

***Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Recreation Facilities  
& Resource Management Master Plan  
Public Meeting #1***

**SUMMARY**

The first public meeting for the Clam and Moonstone County Beaches Master Plan was held from 6:30-9:00p.m. on March 27, 2003, at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville, California. The Master Plan is being prepared by the Planwest Partners Project Team, under contract to the Humboldt County Department of Public Works. Members of the community were invited to come and share their comments and concerns with representatives from County staff and the Project Team. To publicize the meeting, press releases and public service announcements were sent to local newspapers, and television and radio stations. Flyers were posted at several locations in Arcata, McKinleyville, and Eureka, and at both Clam and Moonstone Beaches. Flyers were sent via e-mail to agencies and representatives of known stakeholder organizations. In addition, flyers were sent to adjacent property owners, and attendees of the County's previous beach management meetings held in 2001/2002.

From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., attendees signed in and viewed displays. At 7:00 p.m., Jill Geist, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Humboldt County Supervisor, welcomed the attendees to the meeting, and gave a brief overview of the proposed plan. The following County staff and members of the Project Team made up the meeting panel: Cheryl Dillingham, Interim Deputy Director of Public Works; Bob Walsh, County Parks Superintendent, Oona Smith, Planner from Planwest Partners; Ron LeValley, Biological Resource Specialist from Mad River Biologists; and Nancy Reichard, Facilitator from Net Gain. Nancy Reichard introduced the panel members and other Project Team members, and outlined the agenda and process of the meeting. Each member of the panel then gave a brief overview of various elements of the planning process.

Bob Walsh spoke about the purpose of and need for the plan, emphasizing the high usage of the Beach County Parks, and the antiquated state of the existing facilities. Nancy opened up the floor for the public input portion of the meeting, first for questions, then for comments. This lasted until approximately 9:00 p.m., when the meeting was formally closed. Participants were invited to stay for informal conversations, which many did, until about 9:30.

At the end of the comments period, Nancy Reichard and Oona Smith discussed the next steps in the planning process. The next public meeting is scheduled for late July/early August. That meeting will focus on more public input, and presenting new information, including preliminary results of the Recreational User Survey (being done by HSU professor Steve Smith and his students from the Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation masters program). Attendees were reminded that they can send comments via e-mail to [beachplan@plantown.com](mailto:beachplan@plantown.com), by post to Planwest Partners, P.O. Box 4581, Arcata, CA, 95518; County Public Works can answer general information questions by phone: (707) 445-7652.

***Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Recreation Facilities  
& Resource Management Master Plan  
Public Meeting #2***

**SUMMARY**

The second public meeting for the Clam and Moonstone County Beaches Master Plan was held from 6:30-10:00 p.m. on August 6, 2003, at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville, California. From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., attendees signed in, viewed displays and were able to pick up handouts from the 1st meeting held on March 27, 2003, and some for the present meeting. At 7:00 p.m., Jill Geist opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and introducing the panel. The following County staff and members of the Project Team made up the meeting panel: Cheryl Dillingham, Interim Deputy Director of Public Works; Bob Walsh, County Parks Superintendent, Oona Smith, Planner from Planwest Partners; Ron LeValley, Senior Biologist from Mad River Biologist; Laura Kadlecik, Coastal Resource Management Specialist from Humboldt Water Resources; and Nancy Reichard, Facilitator from Net Gain. Nancy Reichard, outlined the agenda and process of the meeting.

Cheryl Dillingham spoke about the purpose and background of the plan. The purpose of the plan is solutions to the increase in recreation balanced with the existing natural resources of both beaches. Issues and concerns that were aired at the 1st will be addressed. The purpose of the meeting is to gain feedback to our recommendations.

Steve Martin, Professor at Humboldt State University, along with students conducted a Visitor Survey for Clam and Moonstone Beaches. The survey was conducted during the months of May, June, and July. Sampling was done four hours at each location on each of the 30 randomly selected days generally between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Total sample size was 739 people.

Bob Walsh gave an overview of the issues and reasons a plan is needed. The increase in number of people increases user conflict. Clam Beach is a paved parking lot with a pit toilet being used as a rest area and for camping along with other local activities including clamming, horseback riding, vehicle recreation, leisure time and dogs. We need to designate uses and use areas to encourage a better experience for the users.

Oona Smith gave an overview of the Draft Recommendations. Stressing that these are conceptual at this point and will be revised as needed. With the use of an overhead projector she showed the proposed mapping of Clam Beach and the designated use areas. The map showed proposed designated camping, day use areas. The northern area would be used for Horses. The South Lot would be the Gateway into the park. There would be a Kiosk at the entrance. The Northern lot would be closed to control access by the public. This would aid in education and introduction to the park. It would also aid park staff in separating campers and day users. Crannell road would be One Way to the North only. Southern paved area would be expanded for day use and overnight camping. Designated camping sites instead of current communal type camping.

Cheryl Dillingham discussed proposed changes in dog rules. Moonstone would require a dog be leashed at all times. Clam beach would have a designated area for controlled and unleashed dogs.

Cheryl Dillingham and Oona Smith discussed vehicle restrictions. Moonstone beach, not an issue. Clam Beach concepts are seasonal or full year closures to vehicles. Closed south of Strawberry Creek. Proposals to increase staff, public education, and law enforcement were also discussed.

The following are some of the questions and public comments from the meeting. These have been grouped into the following topics: Facilities, Enforcement, Vehicle Use, Dogs, and Camping.

Following the comments period, the panel and any interested attendees split into small groups to discuss certain issues and options. Those groups were dogs, Vehicles, Facilities, Moonstone, and Volunteers.

***Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Recreation Facilities  
& Resource Management Master Plan  
Public Meeting #3***

**SUMMARY**

The third public meeting for the Clam and Moonstone County Beaches Master Plan was held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on March 31, 2004, at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville. After the meeting officially convened, informal discussions continued until approximately 9:30 p.m.

From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., attendees signed-in, viewed displays, and were able to pick up new handouts for the meeting. Copies of handouts from the first and second meetings, held on March 27 and August 5, 2003, respectively, were also available.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Nancy Reichard, member of the Planwest Partners project team (consultants) and Humboldt County Supervisor Jill Geist.. Jill introduced the panel members: Cheryl Dillingham, Deputy Director, Humboldt County Public Works Department; Bob Walsh, County Parks Supervisor; and project team consultants: Nancy Reichard, serving as Facilitator; Oona Smith, Planwest Partners; and Ron LeValley, Mad River Biologists. Also introduced by Jill were Adam Forbes, Natural Resources, Public Works; George Williamson, Planwest Partners; Steve Knight, Humboldt Sheriff=s Office.

Jill Geist thanked everyone for attending and for their input. She announced the next public meeting will be held on May 3, 2004..

Nancy then reviewed the agenda, mentioned that the handouts were available at the entrance table, including the meeting agenda, handouts from past public meetings, and results from a beach survey. She mentioned that Cheryl was available for questions and comments at Public Works, and the phone number was given (445-7652).

Cheryl went over the background of the plan. The process started over one year ago; in this time they have taken information and public input to create the Draft Plan presented tonight. This is just a draft and is still being worked on. Funding for developing this plan is provided by the Coastal Conservancy. The purpose of this planning is to upgrade the facilities that are inadequate for the current use. There is no current management or facilities plan for these beaches and one is needed. The Humboldt Beach and Dunes Management Plan covers beaches and dunes from Table Bluff to the Mad River, stopping south of Clam Beach. The Plan=s objective is to establish a management guide for the next 10 years.

Oona Smith gave an overview of the planning process: March 27, 2003, was the first meeting, which was a Ascoping@ meeting to understand the public=s likes, dislikes, and concerns for the beaches, and to get comments on what issues should be included in the plan. August 6, 2003, was the second meeting to get feedback on draft recommendations that were drafted with consideration of public and agency comments. Tonight is the third

meeting to go over the draft plan, and to get feedback on what people would like changed. The next meeting will be on May 3, 2004, and all written comments are due by May 17th. Then a draft final plan will be written, and the County will be preparing an environmental document to comply with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), which is projected to take about a year. When the draft final plan and the CEQA document are complete, they will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

Bob Walsh mentioned the need for a plan to manage the beaches. The beaches provide many different recreational uses, such as a rest area for travelers, an ocean view, camping, horses, dogs, walking, bikes, 4x4 vehicles, clammers and fishing. All these uses require a management plan. The park facilities were installed in the 1970s, and were partially upgraded in 1989. There are still pit toilets; the parking lot is used for camping; and tent camping is not well laid out and needs more definition.

At 9:00 p.m., Nancy closed the Question & Comment period, in accord with the agenda. There was a request from the audience that Lt. Knight give the address for where people should send letters of support, and he gave that information.

Nancy officially convened the meeting with a reminder that County staff and members of the project team would stay until 9:30 p.m. for informal discussions and to answer any questions; and reminded attendees that they could drop-off their written comments in the box at the front table, or via email or post (and Oona added that all the addresses are printed on the bottom of the comment sheet)

***Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Recreation Facilities  
& Resource Management Master Plan  
Public Meeting #4***

**SUMMARY**

The fourth public meeting for the Clam and Moonstone County Beaches Master Plan was held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on May 3, 2004.

From 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., attendees signed-in, viewed displays and were able to pick up handouts.

Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions at any of the three Adiscussion stations@ set up around the room. The three stations were: Moonstone Beach Facilities; Clam Beach Facilities; and Ordinances.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Jill Geist. Jill introduced the panel members: Cheryl Dillingham, Deputy Director, Humboldt County Public Works Department; Nancy Reichard, Net Gain; Oona Smith, and George Williamson, Planwest Partners; Bob Walsh, County Parks Supervisor. Also introduced by Jill was Adam Forbes, Natural Resources, Humboldt County Public Works; and Su Corbaley from the Coastal Conservancy. The Coastal Conservancy is funding the planning process. Jill Geist thanked everyone for attending and for their input. She announced this will be the last of the public meetings.

Nancy, the meeting facilitator, then reviewed the agenda, mentioned the handouts available at the sign-in table, and asked that all questions be held until the end. During the public comments & questions period, Adam Forbes would bring around a microphone for the audience to use; Nancy requested that people to stand when speaking and to state their names. She also asked that they respect others.

Bob Walsh mentioned the need for a plan to manage the beaches due to the increase in use. Clam Beach is used by many different people for many different functions, such as a rest area for travelers, ocean views, camping, horseback riding, walking dogs, walking, bike trails, 4x4 vehicles, clamming, and fishing. The facilities were last upgraded in 1989 when pit toilets were constructed and the parking lot was paved. This lot is now being used for camping. Tent camping is not well laid out and needs more definition. By defining areas it will make management easier and will cut down on user conflicts.

Oona Smith gave an overview of the process which started in February of 2003. April 22, 2003, was the first meeting to get public input on what they like about the beaches, what concerns they have/what could be better. August 5, 2003, was the second meeting to present and get feedback on the preliminary draft recommendations (which were prepared based on comments from the first agency and public meetings). The public review and comment period commenced on March 5, 2004, when the draft plan was released. The third meeting, on March 31, 2004, presented the draft plan and got public comment. The fourth meeting is a second opportunity to present the draft and receive public comment after people have had eight weeks to review the document. The public

comment period closes on May 17, 2004, people were encouraged to submit written comments. After reviewing and considering all comments, a final draft will be written, and the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) environmental review process will begin, which is estimated to take about a year. When the final draft and environmental document is complete, they will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

Cheryl went over the process for reviewing comments. Comments received will be reviewed by staff and depending on the level of controversy will be addressed in the final draft or in the environmental process. The record of public comments is available for review at the County Public Works office.

Oona Smith and Cheryl Dillingham presented an overview of the draft plan with the use of a digital slide show (Powerpoint) and handouts. The overall plan goal is to create a management plan for Clam and Moonstone Beaches which finds a balance between recreational activities and natural resources protection. @

The County owns a very small portion of this area. There are three owners: the County, Sam Merryman, and Humboldt North Coast Land Trust. The County will work with all parties to upgrade the facilities. The draft plan recommendations are to upgrade parking, establish pathways for access to protect the vegetation, install signs for educational purposes, establish erosion control, develop a formal entry with a gate, and vault toilets. The draft plan shows a concept of formalizing the existing volunteer trail (from the upper parking lot to the lower lot), but it has received negative feedback so it will not be in the final draft.

The draft plan recommendation is to require all dogs be leashed off waveslope; no proposed changes to the existing ordinances regarding fires, vehicles, camping, or fishing.

Key issues are upgrading facilities and protecting natural resources. Draft plan recommendations for the north lot include picnic areas, a path to the beach, signs for education, Hammond Trail extension, and possible single entrance and one-way frontage road. South lot recommendations include improving camping area with drive-in campsites, restrooms moved and upgraded, formal entry, directed vehicle access, picnic area, educational signs, protect wildlife by using paths, symbolic fencing.

Draft plan recommends dogs on leash off waveslope. This currently is in effect from March 1st to September 30th. Vehicles recommended to be prohibited from March 1 through September 30 with exceptions/permits for commercial fishing, disabilities, clamming. There is currently a symbolic fence around an area for the plover, it is temporary and experimental.

***Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Recreation Facilities  
& Resource Management Master Plan  
Public Meeting #5***

**SUMMARY**

The fifth public meeting for the Clam and Moonstone County Beaches Master Plan was held at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on June 13, 2005.

The doors were open to the public at 7:00 p.m. Attendees were able to sign in, pick up handouts, and view displays set up by other attendees until 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Jill Geist. Jill announced the Coastal Conservancy is funding the planning process, and the plan is available online for viewing. She introduced the panel members: Cheryl Dillingham, Deputy Director, Humboldt County Public Works Department; Nancy Reichard, Net Gain; Bob Walsh, County Parks Supervisor. Also introduced by Jill was Adam Forbes, Natural Resources, Humboldt County Public Works. Jill Geist thanked everyone for attending and for their input.

Nancy, the meeting facilitator, then reviewed the agenda; Cheryl Dillingham would give an overview of the plan process, Bob Walsh would describe the need for the plan. Nancy mentioned that handouts were available at the sign-in table, and asked that all questions be held until the end. The public comments & questions period would last until 9:30 p.m. Adam Forbes would bring around a microphone for the audience to use; Nancy requested that people stand when speaking and to state their names. She also asked that they respect others.

Bob Walsh mentioned the need for a plan to manage the beaches due to the dramatic increase in use. Clam Beach is the busiest of ten County parks. Clam Beach is used by many different people for many different functions, such as a rest area for travelers, ocean views, camping, horseback riding, walking dogs, walking, Hammond Trail, 4x4 vehicles, clamming, and fishing. Increased use has put a strain on the resources, has been the source of user conflicts and has increased the need for updated infrastructure. The facilities were last upgraded in 1989 when pit toilets were constructed and the parking lot was paved. This lot is now being used for camping. Tent camping is not well laid out and needs more definition. By defining areas it will make management easier and will cut down on user conflicts.

Cheryl Dillingham gave an overview of the process which started in February of 2003. April 22, 2003 was the first meeting to get public input on what they like about the beaches, what concerns they have/what could be better. August 5, 2003, was the second meeting to present and get feedback on the preliminary draft recommendations (which were prepared based on comments from the first agency and public meetings). The public review and comment period commenced on March 5, 2004, when the draft plan was released. The third meeting, on March 31, 2004, presented the draft plan and got public comment. The fourth meeting, a second opportunity to present the draft and

receive public comment was held on May 3, 2004. The purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting is to present the revised draft plan and receive comment. After reviewing and considering all comments, a final draft plan will be written and submitted to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations to proceed. When the final draft plan and environmental document are complete, they will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

Cheryl went over the process for reviewing comments. Comments received will be reviewed by staff and will be addressed in the final draft or in the environmental process. The record of public comments is available for review at the County Public Works office.

Cheryl Dillingham presented an overview of the revised draft plan with the use of an overhead projector. The overall plan goal is to create a management plan for Clam and Moonstone Beaches which finds a balance between recreational activities and natural resources protection.

### **Clam Beach**

#### Facility

Key issues are upgrading facilities and protecting natural resources. Draft plan recommendations include a pedestrian path to the beach, signs for education, a formal entrance, improved camping area, and upgraded restrooms.

#### Ordinance

Draft plan recommends dog owners carry a leash at all times. Vehicles recommended to be prohibited from March 1 through September 30 with exceptions/permits for commercial fishing, disabilities, clamming. Campfires would be restricted to the North and South areas, there would be no pallets allowed due to the nails.

### **Moonstone Beach**

#### Facility

The County owns a very small portion of this area. There are three owners: the County, Sam Merryman, and Humboldt North Coast Land Trust. The County will work with all parties to upgrade the facilities. The draft plan recommendations are to upgrade parking, establish pathways for access to protect the vegetation, install signs for educational purposes, establish erosion control, develop a formal entry with a gate, and vault toilets.

#### Ordinance

The draft plan recommendation is to allow dogs off leashes at designated times and/or days. No proposed changes to the existing ordinances regarding fires, vehicles, camping, or fishing.

It is also recommended the County develop a Park Caretaker residence position for Clam Beach.