



California State Parks San Luis Obispo Coast/Oceano Dunes SVRA Habitat Conservation Plan Public Workshop

California Department of Parks and Recreation
San Luis Obispo Coast District
Oceano Dunes District

Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 6:00 pm – 9:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
333 Madonna Road\
San Luis Obispo, California 93405

You're Invited!

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is currently preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for six coastal parks within San Luis Obispo County and would like to hear from you regarding what measures the CDPR should undertake to avoid, minimize and mitigate visitor and park operations impacts to the threatened and endangered species that inhabit these parks.

Specifically, the San Luis Obispo Coast District and the Oceano Dunes District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) are responsible for drafting a plan that will cover Estero Bluffs, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay State Park, Montaña De Oro State Park, Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve, and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA).

The HCP is designed to accommodate recreational use within the covered parks while protecting and benefiting numerous populations of threatened and endangered species that occur within those parks.

The mission of CDPR 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. Balancing the need to protect California's natural

resources while providing recreational access to the parks requires the development of sound management strategies that are based on the best available scientific, demographic, and economic information. This is particularly important considering the number of endangered plant and animal species that use State Parks as a last safe refuge at the same time that a growing population puts increasing demand on parks.

This workshop is the first of two workshops designed to engage the public in a dialogue that will aid in the development and refinement of a plan that can be formally released to the public and permitting agencies for review and approval over the coming year.



The workshop will provide an opportunity for members of the public to:

- become informed about the goals, objectives, measures and strategies associated with CDPR's habitat conservation efforts
- raise questions and offer suggestions regarding what the plan should cover and how threatened and endangered species can be protected while still allowing for access and recreation within these six park properties; and
- productively and constructively interact with others within the region to suggest problem-solving approaches to endangered species management along this portion of the central Coast of California.

The feedback and questions raised at this workshop will provide the basis for a second follow-up workshop where State Parks and its consultants will respond to concerns raised, identify opportunities for further community engagement, and integrate suggestions into the Draft HCP will be formally released for review and ultimate approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Topics and Workshop Format:

In contrast to traditional hearings and workshops, this workshop is designed to provide for both information exchange and interaction among participants and sponsors. The process will be led by a trained facilitator and ground rules or "terms of engagement" will ensure everyone has a chance to be heard.

- **Information Sharing:** The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to a 30-minute presentation by State Parks Staff and Consultants on the goals, objectives, covered species, and covered activities associated with the preliminary draft of the HCP. In addition, time will also be spent summarizing the key management recommendations of the plan currently under development.

- **Interaction:** The second part of the session will be designed to provide a more interactive environment for discussion and information sharing that builds upon the initial presentation. Participants, seated banquet style at tables, will focus on a series of feedback questions as a small group and then elect a spokesperson to convey their conclusions and diversity of thinking back to the larger group.
- **Feedback:** Following the small group discussions, each table will then report out to the full set of participants and to State Parks staff and consultants. This approach is intended to provide everyone in attendance an opportunity to hear what each tables' areas of concern are, what refinements they would like to see in the plan, and where areas of disagreement still remain regarding approach.
- **Response:** State Parks intends to respond to commonly held concerns at the meeting and as time permits. State Parks will use the input, questions and feedback offered at this first workshop to structure a follow-up workshop that will provide more in-depth responses and have a follow-up discussion of next steps in the HCP review and implementation process.



How You Can Obtain Additional Information

- **Call State Parks Directly** – Additional information regarding this workshop series can be obtained by contacting: Greg Smith, Coastal Sector Superintendent, San Luis Obispo Coast District, California Department of Parks and Recreation, (805) 771-1911 or Andrew Zilke, Superintendent, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area at 576 Camino Mercado, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 (805) 473-7230.
- **Call the Workshop Facilitator** – The individual responsible for the workshop design and facilitation is John Jostes, Interactive Planning and Management, LLC, 112 E. De La Guerra St., No. 7 (805) 568-1440; john@interactiveplans.com.
- **Visit State Parks Website** – Technical information regarding the HCP process, topics covered in an HCP and the Workshop agenda will be posted shortly at: www.slostateparks.com under General Park Information.