

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Summary of California State Parks Coastal Units in the North Coast Region
April 14, 2010

This document with a table of California State Parks coastal units in the north coast was created to assist MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) members in developing MPA proposals. The table contains information pertinent to each California State Park unit located adjacent to the coast in the study region and is based on State Park statistical reports, unit general plans, as well as conversations with staff in the two districts within the planning region.

The first column of the table gives an approximation of the length of coastline included in the unit, as well as the number of terrestrial acres within. The numbers in the “visitor attendance” column are based on an estimate of visitor numbers during the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year and reflect relative numbers only. “Unit purpose” was articulated based on unit general plans, the California Public Resource Code, and conversations with each district; it is meant to be short and concise. Since much of the interpretation in a unit is based from a visitor center, there is a column indicating whether one is present at each unit. The next column indicates what types of facilities or other features are present for the use of visitors, while the column for educational programs indicates which units offer educational programs by California State Parks on a regular basis; there are also notes on what type of educational programs are offered in the “Comments” column.

The “common recreation” column represents what types of recreation are usually engaged in by visitors, though this column cannot be comprehensive. For instance, the term “diving” includes all underwater recreation, both consumptive and non-consumptive types. Existing marine managed areas (MMAs) at California State Park units show the names and designations of MMAs adjacent to park units, with the managing agency in parentheses. Those units managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) have an existing lease with the California State Lands Commission, and are in essence part of the California State Park unit itself.

The column labeled “UW Parks Plan Recommendation” was added to satisfy stakeholder interest that was articulated during the March 24 – 25 NCRSG meeting. In this column are the names of MMAs that were recommended in a 2003 California State Parks report on MMAs. The recommendations are based upon years of work by the Underwater Parks Program, which included underwater inventories by the California State Parks dive team and marine biologists. Because these areas were only recommendations, the MMAs were not planned for implementation without further consultation with districts and approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission. All such planning halted when California State Parks began participation in the MLPA Initiative in 2005. This information is offered to the NCRSG for the purpose of assisting in understanding some of the values California State Parks has placed in marine areas offshore its parks, but it does not constitute a proposal by California State Parks.

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Park unit name	Shoreline Miles / Total Acres	Visitor Attendance (2007 - 2008)	Unit Purpose (General Plan)	Visitor Center	Facilities / Features	Educational Programs	Common Recreation	Existing MMA	UW Parks Plan Recommendation*	Comments
Pelican State Beach	0.2 / 5.2	7,300	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	no	coastal access	no	shore fishing, beachcombing, surfing		Pyramid Point SMR & SMCA	
Tolowa Dunes State Park	2.6 / 4,398	25,807	(No GP) coastal wetland & dune / cultural resource protection	no	coastal access, camping, hiking, biking & equestrian trails	yes	birdwatching, nature study, hiking, biking, equestrian, fishing		Tolowa SMR (includes Lake Earl & Lake Tolowa) and Point St. George SMR	Education programs include natural history field trips.
Del Norte Redwoods State Park	7.3 / 31,261	115,196	protection of coastal redwood forests and associated coastline	no	coastal access, camping, hiking, biking & equestrian trails	yes	hiking, nature study, camping, fishing, surfing		Sisters Rock SMR & Klamath SMCA	Co-managed with National Parks. Education programs include natural history field trips and junior rangers.
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	6.2 / 14,061	231,223	protection of coastal redwood forests and associated coastline wilderness values (Gold Bluffs Beach)	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking & biking trails	yes	hiking, biking, camping, nature study, fishing, surfing			Co-managed with National Parks. Education programs include natural history field trips and junior rangers. Commercial beach fishing allowed. Gold Bluffs Beach has snowy plover nesting habitat.
Humboldt Lagoons State Park	7.0 / 2,217	149,381	coastal lagoon & redwood forest protection	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking trails	no	fishing, boating, beachcombing, birdwatching		Humboldt Lagoon SMR (freshwater lagoons)	Commercial beach fishing allowed. Snowy plover nesting habitat is present.
Patrick's Point State Park	4.1 / 652	123,510	protection of outstanding coastal and forest habitat and cultural resources	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking trails, recreated Yurok village	yes	beachcombing, fishing, camping, surfing		Patrick's Point SMR	
Trinidad State Beach	1.6 / 159	44,964	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	no	coastal access, picnicing	no	beachcombing, shore fishing, surfing		Trinidad SMP	
Little River State Beach	0.8 / 111	13,342	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	no	coastal access	no	beachcombing, shore fishing			Snowy plover nesting habitat is present.
Sinkyone Wilderness State Park	19 / 7,806	11,591	preserve coastal wilderness and associated resource values	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking trails	no	backpacking, fishing, ab diving		Sinkyone SMP	

* Based on a 2003 draft marine managed areas plan. These recommendations were made in the context of previous planning efforts and do not constitute a formal proposal by California State Parks for the North Coast Region. The stakeholders requested these recommendations to better understand California State Parks own assignment of values to underwater areas in the region.

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Westport-Union Landing State Beach	3.36 / 58	156,292	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	no	coastal access, camping	no	shore fishing, diving,		Westport-Union Landing SMP	
MacKerricher State Park	8.6 / 1,937	947,441	protect outstanding and unique coastal habitats including dunes, fen, and coastal terrace	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking/ interpretive trails	yes	beachcombing, birdwatching, shore fishing, diving, hiking, bicycling	MacKerricher SMCA (DPR)	MacKerricher SMR & MacKerricher SMP	Education programs include natural history field trips, cultural history, environmental studies, and junior rangers. Audubon hosts a Save Our Shorebirds program. Special events
Jughandle State Natural Reserve	2.3 / 759	136,261	protect outstanding and unique habitats including coastal terraces and upland pygmy forest	no	coastal access, picnicing, hiking / interpretive trails	yes	nature study, hiking		Jug Handle SMR	
Caspar Headlands State Beach	0.8 / 75	44,992	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	no	coastal access	no	shore fishing, beachcombing, diving		Caspar SMP	
Caspar Headlands State Natural Reserve	0.5 / 2.7	36,226	(No GP) coastal access, protection of headlands	no	coastal access	no	shore fishing, diving		Caspar SMP	
Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	2.3 / 300	35,953	(No GP) preservation of Point Cabrillo Light Station and adjacent habitat	yes	coastal access, hiking trails	yes	hiking	Point Cabrillo SMCA (DFG)	Point Cabrillo SMR	Education programs include natural history field trips and cultural history.
Russian Gulch State Park	2.3 / 1,258	74,057	protect outstanding coastal and forest habitats	no	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking & bicycling trails	yes	rock fishing, diving, kayaking, hiking	Russian Gulch SMCA (DPR)	Mendocino SMP	Education programs include natural history field trips, cultural history, and junior rangers.
Mendocino Headlands State Park	3.9 / 7710	1,121,973	protect outstanding coastal and forest habitats, including headlands and river estuary	yes	coastal access, hiking trails	yes	fishing, kayaking, diving, birdwatching		Mendocino SMP	Education programs include natural history field trips, cultural history, and junior rangers.
Van Damme State Park	1.8 / 2,317	188,822	protect outstanding coastal and forest habitats, including rocky coastline and upland pygmy forest	yes	coastal access, camping, picnicing, hiking, interpretive & bicycling trails	yes	diving, kayaking, hiking, bicycling, nature study	Van Damme SMCA (DPR)	Mendocino SMP	Education programs include natural history field trips, cultural history, and junior rangers.
Navarro River Redwoods State Park	0.3 / 727	137,874	(No GP) Protect redwood forest, associated riparian habitat, provide coastal access to beach	no	coastal access, camping, picnicing, interpretive trails	no	fishing, kayaking			
Greenwood State Beach	0.3 / 47	83,174	(No GP) coastal access, managed recreation	yes	coastal access, picnicing	no	diving, kayaking, fishing		Greenwood Creek SMP	

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