selection of the program and activities proposed and described in the FEIS as the *Proposed Action* alternative to guide management of RNSP for the next 15 to 20 years. These actions may be implemented any time after the date of this Record of Decision consistent with requirements to complete consultations under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, or to meet requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The NPS official responsible for implementation is Andrew T. Ringgold, National Park Superintendent, Redwood National and State Parks.

APPROVED:  _____
John J. Reynolds
Regional Director, Pacific West Region

4.6.00
Date