

PLF -- General Plan Principles and Options

General Principles

1. Maintain and strengthen Point Lobos State Natural Reserve as a Reserve.
2. Dramatically reduce risks to public safety along Highway 1 and within the Reserve.
3. Open the A.M. Allan Ranch (sometimes referred to as the "Point Lobos Ranch") to uses that are broader than but generally compatible with those at the PLSNR - to include a residential science/nature camp for youth and possibly adults.
4. In collaboration with others, develop a network of trails linking publicly accessible lands from the Carmel River to Point Lobos and the A.M. Allan Ranch and beyond.
5. Open Carmel River State Beach lagoon trails to the public in ways that recognize the fragile nature of the lagoon ecosystem and also protect the ocean environment.
6. Support concession or other revenue-generating arrangements that strengthen both the financial and the environmental sustainability of the state parks encompassed by the General Plan. Additional revenues should be directed first to environmental mitigation and sustainability.

Options to Implement General Principles

1. Maintain and strengthen PLSNR as a Reserve:
 - Wherever possible, move parking out of the viewshed (e.g., Bird Island, Cypress Grove/Sea Lion Point) and into areas out of sight (e.g., Rat Hill) and/or outside the Reserve. (A minority of the PLF board would like to go further and eliminate cars, except for those with disabilities, within the Reserve. They would use shuttle visitors from parking lots at the A.M. Allan Ranch.)
 - Aggressively cut back invasive plants and where appropriate also encroaching pine forest. Reduce fire risk by decreasing the fuel load within the Reserve.
2. Reduce public safety risks along Highway 1 and within the Reserve
 - Get parking off at least the east side of Highway 1. Explore a broad range of options to offset the loss of parking, including more parking within the Reserve (preferably out of the viewshed), parking on A.M. Allan Ranch property (at San Jose Creek and/or near the old Highway 1 right-of-way), and/or -- depending on new roles for the Hudson House (see below) -- parking along the long Hudson House driveway. With automated self-pay machines and periodic monitoring throughout the day, off-site parking could generate sufficient revenue to offset the loss of PLSNR entrance fees.
 - Within the Reserve, expand the Lace Lichen Trail from the Entrance Kiosk to the Information Station and encourage pedestrians not to use the main entrance road.
 - Install speed bumps or other traffic calming devices on the main entrance road.
3. Compatible uses of A.M. Allan Ranch, including a science/nature camp
 - In collaboration with others, develop a residential science/nature camp facility that could be used by a variety of groups including Summer Adventures, Camp SeaLab, the Ventana Wildlife Society, and others. Location options include near San Jose Creek or near the old dairy barn. (The PLF proposes to collaborate

with others to raise money for and manage this facility under a concession agreement with State Parks.) Also develop a compatible family camp.

- Restore/upgrade selected segments of the extensive network of old foot or Jeep trails to give the public the opportunity to explore and learn from both the unique San Jose Creek ecosystems and the middle-elevation lands up to the Gowan Cypress. Include historic site such as the old D'Amaral homestead.
 - Manage the trails to allow a variety of uses including hiking, horseback riding, and potentially - on selected trails at selected times - mountain biking. Allow pets on some or all trails. Cut back invasive plants.
 - Consider parking options that would serve users of not only the A.M. Allan Ranch but also the PLSNR and potentially Regional Parks' Palo Corona and Whisler-Wilson properties. _
4. Develop network of interconnected trails
 - In collaboration with other agencies and community organizations, develop trails from the Carmel River lagoon to Point Lobos and from Rio Road, the Carmel River Parkway trail system, Palo Corona Regional Park, and the Mitteldorff Preserve to San Jose Creek canyon and the rest of A.M. Allan Ranch.
 - Collaborate to develop trail rules (e.g., for pets) that are compatible across the participating properties.
 5. Open Carmel River lagoon trails while protecting the lagoon's fragile ecosystem and the ocean environment off Carmel River State Beach.
 - Assess the visitor carrying capacity of the lagoon.
 - Options to limit lagoon visitorship could include limiting parking and requiring visitors to get entry permits in advance, as is done currently for Palo Corona.
 - Provide sufficient trash receptacles and collection to assure that no trash gets into the lagoon or the ocean.
 6. Support arrangements to strengthen financial sustainability and the environmental sustainability of the PLSNR and other State parks lands
 - Convert Hudson House to use for weddings, major fund-raisers, and other special events. (The PLF proposes to raise money for and manage this facility under a concession agreement with State Parks.)
 - On a limited basis, use other "special sites" such as Michael's Hill for small fund-raisers or major donor appreciation events.
 - Consider concession or license agreements for e.g. horseback riding, kayaking, special tours (e.g., birdwatching in the lagoon), etc.
 - Develop a long-term habitat plan for the PLSNR, the A.M. Allan Ranch, and the Carmel River lagoon.
 - Identify sites and take other steps to keep open a future option of having a bricks-and-mortar visitor center. Explore a "virtual visitor center" as an alternative to introduce visitors to state parks and other tourist attractions from Carmel to Big Sur and beyond.