

Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Management Master Plan Summary of Verbal Comments from Public Meetings

1st & 2nd Public Meetings (Scoping)

Facilities

- At the south parking lot at Clam Beach, the slick metal horse ties don't work well.
- No more improvements. Improvements bring more people. Do less.
- Attract people who use beach for intended activities. Balance, enforcement, facilities, and activities. Not developing the beach won't keep crowds out, and won't be a disincentive for bad behavior.
- Keep primitive and wild aspect intact. Don't overdevelop.
- Do not overdevelop.
- One way road too restricting.
- Recommend State grant access to Little River State Beach.
- Improve restrooms.

Enforcement/Ordinances

- How is enforcement done?
- Enforce regulations. Existing County regulations are pretty good, but not enforced. That's the problem. Horse people have offered to cooperate with enforcement, and just did first search and rescue with Sheriff. Could Sheriff come and do regular patrols? Give big tickets to enforce regulations, including littering.
- Enforcement is more important than development. Want beaches that are safe and with direction for kids.
- Transients and those with untamed dogs are a nuisance. Increase enforcement.
- Is there need for full-time enforcement?
- There should be a volunteer program for the beach, like the Beach Steward Program that has been organized on other beaches for about ten years. It's selective, stewards make no contact with public, and are not identifiable as stewards to the public.
- Have better posting of regulations, have clearly defined areas showing ordinances, regulations.
- Would it be possible to have scheduled regulations, by hours, days, or season? For example, dogs allowed off-leash and vehicles allowed Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays. Or restrict by use, for example, vehicle use for fishers and handicapped only.
- Moonstone burglaries/thefts tend to disappear in winter, when camping decreases. Increase summer camping enforcement. Have a volunteer patrol.
- Having too many regulations is a concern. Use more education for responsible behavior.

- Enforcement of existing vehicle laws
- Enforcement of existing dog regulations
- Establish volunteer program
- Increase the fines
- Community Service at beaches instead of fines

Vehicle Use

- Clam Beach is open to vehicles south of Strawberry Creek access point to the mouth of the Mad River on a seasonal basis. When closed you have to walk with gear from mid-point to fishing area. Should open more of the beach to vehicle access for fishing.
- Multi-use, 4-wheel vehicles on hard-pack (wet sand) is ok.
- Clam is almost the only accessible, useable, functional beach for vehicles and horses. Don't take that away.
- Don't take vehicle use rights away.
- Don't punish all for a few not following rules.
- Increase staff, education and enforcement.
- Issue citations by volunteers.
- Open gate for clamming earlier than 5 a.m.
- Permit process for vehicle use.
- Use slide card at gate to track vehicle use on beach.

Dogs

- Designate a portion of one or both beaches for on-leash dogs only.
- Dogs off of leash are ok. Access for equestrians and others.
- Keep access for dogs off leash (State and Federal beaches don't allow dogs off leash). Would like to have an enclosed dog park; few acres fenced off somewhere, not necessarily at the beach.
- Clam and Little River State Beach are invaluable areas to train dogs for CARDA (California Rescue Dog Association) search and rescue, which requires access during late evenings, night, and winter.
- The beach is an ideal location for off-leash dogs (useable year-round on waveslope). Retain this.
- Clam: I don't feel so safe/comfortable walking on the beach with dogs. Dogs have been attacked. Don't feel safe from vehicles, out of control dogs, or some campers. Felt harassed.
- CARDA needs off-leash areas to train dogs. We put LED lights on dogs at night. There is always a "bad apple" dog that is aggressive, but don't over-restrict use for all.

- Don't punish all dogs for one misbehaving
- Other options for a controlled/unleashed area
- Good for dogs to socialize, not able to on leash
- Post expectations of dog owners

Park Staff

- The North Coast Horsemen's Association (back-country horse group Dow's Prairie area) was robbed and camp hosts helped recover goods.
- What are the camp hosts qualifications?

Camping

- Don't associate campers with burglary.
- Clam is the only nearby beach with camping.
- Is camping (overnight use) valuable for the area?
- Some campers who parked on the road go behind dunes and don't use facilities.
- The long-term campers at Clam Beach are the biggest problem.
- Limit camping.
- Increase camping fees.
- Charge for camping.

Wildlife/Habitat

- Will clams come back, and why did they disappear?
- Clams are back. Vehicles impacted their subsistence.
- What's proper protocol when finding a plover nest?
- Plover needs? Place to nest...
- Plover educational push has been good (e.g. the plover pamphlet, signage).
- Horse riders often guide drivers away from the plover areas.
- Friends of the Dunes etc. Docent program-education on beach ecology.
- There were meetings for a beach plan a year ago, why are there meetings again?

Litter/Cleanliness

- There should be better trash collection during heavy use times.
- Area without debris is desirable. A quiet and safe zone.
- Beach and dune clean up sponsored annually by Friend of the Dunes.
- User groups can be utilized for clean up.

Misc. Comments

- Clam Beach is a great resource for kids, especially teenagers, to “blow off steam”, have fires, and do “broadies”. It provides a healthy alternative to less desirable activities in town – it’s important not to lose that.

3rd & 4th Public Meetings (Draft Plan)

Facilities

- Current horse trailer parking is inadequate. We could use a hitching post next to the restrooms. Need better restrooms.
- There is too much building being planed, we like it natural.
- Regarding the path from the restaurant to the beach, there is a small lot for customers and should not be used by beach users; the path idea should be put to bed or make the lot larger.
- Keep the horse trailer parking as it is.
- Make disabled access to Moonstone, not just stairs.
- Likes using the north day use area for her horses.
- The north lot could be used for camping; the south for day use.
- Protections for dunes and birds seems not to be in balance with bulldozing dunes for upgrades.
- A one-way road is not needed. Entry way is a waste of money.
- All we need is a toll booth, a guy [a person operating the booth].
- One-way is pathetic and not needed. Entryway is a waste of money.

Enforcement/Ordinances

- I see some problems here, there will be no enforcement for these new rules.
- Classify Park Staff so they are able to enforce the laws.
- We need the deputy.
- Have the beaches open for bonfires at night.
- Lift the parking restrictions on Clam Beach Drive and kick out the transients.
- Want Clam Beach Drive open all night for parking to star gaze.
- More patrol would be better use of the money, not signs.
- Feels the only current enforcement is peer pressure. Groups would be willing to advise people and help enforce the laws. What is enforcement plan?
- Regulations have punitive measures.
- All we need is an officer. Have cell phones for enforcement. Tolls would pay for enforcement.

- Need good management, which means more enforcement, which means you need to charge fees. There could be annual or daily use fees to pay for enforcement.

Vehicle Use

- Will you be enforcing speed limit on beach? Vehicles are not allowed on Moonstone. They are there illegally.
- Will seasonal closure of the beach to vehicles take away the deputy patrol?
- Vehicles cross Little River; a “no crossing river” sign should be posted.
- I like the card lock system you would know who was there and when. It would also generate fees.
- We need access for vehicles.
- I am tired of being a victim of speeding vehicles and recklessness.
- The permit system for vehicles is not clear, why not keep the same system, it would be cheaper? Is the cardlock idea being brought forward?
- Vehicles should be allowed it helps disburse people so they are not concentrated in one area.
- Will we be allowed to drive on the beach if the plover are unsuccessful in their breeding?
- Vehicles on the beach concerns him due to the safety issues regarding vehicles and children. How will vehicle use be enforced?
- Likes the dog and driving proposals. How long will the trial period be? What are the fines?
- Seasonal for vehicles equals seasonal for people.
- Safety issue with vehicles. Why only seasonal and why allowed on the waveslope?
- Vehicle issue is not just the plover, there are other habitats as well.
- Have people pay on a sliding scale, based on the use, like driving on the beach.

Vehicle Access Gate

- Clams are now back at the beaches. Parking lots will fill early, how will the gate work?
- Good tide time for clamming might be after minus tide, so the gate might not always be opened early enough.
- We were assured the gate would be open at Clam Beach for clamming and my husband and I went out and it wasn’t opened early enough. The gate is a bad idea and didn’t work.
- Another suggestion is to have the gate opened and shut by the Deputy. If the gate is open, the Deputy is there.
- We have already had problems with the locked gate. The gate is a bad idea and doesn’t work.

- Why a gate at Clam beach, the gate at the South Spit was nonfunctional. This will be the same.
- A camp host is critical for proper functioning of a gate.

Dogs

- The dog rules are the same for both beaches but there are different situations at each beach. It is a seasonal regulation for driving, why not for dogs also? Why not hourly provisions for dogs?
- Places where people can go with dogs are being limited more and more. Why not establish a usage permit/certification program for dog owners who get trained in proper use? Owners would be responsible for behavior of dog and fees will be generated.
- Found dogs to be a problem at Moonstone; family has been bothered during picnic; was bitten by a dog on leash; feces is problem. A compromise is leashes except on the waveslope; thinks it is a good idea and will cut out risk of dog bites.
- Found dogs to be a problem at Moonstone. Would like to see an area where no dogs are allowed.
- Responsible dog owners will be able to adjust to waveslope restrictions. There are 18 miles of dog-free beaches, the State beaches have just adopted this for the next 25 years. If you don't like dogs, go there. Thanks for access for responsible dog use on waveslope.
- There should be a corridor for free dogs to run. Horse riders are unable to keep a dog on a leash while riding their horse; it is unsafe for the dog.
- Dogs with horses should not be leashed.
- Is this a stepping stone to eliminating dogs on the beaches?
- I highly recommend dog leash rules.
- My dog is a water dog, he would drag me to the waveslope if he was on a leash.
- Has traveled worldwide and dogs are required to be muzzled in Europe when out in public.
- Why a year-round leash law?
- Will there be signs with the rules for dog handlers? What is considered the waveslope?
- Dogs should be on leash, but there should be a public education and warning period.
- How about alternate on-leash/off-leash days for dogs?
- Wants to ride horse with loose dog. Does not feel safe. Has been harassed by loose dogs even while on horse.
- Why not have a corridor for unleashed dogs?
- Likes the dog and driving proposals. How long will the trial period be? What are the fines?
- Safety issue of loose dogs. Why only seasonal and why allowed on the waveslope?

- Some dog-free area might work.
- Has never seen a problem with dogs on the beach. This is for convenience of management.

Master Plan

- The draft was like putting the cart before the horse. How did they arrive at a plan before comments and environmental issues were complete?
- What changes have been made since last meeting? Where are they and are they documented?
- How did this idea to do a plan start?
- Where are our choices? Why isn't one of the choices No Action Plan? What about CEQA?
- Is this (plan) voted on by the public?
- A member of the public asked for a vote on the plan; there was a show of hands for how many like plan: 50%, dislike plan: 50%; not all people in the audience participated.
- Where will the money come from? Will the booth be used to generate fees?
- The Draft Plan shows a response to public comment, it is not top-down.
- I see fatal flaw in the plan as being lack of planning and enforcement.
- We need a plan.
- Will comments be open to the public?
- Doesn't see changes in the draft since the 3rd public meeting, are the comments actually working?
- Would there be an area for children to play?
- Why a 10-year plan? Why not revisit in two years? Public should be first priority.
- The plan isn't perfect, but it's good. There appears to be good input and well publicized.
- These meetings should be advertised countywide.

Wildlife/Habitat

- Do you have documentation of a vehicle killing a Plover on Clam Beach?
- Protections for dunes and birds seems not to be in balance with bulldozing dunes for upgrades.
- Symbolic fencing for the plover, is it to keep them in or us out? Why not create a safe area.
- Endangered environment is a reality, although the scientific methodology is not perfect.
- Did not see plover predation in the plan. No mention of cover or trapping either.
- What is the symbolic fencing plan? Will you extend it?

- Nature has caused the loss of the plover, there are lots of raccoons, foxes, etc. The plover are not endangered. There is no proof. There are plovers from Los Angeles to Mexico and Florida.
- Delist the plover.
- Natural depredation is taking the plover.
- What if the plover is delisted?

5th Public Meeting (Draft Plan)

Facilities

- Funding for long-term maintenance should be considered.
- Why are we building bathrooms for campers?
- Why is caretaker housing necessary? Biologists are taking our land away to study plants and animals. We need to be able to get out and use the land and not for biology.
- The public is not aware that the area proposed for the caretaker residence is owned by the County. Cell phones can be used to call 911 if there is a problem instead of a park caretaker.
- Campers are not locals; providing better facilities for them is not necessary.
- Camping is the problem. We're unable to find a clean area near the campers, free of garbage. The gate has decreased the garbage on the north end but that is the only good thing.

Enforcement/Ordinances

- I have four horses and go to the beach everyday; concerned that once rules are put on beach access all rights will be taken away. We would like to report conflicts rather than have more regulations.
- Skeptical that more law enforcement is warranted.
- In the 1950s there were many uses and all worked without restrictions.
- These regulations are against clammers, seniors, and kids.
- We are not able to use the beach due to all the restrictions. The gate, plover areas, vehicle restrictions make no sense.
- You need to enforce the laws that exist. Times to walk my dogs is not reasonable, the times are unrealistic.

Vehicle Use

- Only 8 of 362 people surveyed requested vehicle restrictions, but vehicles have the most restrictions in the plan.
- We use a vehicle to drive the family to secluded spots for picnics and getaways. The majority of people at this meeting want to be able to drive on the beach, but the County says the responses were three to one against vehicle access.
- Leave the beaches open.

- Need to be flexible for clambers who want to go clamming at moderately low tides.
- In favor of responsible vehicle access. Plover issue has gotten out of hand.
- Teens drive out on the beach so they can find an open area to do sports.
- The beach should be open to all of us. Freedom is important. Users need to be responsible and educate those around us. We need to reprimand others as to proper use. Some vehicle users do not behave properly. They should be told to slow down by the other users. With risk of not being popular, I have done this and been flipped off. There are conflicts and the word on proper usage and behavior should be spread.
- The state has 1,000 miles of beaches and we are only allowed to drive on Pismo Beach and Clam Beach. It should be dedicated “No Pedestrians.” Keep it for dogs, horses, and vehicles. Let the walkers go to the state beaches.
- Bothered that the beach will be closed to vehicles due to a few requests.

Dogs

- I take dogs to the beach and have a leash with me at all times.
- A few idiots cause a problem ruining it for the rest of us. Most people know their dogs and are responsible owners. Recommendation is do nothing.

Master Plan

- All plans start with managing the people out. We’re all bottlenecking to Clam Beach because the other beaches in California have been restricted. Open the other beaches to access.

Wildlife/Habitat

- Bird preservation does not justify changing a long history of enjoying the parks.

Clam and Moonstone Beach County Parks Management Master Plan

Summary of Written Comments from Public Meetings

1st & 2nd Meetings (Scoping) - 52 comments

Facilities

- No more parking, no more toilets, no more camping. Absolutely no commercial development.
- Equestrian improvements rings on bottom of hitch rail and manure compost bins.
- Continue to develop trails and access for hikers, dog walkers, and equestrians.
- Caution urged regarding “development” of facilities, additions would detract from “naturalness”.
- More parking at north end of Clam Beach, place to park horse trailers.
- Complete Hammond Trail.
- Access points should be limited; there should be a gate and small fee.
- Reduce the amount of development instead of creating more development.
- Keep the camping primitive and do not increase the parking lot capacity.
- Access sites from frontage road need to be improved to stop erosion.
- Don’t develop the parks further, more improvements attract more people.
- Restricted pathways to limit and control damage to dunes a good idea.
- More camp sites, fresh water, showers, and more B & Bs (toilets).
- Keep it simple, I do not want Clam Beach to become a gated, fenced campground.
- Develop a bridal trail for the beach to funnel horse traffic to avoid dune erosion.
- Would like to see formal camping facilities away from day use parking area.
- Summer bridge over water separating parking area from beach.
- No increase in parking at Moonstone.
- Establish controlled access to ensure users know environmental concerns and regulations.
- Keep the area as it is today (Moonstone), make Clam Beach more inviting.
- Feel very strongly about keeping all facilities primitive and undeveloped.
- Resurface parking area at Moonstone and contain with logs and/or boulders.
- Prevent multitude of dune access points, few sites could be chosen for boardwalks.
- Don’t want improvements at Clam and Moonstone, don’t feel they need improvement.

- Parking, use and access facilities at Clam Beach should be improved and made more attractive to encourage use of a greater expanse of the beach system and relieve overcrowding at Moonstone.
- The tent camping layout recommendation is excellent.
- Good idea to offer quiet, private, assigned, organized, controllable camping sites.
- Agree with South Lot Design Concept to establish designated tent camping spots.
- A paved campground in the dunes is ludicrous.
- Building a campground in the dune is unacceptable. It would be way too much impact.
- New road in dunes? Create a defined trail. Need camp access direct to beach.
- Access would be better off spread out.
- Agree with establishment of an entrance kiosk where a per-car parking fee or per-person day use fee is collected and informational brochure is distributed.
- Changing our (equestrian) access point is not a good idea at all, adequate facilities exist.
- Call box/phone at northern lot would be great.
- Parking situation is crazy at Moonstone.
- Don't install a pit toilet, don't install a septic system restroom.

Enforcement/Ordinances

- A means of patrolling and enforcement either through volunteers, other grant mechanisms, not tied to OHV reimbursements (locks the plan into vehicle access).
- Current regulations and use of these beaches are good. What needs to be improved is enforcement.
- Funding for more rangers (enforcement).
- Enforce regulations that protect the beach and dunes, existing regulations need to be sternly enforced.
- No guns, no alcohol, safe beaches, no loud music.
- Increased patrol and enforcement of existing regulations.
- Increased enforcement of rules, troubled by property damage & vandalism live close to beach.
- Stagger enforcement to include night or early morning to cite illegal campers.
- County guidelines are good.
- More patrol, multi use and signage control will not work.
- Enforce rules – picnickers leave trash/household items that should go to the dump.
- If people obeyed the existing regulations few conflicts and problems would exist. Plan for more comprehensive enforcement coverage through volunteers, county park staff with enforcement capabilities or permanent county sheriff.
- More law enforcement presence at both beaches.

- Parks needs more enforcement presence until violators get the message, existing regulations need to be sternly enforced.
- Regulations are useless without patrolling, first priority should be increased control.
- More enforcement of current regulations.
- Large educational signage with regulations and why.
- Better enforcement of the long-discussed regulations already enacted.
- Better enforcement of policies, include more beach patrol.
- Sheriff patrols should be significantly increased to adequately enforce existing regulations.
- Improve public education, post signs to inform public of regulations and why they're important.
- Education and volunteers are good ideas.
- Important that the regulations from Clam Beach to Little River State Beach to Moonstone be consistent or very well marked.
- More signage for equestrians, dog owners and pedestrians is needed.
- Full-time caretaker good idea if person is empowered, trained and authorized to enforce regulations.
- Better enforcement of existing rules, possibility of using people that use beach to help police beach.

Vehicle Use

- Eliminate vehicles from driving on beach.
- I see a vision of an area that controls vehicles so pedestrians can use the beach safely.
- I would really like to ban all vehicles from the beach, hotline to report vehicles in dunes.
- No vehicle use on the beaches and dunes because they really don't belong there.
- No driving on the beach, I believe vehicles on the beach lead to more trash on the beach.
- Exclude off-road vehicles.
- Like to be able to drive out there (on beach) with family.
- Vehicles speed and travel at Clam Beach. Danger to people & animals destroys habitat/nesting areas.
- Banning all cars from the beach – is not compatible with people, dogs and horses.
- There should not be vehicles allowed on the beaches, disruptive and harms natural beauty of the area.
- Vehicles are not compatible with endangered species and create unsafe atmosphere.
- No vehicle access to the beaches except by limited special permits, never during plover season.
- Vehicles off beach.

- It would be better if vehicles were not allowed to speed and rip up dunes, this does not mean responsible users should be penalized.
- It seems that beach use has reached a point where vehicles can no longer be accommodated safely.
- Consider driving vehicle on beach a very important privilege and appropriate use of this beach.
- The presence of vehicles on the beach is a detriment to my enjoyment, consider vehicle ban.
- We favor allowing no vehicles on the beaches as well as the dunes.
- The County should have a vehicular beach further south and not allow cars on any other beaches.
- Eliminate vehicles on Clam Beach except by permit for fishermen and handicap.
- Ban motorized vehicles at Clam and Moonstone.
- Limited vehicle use, close beach to vehicles during plover nesting season, install gate.
- Dismayed and outraged that people think it is okay to drive on your beautiful beaches.
- All vehicular traffic should be permanently banned from Clam and Moonstone Beach.
- We are writing to urge you to recommend banning vehicles on these wonderful beaches.
- I am in complete support of banning all vehicles from clam and moonstone beach.
- We are very concerned that we will not have vehicle access for whatever we fully enjoy.
- There should be only one vehicle access point and persons wishing to drive on the beach need to be registered and perhaps given an access card.
- Charge a fee of \$25 for a seasonal “day use only” permit for driving on the beach.
- Stop the vehicle traffic at the beach, please.
- I am against vehicles on Clam Beach.
- Do not punish responsible vehicle users because you cannot enforce the rules!
- I support year round closure to vehicles, if this isn’t feasible institute seasonal closure.
- In my opinion, vehicles don’t belong on our beautiful beaches.
- Clam Beach should at least be closed to vehicles during plover season, if not year round.
- Minimum alternative to further plover recovery is seasonal closure of the entire beach.
- Gate and swipe cards is a great suggestion. Issue permits.
- Motor vehicles simply do not belong on Clam Beach, beach should be closed year-round to vehicles.

- 1st choice ,close the whole beach to vehicles or 2nd choice vehicles only north of Strawberry Creek and not at all during the plover season.
- I support any closure of Clam Beach to vehicle access, whether it is seasonally or complete.

Dogs

- I think off leash for the whole area would be fine.
- Plan should address controlling dogs; no unleashed dogs; ideally keep dogs off the beach.
- Beach access for dogs at Moonstone & Clam, allow dogs off leash on waveslope, create safe path.
- What does “under owners control” mean? Impossible to enforce. Leash or no leash.
- My dog is off leash during search problems, CARDA needs continued access as a training facility.
- CARDA’s ability to use Clam Beach for off-leash training.
- Too many dogs tramping over everything and too much dog crap all over.
- Leashed dogs.
- Place dog waste stations at convenient locations to encourage owner compliance with “pick up rule”
- Have a part of the beach where dogs can run separate from where families and children are playing.
- Really aren’t many places left to take dogs off leash, allows better exercise and socialization.
- Dog owners should be required to have them on a leash and required to carry “doggy bags”.
- Run dogs early in morning without hassle or interruption.
- Want to see dogs allowed, do not want them leashed 100% of the time.
- Allow continued access to beach for CARDA.
- Designate specific areas for off-leash dog use.
- No further restrictions for dogs are necessary.
- Establish area where dogs under control can be off leash in wave slope and another areas where dogs must be on leash and enforce it.
- Do not ban dogs. Don’t punish responsible users because you cannot enforce rules.
- I support dogs leashed at all times.
- Dogs must be leashed always.
- There should be a separate low-conflict and/or exclusive off-leash area. Issue dog permits.
- Set aside a well demarcated doggy use area away from plovers or leash only.

- Require that dogs be leashed at all times, if allowed to run loose provide a confined fenced area.
- Dogs on leash at all times. Too many roving large packs of dogs and loose dogs waiting for surfers.
- Please, no leashes on Moonstone.
- Dog can't swim on a leash, please consider continued access for dogs on both beaches.
- require dogs to be leashed at all times.
- Dogs should be on a leash.
- Surfers bring dogs with them and leave them on the beach roaming freely while they surf.

Camping

- Compatibility of activities – use as a recreation site – not as a low-cost housing area, please.
- Overnight camping should be banned
- Only paid and limited overnight camping in certain sections.
- I would like to see a reduction in long-term camping, and no driving or camping on the beach.
- Short-term camping only.
- Day use parking only.
- Excluding troublemaking grade of campers, best to have no camping at all or confine to south parking lot and limit stay.
- There must be strict limits on days for campers.
- More campsites, fresh water.
- “Car” camping encourages drug & alcohol use & serious consequences.
- Limit dune and beach access at Clam Beach during the night, stop homeless camps in dunes.
- Would not mind if camping were discontinued. However if supported by community should be better managed with appropriate facilities.
- There should be no overnight camping at Clam Beach.
- Make Clam Beach day use only.
- Restrict overnight camping to one night.
- This really only needs to be a day use facility.
- Clam Beach is one of the best way points for stopover in Northern California.
- Camping at the beach is destroying the beach for other users, and it should be eliminated.

Wildlife/Habitat

- Rehabilitation of dune habitat (beach grass and other exotic plant removal.)
- Protecting plovers and dune vegetation.
- Preserve and protect open space and wildlife
- Retain as much “naturalness” as possible.
- Public education about protecting the dunes and the Western Snowy Plover habitat.
- I want to see the recovery of the snowy plover.
- Keep in mind the beach environment, impacts of shifting sands and ocean waves.
- Access to beach for walkers on trail below vista point. Would a few walker endanger the nesting birds?
- Horses should be prohibited during snowy plover nesting season.
- Issue with allowing woodcutters to cut up large driftwood logs. Driftwood has many uses it creates wildlife habitat on the beach, provides a wind break and creates cover for fish.
- Protect all natural resources.
- True value is the natural habitat.
- Concerned about lack of input in regard to snowy plover’s needs, if necessary seasonal closure of critical areas to all human use.
- Protection of wildlife, plants, and other natural features as the principal function and duty of parks.
- Want to help preserve snowy plover nesting sites, but I need them to be very well marked.
- Add an option to enhance and rehabilitate plover habitat.

Other

- It is most important to coordinate with state parks.
- More trashcans, implement “adopt-a-beach” program.
- Trashcans on the beach.
- Too much ugly trash, hazardous trash and rude people.
- More litter and trash removal off beaches and dunes.
- No bonfires in dunes.
- Open our parks up they belong to us, more permitted campfires.
- Create a no dog no horse zone for those beach users that hate animals.
- Safety of the water of Little River.
- No chain saws.
- Provide more trash and recycling containers at Moonstone.
- County, state and private property should be consolidated into one park.
- I do not know of any complaints towards horses. They seem to have a small impact.
- Allow horseback riding.

- Horses must avoid plover nesting areas.
- Favor restricting horses to the wave-slope and providing specific access routes to the beach.

3rd & 4th Meetings (Draft Plan) - 37 comments

Facilities

- Gate not necessary use monuments.
- The rip rap and wall are needed for the Moonstone parking lot.
- Not too excited about frontage road being one way.
- If you put kiosk at entrance need to have a bypass for those who have no questions or needs.
- Opposed to spending tax dollars on interpretive signs and monuments.
- Use a light hand in developing campsites, put development in places that are already abused.
- Extensive remakes will be expensive, prioritize projects given funding constraints.
- Do not expand number of campsites, change main access away from creek, keep facilities primitive.
- Site plans for visitor services at Clam Beach seem excellent.
- Use boardwalks to provide ADA access.
- Support concept of park ranger residence at the park with perhaps a combination interpretive center.

Enforcement/Ordinances

- Vigorously enforce leash laws and no vehicles at Moonstone.
- Rules and courtesies must be maintained for vehicles and dogs to co-exist with other beach users.
- Need an enforcement piece that works, meaningful presence for 2 months after significant policy change, signage, publicity, and education.
- Effective enforcement of a few good rules rather than making more rules and restrictions.
- Object to any changes (in rules) at County controlled beaches.
- Don't need more rules, just more enforcement of the existing ones.
- Utilize resources for enforcing laws and patrolling beach
- Public education is crucial component of enforcement, before new rules take effect do outreach.
- Elevate Park Caretakers enforcement authority to allow them to issue citations.
- Park staff classifications should be enhanced with an enforcement component added.

Vehicle Use

- Prohibit driving on Clam Beach except for handicapped and commercial fishing.
- Agree with recommendation to limit vehicle use.
- Object to vehicles on any beach area.
- Keep the traffic away, decreases ability to enjoy the natural beauty.
- Would like a ban on vehicles on the beach period.
- Do not see why the seasonal restriction is required concerning the snow plover.
- Opposed to vehicles in any form at any time on our public beaches.
- Not suggesting that vehicles be banned but they need to follow rules.
- Would like more restrictive vehicle policy.
- Clam Beach is about the only beach area 4X4 vehicle usable County wide.
- Preference for shift from cars being “Rights” to concept of “Privilege”, permit with justifiable reason.
- Totally opposed to banning vehicles from the beach.
- Vehicles provide an opportunity to enjoy the beach to those who might not otherwise be able, access by card lock seems to make sense.
- Oppose driving on beaches, electronic keys and locks are expensive but probably best option, charge.
- Restraints on driving on the beach seem moderate, a beach full of cars becomes a beach only for cars.
- Beaches should allow many recreational uses including vehicles.
- Seasonal vehicle closure is the minimum that the County should enforce.
- Do not restrict vehicles-provide paid permits seasonally.
- Vehicle use other than by disabled or commercial fishers no longer acceptable use of Clam Beach.
- Recommend increasing the vehicle restriction period.
- Support limited permitted vehicle use for clamming, fishing, and disabled, strongly oppose any other vehicle use.
- Do not support the use of vehicles on the beaches.
- Strongly in favor of closing beach to vehicles year round, use boardwalks to provide ADA access.
- Continue to be compelling reasons to curtail or end the use of vehicles on Clam Beach.
- Restricting vehicles at Mad River worked well, would also work at Clam Beach.
- All handicapped, fishermen, clambers, wood permit holders. Etc. should have vehicle access, gate with surveillance or key fee.

Dogs

- Agree with recommendation to limit unleashed dog use.
- Why should my dog be controlled when all he does is surf the waves?
- Keeping dogs leashed to wave slope is a good compromise.
- County should have a planning group for the dog “problem”.
- Why outside of the snowy plover season can’t I have my dog off leash anywhere on the beach?
- Dogs should be on leashes, period!
- Strongly support that dogs be on leashes unless they will reliably call back at their masters first call.
- The plan is too restrictive on dog use, especially without periodic review written into the plan.
- Preference for shift from loose dogs being “Rights” to concept of “Privilege”.
- Don’t think dogs should be restricted from running free & playing as long as they are under control.
- Dogs ought to have free access to the wave slope.
- Approve emphatically of all restrictions on dogs.
- Leash requirement seems pretty minimal, proposal to certify dog owners for leash free use is good.
- Dismayed by the proposed plan to require that dogs be leashed off of wave slope.
- Adopting an ordinance that dogs must be leashed makes compliance and enforcement easier.
- Dog corridor (unleashed) to wave slope should be added, seasonal restrictions on dogs should be removed.
- Can live with latest rules, banning dogs from beaches would be curbing my rights and freedoms.
- Strongly against the leashed dog plan, particularly at Clam Beach.
- Recommend deleting the wave slope restriction at Moonstone Beach.
- Oppose dogs being allowed to roam freely on beaches, absolutely support leash laws.
- Dogs should be on a leash at all times in all places.

Camping

- Continue to restrict number of days camping is allowed.
- Current park staff is not adequate to manage Clam Beach as an overnight campground.
- Lift camping restrictions on Clam Beach Drive.

Wildlife/Habitat

- Snowy plover is clearly in need of more protection.

- Closing area from rock formation to Mad River to protect plover is a fraud on the general public.
- Science supporting areas being set aside for plovers needs to be more substantial.
- Be realistic snowy plover is about to be delisted.
- Decline due to people using plover habitat which they need for nesting and foraging.
- Management strategies at Clam Beach must place recovery of threatened snowy plover as paramount.
- Plover should be a non-issue.

Other

- When a person loses any public access to public lands they are not better off.

5th Meeting (Draft Plan)

Following the fifth public meeting, the Public Works Department received hundreds of letters and e-mails, and petitions with thousands of signatures. The primary subject was vehicle access to the beach, and the comments reflected strong opinions and concerns regarding the issue. The following summary provides a sample of the comments received regarding vehicle access:

Comments Opposed to Further Vehicle Restrictions

- Different people enjoy different types of recreation. There is a long history of beach-driving, and the beach is a place where memories are created and shared among many generations of people who enjoy motorized travel as part of their recreation.
- Less than 1% of California's 1,100 miles of coastline is open for motorized access. Restricting vehicle access at Clam Beach will reduce access for a large number of people to one of the very few places where vehicles are still allowed.
- The County should work with local pro-access groups to develop partnerships for management of the area.
- Closing the beach to motorized access conflicts with the ability of a group to engage in the recreation of their choosing and years of history of their being allowed to do so.
- Most four-wheelers are considerate and safe.
- Vehicle use helps spread out the use on the beach and makes it safer.
- The historical path of restricted use is continued restrictions as time goes on. The current recommendations reflect a trend in restrictions of beach use that leaves very few options available of places to go with families.
- People are frustrated with government eroding traditional uses of the public's natural resources and telling people what is best for them.
- Clam and Moonstone beaches are becoming the most used beaches in Humboldt County because the other beaches are so restricted. Rather than restricting Clam and Moonstone, more beaches need to have restrictions lifted so people can have more choices of beaches to enjoy.

- We spend many hours on Clam Beach and enjoy the freedom to bring our supplies to a secluded spot in our truck.

Comments Supporting Further Vehicle Restrictions

- Personal stories about encounters with vehicles on the beach that are not complying with park ordinances. Accounts of near-misses and feeling endangered from vehicles driving out of control. The noise level from the ocean and wind can prevent people from hearing or noticing an approaching vehicle. Too many people and animals are using the beach to safely allow vehicle usage.
- Vehicles abusing the beach cause noise and disruption and create a threatening environment. This condition discourages other people from coming to the beach, causes people to modify their activities at the beach (e.g., avoid the waveslope, look over their shoulders), and interferes with their enjoyment of the natural surroundings.
- The beach and its beauty hardly seem appropriate for vehicles. There has been a significant decline in the quality of the beach experience at Clam Beach. Enjoying a beach means that children and adults can and do run around freely.
- Vehicles create adverse effects to the ecology of the beach and sensitive habitat. The beach is not just for people. Vehicles are dangerous to people and animals alike.
- The economic well-being of the County of Humboldt is better served as a place for bird lovers to come and observe birds in their habitat, and tourists of every stripe who enjoy ambulatory beach activities.
- Provisions supporting vehicle use for commercial fishermen, the elderly, and the disabled are appropriate.
- Clammers should be able to walk with their bucket to clams.
- The County's proposed plan strikes a reasonable compromise and is a step in the right direction. The proposed plan appears to be an optimal solution for all concerned.
- All vehicles should be prohibited from the beach year-round.
- Cars, SUVs and trucks are all designed for the highway, not beaches.