

SAN MATEO COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION
LIBRARY COPY
PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE

Draft
**San Bruno Mountain
State and County Park
Master Plan**

April 20, 2001

Prepared by:
Royston
Hanamoto
Alley &
Abey

County of San Mateo
Parks and Recreation Division

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Introduction	1-1
Purpose of the Master Plan	1-2
Location	1-3
History of San Bruno Mountain	1-4
Planning Process	1-5
Planning Area	1-5
Regulating Framework for the Master Plan	1-5
San Bruno Mountain State and County Park General Plan	1-6
Habitat Conservation Plan	1-6
California Department of Parks and Recreation	1-8
County of San Mateo General Plan	1-9
Summary of Master Plan Recommendations	1-11
Phasing and Priorities	1-14

2. Objectives and Policies

Introduction	2-1
A Vision of San Bruno Mountain	2-1
Mission of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park	2-1
Master Plan Objectives	2-2
Park Issues	2-2
Resource Management Issues	2-2
Land Use and Facilities Issues	2-3
Operations and Maintenance Issues	2-3
Proposed Park Policies	2-4
Resource Management Policies	2-4
Land Use Policies	2-5
Operations and Maintenance Policies	2-6
Definitions	2-7

3. Master Plan Recommendations

Introduction	3-1
Resource Management Issues and Recommendations	3-2
Invasive Non-native Vegetation	3-2
Resource Management	3-2
Undesignated Trails	3-3
Grassland Plant Communities	3-4
Domestic and Non-native Animals	3-5
Native American Sites	3-5
Poaching	3-6
Eucalyptus Trees	3-7
Land Use and Facilities Issues and Recommendations	3-8
Recreational Use and Facilities	3-8
Active Recreation Facilities	3-9
Recreation versus Resource Protection	3-9
Adjacent Residential Population	3-10

Access from Neighboring Cities 3-11

Trails and Protection of Vegetation 3-11

Dog Use 3-12

Communications Towers 3-13

Park Center 3-13

Sense of Arrival 3-14

Park Roads 3-15

Owl and Buckeye Canyons 3-16

Additional Recreation Recommendations 3-17

Master Plan Maps 3-22

Operations and Maintenance Issues and Recommendations 3-28

 Park Staffing 3-28

 Park Maintenance Facility 3-29

 Utilities 3-31

 Community Relations 3-31

 Dedication of Parcels 3-32

 Transit Access 3-33

Master Plan Compatibility with HCP 3-34

4. Resources Setting

Introduction 4-1

Natural Resources 4-3

 Wildlife 4-3

 Butterflies 4-3

 Birds 4-7

 Mammals 4-8

 Other Animals 4-8

 Vegetation 4-10

 Geology 4-13

 Topography 4-13

 Hydrology 4-14

 Climate 4-14

Cultural Resources 4-15

 Prehistoric Resources 4-15

 Historic Resources 4-15

Aesthetic Resources 4-16

Recreation Resources 4-17

5. Land Use and Facilities Setting

Introduction 5-1

Existing Land Use and Facilities 5-1

 Entrance Station 5-1

 Circulation 5-1

 Recreational Use and Facilities 5-2

 Native Plant Botanic Area 5-4

 4-H Club 5-4

 Nike Site 5-4

 Utilities and Easements 5-4

 Adjacent Undeveloped Land 5-5

 Opportunities and Constraints 5-6

6. Operations and Maintenance Setting

Introduction 6-1
 Present Park Operations and Maintenance 6-1
 Staffing 6-1
 Volunteers 6-2
 Project Coordination 6-2
 Interpretation 6-2
 Interpretive Plan 6-3
 Resource Management 6-3
 Natural Resources 6-4
 Fire Management 6-4
 Cultural Resources 6-4
 Public Relations and Outreach 6-5
 Public Safety 6-5
 Funding and Revenue 6-6

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: *Standards for Acceptance of Any Dedicated Lands by the County of San Mateo in Accordance with the San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan* 7-2
 Appendix 2: Public Workshop #1 Summary 7-8
 Appendix 3: Public Workshop #2 Summary 7-10
 Appendix 4: Focus Group #1 Summary 7-18
 Appendix 5: Focus Group #2 Summary 7-21
 Appendix 6: Executive Interviews 7-25
 Appendix 7: Summary of Questionnaire Responses 7-37

List of Figures

1. Introduction

Location Map (Fig. 1-1)	1-3
Planning Areas (Fig. 1-2)	1-7

3. Master Plan

Master Plan Map (Fig. 3-1)	3-23
Interpretive Opportunities (Fig. 3-2)	3-25
Proposed Park Center (Fig. 3-3)	3-27
Alternative Sites for Maintenance Facility (Fig. 3-4)	3-30

4. Resource Setting

Location of Endangered Butterfly Species (Fig. 4-1)	4-4, 4-5
Distribution of Rare and Endangered Plants (Fig. 4-2)	4-12

5. Land Use and Facilities Setting

Existing Land Use and Facilities (Fig. 5-1)	5-7
Opportunities and Constraints (Fig. 5-2)	5-9

Introduction

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park is an open space island surrounded by a sea of urbanization. Located in northern San Mateo County, the park is surrounded by the cities of Brisbane, South San Francisco, Colma, and Daly City. San Francisco is less than a half mile to the north. In spite of the surrounding presence of urbanization, San Bruno Mountain has remained a unique remnant of the area's natural and cultural history. With most of the upper slopes undeveloped, this park remains one of the largest expanses of natural landscapes on the northern San Francisco peninsula.



San Bruno Mountain's climate, geology and topography provides habitat to an array of rare, endangered and unique species of plants and animals. It has been cited as one of the most important and threatened biodiversity sites in the world (Edward O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*.) The most well-known of the rare species on San Bruno Mountain are three endangered butterfly species: the Mission Blue, Callippe Silverspot, and San Bruno Elfin. The butterflies rely on specific host plants that grow in abundance on the mountain.

Due to the presence of these rare butterflies, it was determined that the 1973 Federal Endangered Species Act restricted development on the private lands, on and around the mountain. Until the Act was reauthorized and amended by Congress in 1982 allowing for the incidental taking of endangered species, development plans could not be approved. The 1982 amendment to the Endangered Species Act allowed for an incidental take of the butterflies, providing that a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was prepared and approved which would secure the preservation of the species. Using the plan, the US Fish & Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior could base the issuance of an incidental take permit allowing for the development to proceed. A Habitat Conservation Plan was completed and a permit was issued in 1983. This HCP guides and limits development on the mountain, including any proposed development within San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. It does so only to the extent that such park development must meet the requirement that essentially no impact occurs that might further disturb the ecosystem supporting the species of concern beyond that which the HCP already allows.



Mission Blue butterfly
Photo: John Hafernik



San Bruno Elfin butterfly
Photo: John Hafernik



Callippe Silverspot butterfly
Photo: Malcolm Sproul

Since this time, the park has been managed for the enhancement of habitat while also providing recreational opportunities. Over the past several years, the County has sensed an increasing demand for active uses while trying to maintain the delicate balance of the unique ecological system.

Because of changes which have taken place on and around San Bruno Mountain since the arrival of European and American settlers, there is a diminishing natural ecosystem. Those unique aspects of the biological regime which make San Bruno Mountain very special are the remnants of natural processes no longer available. With the encirclement of San Bruno Mountain, natural migration of terrestrial animals has ceased. The grazing herds of cattle were removed in 1963 and deer also disappeared. With the absence of grazers, there was a greater effort made in fire protection. These changes coincided with the proliferation of non-native plants and animals, resulting in the loss of ecologically important grasslands. What were open grasslands supporting host plants for the Mission blue, Callippe silverspot, and San Bruno elfin butterflies, have now been altered to brush land of one kind or another including the rampant spread of invasive non-natives (weeds such as gorse, broom, fennel, eucalyptus, and non-native annual grasses.) Simultaneously, native coyote brush and ceanothus have likewise taken over grasslands.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division is committed to promoting parks and park programs that foster stewardship of our natural resources and community well being. To this end, this Master Plan is dedicated towards resolving these needs and providing guidance not only to resolve the unbalanced ecosystem but also to provide the type of recreational facilities which fit in with the concepts of stewardship and the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Purpose of the Master Plan

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park is operating under a General Plan adopted in May 1982. Since the establishment of this plan, several changes have occurred that need to be taken into consideration for the complete management of the Parks natural, cultural and recreational resources.

The primary change, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), was written six months after the approval of the General Plan. The HCP greatly influenced the management and operation of the Park for the enhancement of habitat for the species of concern. It also established various development agreements with the surrounding communities, developers and private interests. This, in turn, resulted in growth of the population on the perimeter of the Park, which is now placing an increased demand on the Park for recreational resources. Land to be donated and “dedicated” for habitat to the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park was included in these development agreements as mitigation for the impact of the development to the endangered species. This future addition of land also needs to be managed by the County for natural, cultural and recreational resources.

The purpose of this Master Plan is to incorporate these changes, evaluate the existing conditions, determine current and future demand for land use and

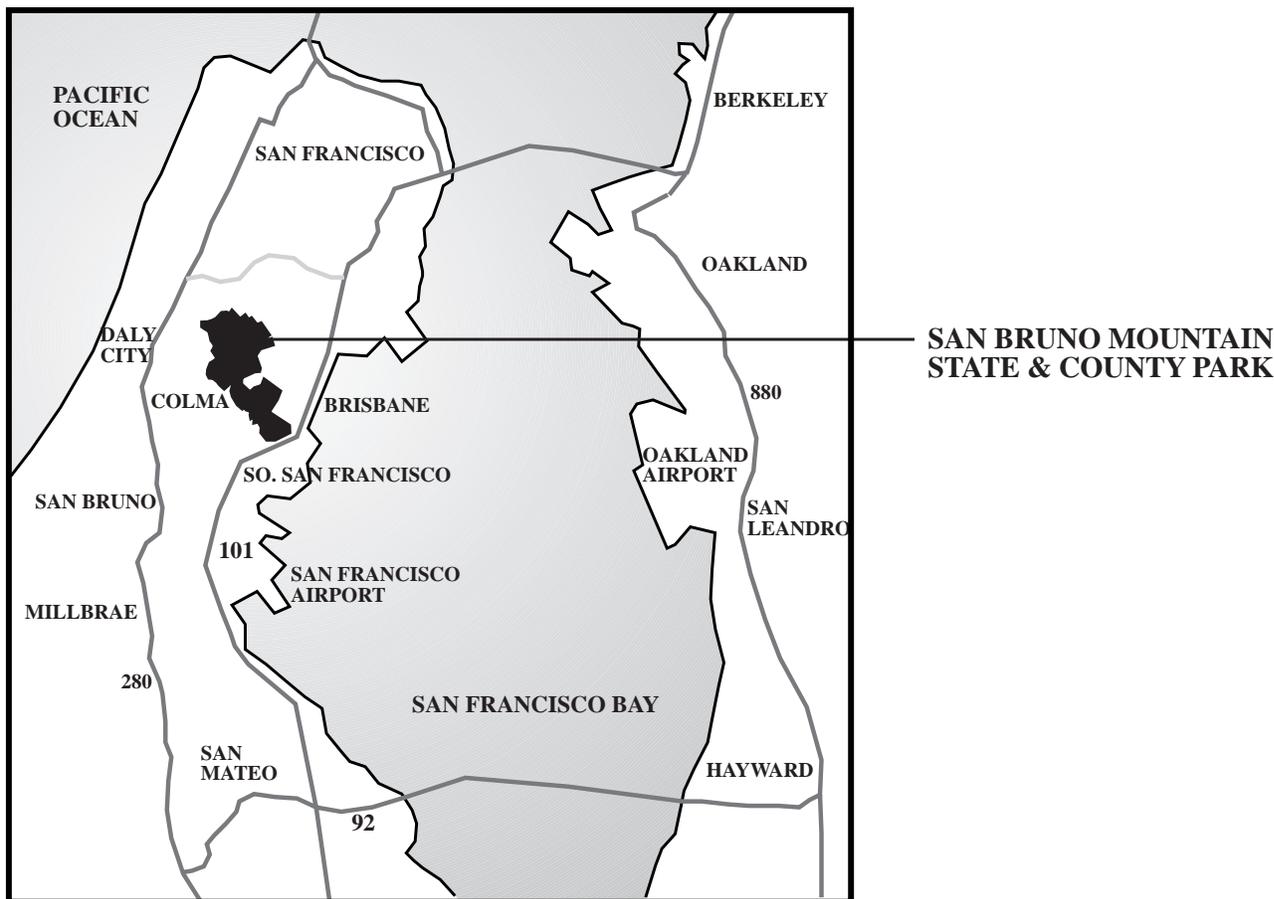
facilities, and review the operations of the Park. To present all of this information, this Master Plan is separated into the following elements:

- Objectives and Policies
- Resources
- Land Use and Facilities
- Operations and Maintenance

Location

Located in San Mateo County on the San Francisco Peninsula of Northern California, San Bruno Mountain State and County Park encompasses approximately 2,064 acres (through the HCP, 750 acres have been or will be dedicated to the park, bringing it to approximately 2,700 acres). Elevations range from approximately 250 feet to 1,314 feet above sea level. The Park is divided by Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, which provides the primary access to the Park and connects the surrounding communities of Daly City, Colma and Brisbane.

Besides the cities located around the perimeter, several parcels of private and public land are within and around the Park's boundaries. At the summit of San Bruno Mountain is private land, consisting of 21.4 acres, which contains several radio and broadcast towers. On the east side of the mountain, adjacent to the Crocker Industrial Park, is the Guadalupe



Location Map Fig. 1-1

NTS

Valley Quarry which rises upward towards the northern edge of the Ridge Trail. To the east of the quarry are Owl and Buckeye Canyons, which are owned by the California Department of Fish and Game. The Park also contains easements for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the California Department of Forestry (CDF), the San Francisco Water Department (SFWD), and AT&T.

History of San Bruno Mountain

The Ohlone Indians established the first known human settlement on San Bruno Mountain. Current archeological sites date back approximately 5,000 years and exhibit a potential village settlement at the base of the Mountain. Centuries later, in 1774, early Spanish explorers climbed San Bruno Mountain, later naming it Bruno Haceta in honor of a patron saint. After Mexico declared its independence from Spain, the area became part of the 1837 Cañada de Guadalupe Visitación y Rodeo Viejo Spanish Land Grant. In 1872, with the American occupation of California, the Visitación Land Company acquired the land. The land has changed hands several times throughout the years, but the primary use of the land was cattle grazing. World War II saw increasing military use of the mountain. During the Cold War, the Bay Area's Nike missile system was built at several sites in the coastal mountains and included a radar site on San Bruno Mountain. In the 1960's, San Bruno Mountain became the subject of various development proposals.

In the past four decades, aggressive urbanization of the peninsula has surrounded the Mountain, resulting in a number of development proposals ranging in scale from residential developments to the idea of leveling the Mountain to provide Bay fill. The threat of development sparked local groups' interest in preserving the land in its natural state.

In 1972, voters approved funds for a 10-year acquisition and development program for creation of San Mateo County Park lands. The County considered San Bruno Mountain a high priority for acquisition due to its scenic and recreation value and its important biological resources. The Crocker Land Company settled litigation with the County in 1978 by selling 1,110 acres and donating another 546 acres, establishing the framework of San Bruno Mountain County Park.

In 1976 the County Board of Supervisors approved a General Plan amendment to keep the Saddle area in open space. At the same time the Board provided an opportunity for private development within the spheres of influence of the cities of Brisbane and South San Francisco. In 1980, the State of California acquired the Mountain's Saddle area to become part of the State Park System. The County then formed an operating agreement with the State, merging the parklands into San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

The Park remains one of the few natural recreation areas for the four cities that surround it.

Planning Process

The process for developing the Master Plan consists of several steps:

- Meeting with County staff, collecting data, visiting site
- Community and stakeholder input
- Development of Draft Master Plan
- Response to comments on the Draft Master Plan
- Presentation of Final Master Plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the County Board of Supervisors
- Following conceptual approval by the Board of Supervisors, an EIR will be prepared
- After certification of the EIR, the Master Plan will be adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Beyond the initial site visits and data collection, community and stakeholder input was received through three public workshops, three focus group meetings, several executive interviews and two questionnaires, all of which were considered in the development of this Master Plan. For the individual summaries of the public comment received, see the Appendix.

Planning Area

For the purposes of this Master Plan, all real property associated with San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has been included in this plan. This includes lands owned by the State (except Owl and Buckeye Canyons in California Department of Fish and Game ownership) and County, and parcels identified for future dedication. The Master Plan does not distinguish between property under current park management and land yet to be dedicated as part of an HCP agreement. The actual dates for dedication are approximate and are based on future approval of developments by various governmental and regulatory agencies. Dedications may be in the form of fee-simple dedication (County will own the land outright) or as an easement (County will have rights to use and manage land, but not own it).

Regulating Framework for the Master Plan

In order to gain the full understanding and perspective of San Bruno Mountain and this Master Plan, it is important to present some background information relative to the use, operation and management of the Park. Beyond the existing site conditions and outside influences, the Park has numerous constraints established by the County of San Mateo, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), and the State of California.

The Park is under the management of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division, so County ordinances and regulations apply. The State land is managed by the County, and all County ordinances and regulations apply to the State property unless the State regulations are more restrictive. It is because of these regulations that the Park does not allow dogs (or pets of any type), firearms, or off-road vehicles.

The following information presents the planning parameters with which this document was developed.

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park General Plan

Developed in 1982, this General Plan was established before the completion of the HCP. The proposed land uses and facility development presented in the General Plan have been incorporated into the HCP. The General Plan provided the foundation for this Master Plan, and the framework in which to ensure compatibility with the HCP.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Concern over the presence of Federally listed endangered species and the pressures of outside development interests led to the creation of the Habitat Conservation Plan in November, 1982. The HCP, the first in the nation, was developed to preserve and enhance habitat for endangered butterfly species. It is felt by some that without the development of the HCP there would be a significant risk that the species of concern would eventually become extinct. One primary objective of the HCP is stated as the *“Preservation of the existing diverse ecological values.”*¹

One of the important functions of the Plan is to allow both public and private projects on San Bruno Mountain to be planned so as to minimize the effect on endangered species and the other biological resources of the mountain. As a mitigation measure for the impact of new development on endangered species, the HCP requires the conveyance to the County of substantial additional habitat currently in private ownership. This has resulted in the dedication of butterfly habitat areas to the park that would have otherwise been developed. In addition, the developments provide on-going funding for management of the habitat areas.

The HCP and the accompanying Agreement provides the following:

1. It allows for a certain amount of development within known habitat areas.
2. It provides for limited uses in all lands set aside for conserved habitat (some of those lands are yet to be dedicated to the County).
3. It provides for specific funding in perpetuity for the monitoring and enhancement of habitat (such funding includes a formula for annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index).

It is important to note that all proposed uses and facility development presented in the 1982 General Plan were incorporated into the HCP. Therefore, in theory, if the County wanted to implement the General Plan it would still be within the parameters of the HCP.

From its inception, the HCP has been a controversial topic that has long been the subject of litigation. Intended as a balanced solution to conflicts between endangered species and private land, the HCP is seen by some environmentalists as legitimizing the taking of critical habitat. This master plan acknowledges the issue and its sensitivities, but also recognizes the legitimacy of the HCP as upheld in the courts.

HCP Objective for the County Park

The HCP states the following objective regarding the State and County Park development:

*“The County Park is intended to be used as a regional recreation area for the surrounding urban centers, inviting people to learn about the unique ecology of San Bruno Mountain. It will also serve as a way to preserve that ecology. Therefore, the HCP approach to the County Park is to conserve existing habitat by minimizing the effects of the encroachment of humans and introduced plant species. This will be achieved by minimizing construction activities, limiting access to particularly sensitive areas, and eradicating unwanted plants or trees.”*²

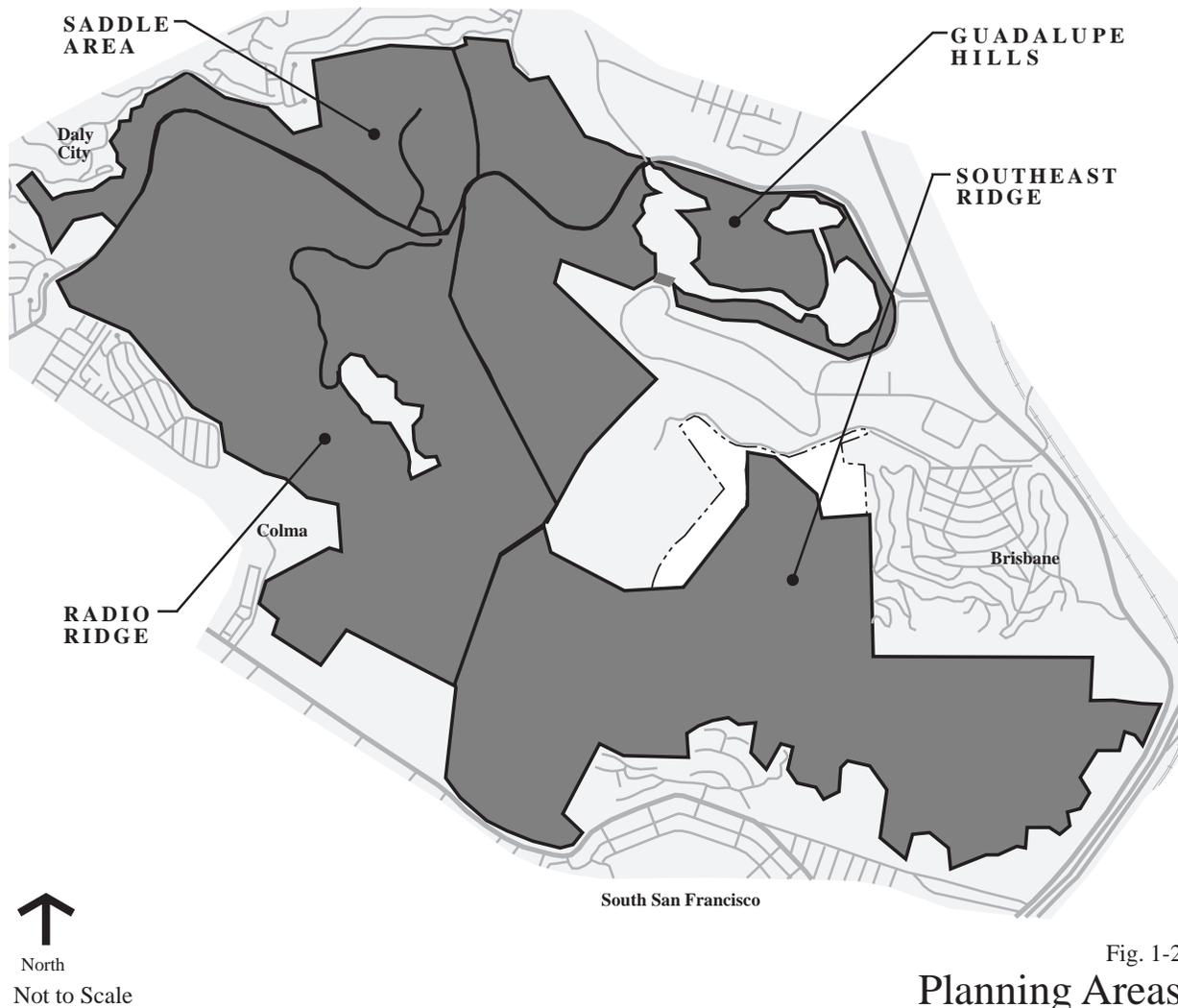


Fig. 1-2

Planning Areas

To maintain consistency with the terminology of the HCP, this Master Plan will refer to the same planning areas used in the HCP when discussing areas within San Bruno Mountain. It is important to note that because the management of the HCP encompasses areas beyond the boundary of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, these planning areas include parcels not discussed within the parameters of this document. The HCP divides the Mountain into the following four planning areas:

- Guadalupe Hills (Northeast Ridge)
- Southeast Ridge
- Radio Ridge
- Saddle

These areas represent a convenient demarcation of political and topographic conditions on the land.

California Department of Parks & Recreation

As stated earlier, San Bruno Mountain is a combination of State and County lands. The management of the State Park land was established under an operating agreement in 1980 between the State of California and the County of San Mateo. This agreement allows for the development, operation, control and maintenance of State property in conjunction with the County property.³ The area owned by the State is regularly referred to as the “Saddle Area” throughout the HCP, this Master Plan and other planning documents.

The agreement also states that new development, construction, or improvements to enhance recreational facilities at the park shall be in accordance with the State General Plan for San Bruno Mountain State Park.

“All lands owned and/or managed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation are classified by the State Parks and Recreation Commission into one of the following categories: State wilderness; State Reserve; State Park; or one of several types of State Recreation units. This is done for the purpose of insuring development compatible with the scenic, historical or environmental character of the site as well as regional recreation needs. The saddle area of San Bruno Mountain was purchased by the State in January of 1979 and was classified by the State Parks and Recreation Commission as a State Park on December 11, 1981. The County portion of San Bruno Mountain does not require State Classification, not being a part of the State Park System. Development in the County area, however, will be generally consistent with State Park Standards.”⁴

The Public Resources Code, Section 5001.5 (c) defines a State Park as follows:

“State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, often times also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of the ecological regions of California.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for such recreational activities including but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sight-seeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public’s enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.”⁵

County of San Mateo General Plan

The San Mateo County General Plan Park and Recreation Element provides a regulatory framework for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. In the inventory of County facilities, San Bruno Mountain is classified as a **park** which is defined as follows:

“A spacious area of outstanding scenic and natural character where outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities may be provided for public convenience and enjoyment and within which special natural areas, geologic exhibits or historic places can be set aside.”⁶

The General Plan provides a description of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park:

“A rugged landscape of 2,064 acres, located in Northern San Mateo County adjacent to the southern boundary of San Francisco, this open space area includes species of rare and endangered plant life as well as rare and endangered butterflies. In addition, trails to the summit provide outstanding views of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Riding and hiking trails are available.”

The General Plan also provides **standards** and **planning and management guidelines** for County facilities classified as parks:

“STANDARDS

1. *The major portion of a park should include (or potentially include) an area of outstanding scenic and natural character. This area should be designated as a Natural Area for planning and management purposes.*
2. *A smaller portion(s) of a park should be suitable for accommodating a variety of recreation activities. The area(s) should be designated as a Facilities Cluster(s) for planning and management purposes.*

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. *Emphasis should be placed on locating County parks within 15 minutes of urban areas.*

Natural Areas

2. *The purpose of Natural Areas is to assure the protection of the natural environment within a significant portion of a County park.*
3. *The most important management objective is to determine the prime resource of the park and to protect and enhance it.*
4. *Only those recreation activities compatible with this primary management objective should be allowed.*
5. *Development of recreation facilities should be limited to those which make the unit available for public enjoyment and conve-*

nience in a manner which is consistent with the protection and enhancement of the prime resource. Development may include facilities for nature interpretation, hiking and horseback riding trails. Access should be controlled.

6. *Resource management techniques such as tree cutting, controlled burning, reforestation and planting may be used to preserve, maintain or recreate the desired environmental setting. Preference should be given to planting native species.*

Facilities Cluster

7. *Facilities Clusters should contain substantially all of the recreation development that is provided within a County park.*
8. *Development in a facilities cluster should be limited to those facilities which are consistent with the protection and enhancement of the primary resource. Development may include campgrounds, youth group camps, picnic areas, commercial concessions, nature interpretive facilities, nature, hiking and horseback riding trails and equestrian facilities. Access should be controlled.*
9. *All developed facilities should be designed, landscaped and managed to harmonize visually with the surrounding natural environment.”⁷*

The County General Plan contains other policies that are relevant to San Bruno Mountain. These include the following:

- 6.5 *Access to Park and Recreation Facilities.*
 - a. *Attempt to provide appropriate access and conveniences for all people in park and recreation facilities*
 - b. *Encourage access to the park and recreation system by transportation means other than private automobiles, where feasible.*
 - c. *Attempt to provide adequate access for emergency services.*
- 6.31 *Charge User Fees. Charge reasonable user fees to offset maintenance and operation costs as needed.*
- 6.34 *Use of Volunteer Programs.*
 - a. *Support, encourage and recognize volunteer and docent programs to help maintain and operate the County park and recreation system and to educate the public in the understanding and appreciation of its facilities.*
 - b. *Provide interpretation programs which will encourage the support of volunteer assistance.*

Summary of Master Plan Recommendations

Following is a summary of Master Plan recommendations. The complete list of recommendations can be found in Chapter 3.

1. Resource Management

Following evaluation of current needs and existing efforts the Master Plan made the following recommendations:

- Be proactive about invasive non-native vegetation and grasslands management, above and beyond current HCP vegetation management activities.
- Develop both a Resource and Cultural Resources Management Plan to develop a more comprehensive approach to resource management to address all of the park's natural and cultural resources. Most resource work in the park currently stems from the HCP and focuses primarily on the endangered butterfly species and their habitat.
- Develop a Trail Plan to address the improvement and maintenance of existing and proposed trails for different users as well as elimination of unauthorized trails.
- Develop an active program recommending to reduce and eventually eliminate non-native feral cat populations.
- Develop an active program to reduce poaching of threatened and endangered butterflies.
- Eucalyptus stands with significant historic and aesthetic values should be considered for preservation; however selected eucalyptus stands should continue where those stands can be successfully eradicated and replaced with native habitat planting. Areas to be cleared should be no larger than that which the County has the ability and resources to perform necessary and well-planned restorations.

2. Land Use and Facilities

After evaluating appropriate recreational uses and facilities for San Bruno Mountain the Master Plan made the following recommendations:

- Continue to manage the Park as a open space preserve, with the particular goal of maintaining and enhancing its value as habitat for endangered species. Recreational uses and access should be permitted to the extent that they are compatible with the preservation of park resources such as, walking/hiking, jogging,

sightseeing, nature studies, bicycling, horseback riding (in designated areas) and picnicking.

- Explore opportunities for the development of new recreation facilities, like the Day Camp on the Colma side of the park. Such facilities could be developed in partnership with surrounding cities and are to be limited to appropriate sites that are designated for development in the HCP.
- Gain a better understanding of the adjacent residential populations use of the Park, increase monitoring of sensitive habitats that may be impacted by visitor use, and increase outreach to homeowners associations to introduce the park and its issues.
- Work with local cities to provide access and funding for trail connections from park boundaries to surrounding cities.
- Continue the existing policy banning dog use.
- Consider acquisition of the Communications Towers if the property becomes available for purchase.
- Create a park center with interpretive exhibits, adjacent to the native plant botanical area.
- Increase signage at key points around the perimeter of the park by placing welcoming signs at the Saddle entrance, and other park access points, and at all community trailheads.
- Increase the maintenance of existing park roads for park access.
- Pursue transfer of the CA Dept. of Fish and Game's portions of Owl and Buckeye Canyons for inclusion into the Park.

3. Operations and Maintenance

In regards to operations and maintenance, the Master Plan made the following recommendations:

- In order to complete the goals of the Master Plan four additional full time equivalent positions should be added to the current full time permanent rangers and 1.5 full time equivalent Park Aide positions. The additional staff should consist of (in order of priority) a Resource Specialist, a Ranger support staff, and two Interpretive Specialists.
- Improve the existing park maintenance facility at its current location, and improve existing utilities. Study incorporating all, or partial functions of the maintenance facility with the development of the proposed Park Center.

- Plan for upgrading deficient park utility systems. Study the cost benefits of self-contained alternative systems versus standard systems.
- Improve community relations by creating a Park Advisory Committee, implement regular activities with school groups, integrate park issues with school curriculum, and work with the Friends of San Bruno Mountain to broaden their membership and activities.
- Ensure recommended protocol be followed for dedication of lands or easements under the HCP so that: (1) developers or homeowners associations are responsible for maintenance or improvements on dedicated parcels, (2) developers are required to survey and mark parcels prior to dedication, (3) there is no liability and parcels meet standards for acceptance prior to dedication, and (4) the County does not accept island parcels not directly connected to the Park.
- That the Parks Division work with SamTrans to add a bus route with connections between regional transit stations (BART and CalTrain) to the Park along the Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Phasing and Priorities

A list of major Master Plan recommendations was compiled for establishment of priorities. Recommendations will be categorized into the following priorities:

- Phase I - Short-term (1-2 years)
- Phase II - Medium-term (3-5 years)
- Phase III - Long-term (5-10 years)

Phase I - Short-term (1-2 years)

- Prepare comprehensive Resource Management Plan.
- Pursue additional funds to increase eradication of invasive non-native species.
- Conduct a detailed parkwide trails study.
- Prepare a Cultural Resource Management Plan to protect and manage Native American archeological sites within and adjacent to the park.
- Pursue funding for additional park staff: Resource specialist, Ranger support staff, Interpretive specialists (2).
- Create a Park Advisory Committee.
- Work with SamTrans to add a bus route to the park with connections to BART and CalTrain.
- Pursue transfer of DFG's portions of Owl and Buckeye Canyons for inclusion in the park.

Phase II - Medium-term (3-5 years)

- Implement recommendations of the Resource Management Plan.
- Create trail connections to surrounding communities and other trail improvements based on findings of the trail study.
- Remove and restore unneeded trails, service roads, and fire breaks.
- Create a program to reduce and eventually eliminate domestic and non-native animals.
- Implement needed improvements to park maintenance facility.
- Provide park entry signs at key points around the perimeter of the park.

Phase III - Long-term (5-10 years)

- Create a park center adjacent to the native plant botanical area.
- Plan for new recreation facility in partnership with the surrounding cities on the designated development site adjacent to the Town of Colma.
- Upgrade deficient park utility systems.

References for the Introduction are as follows:

- ¹ *Habitat Conservation Plan*, November 1982, p. S-1.
- ² *Habitat Conservation Plan*, November 1982, p. VII-233.
- ³ *Operating Agreement for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, County of San Mateo*, October 1990, p. 1.
- ⁴ *General Plan, San Bruno Mountain State and County Park*, May, 1982, p.42.
- ⁵ *Ibid.* p. 42.
- ⁶ *County of San Mateo General Plan*, p. 6.14A.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* p. 6.14A - 6.15A.

Master Plan Objectives and Policies

Introduction

This chapter identifies the Park issues and recommended policies established by this Master Plan. The issues were identified through meetings with staff, focus group members, executive interviews, and from input received at community workshops. A survey was also sent to approximately 70,000 residents with the cooperation of the surrounding cities. It is from these issues that the recommendations for the Master Plan were established.

A Vision for San Bruno Mountain

The vision for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park values its continuing role as an important part of the Bay Area's natural and cultural history, and its link in the open space network. It will continue to be valued as a place for recreation contributing to the well being of individuals and the community. The Park's unique and diverse ecological habitats will be stabilized and enhanced, reversing the decline of several endangered and threatened species. The spread of invasive, non-native plants will be controlled, and large areas are to be restored with native plant species. Park visitors will experience a network of trails for nature study or recreational use. Environmental education and interpretive programs will be conducted at the Park Center and at other key locations throughout the park. Public outreach to schools and other organized groups will establish environmental awareness and a sense of stewardship throughout the community. Public-private partnerships will be established for the development of facilities and programs, and to assist in the continued maintenance of the Park. The Park will become an integral part of the research and science community promoting biodiversity and sustainability. Although the park is surrounded by urbanization, visitors will still be able to have a wilderness experience. The vision is one that preserves the ecosystem while enhancing the visitor experience, and maintains San Bruno Mountain as one of the Bay Area's premiere open space resources.

Mission of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park

The mission of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has not changed since the 1982 General Plan was adopted as follows:

“The purpose of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park is to provide to the public a large, relatively undeveloped open space in the midst of the urban areas of north San Mateo County and southern San Francisco. The Park's benefits to the public are for the enjoyment, preservation and enhancement of scenic, biotic and recreation resources. Approximately 2520 acres of undeveloped landscape provide a setting for hiking, picnicking, nature and scenic interpretation, rare plant and butterfly preservation.

The function of San Mateo County is to develop and manage the State and County Park in a manner consistent with the Park purposes as well as State and County standards. The function of the State Department of Parks and Recreation is to oversee county use of State lands and insure that such use is consistent with plan purposes and State standards.”

Master Plan Objectives

This Master Plan establishes specific objectives which are in addition to the objectives and policies established by the County General Plan. The following objectives have guided the development of this Master Plan.

- Promote preservation and enhancement of ecological systems and diversity through preservation of existing ecological resources and enhancement of degraded areas.
- Provide for San Bruno Mountain Park's continued role in meeting the open space and recreation needs of San Mateo County and the Bay Area.
- Update park development proposals from the existing General Plan to meet current conditions, while maintaining consistency with the goals of the HCP.
- Include local community outreach and input in the development of recreation and resource management policies.
- Facilitate educational and interpretive programs in the park to meet educational and site stewardship goals and objectives.
- Identify Park issues and make recommendations for policy actions.
- Promote partnerships with adjacent cities to provide recreational opportunities as identified in the Master Plan.

Park Issues

Throughout the Master Plan process, several issues have been identified through discussions with County staff, meetings with Master Plan Focus Group members and comments from the community.

Resource Management Issues

- Invasive non-native vegetation threatens San Bruno Mountain's unique and important natural habitat areas.
- The park needs a more comprehensive approach to resource management to address all of the park's natural and cultural resources. Most resource work in the park stems from the HCP and focuses primarily on the endangered butterfly species and their habitat.
- The Park contains numerous undesignated trails.
- Grassland plant communities are in the greatest danger of being lost on San Bruno Mountain.
- Domestic animals such as feral cats have impacts on the fluctuation of native mammal and raptor populations.
- Significant Native American archeological resources have been identified in areas within and adjacent to the Park. How these resources will be managed needs to be addressed.
- Poaching and casual collecting of butterflies, crystals, flowers and other resources is becoming a problem.
- Removal and/or management of eucalyptus groves within the park will need to balance resource management goals with recreational, historic, and scenic values.

Land Use and Facilities Issues

- Some surrounding cities have expressed desire for increased active recreation facilities within the Park.
- Interest in providing areas for active recreational opportunities challenge Park objectives to protect the resource and provide areas for passive recreation.
- The growth of the residential population adjacent to the park boundaries and a corresponding change in the demographics of park users has increased use of the park.
- The lack of perimeter trails and steep terrain leaves the park isolated from neighboring communities.
- More designated trails are needed to allow visitors to access areas of the mountain without damaging adjacent vegetation.
- Desire for permitting dog use in the park has increased due the increase in number of surrounding residents. However, dog use in the Park is prohibited as part of a County-wide ordinance.
- Communication towers negatively impact the mountains visual character however, they exist on private land and are not under the County's management. The facilities operate under a County Use Permit and the County can condition any approvals for new facilities, particularly if there are negative impacts to the park.
- A lack of interpretive facilities (i.e. Park Center, interpretive exhibits, self guiding brochures) leaves educational and community outreach opportunities unrealized.
- There is an increasing demand for mountain bike access.
- Although equestrian use is permitted south of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, there are currently no specified areas for horse trailer parking.

Operations and Maintenance Issues

- Managing and operating the park with limited funding results in understaffing, significant deferred maintenance, limited resource management, limited visitor services and no interpretive programs or public outreach.
- The existing maintenance facility is substandard, and the utility service is unreliable.
- More effective community outreach and involvement is needed to expand the Park's constituency and use.
- Complicated parcel dedication process leaves park boundaries uncertain and management of border areas difficult.
- There is a lack of public transportation to the park.
- Maintenance responsibilities for drainage structures and retaining walls associated with lands to be dedicated under the HCP needs to be addressed.

Proposed Park Policies

The following proposed policies for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park have been developed in response to the park issues. The policies provide a foundation for the recommendations presented in this Master Plan. These policies, when adopted, will supplement the rules established by the County Park and Recreation Area ordinance (Chapter 3.68).

Resource Management Policies

1. San Bruno Mountain State and County Park will be managed for the protection of all natural and cultural resources.
2. All efforts shall be made to encourage and protect the rare and endangered butterfly populations on San Bruno Mountain. Known habitat areas shall be protected from indiscriminate circulation and host plants shall be protected. Areas of potential habitat should be subject to enhancement efforts.
3. Impacts of development and human use shall be minimized in areas of known rare and endangered plants. Trails and other circulation shall be routed so that they minimize intrusion of these areas. No signing or other indication shall call-out the location of the rare and endangered plant life.
4. A program of monitoring the rare and endangered plants shall be undertaken by the Park staff or in cooperation with HCP managers in order to note changes of either a positive or negative character. A record of the monitoring shall be kept in written and/or photographic form.
5. Removal of invasive non-native vegetation should proceed at a rate exceeding their rate of spread. Additional funding sources will be sought to supplement funding from the HCP.
6. Resource management activities will be coordinated and monitored with HCP managers.
7. Trail users will be restricted to travel only on existing designated trails to protect resources adjacent to trails.
8. Recreation uses of the park will be compatible with the resource management goals and policies.
9. Prohibition of dogs and other pets will be governed by the County-wide ordinance.
10. Native plant material to be planted within the Park boundaries shall only be propagated by native seed or cuttings collected on site unless seed material is not available due to limited supply or collection would further endanger species chance of survival.
11. Vegetation management will be conducted under the guidance of the HCP and the County policies. Management methods such as fire and grazing for enhancement of native grassland and other integrated pest management techniques will be employed.

12. Areas with erosion from off-road vehicle activity or other causes shall be returned to pre-existing conditions by limiting the use and traffic on these areas and by reseeding, hydromulching or other revegetation methods as appropriate.
13. Wetland areas shall be protected from uncontrolled circulation by foot or vehicular traffic so that natural features and the ecosystem are protected. Boardwalks should be considered for trails in wetland areas to allow free flow of water. Special care shall be taken to identify and protect the spring or other water source that feeds the wetland. Surface or other runoff from park development areas, particularly roadways, parking lots and leach fields, shall be channeled to other areas and dissipated in a manner that will minimize erosion and pollution while recharging ground water.
14. Eucalyptus and Monterey Cypress groves should not expand beyond existing areas. Selective removal of eucalyptus trees should be pursued, particularly in the headwaters and wetland areas of Colma Creek or as prescribed in the HCP to improve butterfly mobility. Trees obviously in danger of failing should be immediately removed.
15. Invasive, non-native plants should be controlled to the greatest extent possible. Plants such as Cape Ivy, German Ivy, Gorse, Broom, Pampas Grass, and Fennel should be attacked and removed as quickly as feasible. Highest priority for removal shall be given to areas where rare and endangered plants or butterfly habitats are threatened.
16. Employ integrated pest management practices to minimize the use of chemical controls.
17. Feral animals shall be controlled and removed from the park.
18. In the planning and construction of future park facilities, great care shall be taken to minimize their appearance and visual impact on surrounding areas. Whenever practical, facilities shall be located in zones screened from surrounding development. Native plantings and design shall be used to hide or soften exposed visual impacts.

Land Use Policies

1. Land uses proposed for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park will be consistent with the goal of preserving and enhancing the park's ecological values and diversity.
2. The park's natural character will be preserved as an important experience for visitors.
3. Consistent with the County General Plan, the Park will maintain a facilities cluster along the Guadalupe Canyon Parkway to contain the majority of the park's developed recreational facilities.

4. The County will establish a multipurpose Park Center facility.
5. An improved maintenance facility will be developed to support the maintenance functions in the park.
6. Undesignated trails will be evaluated for potential as a designated trail or restored as potential habitat areas. Proposed trail corridors as identified in this Plan will utilize available undesignated trail corridors if considered acceptable, or evaluate and establish a new, more desirable route.
7. If and when the opportunity arises to acquire land on which the communication towers exist, the County shall pursue the acquisition of this property.
8. If the PG&E towers and lines become obsolete, the towers should be removed and the easements, including related access roads, restored to their natural state.
9. Recreation projects, developed cooperatively with the surrounding cities, will be considered if consistent with this Plan and the HCP.
10. Recreational uses shall be monitored to determine potential impacts to the Park.
11. Designations and development of connector trails between the park and surrounding neighborhoods should be a cooperative effort between County Parks and the surrounding cities.

Operations and Maintenance Policies

1. Sufficient staff shall be available to maintain all park facilities and functions to a reasonable standard.
2. Sufficient staff shall be available to provide effective environmental education and interpretive services including community outreach programs.
3. Cooperative partnerships will be pursued with volunteers from the surrounding communities and other interest groups.
4. Public outreach programs should be expanded to surrounding communities, making the Park more accessible to communities thorough public-private partnerships and community programs.
5. Staff shall rigorously enforce Federal, State, and County laws to ensure the protection of the resource.
6. Existing designated trails will be maintained for year-round accessibility.
7. In the maintenance and repair of existing park facilities, great care shall be taken to minimize their appearance and visual impact on surrounding areas. Native plantings and design shall be used to hide or soften exposed visual impacts.

Definitions

Designated trail: Trails authorized and maintained by the County Parks and Recreation Division, for permitted uses.

Undesignated trail: Trails and paths that are not maintained as part of the park's trail system. Undesignated trails include informal social trails, abandoned access roads, and other unofficial routes.

HCP habitat area: Areas as defined by the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to be maintained as habitat for species of concern. Also referred to as conserved habitat areas.

Lowest priority restoration sites: Areas within designated HCP habitat areas tremendously impacted by non-native species. Due to the amount of effort and total cost required for restoration of these areas, the areas have been designated as low priority areas.

Low quality habitat area: Areas within designated HCP habitat areas that are considered to be of low value or quality of habitat for species of concern.

HCP development area: Areas as defined by the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) already approved for development.

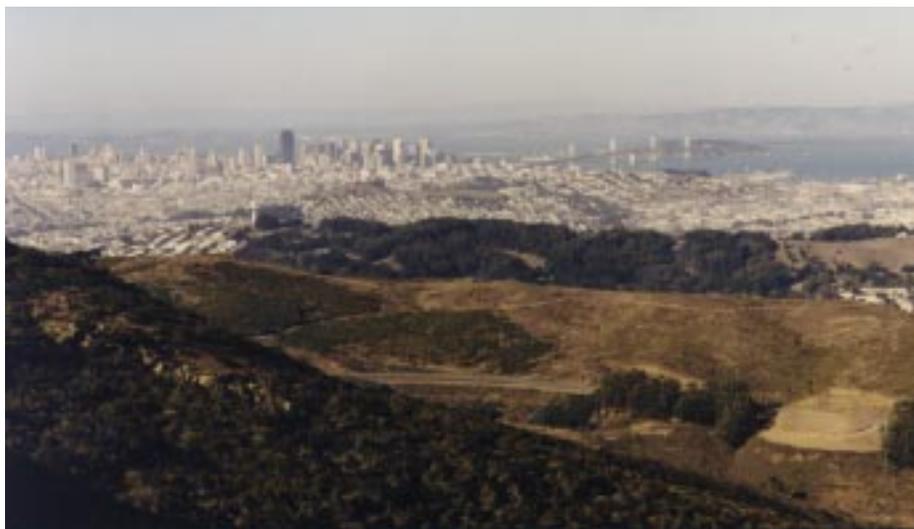
Master Plan Recommendations

Introduction

The Master Plan information in this chapter provides issue-based alternatives and recommendations. The issues, outlined in the previous chapter, were identified during the master plan process by County staff, the Master Plan Focus Group, and by the public at community meetings.

To develop a comprehensive Master Plan, it was important to work within the framework of the County of San Mateo General Plan standards, the California Department of Parks and Recreation Operating Agreement, the HCP, and County and State regulations. In addition it was equally important to evaluate the information as presented in this Plan such as locations of rare and endangered plant and butterfly species, existing land uses and conditions, areas of opportunities for development and recreational and educational needs of the community. Within these parameters, the following recommendations were made.

Under the County General Plan standards for natural areas, the Park is to assure the protection of the natural environment. Recreational activities defined within the Park are to be compatible with this management use, and recreation development should be limited to those activities that make the Park available for public enjoyment. In addition, the County General Plan states that the majority of development within the Park should be maintained within a facilities cluster.



View of San Francisco from San Bruno Mountain

Resource Management Issues and Recommendations

Issue RM-1: Invasive Non-native Vegetation

- *Invasive non-native vegetation threatens San Bruno Mountain's unique and important natural habitat areas.*



The park's significant native plants and habitats are being overcome by non-native invasive vegetation such as gorse, eucalyptus, fennel, and ivies. The invasive plants are degrading habitat values, particularly for the endangered butterfly species.

Alternatives

1. Increase removal of non-native vegetation.
2. Continue existing situation of invasive plant control through funding from the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Conclusions

Non-native vegetation is spreading faster than the existing program as funded by the HCP. Only the highest priority areas, associated with the endangered species, are receiving adequate attention. A larger scale effort is needed to stop the spread and restore areas to native vegetation.

Recommendations

1. Actively pursue additional financial resources to increase eradication of non-native vegetation.
2. Explore new methods and technologies for more effective eradication including chemical applications (as safe use will allow), fire, and biological methods such as the use of controlled grazers.

Issue RM-2: Resource Management

- *The park needs a more comprehensive approach to resource management to address all of the park's natural and cultural resources. Most resource work in the park stems from the HCP and focuses primarily on the endangered butterfly species and their habitat.*

Due to limited funds, most resource management activities have been limited to high priority work addressing the requirements of the endangered species under the HCP. Other resources that need to be addressed include:

- cultural and historic resources
- wetlands
- management of non-butterfly habitats

Alternatives

1. Address resource management issues more comprehensively based on recommendations of a resource management plan.

2. Continue existing scope of resource management activities.

Conclusions

Resource management activities need to be expanded to all park resources. This will require additional funds to expand resource management activities. Wetland and riparian areas in the park need to be assessed and managed. The spread of eucalyptus and other invasive non-native vegetation should be controlled and where feasible, eradicated.

Recommendations

1. Prepare a comprehensive resource management plan including all natural and cultural resources.
2. Promote the use of integrated vegetation management to control non-native invasive species.
3. Identify priority areas and phasing for removal of non-native vegetation.
4. Based on findings of the resource management plan, actively seek additional funding to carry out resource management activities.
5. Conduct an outreach program to encourage adjacent landowners such as homeowner associations to follow similar guidelines for habitat improvements on their lands as are followed within park boundaries. Guidelines may include planting of appropriate native and host vegetation and avoidance of non-native invasive plants. This will be a task for the Resource Specialist.

Issue RM-3: Undesignated Trails

- *The Park contains numerous undesignated trails.*

Over the years, numerous trails, service access roads, fire roads, and other disturbed areas have been created. Some are designated trails that are maintained and well used. Several of the existing undesignated trails have been identified as proposed new trail corridors and could be upgraded to designated trails. Others have fallen into disuse and are no longer needed. Some of these undesignated trails may provide habitat for Mission Blue butterflies by creating suitable conditions for the host lupine plants on the disturbed soil. Many of the undesignated trails are shown on the Existing Land Use & Facilities map (Fig 5-1).

Alternatives

1. Remove unneeded trails by regrading and revegetating with native species. Correct any erosion and drainage issues caused by undesignated trails.
2. Leave all undesignated trails in place, unmaintained.

Conclusions

Unneeded trails and roads fragment the native landscape, and in some cases may provide unwanted access to sensitive areas and cause drain-

age and erosion problems. A thorough study of existing trails should be conducted to supplement the designated trail changes shown in this report.

Recommendations

1. Conduct a detailed study of all existing trails, service roads, and fire breaks. The trail study goals are listed below.
 - a. The detailed trail study shall inventory existing formal and informal trails, service roads, and fire breaks.
 - b. Recommend which trails shall be retained as part of the official park trail system.
 - c. Provide methods for decommissioning trails to be deleted.
 - d. Establish specific trail use policies relative to the policies of this master plan and its resource management goals.
 - e. Establish criteria for trail use by hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians.
 - f. In cooperation with various trail user groups, design logical trail systems for hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians. Loop systems will be encouraged that provide a significant trail experience and are consistent with resource management goals.
 - g. Establish construction and maintenance guidelines for trails.
 - h. Provide guidelines and standards for signing of trails.
 - i. Working with the surrounding cities, establish trail access points and staging areas to provide improved trail access.

2. Take steps to remove or restore unneeded trails, service roads, and fire breaks. Assess endangered species habitat before rebuilding any trails.

3. Address erosion, drainage and public use issues caused by undesignated trails.

Issue RM-4: Grassland Plant Communities

- *Grassland plant communities are in the greatest danger of being lost on San Bruno Mountain.*

Grasslands have been a predominant plant community on San Bruno Mountain (during most of the last century), and provide some of the most important habitat areas for the mountain’s endangered species. Grasslands are being lost to the spread of native and non-native vegetation due to fire suppression and the absence of grazing mammals.

Alternatives

1. Explore new grassland management techniques such as controlled burns and the use of grazing animals.

2. Continue existing management of grasslands as provided by HCP.

Conclusions

Grasslands are the most valuable plant community to the mountain’s endangered species.

Recommendations

1. Institute experimental programs to assess the effectiveness of controlled burning, grazing, and other possible techniques. Assess data on results, and implement successful techniques in other areas.

Issue RM-5: Domestic and Non-native Animals

- *Domestic animals such as feral cats have impacts on the fluctuation of native mammal and raptor populations.*

Domestic animals such as feral cats are the result of abandoned and lost pets. The situation is sometimes complicated by well meaning visitors that regularly feed the animals. They can disturb native mammal populations by altering food sources and spreading disease. The mammal populations are further impacted by the island effect of the mountain and its surrounding urbanization. Once altered, mammal populations are difficult to reestablish.

Alternatives

1. Address the problem of feral cats through humane means including trapping with spaying and neutering, and adoption when feasible. Work with animal welfare groups to implement the program.

Conclusions

The problem of domestic and non-native animals is a serious threat to native mammal populations.

Recommendations

1. Create an active program to reduce and eventually eliminate non-native populations.
2. Work with local animal welfare groups to implement the program.
3. Educate visitors about the problems of feral animals (i.e. not to feed them) by posting information at park entries and trailheads.

Issue RM-6: Native American Sites

- *Significant Native American archeological resources have been identified in areas within and adjacent to the Park. How will these resources be managed and what role will San Mateo County play?.*

There is a growing awareness of the significance of Native American archeological sites within the park and adjacent to it. Some sites outside the park are threatened with development. There are opportunities to save these resources and incorporate them into the management and interpretive programs of the State and County Park. How these sites will be protected and interpreted is at issue.

Alternatives

1. Develop specific management recommendations for cultural resource sites within the park.
2. Leave Native American sites outside the park to be managed by the respective local agencies and land owners.
3. Take a proactive approach, partnering with state and local agencies and groups to preserve, protect, and establish a management plan for the Native American sites.

Conclusions

Private landowners and local agencies are not prepared or equipped to manage important resources such as these. The County is in a better position to coordinate a joint effort to preserve and manage the archeological resources. Working with local agencies and interest groups, a partnership agreement should be sought to incorporate these significant sites into San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

Recommendations

1. Prepare a cultural resource management plan with specific recommendations for each site. Include recommendations for preservation strategies for cultural resources that are adjacent to, but outside of park boundaries.
2. Partner with local agencies and groups to preserve and manage Native American archeological sites.
3. Incorporate the Native American sites into the management and interpretive programs of the State and County Park.
4. Where tied to development projects, explore a management endowment to be included with dedication of sites.

Issue RM-7: Poaching

- *Poaching and casual collecting of butterflies and other resources is occurring.*

The threatened and endangered status of the butterflies makes them more valuable to collectors. Casual collecting of other plants and animals can have an impact on populations and distribution. Addressing the problem has been mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the recent listing of the Callippe Silverspot butterfly.

Alternatives

1. Increase awareness of threatened and endangered species and the consequences of unauthorized taking. Couple increased awareness with more efforts in enforcement.

Conclusions

Proactive steps should be taken to eliminate illegal collecting of plants, animals, and minerals.

Recommendations

1. Increase signage at trail heads stating the prohibition against collecting plants and animals in the Park. Include legal penalties for collection of Federally listed animals (up to \$50,000 fine and one year imprisonment).
2. Partner with State and Federal agencies charged with protection of listed plant and animal species.
3. Increase patrolling of butterfly habitat during the adult flight season.

Issue RM-8: Eucalyptus Trees

Eucalyptus trees were historically planted on San Bruno Mountain along roads and other locations where wind breaks were desired. Other stands of eucalyptus trees have sprouted from the spread of seed. The eucalyptus trees displace valuable habitat plants for the endangered butterflies, and the HCP has a goal of gradual eradication. Eucalyptus, although not native, do provide some habitat values as well as aesthetic values. Mature stands of eucalyptus are an important element to San Bruno Mountain's cultural landscape.

Alternatives

1. Take steps to continue eradication of eucalyptus trees on San Bruno Mountain.
2. Evaluate each stand of eucalyptus trees and assess scenic, historic, and habitat values to be factored into management decisions. Also assess potential fire hazards and likelihood of successful eradication, and ability to perform necessary maintenance to prevent regrowth.

Conclusions

Eucalyptus trees are an important element of San Bruno Mountain's cultural landscape, and some stands have significant scenic and aesthetic value. Other eucalyptus stands occupy areas that could be restored with hosts plants that provide important habitat value. Previous attempts at eradication have not been successful where follow-up work was not performed.

Recommendations

1. Eucalyptus stands with significant historic and aesthetic values should be considered for preservation (such as the trees along Old Guadalupe Trail in the Saddle Area).
2. Removal of selected eucalyptus stands should continue where those stands can be successfully eradicated and replaced with native habitat planting.
3. Areas to be cleared should be no larger than that which the County has the ability and resources to perform necessary and well planned restorations."

Land Use and Facilities Issues and Recommendations

Issue LU-1: Recreational Use and Facilities

- *What recreational uses and facilities are appropriate for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park?*

The question regarding appropriate uses and facilities for the park was a central one for this master plan. With a growing population surrounding the mountain, the needs and demands for recreation have been growing. It is expected that some people see the “park” as an opportunity for additional recreational uses such as ball fields, playgrounds, swimming pools, and other more intensive forms of recreation that may be in short supply in the surrounding urban areas. Others see the “park” more as a piece of preserved wilderness that offers opportunities for solitude and natural experiences that are becoming more rare as the Bay Area urbanizes.

Alternatives

1. Increase opportunities for more active and intensive recreational uses and facilities.
2. Focus management objectives on preservation and enhancement of the mountain’s natural character and opportunities for open space experiences such as hiking, horseback riding, and nature study.

Conclusions

The vast majority of the public and agency representatives participating in the master plan process expressed the importance of preserving San Bruno Mountain’s unique natural character and the experiences that it offers. There was some desire expressed for additional facilities, but in most cases these would conflict with the primary goals upon which the park was established, as well as the objectives of the HCP.

Recommendations

1. Continue to manage the park primarily as an open space preserve, with the particular goal of maintaining and enhancing its value as habitat for endangered species. Recreational uses and access should be permitted to the extent that it is compatible with the preservation of park resources. Appropriate uses include walking/hiking, jogging, sight-seeing, nature studies, bicycling (in designated areas), horseback riding, and picnicking.
2. Opportunities for development of new recreation facilities can be explored in partnership with the surrounding cities, and are to be limited to appropriate sites that are designated for development in the HCP.

Issue LU-2: Active Recreation Facilities

- *Surrounding cities have expressed desire for increased active recreation facilities within the Park.*

During the Master Plan process, the issue of the need for increased recreation facilities was expressed by city representatives. Such facilities may be as simple as open fields where unstructured activities can occur. At issue is the appropriateness of such active recreation areas in San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. The lack of suitable terrain and importance of natural habitats as required by the HCP make this a difficult request to fulfill.



Saddle trail

Alternatives

1. Joint development of recreation facilities with local cities in low-value habitat areas.
2. No change of facilities for active recreation.

Conclusions

There are few opportunities for recreation development that do not impact habitat areas. Steep terrain and the lack of access to many areas are also limiting factors. One site for consideration is near the southern park boundary in Colma. The site was formerly proposed for day camp development and is a eucalyptus removal area. The HCP identifies this area as a potential development site. Access to the site may be difficult. Development of such a facility would occur under the leadership of local cities.

Recommendations

1. If requested by local cities, create a partnership that would facilitate consideration and study of a recreation facility in the designated area along the boundary with Colma.

Issue LU-3: Recreation versus Resource Protection

- *Interest in providing areas for active recreational opportunities challenge Park objectives to protect the resources and provide areas for passive recreation.*

The need for active recreational opportunities in the area around San Bruno Mountain is evident in the desires expressed by city representatives during the Master Plan process. The uniqueness of the mountain's wild, undeveloped character was also expressed.

Alternatives

1. Maintain the Park's management focus on preservation and enhancement of natural habitats.
2. Increase opportunities for active recreation.

Conclusions

The management objectives for San Bruno Mountain clearly give priority to preservation of its natural landscapes. The requirements of the HCP

also call for preservation and enhancement of remaining habitat areas. The desire for visitors to experience the wild and natural landscapes of San Bruno Mountain, and to preserve habitats of the endangered species are the primary management goals for the Park.

Recommendations

1. Active recreation in the Park should consist primarily of hiking, bicycling (where permitted), horseback riding, and picnicking. An efficient network of trails should be maintained.
2. It is critical to preserve San Bruno Mountain's wild quality, to provide this unique experience within an urban area.

Issue LU-4: Adjacent Residential Population

- *The growth of the residential population adjacent to the park boundaries and a corresponding change in the demographics of park users has increased use of the park.*

San Bruno Mountain has become the neighborhood park for a growing population that lives adjacent to the park.. Many more people are visiting the park regularly (daily or weekly). This increase in use may eventually have an impact on the Park's resources. Of particular concern would be any impact to endangered species and their habitats.

Alternatives

1. Monitor park use by those entering by vehicle, on foot, and by bicycle. Monitor sensitive habitat areas for potential impacts. Close trails or areas during sensitive periods.
2. Take no action.

Conclusions

With increased park usage, sensitive habitats will need more intensive monitoring to avoid potential impacts. Visitor use patterns should be tracked.

Recommendations

1. Conduct visitor use surveys to track where and how visitors enter the Park, and how they use the park.
2. Monitor sensitive habitats that may be impacted by visitor use. Implement trail and area closures as conditions warrant.
3. Outreach to homeowner associations to introduce the park and its issues to the neighboring communities.

Issue LU-5: Access from Neighboring Cities

- *The lack of perimeter trails and steep terrain leaves the park isolated from neighboring communities.*

Many of the neighboring communities around the park do not have trails that provide access to the Park. There is a desire to have direct trail access from adjacent communities. Feasibility of some access trails is limited by the steep terrain.

Alternatives

1. Provide trails from neighboring communities into the park as feasible (consistent with trail guidelines established in the San Mateo County Trails Plan).
2. Maintain the existing park entries.

Conclusions

Many people from surrounding communities already use existing informal undesignated trails to access the park. Creation of a network of trails into and throughout the park will disperse park use more evenly, rather than concentrating use on the few existing trails and the Saddle Area. Neighboring communities should have connecting trail access. Trails should use existing access corridors where possible, or identify other feasible locations.

Recommendations

1. Create trail connections to surrounding communities based on the findings of the proposed detailed trail study. Work with local cities to provide access and funding for trails to park boundaries.
2. Encourage community residents to purchase annual passes to help support the park.



Access trail from Colma

Issue LU-6: Trails and Protection of Vegetation

- *More designated trails are needed to allow visitors to access areas of the mountain without damaging adjacent vegetation.*

Trail access to the mountain should be encouraged, but visitors should avoid damaging adjacent vegetation. Damage occurs when users wander off of designated trails.

Alternatives

1. Actively encourage visitors to remain on designated trails and avoid damaging adjacent vegetation. Improve education and interpretive programs to inform park users about the sensitive resources.
2. Add additional trails consistent with resource management goals.
3. Take no action.



Ridge trail

Conclusions

As trail use increases, the potential for damage to the natural landscape also increases. Although designated as a “park” and not a “reserve,” San Bruno Mountain should be managed like a reserve due to the presence of the sensitive endangered species and their habitats. Visitors should be made aware of the sensitive nature of the landscape and use it with respect. Simple educational materials such as signs and brochures should be used to give visitors an understanding of this environment. Where needed, simple barriers (such as post and cable) should be used to aid in keeping people on trails through sensitive areas.

Recommendations

1. Increase the network of trails to spread trail use throughout the Park.
2. Inform visitors of the sensitive nature of the Park landscape through signs and brochures.
3. Employ the use of simple barriers (such as post and cable) to keep visitors on designated trails through sensitive areas, or off of trails during trail closures.

Issue LU-7: Dog Use

- *Desire for permitting dog use in the park has increased due the increase in number of surrounding residents. However, dog use in the Park is prohibited as part of a Countywide ordinance.*

The desire for allowing access to the park by dogs is understandable in an urban area. There are potential impacts of dog access on plants and wildlife. Dog use is currently prohibited by Countywide ordinance.

Alternatives

1. Maintain the current Countywide policy prohibiting dogs.
2. If the Countywide ordinance is considered for revision, some dog use (i.e.. on-leash), or in a designated location, could be reviewed.

Conclusions

Unless the Countywide ordinance is changed, the existing dog use policy should remain in effect.

Recommendations

1. Continue existing policy prohibiting dogs.
2. Provide dog owners with suggestions of other parks where dogs are permitted (such as Fort Funston, GGNRA).

Issue LU-8: Communications Towers

- *Communications towers negatively impact the mountain's visual character however, they exist on private land and are not under the County's management.*

The communications towers at the summit negatively affect the mountain's visual character, however the facility has historical and regional importance, and pre-dates the establishment of the Park.

Alternatives

1. Pursue acquisition of the property for leasing of the communications towers by the County.
2. Pursue acquisition of the property for removal of the towers.
3. Take no action.

Conclusions

The technology using the communications towers is likely to continue for the foreseeable future and the mountain's location makes it a unique location for such facilities. The alternative to pursue acquisition of the property has two potential outcomes: removal of the facilities and restoration of the site, or continue leasing of the site for communication purposes, potentially providing funding for park programs. It should be noted that the private owner has dedicated conservation easements and is required to pay fees to support the HCP. This facility operated under County use permits.

Recommendations

1. If the property becomes available for purchase, consider acquisition of the property
2. Assess the financial potential of the site to generate revenue by leasing for communications purposes.
3. County Parks should review any proposals for expansion of facilities to ensure that impacts to the park are minimized.

Issue LU-9: Park Center

- *A lack of interpretive facilities (i.e. Park Center, interpretive exhibits, self guiding brochures) leaves educational and community outreach opportunities unrealized.*

The 1982 General Plan recognized the importance of an interpretive facility for the park proposed for the Saddle area, just west of the existing parking lot. Comments received during planning for this Master Plan from the community, volunteer and environmental groups, and Park staff has reinforced the need for this type of facility. This "park center" would include interpretive exhibits, a general purpose room, restrooms, small kitchen, office space for ranger and volunteers, storage, and parking. The building would be open on a scheduled basis, and provide shelter for volunteer programs and school groups during inclement weather.



Communications towers at summit

Alternatives

1. Construct a park center at the location previously proposed (Saddle Area).
2. Construct a park center at a location adjacent to the native plant botanical area (south of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway).

Conclusions

The need and desire for a park center has been clearly established. How it would be funded and operated is less clear, but a volunteer groups may play a major role. The development of the native plant botanical area at the base of Radio Ridge has provided a new opportunity for the placement of the park center. This area can become the focus of the Park’s interpretive and educational programs. The park center can also provide tool and material storage for volunteers working in the botanical area. The area identified for the interpretive center in the HCP would be “traded” for an area south of the parkway. It would be located in an existing or former eucalyptus area and create no net loss of conserved habitat. Consideration should also be given for the location of some park maintenance facilities within the park center development.

Recommendations

1. Create a park center adjacent to the native plant botanical area. Use existing trees to minimize its visual impact from the parkway.

Issue LU-10: Sense of Arrival

- *The park lacks a visual presence as a park.*

Comments received through public input stated that many people are unfamiliar with San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. The relatively low visitation statistics, in comparison to the surrounding population, also support this. There needs to be a greater awareness of the park’s presence and the types of amenities that it has to offer. To enhance the public awareness of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park a stronger identity needs to be established.

Alternatives

1. Provide stronger park identity signs at the park boundaries along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and Old Bayshore Blvd.
2. Take no action.

Conclusions

Stronger signage would notify the average user and commuter that they are within park property and possibly create a stronger sense of place for the mountain, which may in turn encourage them to return later for recreational use. It also helps to establish a sense of arrival to the Park for the recreational user and enhances the visitor experience before passing through the entrance gate in the Saddle Area.

Recommendations

1. Provide park identity signs at key points around the perimeter of the park.

2. Provide welcoming entry signs at the Saddle Area entrance and other park access points.
3. Provide park entry signs at all community trailheads and access points.

Issue LU-11: Park Roads

- *Should roads in the park be expanded, removed, or remain as they exist?*

Existing roads in the park include the Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and the road to Radio Ridge and summit area. There are also paved service roads to the former Nike site (park maintenance facility) and the Saddle Area day camp. During the master plan process, there was some public comments requesting removal of the existing roads to improve the mountain's habitat. There was also comment about the lack of access to parts of the park such as the Southeast Ridge area. .

Alternatives

1. Remove existing roads.
2. Add new roads.
3. Leave roads as they exist.

Conclusions

Guadalupe Canyon Parkway is an important County road connecting Daly City and Brisbane. It is the only through road in the park and provides access to the Saddle Area and Radio Road. It also roughly parallels the previous historic road through the area along what is now the Old Guadalupe Trail.

Radio road provides access to the summit area and the privately held communications tower and equipment. Access for the communications equipment is provided by agreement, and maintenance costs for the road are shared by the County and the private owner.

Removal of these roads would not be in the best interest park management. The roads provide access for the public as well as for the habitat management activities of the HCP. Additional roads to areas not currently served would have a potential negative effect on the endangered species habitat. It would also conflict with the expressed desire to keep as much of the mountain as "wild" and undeveloped as possible.

Recommendations

1. Maintain the existing roads for park access.
2. Proper maintenance of the roads should be performed to minimize erosion and manage stormwater properly.
3. Road pullouts should be well defined, and adjacent vegetation protected.

Issue LU-12: Owl and Buckeye Canyons

- *Should Owl and Buckeye Canyons become part of the Park?*

Portions of Owl and Buckeye Canyons are owned by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These lands border the park on the north slope of Southeast Ridge, and their use and designation are compatible with the Park.

Due to limited available staff in the San Bruno Mountain area, DFG is not actively managing the site. Conversations with the DFG revealed that this land may be a site eligible for a “land swap”. The County may be able to trade land that it owns in another area for Owl and Buckeye Canyons if it is beneficial to both agencies and the primary function of Owl and Buckeye Canyons as butterfly habitat is retained. Acquisition of this land would provide potential trail access, opportunities for environmental education, active management of the site, continuity and local presence.

Recent road realignment has diminished public access to Owl and Buckeye Canyons. Prior to acquisition of this property, access to these sites would need to be determined and the potential for public/private partnerships explored. For example, the City of Brisbane is exploring possible acquisition of the “Old Quarry Road” which may be utilized as trail access from Brisbane to Owl and Buckeye Canyons.

Alternatives

1. Pursue acquisition of Owl and Buckeye Canyons if it would be in the interest of the County and the California Department of Fish and Game.
2. Continue the status quo of separate management of Owl and Buckeye Canyons.

Conclusions

The property boundaries that divide portions of Owl and Buckeye Canyons from the park are artificial and have no ecological basis. The boundaries in fact currently divide portions of habitat areas between DFG and the County. The canyons are an integral part of San Bruno Mountain and would likely benefit from uniform management with the rest of the mountain. The canyons also offer unique and interesting resources that would expand the park’s offerings. These lands provide an opportunity for connections and outreach between the park and the surrounding communities (Brisbane in this case).

Recommendations

1. Pursue transfer of DFG’s portions of Owl and Buckeye Canyons for inclusion San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.
2. If Owl and Buckeye Canyons are acquired by the County, these lands should be preserved for their natural values. Trails and other facilities should be kept to a scale that does not adversely impact the resources.

Additional Recreation Recommendations

The following recommendations support the development of facilities which will enhance these park activities.

Trails

Due to the natural topography and the amount of sensitive habitat on San Bruno Mountain it may be difficult for the Park to maintain the adopted County Trail Standards of a 10% maximum grade. Generally, a 10% maximum grade is an acceptable standard for trails, however, the topography on San Bruno Mountain may make it difficult to conform to this standard. Individual trails should be evaluated for their potential connection points, on the perimeter and to other trails. They should also be examined in light of the natural grade and how slopes above 10% might be used. Restricting trails to 10% maximum slope may tend to lead to more overall site damage, and to potential habitat destruction. This plan recommends that the trail planners allow flexibility in County Trail Standards to meet the unique conditions of San Bruno Mountain.



Old Guadalupe Trail

Old Ranch Road

An important element of the trail corridor proposed between Old Ranch Road and Guadalupe Hills is linking these areas through the use of a trail connection on the south side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. This connection may be a bridge or cantilever structure. It will provide for safe passage, eliminating the potential for trail user and vehicle conflicts along the Parkway.



Trailhead sign

Trailheads and Staging

Each access point needs to be further evaluated as to the potential for trailhead parking, ease of public access and their potential for easement or land acquisition by either the surrounding cities or the County. One example of this would be for the City of Brisbane to consider the potential of establishing trailheads or corridors in the Brisbane Acres area, as the City develops its open space plan. These types of connections outside of the park would help to establish the Park as a community resource, providing long term trail access.

Connections to Regional Trails

Another consideration that needs to be made when evaluating trails and their potential connection points, is the feasibility of connecting the Parks trails to regional trail systems, such as the Bay Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail and the DeAnza Trail. The potential to provide these corridor connections should be explored with local cities, organizations, environmental and user groups. A trail through the park may become part of a future connector trail between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Bay Trail.

Trail Markers

To assist the visitor, trail markers should be placed at all junctions and other points where the route may be unclear. In addition, self-guiding brochures should be placed at strategic locations. Simply designed and informative, the brochures would also educate the public about the unique resources of San Bruno Mountain.



Trail marker

Bicycle Use

This Plan recommends maintaining the existing bicycle use policy which allows bikes on most trails in the Saddle Area and on Radio Road. Although the width of the Ridge Trail may appear suitable for multiuse, and the route across the mountain may be desirable to mountain bike users, the lack of potential connection points to other bicycle compatible trails make its use for this problematic. Mountain bike use of park trails should be studied in the recommended Trails Plan for San Bruno Mountain.

Equestrian Use

Equestrians are permitted on all unpaved trails on the summit side of the Park (south of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway) on County land, except in areas near picnic facilities or meadows, for sanitary reasons. The Park also has the right to close some or all of the trails in the Park to equestrian use in the event of trail deterioration or other safety concerns. It should be noted that none of the Park's trails were constructed with the intention of equestrian use. If increased demand for equestrian use becomes more prevalent, a study should be conducted to assess the need and resources available to expand this type of use in the Park. Equestrian use of park trails and the potential need for equestrian-related facilities should be studied in the recommended Trails Plan for San Bruno Mountain. Consideration should be given for 3 to 4 equestrian trailer parking spaces to be provided at an appropriate location (possibly near the proposed Park Center). Approved equestrian staging should provide sufficient space for loading and turn-around space, and have compacted gravel surfaces and a hitching rack.

Trail Standards

As the Park begins to implement the new trails recommended by this plan, the feasibility of allowing bicycle and/or equestrian use on the trails should be evaluated. Aspects to be considered include the width and slope of the trail, soil type, surrounding habitat sensitivity, potential connection points to other trails, user conflicts, and potential of rutting and erosion.

Countywide Trail and Bicycle Plans

The San Mateo County Trails Plan is currently under development (October 1999). The plan provides a countywide setting and policies that will guide development of trails throughout the County including San Bruno Mountain. The plan identifies the existing Ridge Trail from the summit along the southeast ridge as a designated County trail. The plan also identifies the Ridge Trail Connection as a proposed trail, connecting San Bruno Mountain with San Francisco's McLaren Park to the north, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Milagra and Sweeney Ridges to the southwest. The Ridge Trail Connection will also connect San Bruno Mountain with two important regional trails: the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which encircles San Francisco Bay on the primary ridge tops; and the Bay Trail which follows the entire bay front.

Also under development (December 1999) is the Draft Comprehensive Bicycle Route Plan of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County. This plan provides guidelines and policies for the County's Bikeway System. Guadalupe Parkway through San Bruno Mountain State and County Park is designated as a proposed on-street bike lane/bike route.

Accessibility

To the extent feasible, all park facilities should be accessible to current ADA standards and California Title 24. Current standards apply primarily for walkways, roads/parking areas, ramps and building access. Application of standards to recreational facilities such as trails is more difficult. ADA guidelines for outdoor recreation areas are currently under development. An accessibility study should be conducted to identify opportunities that exist within the Park to provide a range of experiences for disabled individuals prior to any new trail construction. It is important to establish various experiences throughout the Park for people of all abilities. The placement and construction of ADA-accessible trails should complement and enhance the Park's facilities. When developed, the Park Center should have access to a range of accessible trails

Ropes Course

This plan recommends that the ropes course be proposed for permanent designation and that the County and School District consider the opportunity for expanded use of this facility. The ropes course offers recreational opportunities for schools and other organized groups. If increased interest or desire for this type of facility develops, the County should consider the possibility of establishing a partnership with Jefferson Unified School District for the use of this facility.

Picnic Sites

Picnicking on San Bruno Mountain is subject to the limitations of the frequent high winds and fog. In good weather there is increased use and demand for picnic facilities in the park. Two types of picnic areas exist, family and group.

- **Family Picnic Area**
This is defined as being easily accessible by car, in an area of high use, and providing multiple picnic sites with barbecue grills and other associated facilities. The family picnic area is located near the Saddle parking area.
- **Group Picnic Area**
The Park currently provides a group picnic facility within the Edward Bacciccio Day Camp site available through reservation. This facility is meeting the current need and is not being overutilized. As the popularity of the Park and surrounding population increases the need may arise for an additional facility of this type. This Plan recommends two potential locations for group picnic areas to be established. The first area is in the Saddle Area, within an existing cypress grove. The second location is within the proposed meadow or future recreation areas south of Radio Ridge as shown in the Master Plan map (Figure 3-1).



Day camp

Meadow Areas

Interest was expressed for more open space areas conducive to active recreational uses such as kite flying, informal play and pick-up games. The steep terrain and important habitat areas present considerable constraints to the development of additional meadow areas. Additional meadow areas in the Saddle were considered, but rejected due to proximity to the existing meadow area and the restored habitat potential of other areas. One area that may be suitable is along the southwest (Colma) boundary of the park. This area is relatively flat and consists of second-growth eucalyptus (eucalyptus were previously removed). Access to the site is a problem, and the adjacent land owner is concerned about conflicts with future cemetery expansion. The site is listed as a development site in the HCP, as it was previously proposed as a day camp site.

Native Plant Botanic Area

The County should continue to foster and support the Friends of San Bruno Mountain and their development of the native plant botanic area. Consideration should be given to pathways, circulation, vegetation types and the relationship to the newly proposed Park Center. The facilities should complement each other.

Vista Points

A vista point is generally an area with spectacular views, and/or a unique feature. Recognizing the interest of utilizing this Park for sight-seeing, this Plan recommends that vista points be established at the summit and in the Saddle Area to provide the opportunity for spectacular views and destination points.



Southeast ridge

The summit is currently being utilized as a vista point and as a starting point and destination point for hikes on the Mountain. This established use can be enhanced through the sensitive placement of a few amenities such as interpretive signage, benches and trash receptacles within view of the parking area. Currently, there is no water service to the summit making drinking water and restrooms difficult to establish.

The vista point located in the Saddle Area, identified as North Vista Point in the Master Plan, has potential as a hiking destination for its panoramic views. This area provides the opportunity for visitors to experience the views of San Francisco, the Bay and areas west towards the ocean. The sensitive placement of benches and interpretive signage would enhance visitor experience in the Saddle Area.

Master Plan Maps

On the following pages are maps depicting recommendations of this Master Plan.

Figure 3-1 - Master Plan

The Master Plan map shows the major land use changes that are proposed for the park, including a concept trails plan. The primary land use recommendations include improvements to the existing park maintenance facility and summit vista point area, placement of a new Park Center adjacent to the Native Plant Botanic Area and the addition of a group picnic area in the Saddle. Two sites along the southern boundary with Colma are recommended to be reserved for future meadows or recreation sites (these are existing HCP development areas).

The Master Plan provides a basis for a park trails plan. Proposed trails are identified, consisting primarily of routes along existing social trail corridors (many are too steep to be designated as trails). The proposed trails will require significant construction to have reasonable grades (preferably not steeper than 10%). The routes shown for proposed trails are approximate. Exact routing should be designed in the field and respond to existing conditions. Trail routing should avoid sensitive resource areas. Existing social trails will be considered for eradication and habitat restoration.

The trails plan addresses the desire for connections with the surrounding communities. In some cases, access trails and trailheads may require partnerships with the surrounding cities.

Figure 3-2 - Interpretive Opportunities

This map identifies some of the interpretive opportunities within the park.

Figure 3-3 - Proposed Park Center

This diagram provides a concept plan for the proposed Park Center. The building is intended to be tucked into the existing grove of trees. The parking area will serve both the Park Center and the Native Plant Botanic Area.

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

STATE AND COUNTY PARK

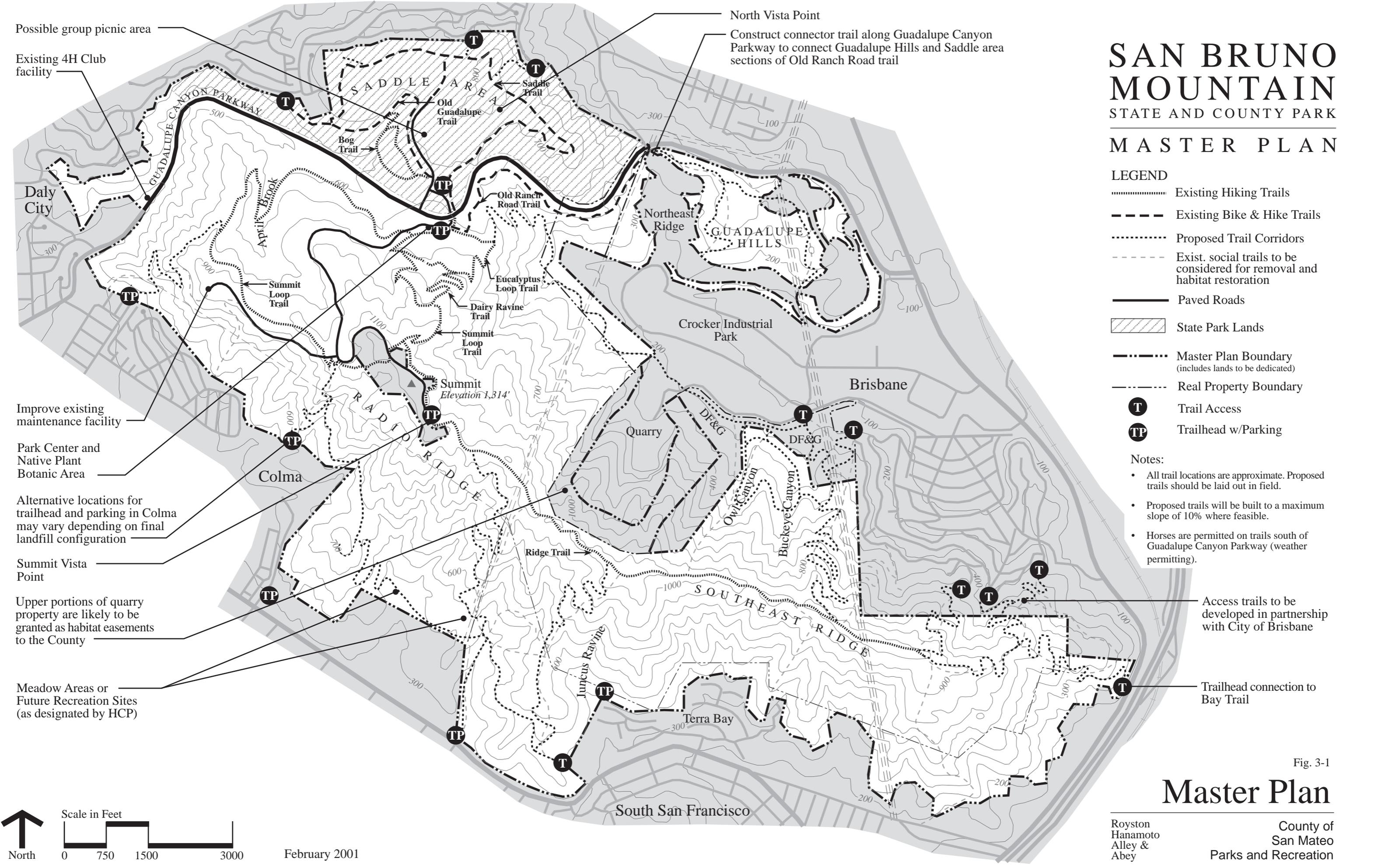
MASTER PLAN

LEGEND

-  Existing Hiking Trails
-  Existing Bike & Hike Trails
-  Proposed Trail Corridors
-  Exist. social trails to be considered for removal and habitat restoration
-  Paved Roads
-  State Park Lands
-  Master Plan Boundary (includes lands to be dedicated)
-  Real Property Boundary
-  Trail Access
-  Trailhead w/Parking

Notes:

- All trail locations are approximate. Proposed trails should be laid out in field.
- Proposed trails will be built to a maximum slope of 10% where feasible.
- Horses are permitted on trails south of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway (weather permitting).



Possible group picnic area

Existing 4H Club facility

Daly City

Improve existing maintenance facility

Park Center and Native Plant Botanic Area

Alternative locations for trailhead and parking in Colma may vary depending on final landfill configuration

Summit Vista Point

Upper portions of quarry property are likely to be granted as habitat easements to the County

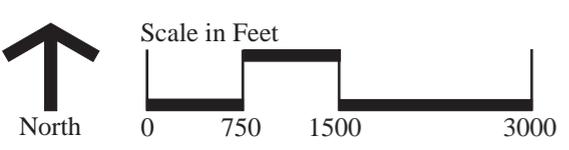
Meadow Areas or Future Recreation Sites (as designated by HCP)

North Vista Point

Construct connector trail along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway to connect Guadalupe Hills and Saddle area sections of Old Ranch Road trail

Access trails to be developed in partnership with City of Brisbane

Trailhead connection to Bay Trail



February 2001

Fig. 3-1

Master Plan

Royston Hanamoto
Alley & Abey

County of San Mateo
Parks and Recreation

Wetland Area
Self guiding brochure presenting the unique biology of the site.

Saddle Trail
Self guiding brochure identifying vistas or important natural/cultural features.

North Vista Point
Interpretive sign identifying important landmarks, and other characteristics of the Saddle Area.

Visitor Parking
Interpretive signs providing general information, regulation and trail routes. Information to include the mission and purpose of San Bruno Mountain.

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

STATE AND COUNTY PARK

MASTER PLAN

LEGEND

- Existing Hiking Trails
- - - Existing Bike & Hike Trails
- Proposed Trail Corridors
- Paved Roads
- ▨ State Park Lands
- · - · - Master Plan Boundary
- · - · - Real Property Boundary

Daly City

Colma

Brisbane

South San Francisco

Park Center
Various exhibits providing general Park information, identifying trails, natural and cultural resources, and seasonal events. The Park Center will be an area to provide visitor contact/information and environmental education programs to various user groups.

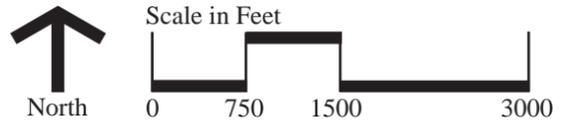
Native Plant Botanic Area
Interpretive signs, garden map, and self guiding brochure discussing plant communities and the development of the garden. Area to provide specialized interpretive/environmental education programs.

Summit Vista Point
Interpretive signs facing northeast and southeast identifying the important landmarks around San Bruno Mountain. Opportunities to present information regarding the habitat of endangered plant and butterfly species as well as information regarding the mountains role in providing radio communications.

Native American Sites
The shellmound and other Native American sites close to and within the park boundaries may have interpretive opportunities. Management decisions on these cultural resources should provide interpretive options.

Ridge Trail
Self guiding brochure identifying vistas or important natural/cultural features.

Note: All trails provide potential interpretive opportunities and should be evaluated for key strategic locations for waysides and interpretive programs. Self guiding brochures can be placed at trailheads and at important trail junctions.



February 2001

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey
County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation

Fig. 3-2

Interpretive Opportunities

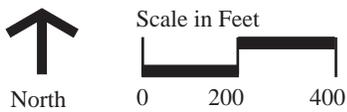
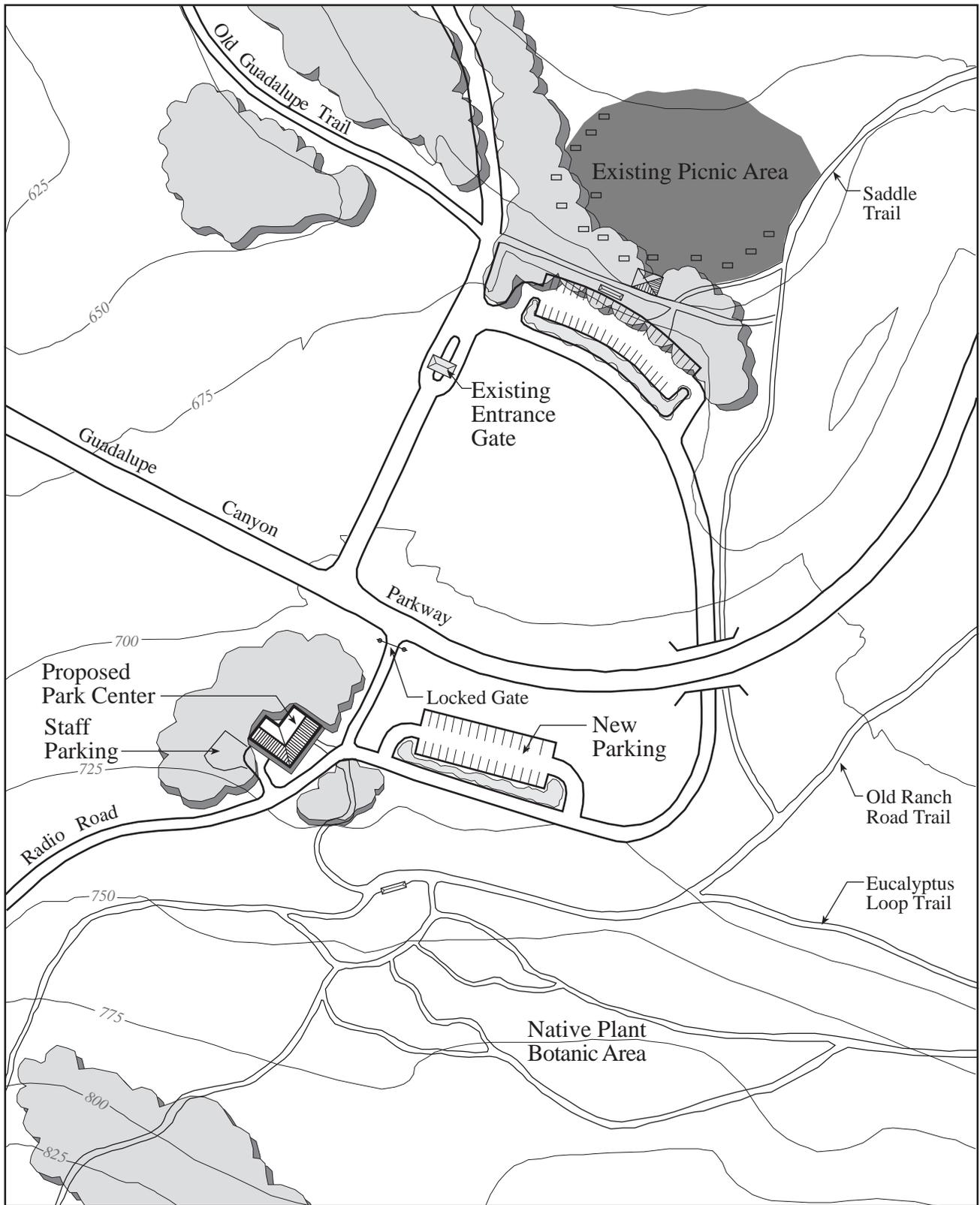


Fig. 3-3

Proposed Park Center

Operations and Maintenance Issues and Recommendations

Issue OM-1: Park Staffing



- *Managing and operating the park with limited funding results in understaffing that leads to deferred maintenance, limited resource management, limited visitor services and no interpretive programs or public outreach.*

The current staffing for the Park includes two full-time permanent Rangers and 1.5 full-time equivalent Park Aid positions. Maintenance crews for larger projects are provided on an as-needed basis. With over 2,500 acres to patrol, maintain, and manage, the staff is spread thin, and cannot handle activities such as public outreach and programs. Resource protection is compromised.

Alternatives

1. Increase park staffing to achieve park management goals including full-time Ranger staffing and support a resource management specialist, and an interpretive specialist.
2. Continue with existing staff levels.

Conclusions

Without additional staff, many of the management goals of this master plan will not be realized. Protection of endangered species, as mandated by the USFWS, requires additional resource management and ranger staffing. Interpretive programs and community outreach cannot be accomplished without additional staffing. Public safety and fire protection are compromised when staff cannot be present at all times.

Recommendations

1. Based on the need for the Park to operate an average of seven days a week, nine hours a day fall/winter and 13 hours a day in the spring/summer, it is recommended that the County provide four additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for the Park. The additional staff should consist of (in order of priority):

Resource Specialist (1): To develop and implement resource and fire management plans; provide direction and oversight of habitat restoration and enhancement activities; supervise staff, volunteer and research groups; maintain annual site data, and provide specialized training for Rangers, volunteers and private landowners regarding the unique natural and cultural resources within the Park. The Resource Specialist will be an employee of County Parks and will coordinate activities with the Park Superintendent, HCP Trustees, HCP Managers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ranger support staff (1): To assist Interpretive and Resource specialist positions in developing plans, public outreach, volunteer management, and general park-wide maintenance services and resource protection.

Interpretive specialists (2): To develop and implement the interpretive plan; provide general visitor services, environmental education, public outreach, and interpretive programs; operate visitor center; develop interpretive programs, and supervise support staff and volunteers.

These positions would complement the existing staff and allow for more comprehensive management of the Park and its resources. In addition, the Park would develop a stronger Ranger presence that would assist with public relations, visitor services and use, and would become an integral part of the San Bruno Mountain community.

Issue OM-2: Park Maintenance Facility

- *The existing maintenance facility is substandard, and the utility service is unreliable.*

The existing maintenance and park office facility is located at the old Nike site. The facility has some issues including the condition of the buildings, poor utility service, and its isolated location. Alternative sites were studied, but none were identified as being superior to the existing site. Criteria for potential new sites included minimizing impacts on park resources, particularly visual impacts. The maintenance facility requires space for storage of vehicles and maintenance materials, and office/meeting space for park staff. Moving the maintenance facility would require a significant capital investment and would likely be highly visible.



Park maintenance facility at Nike site

Alternatives

1. Maintain the existing location at the Nike site and improve facilities and utilities.
2. Relocate the maintenance facility to another site.

Conclusions

The existing maintenance facility site is not ideal, but no other sites were deemed superior. With all factors taken into consideration, improving the existing facility is the best solution at this time. Alternative sites studied include the following (see Fig. 3-4 for locations):

- a. Saddle Area. Open area near the western end of Old Guadalupe Trail. This site was rejected due to high visibility, proximity to adjacent residential area, and designation as HCP conserved habitat.
- b. Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. A site along the parkway east of the main park entrance, as identified in the 1982 General Plan. This site was rejected due to high visibility and lack of suitable terrain.
- c. Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. A site just outside the west entrance on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway was considered. This site may be suitable but would require acquisition of the property.
- d. Proposed Park Center. Incorporate a new (or some functions of) maintenance facility in conjunction with development of the proposed Park Center. There was concern that a maintenance facility at this site would be highly visible.
- e. Brisbane Industrial Park. An area of the park that borders the Brisbane industrial park was considered but rejected due to its isolation from the rest of the park.

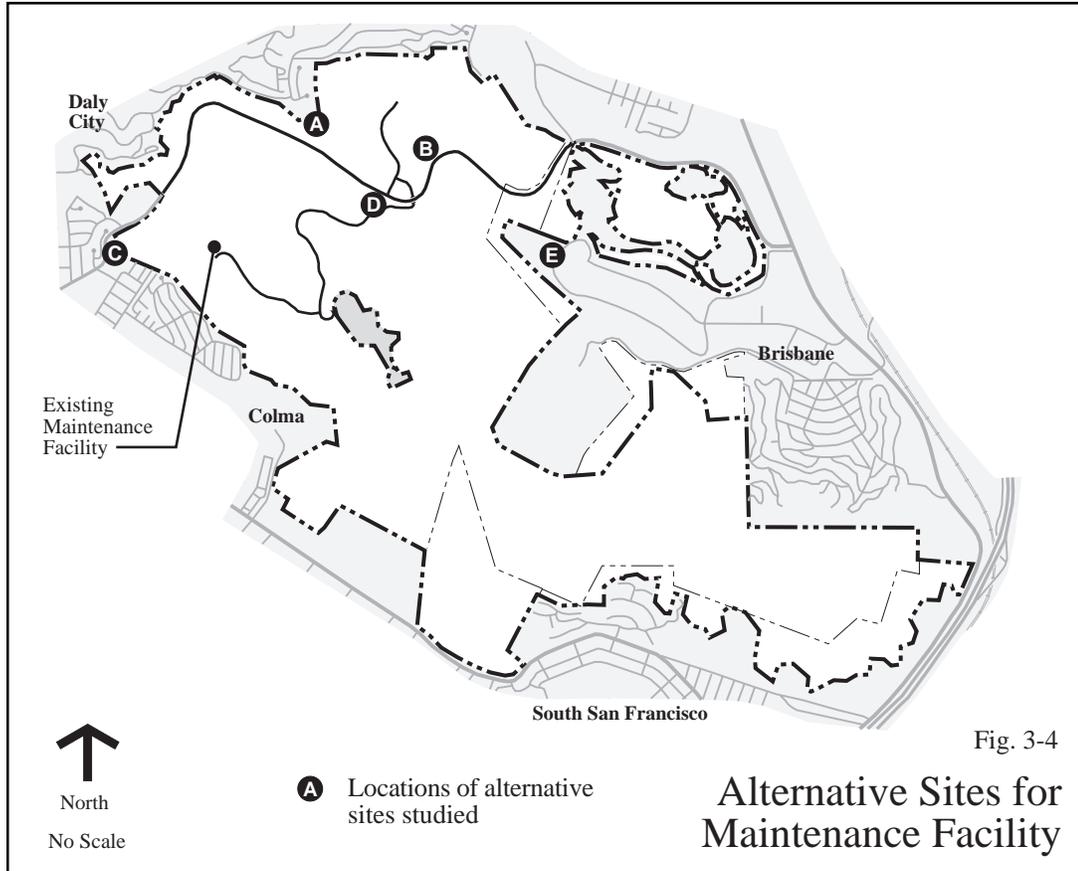


Fig. 3-4

Alternative Sites for Maintenance Facility

Another factor favoring the existing site is that a portion of it is currently being used for County communications equipment. This important use would prevent the site from being cleared and restored to a natural condition.

Recommendations

1. Maintain the existing site for the maintenance facility and make improvements consistent with standards and requirements. Add facilities for additional staff.
2. Improve utilities to the maintenance facility including water, electric, telephone, and sewage. Consider new utility services for location under the existing roads
3. Study incorporating all or partial functions of the maintenance facility with development of the proposed Park Center.

Issue OM-3: Utilities

- *Several utilities in the park such as water, sewer, electric, and telephone are substandard.*

Water, sewer, electric, and telephone utilities are substandard, particularly at the maintenance facility and the summit area.

Alternatives

1. Upgrade standard utility systems to key park areas. Underground where feasible and route utility lines under roads.
2. Upgrade utility service with self-contained alternative systems such as composting toilets, wind or solar electric generation, and on-site water collection.

Conclusions

The current electrical and water utility service provided to the Saddle Area will need to be extended across Guadalupe Canyon Parkway to the proposed Park Center site. In addition consideration should be given to connect the Park to local sewer lines or other appropriate sewage disposal methods.

An improved maintenance facility at the Nike site will need to establish a reliable power and water source. Current electric and telephone service is provided by lines extending up from the western boundary of the Park and has proven to be problematic. Relocation of utilities into Radio Road to serve the maintenance facilities and the communications facilities would result in more reliable service. If the lines and connection cannot be improved, the potential for other energy sources should be explored.

Recommendations

1. Plan for upgrading of deficient park utility systems including:
 - utility service to maintenance facility
 - sewer connections
 - building roofs
 - road conditions.
2. Study the cost/benefits of self-contained alternative systems versus standard systems.

Issue OM-4: Community Relations

- *More effective community outreach and involvement is needed to expand the Park's constituency and build community stewardship.*

Limited park staffing does not allow for community outreach to schools and civic groups. Community involvement will have several benefits for the park. The community will have input to shape programs and activities at the park to better meet their needs. The park will have a larger constituency to advocate for it, along with increased volunteer and fund-raising opportunities. The public will value the park as a community asset. To further these goals, a volunteer coordinator has recently been hired, and a County Parks Foundation has been established to facilitate private fund-raising for the parks. Some community outreach is part of activities performed by the HCP Habitat Manager.

Alternatives

1. Increase interaction between park staff and the community through civic groups, schools, and local agencies.

Conclusions

Additional staff will be needed to address community relations issues. One position should be dedicated part time to community outreach.

Recommendations

1. Create a Park Advisory Committee to provide a formal forum for local community participation with County Parks in the management of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Park Advisory Committee meetings should be open to the public. The committee may be composed of the following members:
 - County Parks Director or Superintendent
 - County Park Supervisor
 - County Park Commissioner
 - HCP representative
 - Representative from each city surrounding the park
 - Representatives from key stakeholder groups including volunteer groups, environmental groups, neighborhood groups, school districts and other interests.
2. Implement regular activities with school groups and integrate park issues with school curriculum.
3. Work with the Friends of San Bruno Mountain to broaden their membership and activities. Consider offering annual park passes as a benefit of FOSBM membership.

Issue OM-5: Dedication of Parcels

- *Complicated parcel dedication process leaves park boundaries uncertain and management of to-be-dedicated parcels difficult.*

The lengthy dedication process has resulted in an uncertain and changing park boundary due to the long-term phasing of development projects. Some dedicated parcels may contain drainage structures that will carry a maintenance responsibility. It is unclear who will be responsible for these structures.

Alternatives

1. Consider having dedicated parcels transferred to the County upon development plan approval rather than completion of construction. Provide lease or easements for necessary construction on dedicated parcels. This may require an amendment to the HCP. Parcels will be accepted when County dedication criteria is met (see Appendix for *Standards for Acceptance of Any Dedicated Lands by the County of San Mateo in Accordance with the San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan*).
2. Leave dedication process unchanged.

Conclusions

When resource management issues, fires, or other events occur, knowledge of park boundaries will be important. Clear dedication schedules should be established. If feasible, execute parcel dedications with development plan

approvals rather than construction. Dedicated parcels can have necessary construction activities through leases or easements granted to developers. Maintenance responsibility for drainage structures and other improvements on dedicated parcels should remain, by agreement, with the developer or homeowner association

Recommendations

1. Investigate feasibility of requiring developers or homeowners association to be responsible for maintenance of improvements on dedicated parcels such as drainage structures.
2. Require developers to survey dedicated parcels and provide boundary monumentation prior to acceptance of dedication.
3. Ensure that there is no liability and parcels are in good condition prior to being accepted by the County.
4. Island parcels not directly connected to the Park should not be accepted for dedication by the County for park purposes. Such lands should remain within the local jurisdiction for maintenance.

Additional Dedication Recommendation Regarding the Guadalupe Valley Quarry

The Guadalupe Valley Quarry consists of approximately 145 acres, 85 of which are within the excavation. The upper slopes of the property provide important butterfly habitat and will not be disturbed. The quarry may end its operation in the future. At such time, the land may be annexed by the City of Brisbane and lower area may be developed for a new use. According to the HCP, the upper slopes of the quarry will be granted a conservation easement or dedicated. It is likely that these lands will be accepted by the County as easements.

Issue OM-6: Transit Access

- *There is a lack of public transportation to the park.*

The cities surround the Park have excellent connections to local and regional transit through SamTrans, BART, and CalTrain. However, there are no transit routes into the Park on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Alternatives

1. Work with SamTrans to add a bus route with connections between regional transit stations (BART and CalTrain) to the Park along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Conclusions

Residents from all over the Bay Area would have easy transit access to San Bruno Mountain with the addition of a SamTrans bus route with stops along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Recommendations

1. Work with SamTrans to add a bus route with connections between regional transit stations (BART and CalTrain) to the Park along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Master Plan Compatibility with HCP

This Plan was developed utilizing the framework of several regulating influences, primary of which was the HCP. Thus, compatibility with the HCP is a critical element of this Master Plan.

As stated earlier, proposed developments presented in the 1982 General Plan were adopted and included into the HCP. This Master Plan incorporates many of the same land uses, in addition to accommodating the increased park acreage and higher demand for recreational facilities.

The majority of proposed facilities have been recommended within approved HCP development areas, although some recommended facilities are proposed within designated habitat areas, such as the Park Center.

The relocation of the Park Center from its recommended previous location may require a minor amendment to the HCP. The proposed location of these facilities are within an already disturbed habitat area and should not adversely impact the resource. Because the previous location proposed was adjacent to the wetland area, it is expected that the new location will have less impact on the resource.

Numerous trail corridors were approved for development by the HCP. This plan identifies trail corridors and recommends that each trail corridor be developed on a case-by-case basis. This Master Plan identifies general trail locations primarily to identify important access and connection points. The actual trail route will be dependent on existing trails, grade, and sensitivity of the habitat. Ultimately the layout of each trail will need to be developed in the field and should be evaluated prior to construction.

Resources Setting

Introduction

This Chapter provides a synopsis of relevant conditions at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. It includes a summary of the natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the park. The bibliography at the end of this chapter gives references to additional information.

The managers of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park are being challenged to do what is necessary to maintain the status quo with respect to the rare animals and plants by continually creating new or maintaining existing habitat.

San Bruno Mountain is a biological “island” cut off almost entirely from natural pathways for animals and plants. Only birds and other “long range” flying organisms can have any connection with natural ecosystems beyond San Bruno Mountain. Prior to the arrival of human settlers, San Bruno Mountain was part of the Santa Cruz mountains ecosystem, and there are remnant populations of fauna and flora related to existing species in the Santa Cruz mountains.

The period of Native American habitation on San Bruno Mountain may have marked the beginning of a slow and irreversible alteration of the ecosystem. Because the Native Americans left no written history, we will never know for certain whether or not they “managed” San Bruno Mountain in any way (e.g., by controlled burning). However, because they inhabited the eastern part of the mountain about 5,000 years ago, we can assume that their presence had some effect on faunal populations, including migrating herds of large ungulates.

In addition to whatever effect the human presence had on these herds, the animals themselves were unable to move freely from the southern peninsula up to San Bruno Mountain due to features of the terrain. Thus, replenishment of herds by regular migrations was limited. Records of bones found in the shell mounds of San Bruno Mountain indicate the presence of several species of animals (e.g. Tule elk) no longer resident on the peninsula. The importance of the loss of such herds is brought out later in this discussion.

Cattle were introduced by the Spanish/Mexican settlers during the 18th and 19th centuries. These herds were originally tended by the missionaries. Since we have no records of the size of these cattle herds, we can only guess about their effect on the landscape. Fully-managed herds were introduced when the area became Americanized ca. the late 1800’s. The cattle, which grazed continuously, then became an important component of the ecosystem; the cattle terraces are evident today, especially along the south slope.

As humans began to inhabit areas along the peninsula, mostly during the mid-nineteenth century, the migrating herds of native grazers diminished due to hunting, habitat alteration or encroachment on their territory by cattle. Continuous grazing on San Bruno Mountain ceased in the 1960’s. Many paleoecolo-

gists believe that herding animals, whether cattle or previous native grazers, are very important to the maintenance of the grasslands. In turn, such large animal activity was important to the continuous re-population of certain host plants upon which the several rare butterflies relied. For example, Lupine (a host plant for the Mission blue butterfly), requires a “pioneering” kind of habitat where the ground is disturbed by such elements as fire, surface erosion, and movement of grazing animals. In order to re-create a natural ecosystem on San Bruno Mountain we would need to restore it to its mid-19th century or earlier condition.

Fire was once an important influence on the San Bruno Mountain habitat. Although there are occasional fires, they are strictly controlled lest they move into the surrounding residential regions. The last “great” fire to occur on San Bruno Mountain was in 1964. It burned most of the northerly slope nearly up to the summit. Because there were no grazing or browsing animals on the mountain at that time, significant portions of the area changed in vegetative type from grassland to scrub as *Ceanothus* (blue blossom) became dominant.

Even now, the grasslands are being reduced by the invasion of native coyote brush, non-native eucalyptus, and a host of other invasive weeds (gorse, cotoneaster, fennel, broom, etc.). The lupine population is being slowly reduced due to the lack of specific disturbance necessary for its natural reproduction. Because the lupine is a mandatory component of the life cycle of the endangered (federally-listed) Mission blue butterfly, it is necessary to make special efforts to keep the lupines going. Similarly, stoncrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), host plant for the endangered (federally-listed) San Bruno elfin butterfly, is being reduced in its grassland habitat by encroaching brush (coyote brush, blue blossom, etc.)

As the discussion above shows, the original ecosystem, which was influenced by fire as well as grazing and browsing animals, no longer exists on San Bruno Mountain, nor could it ever naturally exist again. Only by human intervention on San Bruno Mountain can it be possible to maintain the precarious existence of the various rare organisms by continuing to work on the preservation of native grasslands. This intervention is costly and is necessary in perpetuity. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is intended to provide for the cost and the management to preserve this habitat.

After the County had provided a workable HCP, in 1983 the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a permit to allow the taking of limited amounts of Mission blue butterfly habitat. At the time the permit was issued, the Callippe silverspot had not yet been federally listed and was not, therefore, included on the permit for incidental take. Now that the Callippe silverspot has been federally listed as endangered, the USFWS is in the process of adding it to the permit. Although the Callippe silverspot had not been part of the original HCP, the document did recognize the fact that the Callippe silverspot butterfly was of very limited distribution and included Callippe in its consideration of the San Bruno Mountain ecosystem.

Natural Resources - Wildlife

San Bruno Mountain is a biological “refuge” supporting a diverse population of plants and animals, including several rare or endangered species, some of which are unique to San Bruno Mountain. Due to surrounding urbanization, its plant and animal communities are isolated from outside influences thereby establishing unique interrelationships that can be greatly impacted by the slightest change in the balance.

San Bruno Mountain is located within the Pacific Flyway and provides an important resting point for migrating birds. The Mountain is also home to many species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. All vertebrate species observed on the Mountain are considered common to the San Mateo-San Francisco peninsula.

Butterflies

The Mission Blue Butterfly, San Bruno elfin butterfly, and the Callippe silverspot butterfly have been identified as endangered species whose habitat on the Mountain is threatened. The *San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan and Endangered Species Act/Section 10a Permit (HCP)* adopted in November 1982 proposed methods for reestablishing and protecting these habitats.

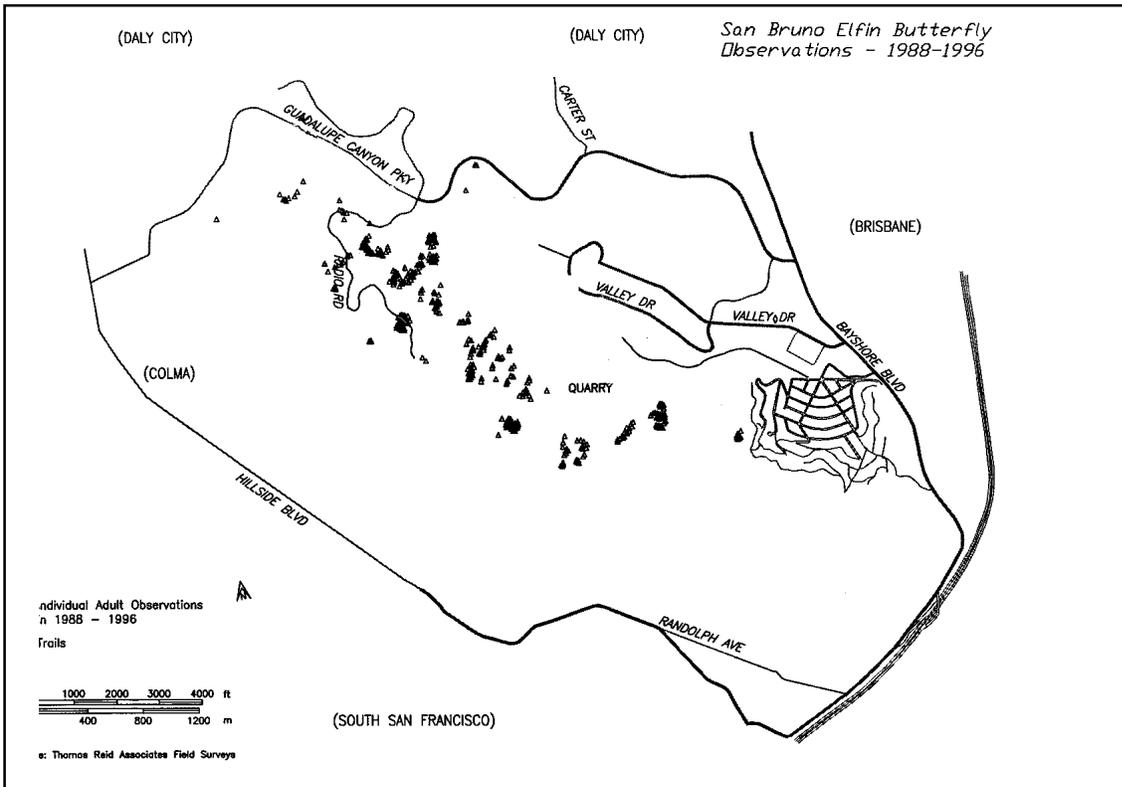
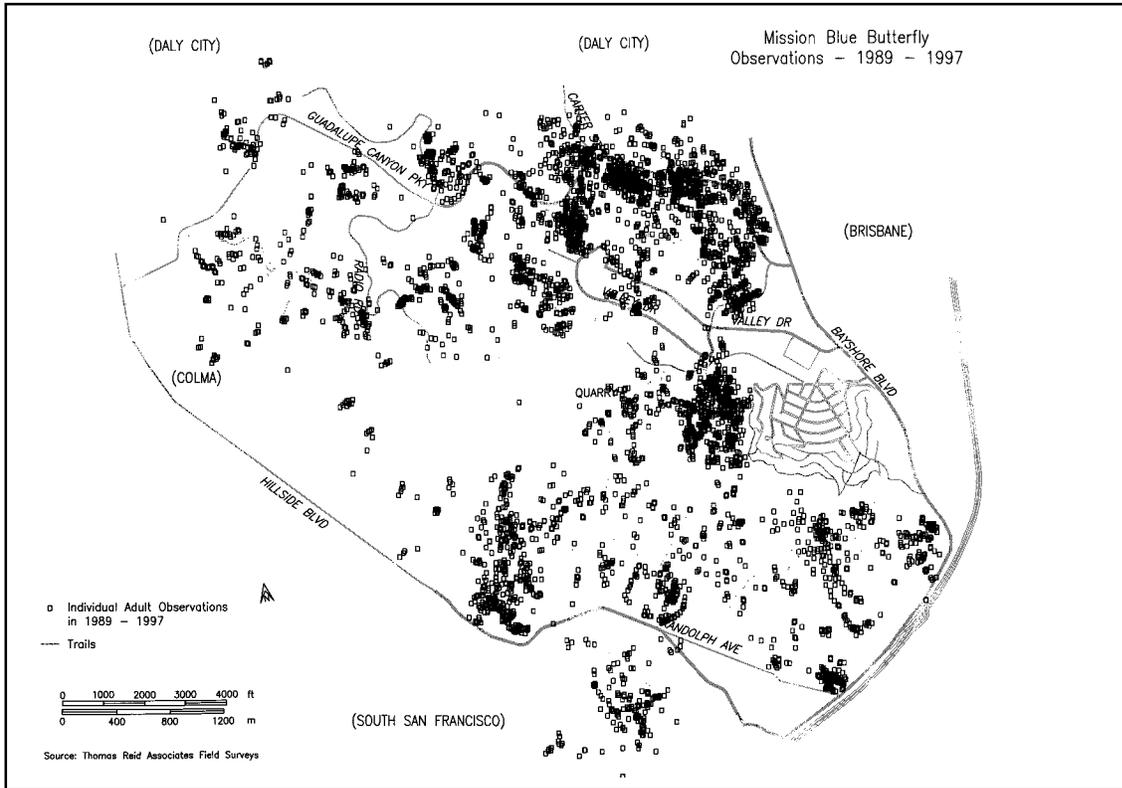
The three wildlife species of concern on San Bruno Mountain are as follows:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status *
Mission blue butterfly	<i>Icaricia icarioides missionensis</i>	endangered
San Bruno elfin butterfly	<i>Incisalia mossii bayensis</i>	endangered
Callippe silverspot butterfly	<i>Speyeria callippe callippe</i>	endangered

* United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Figure 4-1 identifies the currently known locations of these butterflies. It should be understood, however, that like any biological phenomenon, these animals and their host plants change locations over time.

When some of the initial butterfly studies were being made on San Bruno Mountain in 1982, a single specimen of the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*) was identified. This butterfly, also listed, has since not been seen since on San Bruno Mountain even though both of the obligate host plants grow in reasonable abundance. It is not known why this butterfly disappeared from the mountain, no more than it is known why it has disappeared from other localities where it was known to occur.



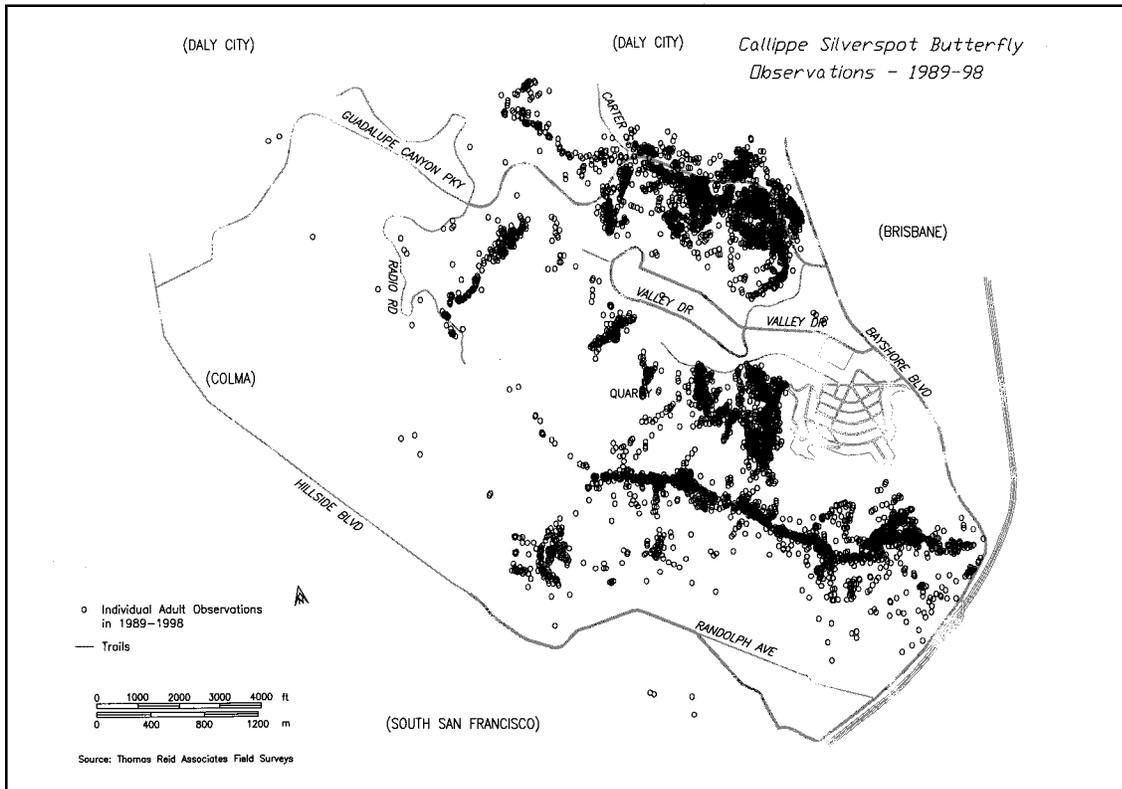


Fig. 4-1
Location of Endangered Butterfly Species

Butterflies of San Bruno Mountain

Source: *A Flora of San Bruno Mountain*

Hesperiidae:

Erynnis tristis, Mournful Dusky-wing, Sad Dusky-wing
Pyrgus communis, Common Checkered Skipper
Hylephila phyleus, Fiery Skipper
Hesperia comma dodgei, Dodge's Skipper
Polites sabuleti, Sandhill Skipper
Ochlodes sylvanoides, Woodland Skipper
Ochlodes agricola, Rural Skipper, The Farmer
Paratrytone melane, Umber Skipper
Lerodea eufala, Eufala Skipper

Papilionidae:

Battus philenor hirsuta, Hairy Pipe-vine Swallowtail
Papilio zelicaon, Anise Swallowtail, Western Parsley Swallowtail
Pterourus rutulus, Western Tiger Swallowtail
Pterourus eurymedon, Pale Swallowtail

Pieridae:

Pontia protodice, Common White, Checkered White
Artogeia rapae, Cabbage White, Cabbage Butterfly, Imported Cabbage Worm
Euchloe ausonides, Large Marble
Colias eurytheme, Alfalfa Butterfly, Common Sulfur, Orange Sulfur

Lycaenidae:

Gaeides xanthoudes, Great Copper
Satyrium saepium, Hedge-row Hairstreak
Callophrys viridis, Green Hairstreak
Incisalia augustus iroides, Western Brown Elfin
Incisalia mossii bayensis, Bay Region Elfin
Strymon melinus pudica, Common Hairstreak, Bean Lycaenid, Cotton Square Borer
Everes comyntas, Eastern Tailed Blue
Celastrina ladon echo, Echo Blue
Glaucopsyche lygadamus incognitus, Behr's Blue, Behr's Silvery Blue
Icaricia icarioides missionensis, Mission Blue
Icaricia acmon, Acmon Blue

Nymphalidae:

Speyeria callippe, Callippe Fritillary, Callippe Silverspot
Phyciodes campestris, Field Crescent
Phyciodes mylitta, Mylitta Crescent
Occidryas chalcedona, Chalcedon Checkerspot
Occidryas editha bayensis, Bay Region Checkerspot
Nymphalis californica, California Tortise Shell
Nymphalis antiopa, Mourning Cloak, Camberwell Beauty
Vanessa virginiensis, American Painted Lady, Virginia Lady, Hunter's Butterfly
Vanessa cardui, Painted Lady, Thistle Butterfly, The Cosmopolite
Vanessa annabella, West Coast Lady
Vanessa atalanta rubria, Red Admiral, Alderman Butterfly
Junonia coenia, Buckeye, Peacock Butterfly, Flying Pansy

Satyridae:

Coenonympha californica, California Ringlet
Danaus plexippus, Monarch, Milkweed Butterfly

Birds

The abundance of natural habitat provided by San Bruno Mountain as an island within the urban surroundings provides important home for many species of birds. San Bruno Mountain is of particular significance for raptors due to the abundance of open and grassland areas and the mountain's position on the migration route of many hawks. Raptors are also drawn to the mountain's topography for its swirling air currents. San Bruno Mountain provides three types of habitat for raptors: as a key point along the Pacific coast migration route for transients in spring and fall, as wintering habitat for migrating hawks from colder climates, and as breeding habitat for resident raptors. Of special interest to bird watchers is a single male albino red-tailed hawk who considers the mountain to be his territory. There currently is an active program to re-introduce Western blue birds on San Bruno Mountain.

Birds of San Bruno Mountain

Source: Doug Allhouse

Blackbird, Brewer's	Hawk, Ferruginous	Quail, California	Vireo, Hutton's
Bunting, Lazuli	Hawk, Red-shouldered	Raven, Common	Vireo, Solitary (Blue-capped)
Bunting, Painted	Hawk, Red-tailed	Redstart, American	Vireo, Warbling
Bushtit	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Robin, American	Vulture, Turkey
Chickadee, Chestnut-backed	Hawk, Swainson's	Sapsucker, Red-breasted	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
Cowbird, Brown-headed	Hummingbird, Allen's	Shrike, Loggerhead	Warbler, Black-throated Gray
Creeper, Brown	Hummingbird, Anna's	Sisken, Pine	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
Crossbill, Red	Hummingbird, Calliope	Snipe, Common	Warbler, Hermit
Crow, American	Hummingbird, Rufous	Solitaire, Townsend's	Warbler, MacGillivray's
Dove, Mourning	Jay, Scrub	Sparrow, Chipping	Warbler, Nashville
Dove, Rock	Jay, Stellar's	Sparrow, Fox	Warbler, Orange-crowned
Eagle, Bald	Junco, Dark-eyed	Sparrow, Golden-crowned	Warbler, Palm
Eagle, Golden	Kestrel, American	Sparrow, Lark	Warbler, Townsend's
Falcon, Peregrine	Killdeer	Sparrow, Lincoln's	Warbler, Wilson's
Falcon, Prairie	Kingbird, Western	Sparrow, Sage	Warbler, Yellow
Finch, House	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Sparrow, Song	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Finch, Purple	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Sparrow, White-crowned	Audubon's
Flicker, Northern	Kite, White-tailed	Sparrow, White-throated	Myrtle
Red-shafted	Lark, Horned	Starling, European	Waxwing, Bohemian
Yellow-shafted	Meadowlark, Western	Swallow, Barn	Waxwing, Cedar
Flycatcher, Ash-throated	Mallard	Swallow, Cliff	Whimbrel
Flycatcher, Gray	Martin, Purple	Swallow, Northern Rough-winged	Woodpecker, Acorn
Flycatcher, Hammond's	Merlin	Swallow, Tree	Woodpecker, Downy
Flycatcher, Olive-sided	Mockingbird, Northern	Swallow, Violet-green	Woodpecker, Hairy
Flycatcher, Pacific-slope	Nuthatch, Pygmy	Swift, Black	Wood-Pewee, Western
Flycatcher, Willow	Nuthatch, Red-breasted	Swift, Vaux's	Wren, Bewick's
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	Oriole, Northern	Swift, White-throated	Wren, Rock
Goldfinch, American	Osprey	Tanager, Western	Wren, Winter
Goldfinch, Lawrence's	Owl, Barn	Thrasher, California	Wrentit
Goldfinch, Lesser	Owl, Burrowing	Thrasher, Sage	Yellowthroat, Common
Goshawk, Northern	Owl, Great-horned	Thrush, Hermit	
Grosbeak, Black-headed	Owl, Northern Saw-whet	Thrush, Swainson's	
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Phoebe, Black	Thrush, Varied	
Harrier, Northern	Phoebe, Say's	Towhee, California	
Hawk, Broad-winged	Pigeon, Band-tailed	Towhee, Green-tailed	
Hawk, Cooper's	Poorwill, Common	Towhee, Spotted	

Mammals

Feral cats have been prevalent on San Bruno Mountain, but the local members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have volunteered to capture them. It is possible that such cats could have had effects in the past on the populations of both native and introduced animals. In as much as hantavirus has been detected in the present squirrel population (see below), it is imperative to reduce the population of feral cats, which can be vectors for any diseases the squirrels may be carrying.

Foxes have been sighted on San Bruno Mountain, including animals sick from unknown causes and dead from car kill.

The mice and squirrels of San Bruno Mountain are being monitored for hantavirus infection by the County Division of Environmental Health.

Other Animals

The federally listed endangered San Francisco garter snake has been mapped in the vicinity of San Bruno Mountain, but none have been found in recent studies. Potential habitat areas include areas with year-round fresh water such as the Colma Creek drainage and Buckeye Canyon. There is a strong likelihood that the snake had suitable habitat where the Crocker Industrial Park now stands. This area was built over filled freshwater wetlands that are no longer extant.

All known invertebrate and vertebrate animals are listed in the appendices. Currently special studies are being performed by graduate students and researchers from San Francisco State University and the University of California at Davis on the butterflies, galls on coyote brush, ants, and many other creatures on the mountain. Such studies are paying off: one researcher has hypothesized that the non-native Argentine ants are slowly taking over the habitats of native ants. Such invasions can be kept to a minimum if park staff maintain strict cleanliness around trash receptacles and in other areas of potential infestation.

Species no longer found on San Bruno Mountain include mountain lion, grizzly bear, black-tailed deer, Tule elk, bobcat, badger, coyote, ringtail, greater road-runner, and Bay checkerspot butterfly.

Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians of San Bruno Mountain

Source: *A Flora of San Bruno Mountain*

Mammals:

Black-tailed Jack Rabbit
 Botta's Pocket Gopher
 Brush Rabbit
 California Ground Squirrel
 California Meadow Vole
 Deer Mouse
 Feral House Cat
 Gray Fox
 Harvest Mouse
 Parasitic Mouse
 Long-tailed Weasel
 Raccoon
 Striped Skunk
 Trowbridge's Shrew
 Opossum

Reptiles:

California King Snake
 Coast Horned Lizard
 Common Garter Snake
 Gopher Snake
 Northern Alligator Lizard
 Ring-neck Snake
 Rubber Boa
 Sagebrush Lizard
 Southern Alligator Lizard
 Western Aquatic Garter Snake
 Western Skink
 Western Terrestrial Garter Snake
 Western Yellow-bellied Racer

Amphibians:

Arboreal Salamander
 California Newt
 California Red-legged Frog*
 California Slender Snake
 Pacific Tree Frog
 Western Toad

* This federally listed threatened species was historically known to exist on San Bruno Mountain, but has not been observed in recent years.

Ants of San Bruno Mountain

Source: Philip S. Ward

Ponerinae:

Hypoponera opacior

Myrmicinae:

Aphaenogaster occidentalis
Crematogaster coarctata
Leptothorax andrei
Leptothorax nevadensis
Messor andrei
Monomorium ergatogyna
Pheidole californica
Solenopsis molesta
Stenamma diecki
Stenamma punctatovenstre
Tetramorium caespitum

Formicinae:

Camponotus clarithorax
Camponotus semitestaceus
Camponotus vicinus
Formica accreta
Formica argentea
Formica integroides
Formica lasioides
Formica moki
Formica neogagates
Formica subelongata
Formica subpolita
Lasius alienus
Prenolepis imparis

Dolichoderinae:

Linepithema humile
Tapinoma sessile

Natural Resources - Vegetation

In addition to the Biological Report compiled during the preparation of the HCP in 1982, there have been two publications regarding the vegetation on San Bruno Mountain: In 1968 *A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains, San Mateo County, California* was published in the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences (4th Series). The primary authors, Dr. Elizabeth McClintock and Walter Knight, later published (with Paul Reeberg) a revision to that flora entitled *A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains*. The California Native Plant Society included it in their Special Publications (as Number 8) in 1990.

The revision identified 10 special vegetation types within 5 generalized broad vegetation communities, following the classification developed by Holland (1986) in *Preliminary descriptions of the terrestrial natural communities of California* (California Department of Fish & Game, unpublished). The 5 communities with their respective vegetation types are:

- Scrub:
 - Northern (Franciscan) Coastal Scrub
 - Central Coast Riparian Scrub
 - Central Dune Scrub

- Chaparral:
 - Blue Blossom Chaparral

- Grassland:
 - Valley Needlegrass Grassland
 - Central Terrace Prairie
 - Wild Rye Grassland

- Wetland:
 - Freshwater Marsh
 - Freshwater Seep

- Woodland:
 - Coast Live Oak Woodland

It is important that these 10 vegetation types be maintained as much as possible. Nowhere else so close to San Francisco can one find as rich a diversity of vegetation types. Interpretive centers would be able to draw upon this diversity for educational purposes. It is this diversity, also, that helps maintain the rare animals and plants within the Park. For a thorough description of the vegetation communities listed above the reader is referred to the 1990 edition of the *Flora* (see above).

Some of the rare plants which grow on San Bruno Mountain grow nowhere else in the world; a listing follows. Additionally, the mountain is known to be the northern or southern limits to the ranges of several of its plants.

The spread of brush and of invasive exotic species such as European grasses, Gorse, Eucalyptus, Scotch and French broom, Italian thistle and Fennel have eliminated a large percentage of the needed habitat for many of the mountain's native animal species. The HCP proposed

Rare Plants found on San Bruno Mountain

CNPS - California Native Plant Society:

1B - Rare, threatened or endangered plants in Calif.

3 - Review list, more information needed

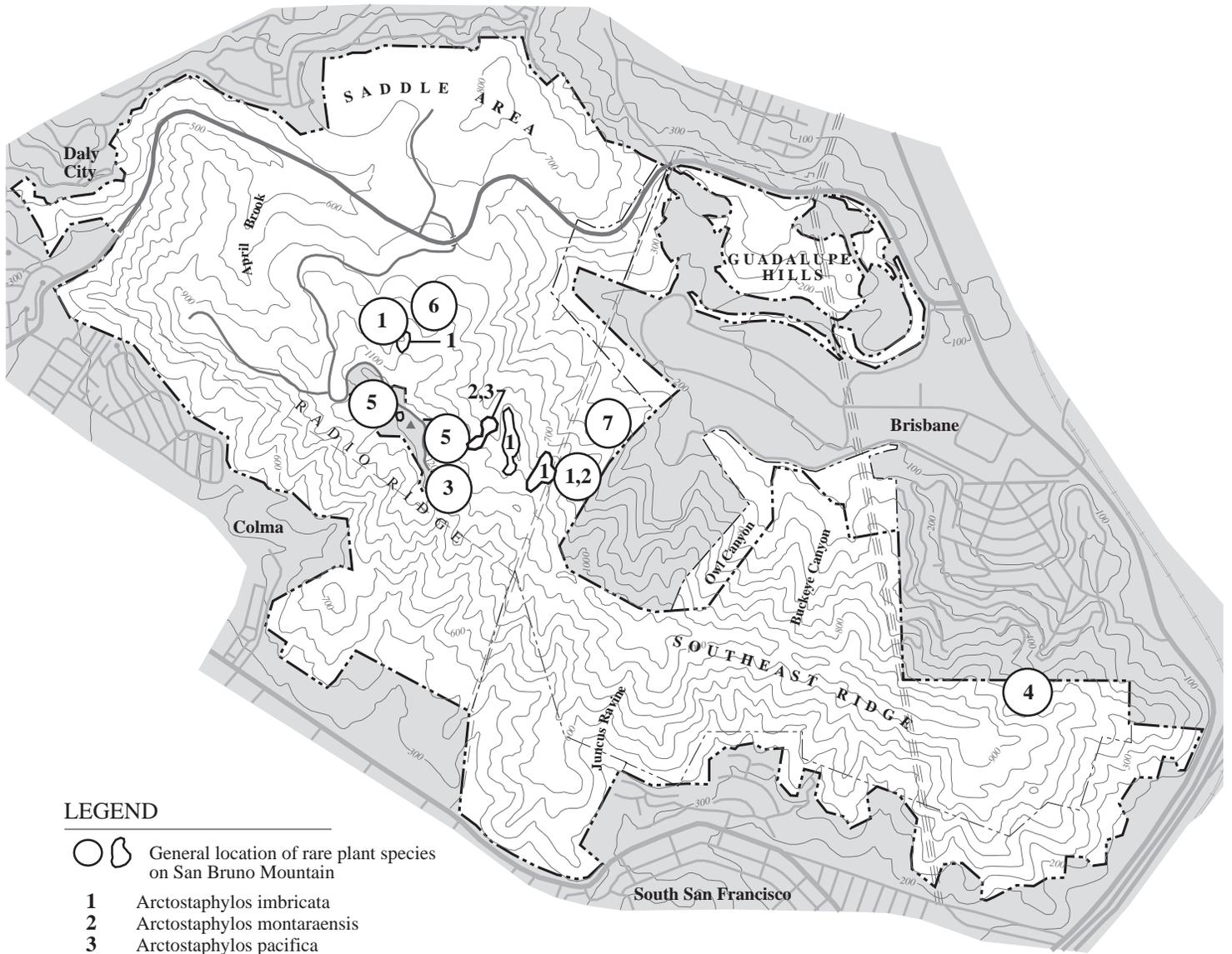
4 - Watch list, limited distribution

State of California:

SE - State-listed endangered

Federal: no Federally-listed plants

Common Name	Botanical Name	Status	Comments
Coast rock cress	<i>Arabis blepharophylla</i>	CNPS 4 State none Federal none	Endemic to Bay Area. Rare but not listed.
San Bruno manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos imbricata</i>	CNPS 1B State SE Federal none	State listed. Endemic to San Bruno Mountain in 6 locations
Montara manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos montarensis</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Known from only a few dozen plants on San Bruno Mountain. Otherwise known on Montara Mountain to the southwest
Pacific rock manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos x pacifica</i>	CNPS 1B State SE Federal none	Known only from San Bruno Mountain, possibly of hybrid origin
Miniature manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> ssp. <i>suborbiculata</i>	CNPS none State none Federal none	Known only from San Bruno Mountain. Taxonomy is questionable.
Leo Brewer's manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> var. <i>leo-breweri</i>	CNPS none State none Federal none	Extirpated by heavy overgrowth, but re-introduced on ridges to the east of where it had been known before
California pipe vine	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	CNPS none State none Federal none	California endemic, southern limit in Santa Cruz mountains.
Franciscan paint brush	<i>Castilleja franciscana</i>	CNPS none State none Federal none	California endemic, southern limit in Santa Cruz mountains.
Spine flower	<i>Chorizanthe cuspidata</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Range limited to sandy soils on the westerly end of San Bruno Mountain
San Francisco collinsia	<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	CNPS 4 State none Federal none	California endemic from San Francisco to Monterey County.
Franciscan wallflower	<i>Erysimum franciscanum</i>	CNPS 4 State none Federal none	Range limited from Sonoma County to Santa Cruz County.
San Francisco gum plant	<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Range limited to San Francisco and San Mateo Counties
Diablo helianthella	<i>Helianthella castanea</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Range limited to northern San Francisco Bay region
Choris's popcorn flower	<i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Range limited to Central Coast and San Francisco Bay region
San Francisco campion	<i>Silene verecunda</i> var. <i>verecunda</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Range limited to northern Central Coast and San Francisco Bay region
Dune tansy	<i>Tanacetum camphoratum</i>	CNPS 1B State none Federal none	Southern range limit in northern San Mateo County
Dwarf billberry	<i>Vaccinium caespitosum</i>	CNPS none State none Federal none	Very disjunct. Southern most distribution in California on SBM where known only at Kamchatka Point



LEGEND

- General location of rare plant species on San Bruno Mountain
- 1 *Arctostaphylos imbricata*
- 2 *Arctostaphylos montaraensis*
- 3 *Arctostaphylos pacifica*
- 4 *Helianthella castanea*
- 5 *Silene verecunda*
- 6 *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* ssp. *suborbiculata*
- 7 *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* ssp. *leo-breweri*

Source: Thomas Reid Associates, 1998

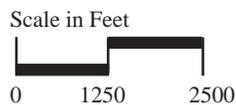


Fig. 4-2
**Distribution
of Rare and
Endangered Plants**

several habitat-enhancement techniques to control exotic species, reintroduce native plant species, and manage successional environments. Each year thousands of exotic pest plants are removed (by the habitat manager and volunteer groups) to protect the endangered butterfly habitat. In 1995, 63 acres of Eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) were clear-cut to create and improve butterfly habitats. In 1996, The Friends of San Bruno Mountain established a four-acre native plant garden, featuring plant species native to San Bruno Mountain.

Figure 4-2 identifies the locations of known rare and endangered plant species in the park.

Natural Resources - Geology

San Bruno Mountain is an elevated fault block, created by the buckling of the earth's crust and shifts of resulting blocks relative to one another. It lies within the Coast Range Geomorphic Province. Three active faults in the vicinity are the San Andreas, the Hayward, and the Calaveras. Several inactive faults flank the Mountain, more significant in lithologic structure than seismic risk.

The Mountain is made up of Franciscan sandstone and shale, with sandstone comprising up to 90% of the bedrock. Two types of loamy soil are present on the Mountain. The Gaviota eroded Rockland association is a rocky loam found on steep slopes. The Los Gatos Hills association is a clay loam found on the more gentle slopes. The native soil structure commonly holds slopes of thirty degrees or more if undisturbed. Less stable soil areas have been found along the Hillside Fault (flanking the southern slope and crossing the Park between the golf course and Pacific Nursery).

Natural Resources - Topography

San Bruno Mountain is a northwest-trending promontory, three-and-one-half miles long and one mile wide. Although the immediate area around the Mountain is characterized by flat lands or gently rolling hills, San Bruno Mountain reaches a height of 1,314 feet above sea level at its summit. The Mountain has two main ridges, bisected in the southeasterly portion by the Guadalupe Valley, which join near the Saddle Area. The Saddle is a "bowl" formed by a series of knolls at its rim. The Mountain slopes primarily face southeast and northwest.

Slopes of 50 percent or greater dominate the Mountain, with the steepest areas located at ravines and around the mountain's periphery. Most of the Saddle is comprised of slopes of less than 30 percent. Only three percent of the Park contains slopes less than or equal to ten percent, generally near the intersection of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and Radio Road.

Natural Resources - Hydrology

Three main watersheds, all ultimately draining into the San Francisco Bay, drain a majority of San Bruno Mountain. The largest watershed, Colma Creek Watershed, encompasses 996 acres in the northwestern part of the Park. The Guadalupe Valley Watershed drains the eastern portion of the Park (703 acres), and the Paradise Valley Watershed drains 267 acres in the southern portion. Two other watersheds (Visitación Valley and Sierra Point) drain less than 100 acres of the Park. Development in areas surrounding San Bruno Mountain has significantly altered off-site drainage patterns. The Colma Creek and Guadalupe Valley Watersheds have both experienced siltation and flooding¹.

A number of gullies and ravines drain into Colma Creek. Many intermittent streams and spring-fed perennial streams exist on the Mountain. The year-round spring seepage provides a dependable water source to help sustain a diverse biotic habitat. An upland freshwater wetland has developed in a low-lying depression, fed by surficial runoff and springs in the area. While not including any rare or endangered biotic species, a freshwater wetland is somewhat unique and not often found in the Bay Area. The wetland is located in the Saddle between Old Guadalupe Trail/Road and the Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

Natural Resources - Climate

Temperatures on San Bruno Mountain are affected by microclimates, such as exposure to the ocean or Bay, but usually range from 50° to 60° F. Most of the Mountain is exposed to strong winds. Estimated average annual rainfall is 22 inches, with the south-facing slope receiving slightly less. Relatively heavy fog is a factor in rainfall totals. Fog is more prevalent on the western side of mountain.

Because major local pollutant sources such as the San Francisco International Airport are downwind of the Mountain, pollution levels are moderate relative to the rest of the Bay Area.

Cultural Resources - Prehistoric

There is documented evidence of Ohlone Indian shell mounds and burial site adjacent to the Park, indicating a substantial occupation site, considered one of the largest and most intact on the Peninsula. There is a football field-sized mound located on the southeastern slope of the Mountain, abutting the 101 freeway. Much controversy has developed over how to preserve the site, as it is located within a parcel slated for commercial development. Discussion is underway about the potential to adjoin the mound with the rest of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park to preserve it intact. Remnants of a shell mound have also been found in the Buckeye Canyon area.

Four sites in the eastern end of the park are listed with the California Historical Resources Information System (CA-SMA-40, -92, -234, and -243).

Cultural Resources - Historic

Following the aboriginal period, San Bruno Mountain was used as grazing land by the Spanish mission system for Mission Dolores de San Francisco de Assisi. After secularization, the land was granted to Jacob Leese in 1841 as part of the Rancho Cañada de Guadalupe la Visitación y Rodeo Viejo land grant. The Mountain was surveyed after the U.S. acquired Alta California in 1847, but no attempt to settle here occurred until Charles Crocker acquired the property in the 1870's. Upon his death, the property passed to the Crocker Land Company, which still holds deed to a portion of the privately held land today.

With the incursion of European settlers, herds of antelope, elk, deer and other native grazers were eliminated. Cattle provided the only means by which open grassland could be perpetuated. Removal of the cattle has allowed the natural incursion of brush that has slowly been overtaking the open grasslands.

Other than grazing, a rock mining operation is the only substantial indication of modern man's activities prior to 1900 within the Park's boundaries. This quarry is scheduled to complete its operations within the next 5-10 years, at which time a portion of the property may be redeveloped.

Remnants of the old roads such as Old Ranch Road and the old county road have historic value that should be evaluated. Other evidence of ranching and agricultural activities should be investigated.

Another historic facility within the Park is the Nike Site. Constructed in 1955, this site is known as SF-59 Fort Funston Nike Site. Active from 1956 to 1963, this facility was originally used as the radar control center for the Nike Missile site at Fort Funston. One of five remaining sites in the Bay Area with original buildings still intact, this site currently houses the Park's maintenance facility, radio communication buildings for the County and storage buildings for the habitat managers of the HCP.

Aesthetic Resources

Visitors to San Bruno Mountain can find solitude in the quiet, wide-open spaces, or they can feel a sense of being at the center of everything – with expansive views of the surrounding Bay Area and as far-reaching as Mt. Tamalpais to the north, Mt. Diablo to the east, and the Farallon Islands to the west. This contrasting aesthetic repeats itself again and again on the Mountain: man-made and natural, modern and archaic, barren and foliated, ocean and bay.

The view from Highways 101 and 280 is the most common impression passersby have of San Bruno Mountain - a treeless expanse of steep slopes. Upon approach, the rugged terrain and botanic variety become more apparent. Long views of the Mountain are generally interrupted by development: Southern Hills Subdivision in Daly City to the north, South San Francisco's "Sign Hill" to the south, Northeast Ridge Subdivision from the Bay side approach to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway.

The aesthetic character on the Mountain varies depending on one's vantage point. The dry, south-facing side provides limited visual interest, featuring grassland, sparse scrub planting, and Eucalyptus groves. In the background, the mountain's steep slopes loom large. The cemeteries and flower colors at Pacific Nursery provide some aesthetic value.

The Mountain terrain of the more gradually sloping north-facing side is impressive when viewed from a distance, with a variety of vegetation including a heterogeneous mix of low-growing shrubs. Spectacular wildflower displays are common here in the spring. A rock quarry interrupts the natural viewshed, as do the radio transmission towers, clearly visible over the ridge.

The sparsely vegetated ridgeline provides a panoramic view of the urban peninsula. Although the radio towers are predominant, there is a feeling of being more than 1300 feet above sea level, with steep slopes falling off on both sides. A brisk wind and often-heavy fog can make the landscape seem even more remote.

Tall, non-native trees, which greatly screen the surrounding urban areas from view, make the flat meadow of the Saddle seem secluded and rural. Knolls within the northern Saddle area provide expansive views of San Francisco, Marin County, the Pacific Ocean and the East Bay. Shorter views are of the Cow Palace, 3Com Park, and McLaren Park.

Recreation Resources

Despite the high number of residents around the perimeter of the park, San Bruno Mountain still maintains a sense of seclusion. The rugged landscape and spectacular views provide excellent hiking opportunities over the twelve miles of designated trails. A number of volunteers visit the park for habitat work and scientific research. The day, family and group picnic areas contain the highest concentration of Park users.

The largest area of level terrain, lending itself best to organized recreation, is in the Saddle. Prevalent steep slopes on the Mountain prevent recreational development without substantial grading. Harsh winds and frequent fog in many zones may hamper some activities. Areas of sensitive habitat may not be favorable for active uses.

References

¹ Botany of the Saddle Area Wetlands, San Bruno Mountain, San Mateo County California, 1988. Peter Rubtzoff & Roman Gankin, *The Four Seasons*, 8 (2): 36-57.

A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains. Dr. Elizabeth McClintock, Walter Knight, and Paul Reeberg. California Native Plant Society. 1990.

General Plan - San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Inouye/Dillingham Landscape Architects. Berkeley, CA. May 1982.

San Bruno Mountain Home Page. www.inet-sciences.com/san_bruno_mtn/index.htm. January 1998

Environmental Impact Report, San Bruno Mountain County Park. Del Davis Associates. San Rafael, CA. August 1976.

San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan and Endangered Species Act. County of San Mateo and U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. San Mateo, CA. November 1982.

San Bruno Mountain's Endangered Plants & Animals. Bay Area Land Watch. Brisbane, CA.

California Historical Resources Information System. Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University.

Land Use and Facilities Setting

Introduction

In order to develop a comprehensive Master Plan it is critical to understand the various relationships between land and facility use. This chapter will present existing land and facility uses.

Existing Land Use and Facilities

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has some developed facilities, primarily in the Saddle Area. Much of the park is inaccessible due to steep slopes. A trail system provides access to key recreational and scenic areas. The park's primary internal road, Radio Road, provides access to the mountain's summit. The majority of the Park consists of open space dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of habitat for endangered species. The Park offers the visitor a variety of experiences for both passive and active recreational uses. Areas in which habitat and recreational resources are combined to provide more intensive use are found clustered in the Saddle Area.

Entrance Station

The entrance to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park is located on the north side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, in the Saddle Area. Upon reaching the entrance gate, the visitor passes by a small gatehouse where a vehicle entrance fee is received.

The number of visitors to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has averaged approximately 68,000 a year over the last ten years. It is difficult to assess the actual number of visitors to the Park due to the high quantity of access points from the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition an unknown number of vehicles enter the park as service vehicles for the various operators of the American Tower (formerly Watson Communications) facilities located at the summit. Therefore, actual visitation could vary from what is recorded. It is assumed that visitation has been slowly increasing over the past several years due to the amount of outside development and immediate growth surrounding the Park.

Circulation

Roads/Parking

Primary access to the Park by car is via Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, a four-lane road that traverses the Park from Daly City to Brisbane. Visitors travel through the Park via Guadalupe Canyon Parkway before they actually reach the entrance gate. School and SamTrans bus service travel the route, but bus service is not provided to the Park.

Upon entering the Park from Guadalupe Canyon Parkway, the entrance road leads into parking areas for the family picnic area and day camp. It then passes through an underpass to trail head parking and native plant botanic garden at the base of Radio Ridge and continues to the summit. Winding and scenic Radio Road provides numerous opportunities for far-reaching vistas and breathtaking views on clear days. From this road, a single lane road is utilized for access to the Park maintenance facility which is located within a former Nike Site.

Parking is available at the picnic area, the day camp, the trailhead at the base of Radio Ridge for the majority of the Park trails, and at the summit.

Pedestrian access is available through several access points originating at the perimeter of the Park. Many people who hike into the Park enter from one of the surrounding neighborhoods of Daly City, Brisbane and South San Francisco and Colma. Because of this, several more trails have been created than those that are designated. Some of these trails were established as old fire roads and/or utility easements; they range in slope from approximately 21% to 60%.

Emergency/Access

Fire and emergency service accesses the Park by Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Vehicle access to natural areas can only be achieved via fire roads and roads established as utility easements. CDF is responsible for wildland fire control; additional fire support is provided by the surrounding cities. Public safety and emergency service is provided by the County of San Mateo Sheriff. Mutual aid is also provided by the surrounding jurisdictions.

Recreational Use and Facilities

Based on input received from the public and Park staff, the consensus is that San Bruno Mountain is primarily used as an area for walking/hiking, jogging, nature studies, bicycling and picnicking. In addition, the following 1998 attendance statistics reflect this type of park use.

Hiking	33%	Picnic	15%
Sightseeing	24%	Day Camp	3%
Bike	16%	Equestrians	0.1%

Over the past ten years the user groups to San Bruno Mountain have changed in some areas more than others. For instance, bicycle use has more than doubled, while day camp users have reduced by almost half and equestrians use has greatly reduced. Other user groups such as hikers and sightseers have remained relatively stable, while picnic use is steadily increasing.

The Park also has a number of volunteers and individuals that visit the Park on a regular basis for habitat work and scientific research. In addition, some local schools use the Saddle Area for cross-country running and a ropes course.

The Saddle Area offers the majority of developed facilities in the Park. The family picnic area surrounds a meadow and includes approximately 30 tables and barbecue grills, drinking water and a restroom. This area also provides trail access to the Saddle, Old Guadalupe, and Bog trails. Northwest of the picnic area is the Edward Bacciocco Jr. Day Camp. Available by reservation, this camp is designed to accommodate up to 200 children and is also utilized as a group picnic area by reservation.

Trails

The trails in the Park offer a variety of experiences. For the hiker, the designated trails offer slopes varying from approximately 2% to 9%. The trails in the Saddle Area are wide, more uniform in size and better utilized as multi-use trails. Trails on the summit side of the Park were designed for hikers and are generally narrow and winding as they traverse the steep slopes of San Bruno Mountain. One exception to this is the Ridge Trail which was originally designed as a fire road, therefore, a wider surface was established.

The following is a list of the designated and maintained trails within the Park.

Name	Miles	Elev. Chg.	Difficulty	ADA	Bikes
Bog Trail	.40	30 ft.	Easy	Yes	No
Dairy Ravine	.43	155 ft.	Moderate	No	No
Eucalyptus Loop	1.08	170 ft.	Easy	No	No
Old Guadalupe*	.80	30 ft.	Easy	Yes	Yes
Old Ranch Road*	.71	155 ft.	Easy	No	Yes
Ridge Trail	2.43	310 ft.	Strenuous	No	No
Saddle Trail	2.10	150 ft.	Moderate	No	Yes
Summit Loop	3.13	725 ft.	Moderate	No	No

* Trail can be accessed through designated trails from the perimeter of the Park.

Bicycle use on trails is restricted to the Saddle Area. In this area the trails are designated as multi-use trails, and the relatively gradual slope provides the opportunity for this type of use. Bicycles are not permitted on the trails associated with the summit side of the Park. The steep grades and limited potential for connections to multi-use trails restrict this type of use.

Equestrians are restricted to use on the summit side of the Park. The western portion of the Summit Loop Trail has muddy soil conditions approximately eight months out of the year. Equestrians are not allowed in the Saddle Area of the Park due to State Park regulations.

Accessibility

Due to the natural topography of San Bruno Mountain the steep slopes present a challenge for the development of accessible trails meeting ADA standards. The majority of the facilities located in the Saddle Area conform to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Trails that currently conform to these standards in the Park include the Bog and Old Guadalupe trails.

Ropes Course

A ropes course, developed by Jefferson Unified School District has been established on a trial basis, and is located adjacent to the access road to the day camp. Located within a Eucalyptus grove, this course is to assist in team building and problem solving skills among youth groups. For the purposes of personal safety, the ropes course uses removable pulleys, ropes and other devices, making it unavailable to the general public.

Native Plant Botanic Area

The native plant botanic area, developed by the Friends of San Bruno Mountain (FSBM), is at the northern base of Radio Ridge, adjacent to the trailhead parking area. Currently under development, this site is planned as an interpretive display representing the various native plant communities of San Bruno Mountain.

4-H Club

Within the northwestern boundary of the Park, adjacent to Daly City is an area leased by the University of California for use by the 4-H Club of Daly City. This area houses a few small farm animals that are associated with the program and is generally not open to the public.

Nike Site

An additional facility within the Park is the historic Nike site. Originally used as the radar control center for the Nike Missile site at Fort Funston, this site houses the Park's maintenance facility, radio communication buildings for the County. A paved, single-lane road provides access into this secured area.

Utilities and Easements

Although San Bruno Mountain is surrounded by urbanization, the connection to standard utilities on the Mountain is very limited. The Saddle Area contains the majority of established facilities within the Park. Electrical and water service is provided from a connection point north of the Saddle to the day camp, picnic area, and entrance station. In addition each facility has a restroom facility which flows to a leach field located between the Saddle Trail and Old Ranch Road. Water service is not provided beyond these points within the Park's boundaries.

A separate electric line connects to the Nike site which hosts the County Park's maintenance and radio communications facility. Potable water is imported to the site on a regular basis. The restroom effluent flows to an on-site leach field.

Within the Park boundaries are several utility and fire control easements.

- Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has multiple power lines and a gas line crossing Radio Ridge, Southeast Ridge and Guadalupe Hills. To provide access to these utilities, PG&E has a series of access roads that the company maintains.
- The California Department of Forestry (CDF) has several fire roads primarily located within the Southeast Ridge area of the Park that are maintained by CDF for fire control.
- Water lines owned by the San Francisco Water Department traverse the eastern boundary of the Park and extend into Brisbane.
- AT&T has an easement for a cable television facility at the eastern end of Southeast Ridge.

Adjacent Undeveloped Land

Adjacent to the park are several undeveloped parcels. The lands of primary interest are the areas known as Owl and Buckeye Canyons, Hillside Landfill and Brisbane Acres. All of these areas provide potential open space connections to the Park.

- Owl and Buckeye Canyons are owned by the California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G), and are to be maintained as habitat for endangered butterfly species, for protection of a Native American shell mound, and for their general ecological value.
- Hillside Landfill, owned by the City of Colma, has an end use plan to convert the site into a community park that would include “active” and “passive” use areas, and “trailhead parking.”
- Brisbane Acres consists of many parcels under private ownership. Currently undeveloped, the land is restricted as to potential development by virtue of the steepness of the terrain and the lack of developed roadways. The City of Brisbane may be reviewing these parcels for potential as they begin to develop their open space plan.
- Guadalupe Valley Quarry will be closed at some time in the future. Portions of the property will likely be redeveloped. In accordance with the HCP, certain portions of the quarry lands are to be dedicated to the County. These lands lie above the quarry and are adjacent to the ridge of the mountain.
- Holy Cross Cemetery land in Colma is currently being used by a plant nursery. Ultimately, the land is planned for cemetery expansion.

Opportunities and Constraints

Within the Park boundaries the majority of land is designated as habitat conservation areas. Defined as areas of great ecological value and high sensitivity, these areas have been set aside for the protection and enhancement of the habitat for the species of concern. Many of the habitat conservation areas have been donated to the County for mitigation of the impact of private property development on endangered butterfly species and their habitat.

Some areas within designated habitat are greatly overgrown with exotic vegetation which is not conducive to butterfly habitat. The habitat areas have been prioritized as to the feasibility of successful restoration based on the amount of restoration effort needed, soil type and cost. The low priority areas have been designated as “low quality habitat areas” or “lowest priority restoration sites. These areas generally include large stands of Eucalyptus or gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). The sites do present an opportunity for development if there is demand. Proposed park facilities development in these areas would require an amendment to the HCP.

In addition, several areas throughout the Park, within and outside of habitat areas have been established as approved HCP development areas. These areas were defined as part of the 1982 General Plan and adopted by the HCP.

In developing the recommendations for this Master Plan it was important to identify all of these areas in order to determine the proposed land uses and facilities. The map, Figure 5-2, *Opportunities and Constraints*, presents the above mentioned areas.

Edward Bacciocco Jr.
Day Camp

Ropes course

Wetland area

Water, telephone, and
electrical lines

Picnic area
and parking

Leach Field

Entrance station

Native Plant
Botanic Area
Trailhead parking

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

STATE AND COUNTY PARK

MASTER PLAN

Daly City

4H Club

Old Nike Site and
Maintenance Area
(west peak)

Colma

American Tower
(private property)

Hillside Landfill

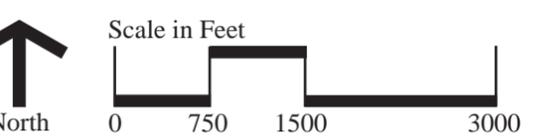
PG&E transmission lines

PG&E transmission
and gas lines

- LEGEND**
-  Designated Hiking Trails
(Horses permitted on trails south of
Guadalupe Canyon Parkway)
 -  Designated Bike & Hike Trails
 -  Undesignated Trails and
Service Roads
 -  21% Approximate Maximum Grade
for sustained distances
 -  Paved Roads
 -  State Park Lands
 -  Master Plan Boundary
 -  Real Property Boundary

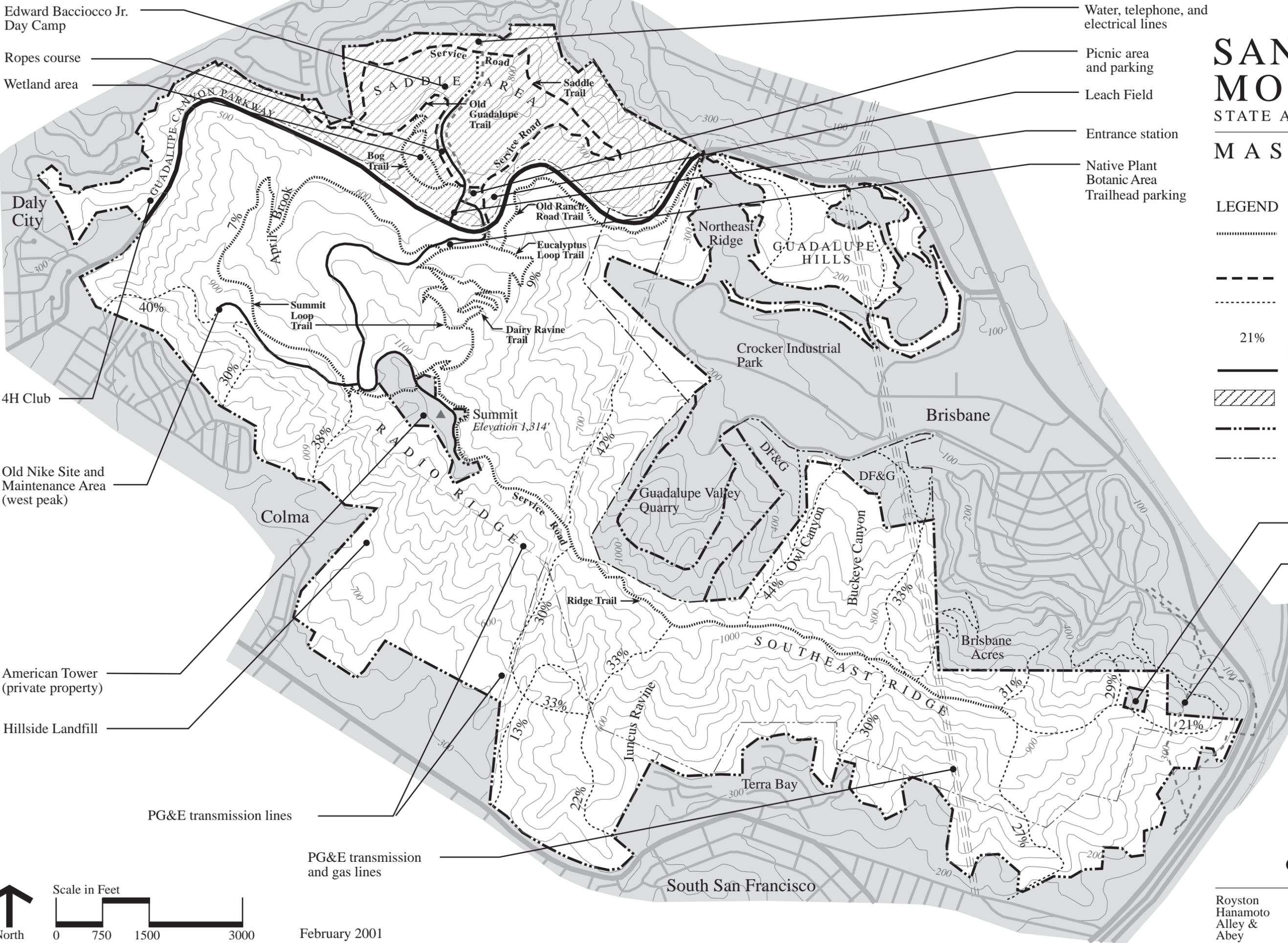
AT&T easement

San Francisco Water
District water lines



February 2001

Fig. 5-1
**Existing
Land Use
& Facilities**



SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

STATE AND COUNTY PARK

MASTER PLAN

LEGEND

- Trail Corridors Approved by HCP
- Designated Hiking Trails
- - - - Designated Bike & Hike Trails
- Approved HCP Development Areas
- HCP Conserved Habitat Areas
- Land Outside of Park Boundaries
- - - - Master Plan Boundary
- - - - Real Property Boundary
- ▨ Low Quality Habitat Areas *
- ▨ Lowest Priority Restoration Sites *

* Source: Thomas Reid Associates

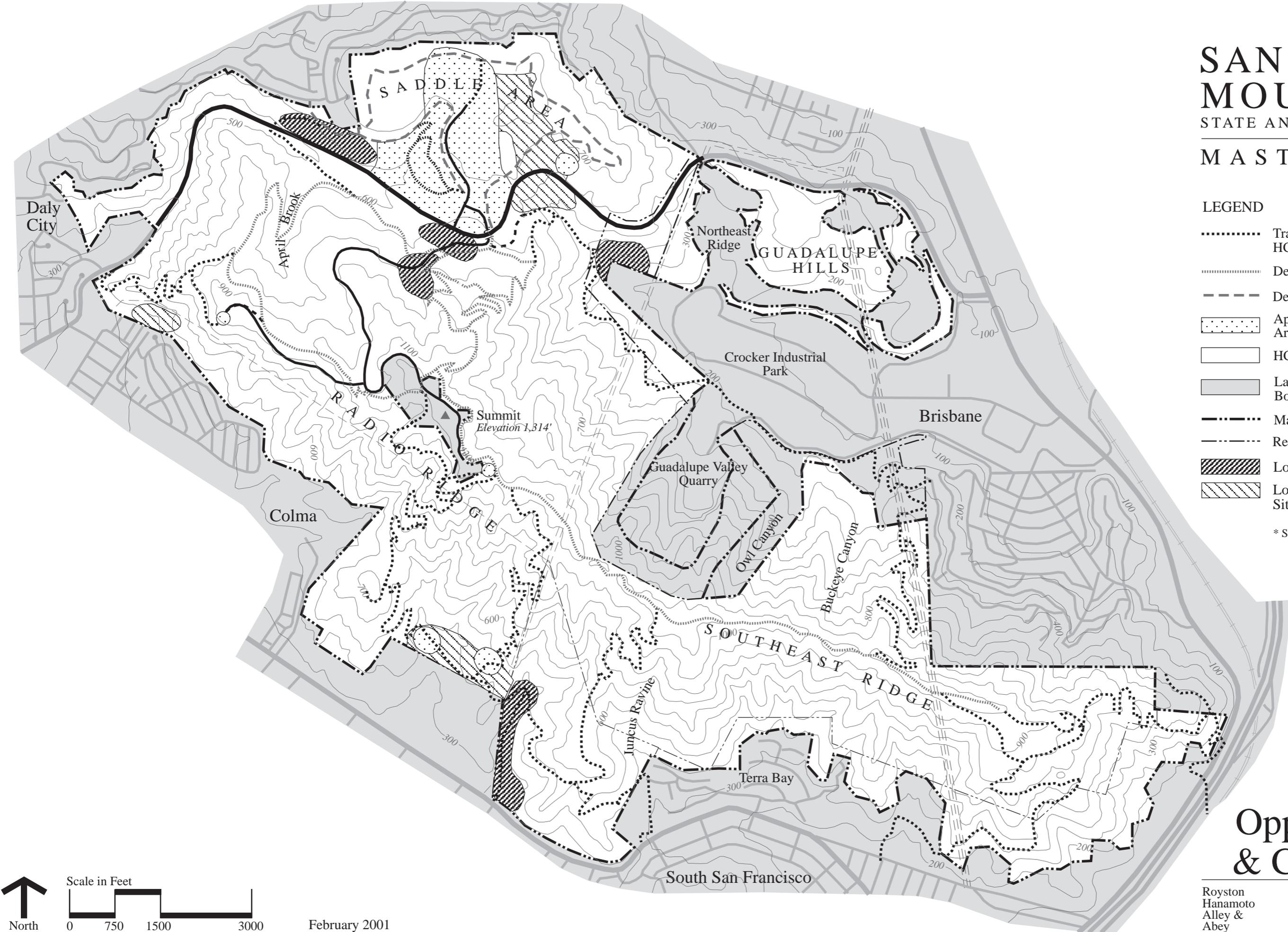
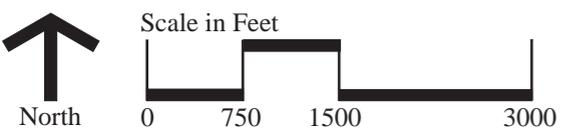


Fig.5-2

Opportunities & Constraints



February 2001

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation

Operations and Maintenance Setting

Introduction

Several recommendations were made regarding the operations and maintenance of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park from input received during the Master Plan process. This element of the Master Plan will discuss the current Park operations and maintenance and make recommendations for the future.

Present Park Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park contains approximately 2,520 acres currently under the management and operation of two full-time permanent Rangers and 4 to 5 Park Aides (1.5 full time equivalent - FTE). This limited staff level rarely provides the basic day-to-day service and maintenance needed for a park of this size. Long term maintenance of the already aging facilities cannot be accomplished leading to greater overall facility deterioration. The staff also cannot provide interpretive services, public outreach, habitat restoration, and other resource management and maintenance duties.

The primary duties of the staff include visitor information, fee collection, emergency response, trail maintenance, and routine facility maintenance. The Rangers implement day-to-day operations and facility maintenance. The County Division of Parks provides a maintenance crew to complete larger-scale maintenance projects on an as-needed basis. Administrative support is provided through the County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Division in Redwood City.

Most current resource management activities conducted at San Bruno Mountain are focused on habitat restoration and enhancement. The guiding force in this work is the HCP which primarily focuses on endangered species and their habitats. The majority of this resource management work is provided by the HCP managers (Thomas Reid Associates - TRA) and volunteer groups such as the Friends of San Bruno Mountain and San Bruno Mountain Watch (this group's activities are not currently supervised by County Parks). Due to the limited staff and budget, resource management conducted by Park staff is limited to trail maintenance, reduction of overgrown vegetation, and necessary erosion control.

Park staff are trained to handle minor incidents of fire, emergency response and visitor contacts. Primary responsibility for fire and police protection is provided by California Department of Forestry (CDF) and San Mateo County Sheriff's department. Since these two agencies are not always in the immediate vicinity of the Park, mutual aid is also provided by the surrounding cities' agencies.

The Park needs additional staff in order to perform the basic level of service that is expected from a park of this size and nature. Public services such as interpretation, emergency response, public safety, and general maintenance

and Park services such as natural and cultural resource management and fire control need to be addresses. In addition the Park staff needs to provide oversight and management of numerous volunteer organizations and research groups (i.e. CNPS and Coyote Point Museum).

Volunteers

The Park relies on volunteers for interpretation, resource management and minor trail maintenance activities. The County's designated volunteer group, the Friends of San Bruno Mountain (FSBM), initiated the development of the native plant botanical area at the northern base of Radio Ridge, and provides habitat restoration and educational programs. FSBM have developed strong support within local communities and have a number of members. Additional volunteer groups include scouts, churches, school organizations, work program participants, and environmental support groups.

Volunteers can provide a wide range of assistance in areas like visitor services, habitat restoration, special events, general park maintenance, trail patrol and trail maintenance. Volunteers should supplement Park staff and should be under the direction of Park staff. The limited available resources make volunteer support a critical element in the operation of the Park. Although it is very important to maintain volunteer support, the Park should not rely on volunteers to perform the roles of Park personnel.

Project Coordination

One aspect of using any organized group for work within the park is the management and coordination of the group. The Park staff needs to establish a stronger role in coordinating the various volunteers, educational, environmental, special interest or community interest groups that perform work or research within the Parks boundaries. This management will insure that work performed by any one group will not duplicate efforts or have conflicting results with work performed by another group. San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has attracted several research groups and developed strong volunteer and special interest support. Without coordination the Park becomes a difficult resource for the County to manage efficiently. The majority of people involved with the Park are working toward the same goal and their combined efforts should demonstrate this goal. San Mateo County Park staff have the ultimate management responsibility for the Park, therefore, they should oversee and coordinate all operations conducted within the Park's boundaries. If managed correctly, these groups will become an indispensable resource available for the implementation of numerous projects and services.

Interpretation

San Bruno Mountain lends itself to numerous opportunities for environmental education and interpretation. Surrounded by a large population with numerous school and special interest groups, public outreach programs and on-site interpretive services are in high demand. With the development of a Park Center and increased staff levels, the Park will be able to establish itself as a valuable resource for education and naturalist programs offered by Park and volunteer staff.

With the expansion of interpretive services the Park could provide regular, advertised seasonal activities and programs such as bird counts, wildflower

studies, and habitat restoration. The Park could also have a seasonal brochure available to visitors and distributed to the local communities providing information about specific programs, activities, and general park information.

Increased interpretive services also provide the opportunity for the Park staff to establish public-private partnerships with the surrounding communities. The development of these partnerships may help generate support and promote an sense of stewardship for the park and its facilities and resources.

In addition, all data collected and gathered in the Park by researchers, Park staff and volunteers could be displayed for the public at the Park Center. This valuable library could help other studies and assist in educating the public about the unique and valuable resources that San Bruno Mountain offers.

Interpretive Plan

This plan recommends the Park staff develop an interpretive plan to assist in establishing visitor programs and services. The following goals should be incorporated into the plan to assist in the understanding of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

Goals of the Interpretive Plan:

- Enhance visitor understanding through education and experience.
- Interpret San Bruno Mountain's unique ecosystem and diverse cultural history.
- Establish a greater ranger presence at San Bruno Mountain through regular contact with visitors and community outreach programs.
- Develop special event programs that correspond to natural seasonal changes or historical events.
- Develop partnerships in the community that promote park stewardship.
- Integrate interpretive programs with local school's curriculums as a field element.

Resource Management

This Master Plan recommends that a comprehensive Resource Management Plan be developed for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. This plan should address the natural and cultural features of the Park, with implementation programs that can be conducted by Park staff, volunteers, or other specialists. As part of this plan, a complete inventory and study of existing natural and cultural resources should be developed. A fire management plan needs to be prepared along with an alternative to re-introducing grazing livestock. This would lead to an overall resource management plan specific to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Although the Park is influenced by the HCP, the HCP is not exclusive to the Park and does not specifically address the varied resources within the Park. A Resource Management Plan would enable the Park to access special funds for studies, habitat enhancement, and fire control as they become available by exhibiting approved plans ready for implementation.

Natural Resources

As part of the Resource Management Plan a complete trail analysis should be conducted to determine the full extent of the numerous existing trails, easements and utility corridors within the Park. The Park needs to make the determination whether these areas should continue to be maintained as trails or restored to previous natural conditions.

In addition, the idea of connecting to other open space areas outside the Park boundaries to provide a contiguous wildlife corridor should be explored with surrounding municipalities and applicable agencies. The development of such a corridor could provide a connection for wildlife to San Bruno Mountain. As part of a comprehensive study of this concept, the potential impact on the Park ecosystem must be evaluated before final implementation.

The Park is currently implementing a plan to control its feral cat population. This program has been established and should continue until the population is removed from the Park. Regular monitoring and continued removal should be conducted as necessary. If other feral species appear, similar programs should be implemented.

Fire Management

In addition to the resource management plan it is recommended the Park establish a fire management plan for prescribed fire management. The fire management plan should be a section of the resource management plan emphasizing policies and procedures, public education, reduction of the existing heavy fuel load, and how fire can be best utilized for the enhancement of habitat for endangered species.

Once this plan is established, the Park may then develop individual burn plans, and may become eligible for special funding available for fire management in relation to endangered species and their habitat management. This funding is only available with an approved burn plan in place. The County should work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to develop fire management plans.

Cultural Resources

A unique cultural feature of the Park is the presence of Native American shell mounds on the eastern boundary. This plan recommends that this area be protected and preserved intact. In addition, the County should explore the potential for archeological sites CA-Sma-40 and CA-Sma-92 to be dedicated to the County as stated in the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Terra Bay Phase II and III*. These shell mounds may contain significant information contributing to the history of the Ohlone Indians and should be protected and preserved for study by future generations.

Due to the significance of this Native American site it is important to note the serious resource management and cultural issues associated with the acquisition of this land. The site offers tremendous interpretive opportunities but the resource needs to be maintained in a way respectful of the Native American culture. Resource protection, access, facility

development, and funding to maintain the site should all be considered when examining the potential of the site. Depending on the outcome of this issue, it is recommended that a cultural resource study be conducted to determine the ultimate management of the site.

In addition, it is recommended the Park conduct a cultural resources inventory to document and map its numerous cultural resources found throughout the Park. There are known cultural resources on adjacent lands managed by the California Department of Fish and Game in Owl and Buckeye Canyons. Upon completion of the inventory a plan can be developed to determine the proper management of the resources.

Public Relations and Outreach

Comments received through focus group members emphasized the Park's need for expanded public relations. As stated previously the Park is surrounded by an ever increasing diverse population, many of whom are unaware of the Park and its resources. The Park needs to become a strong, visible and proactive element of these communities. This plan recommends that the County not only become more proactive with interpretive programs for surrounding schools and interest groups, but to also actively search out alternative methods to advertise and promote San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

The County should explore potential opportunities to advertise in local newspapers, city recreation program brochures, specialized publications and/or mass mailings to surrounding residents to inform them of Park activities, events and facilities. This could be conducted on a quarterly, or seasonal basis, highlighting different topics, presentations or identified concerns of the Park. Developing a strong Park presence within the community will increase public awareness, develop public support and promote stewardship of the resource, and enhance volunteer programs.

Public Safety

Public safety has become an increasing responsibility for all parks, especially in urban areas. San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has the benefit of being in an urban area, which gives the County the opportunity to develop several Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with surrounding police and fire agencies. It is recommended the County maintain or establish MOUs for visitor protection and structural fire suppression with Daly City, Brisbane, Colma, and San Francisco, and continue its agreements with the California Department of Forestry for wildland fire suppression and the San Mateo County Sheriff's department for public safety.

These expanded mutual aid agreements would provide the Park with the specialized training and support needed by an urban park and provide the opportunity for increased protection of the resource.

Funding and Revenue

The operations and management of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park are severely limited due to funding. The financial burden of managing and operating the Park has been the primary limiting factor in providing services and facility development and preventative maintenance.

When the HCP was established, a funding mechanism was put into place to provide capital funds in perpetuity. In addition to monitoring of the species of concern, these funds are also used for the enhancement and rehabilitation of endangered species habitat areas. These funds, to be provided by developers and landowners, are paid directly to the Trustees for the HCP. The County does not directly receive any of these funds for the management of other resources within the Park's boundaries.

Currently San Bruno Mountain State and County Park charges a vehicle entry fee. Although some people have expressed concern over this fee, it is a reasonable fee for a recreational activity and is consistent with other County Park units. This fee is incorporated into the County General Fund. This plan recommends that the vehicle entrance fee remain to support the County Parks system, and a study be conducted to determine the impact of increasing this fee. The amount of this fee is under the direction of the County Parks Commission, and can be adjusted on an annual basis. Compared to the fees for the use of State and National Parks, the entrance fee is relatively low. In addition, when applied as a vehicle entrance fee, it encourages the visitor to seek out alternative modes of transportation, minimizing impact to the Park (establishing transit service to the Park is a goal of this Master Plan).

Additional revenue is generated through the receipt of donations. These funds are applied directly into a fund for San Bruno Mountain and can be utilized for specific projects identified by the Park.

City Managers from surrounding communities have stressed the importance of facility development. If specific facilities proposed for development were perceived to benefit the residents of the surrounding communities (i.e. Park Center or meadow area) the potential for funding sources from the cities should be pursued.

In addition, the Park Foundation should consider seeking out corporate or private sponsors for the development of facilities such as the Park Center, the meadow areas and picnic facilities. Philanthropic groups might participate in public/private partnerships for capital improvements.

The Friends of San Bruno Mountain and other volunteer organizations could assist in fund-raising as well. This nonprofit group may be able to attract individual sponsors for the development of the botanical garden, resource management plan, cultural inventory, educational outreach and much more. Opportunities for additional funding sources from other special interest or environmental groups should also be explored.

Appendices

This appendix contains notes and summaries of the public workshops, focus group meetings, executive interviews, and survey data collected during development of this Master Plan. When viewed in total, this information provided a basis for decision making and general direction of the Master Plan. It gives a general view of the range of opinions and ideas of the park stakeholders, agency staff, neighboring cities, and the general public.

Contents:

Appendix 1:	<i>Standards for Acceptance of Any Dedicated Lands by the County of San Mateo in Accordance with the San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan</i>	7-2
Appendix 2:	Public Workshop #1 Summary	7-8
Appendix 3:	Public Workshop #2 Summary	7-10
Appendix 4:	Focus Group #1 Summary	7-18
Appendix 5:	Focus Group #2 Summary	7-21
Appendix 6:	Executive Interviews.....	7-25
Appendix 7:	Summary of Questionnaire Responses	7-37

Appendix 1

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
 PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
 590 HAMILTON STREET PKR 128
 REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN ADMINISTRATION

STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ANY DEDICATED LANDS BY THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN AREA HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

PURPOSE:

The following is a set of guidelines used to review the status of private lands to be dedicated to the County of San Mateo in accordance with requirements of the San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan and approved Operating Programs. These guidelines are also intended to provide a basis for the County's review for the successful revegetation in disturbed habitats on San Bruno Mountain. Parcels being offered for dedication which do not meet the basic requirements of these guidelines may not be accepted for dedication until these guidelines have been met to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator.

GLOSSARY:

Exotic Plant. A plant from outside the immediate area and not native in the State of California. Such use includes the terms **weed**, **invasive plant**, or **escaped exotic**.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). A plan prepared to provide for the effective preservation of habitat for endangered species in accordance with provisions under Section 10a of the Federal Endangered Species Act, as amended. Such a plan allows for the "incidental take" of endangered species or their habitat in order to allow for reasonable development of private lands.

Habitat Restoration. The reconstitution of habitat on disturbed lands or on lands previously vegetated, in whole or in part, by exotic plants. This is a requirement of the HCP and is part of most of the Operating Programs where land has been disturbed and recovery is required. Habitat restoration is a program providing special treatment to a site so that plant growth can function or serve as specific habitat for some animal or animals. It is expected that once in place and mature further manipulation would not be required or at most be very limited. Usually habitat restoration is performed as a specialized profession requiring knowledge of how specific plants grow, transplant, germinate, or reproduce to establish the habitat.

Habitat Restoration Specialist or Consultant. Any person who has the ability to perform habitat restoration, as defined above.

Native Plant. For the purposes of these guidelines a native plant is indigenous to California and occurs naturally in the immediate area of the HCP (San Bruno Mountain). Such a plant shall not include any California native plant not indigenous to the San Bruno Mountain area, e.g. Monterey pine. Under certain exceptional circumstances a native plant used for restoration might be from the immediate Bay Area outside of the immediate area of the HCP.

Operating Program. Each administrative parcel, as defined in the HCP, is provided with a specific Operating Program showing the requirements of the landowner and of the Plan Operator with respect to that parcel of land. The Operating Program is a set of instructions (requirements) to the designated active entity to fulfill the intent of the Section 10a Permit issued by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Plan Operator. The Plan Operator is the County of San Mateo, the entity responsible for the effective administration of the Habitat Conservation Plan. The County shall designate a department and shall provide for the administration by designating a person responsible to act as Plan Operator. At present the Parks and Recreation Division in the Environmental Services Agency is designated as Plan Operator.

Record of Survey. A **record of survey** is defined in the California State Land Surveyor's Act, as amended. The survey is filed with the Office of the County Surveyor, San Mateo County Department of Public Works. A **record of survey** is required prior to the acceptance for dedication of lands to the County Parks and Recreation Division.

Revegetation Plan. This is a plan prepared in accordance with requirements of the HCP as well as by any lead agency as a part of permit issuance (e.g. grading permit.) Such a plan is intended to show where and how revegetation is to be accomplished. Approval of such a plan shall be the responsibility of both the local agency issuing the permit and the Plan Operator. At minimum it shall include the following:

1. A narrative portion explaining in detail seeding and planting procedures.
2. A set of plans.
3. An expected time frame for the establishment of the revegetation.
4. A statement of how both to implement erosion control measures and to establish habitat.

GUIDELINES:

1. **All Lands Being Dedicated.** The following shall be required of any lands being dedicated to the County under the HCP whether disturbed or not.
 - a. Weed Eradication. Such lands shall be relatively weed-free, including but not limited to the eradication of the following weeds:
 - 1) Gorse
 - 2) Pampas grass
 - 3) Ice plant
 - 4) English ivy
 - 5) Cape ivy
 - 6) Broom (Scotch, French or Spanish)
 - 7) Cotoneaster
 - 8) Pyracantha

9) Fennel

- b. Debris Removal. Such lands shall be free of trash and other dumped materials including but not limited to cars, tires, garbage, yard clippings, construction debris, furniture, mattresses, etc.
- c. Human Habitation Removal. Such lands shall be free of any recent or current human habitation or signs thereof.
- d. Habitat Restoration. Such lands shall have established suitable host, nectaring and perching plants for endangered butterflies to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator.
- e. Land Survey. Prior to the dedication of the property as prescribed by the HCP and as part of the acceptance of the lands in accordance with the habitat requirements described in these guidelines, the owner shall prepare a survey of the property and file a record of survey with the County Surveyor. Only following approval of the record of survey by the County Surveyor shall the County accept the property for dedication.

2. **Disturbed Lands.** Whenever there is to be any ground disturbance for which a permit is issued on lands to be ultimately dedicated to the County of San Mateo as “restored habitat”, a **comprehensive revegetation plan** shall be submitted for approval to the Plan Operator and any other affected lead agency. Grading permits usually require, as a condition of approval, the preparation of such a plan as well as an assurance deposit made out to the County of San Mateo or to the local agency or both as the case may be. The plan shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, licensed civil engineer, or by a habitat restoration consultant and shall at a minimum include:

- a. Seed Mix Identification and Limitation of Seed Source. Provisions by which only seed gathered on San Bruno Mountain or in nurseries from plants whose origin is on San Bruno Mountain shall be used in seed mixes. Seed mixes shall be identified in the revegetation plan by species, place collected, (e.g., off-site collection, commercial supply, or on-site collection) and application amount (usually in terms of pounds per acre.) Non-native species used for erosion control can only be used with special written approval of the Plan Operator. Similarly, under only pre-approved circumstances when seed sources on San Bruno Mountain are inadequate shall seed be used from sources otherwise locally found in the Bay Area.
- b. Nature of the Seed Mix. The plant mixes designated by the revegetation plan shall be made up of those native plant species that grow fast enough to protect the slopes from surface erosion. The mixes shall also be of such a content to begin to provide appropriate habitat for the various species of concern, to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator. Of critical concern on San Bruno Mountain is the use of specific larval host plants for the Mission blue, Callippe silverspot, and San Bruno elfin butterflies, as in accordance with the biological program of the HCP and Agreement and the approval of the Plan Operator.
- c. Nature of Seed Application and Protocol for Application. Provisions that seed mixes shall be applied at an appropriate rate at the appropriate time of the year. The rate of application recommended shall provide for:

- 1) Erosion control, and
- 2) Habitat restoration

- 3. Effectiveness of Habitat Restoration.** To gauge the effectiveness of the **habitat restoration**, the following aspects are to be considered as part of the plan and its monitoring:
- a. Natural Seed Dispersal. How much seed can be expected to be brought in naturally from around the vicinity of the disturbed area, and will such an influx be dependable over the long term? Determination of this should be made by the consultant by analyzing the immediate surrounding vegetation and gauging the manner by which natural influx of native desirable species could occur. Such a determination is understood to be imprecise; however, in addition to native plant influx, it should also take into account the potential of infestation by non-native exotic plants. If natural seeding is to be a primary source for certain plant materials, what will be a reasonable time period for this to occur?
 - b. Soil Preparation. Will it be necessary to take special measures, including but not limited to soil surface disruption and/or fire, to prepare the soil in advance of planting? This aspect should take into account any necessary seed preparation, such as scarification, cold treatment, etc.
 - c. Estimate of Natural Seed Influx vs. Applied Sources. How much seed is necessary to be provided as part of the mix versus expectation of influx from surrounding seed sources?
 - d. Exotics Control within Planted Areas. Following implementation, what means should be taken to effect control of exotic weeds? The key to this aspect is the early detection of seedlings of invasive exotic species. The consultant must be knowledgeable of seedling characteristics of those invasive exotic plants which need to be eradicated prior to becoming mature and then be able to create a program that deals with the problem without destroying the habitat characteristics.
- 4. Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Erosion Control Program.** To monitor the effectiveness of the **erosion control program**, the guidelines below shall be followed:
- a. Surface Erosion. Measures shall be proposed by a licensed civil engineer and approved by the Plan Operator that are intended to reduce the amount of direct sheet flow of water down slope. Such measures are to be constructed in advance of any erosion control plantings. Such devices shall be inspected for adequate effectiveness for at least two years following installation and shall be maintained until such time as it is either determined no longer necessary by a licensed civil engineer or until transfer of dedicated properties has been effected. During this time a record shall be kept about any remedial work required and such record shall be provided the Plan Operator and the City within which the project is located. Any failure or suspected failure shall be provided the Plan Operator and the City within 24 hours of detection, and a remedial plan shall be implemented as soon as approval from either the City or County has been received. Or if the failure is of an emergency nature, such remedial action as is necessary shall be taken as soon as feasible under the guidance of a licensed civil engineer. Common sense remedial measures shall be taken in any event with the approval of the licensed civil engineer.
 - b. Application of Seed. Seed and mulch (hydroseed mix or other means of application) shall be applied at the proper time of the year – usually during or just following the first major rains of winter (mid-November or early December.) Lupine seed can be applied much earlier, with approval from the Plan Operator.

c. Inspection Reports. Frequent inspections shall be made by the consulting habitat restoration specialist during the growing season (October through June) of all of the areas proposed for restoration of habitat. Reports shall be prepared each year until the lands being restored have been brought to a condition acceptable to the Plan Operator. These reports shall be prepared by the consulting habitat restoration specialist at least at the outset of the growing period and again at the end, as follows (more often if required by the Plan Operator depending upon conditions in the field):

- 1) At the outset of the planting program such a report shall contain a full explanation of the conditions on the site prior to planting, such as condition of topsoil, advance site preparation, relative soil moisture, kind of seed mix or type of containers if transplants.
- 2) A final report shall be prepared at the end of the growing season, usually by mid-June. Such a report shall indicate the various successes and failures of the program and outline what is expected to be accomplished during the “dormant season” and how any of the other “repaired” sites have been approaching “re-stored habitat” status. **Of critical importance is that primary host plants show a reasonable rate of success of establishment in accordance with the restoration plan.**

d. Exotics Control and Reports. Weedy, undesirable plants shall be removed. This shall include pampas grass, gorse, broom, eucalyptus (when approved in advance by the Plan Operator), ice plant, cotoneaster, pyracantha, Cape ivy, English ivy, fennel, Italian thistle, Bermuda buttercups, and any other plants determined by the Plan Operator to be an undesirable, non-native. Depending upon the amount of area being managed for ultimate dedication to the County, it may not be possible to eliminate each and every undesirable plant; however, primary effort must be placed on thoroughly eliminating gorse, broom, fennel, and pampas grass from every parcel to be dedicated to the County. Judging the success of a weed eradication program is the responsibility of the Plan Operator. One criterion of success shall be a showing that following a period of time after the live plants have been eliminated from the landscape, regeneration either from seed or from root is reduced to practically zero. A quarterly progress report shall be made on all efforts to control escaped exotic plants and shall be submitted along with other quarterly progress reports.

5. Monitoring revegetation for habitat. To monitor the effectiveness of the revegetation for **habitat restoration** the guidelines below shall be followed:

- a. Conversion from Erosion Control Plants to Habitat Plants. Approved seed mixes shall be applied in accordance with paragraph 3, b, above. Because of the possible impracticality of combined application of erosion control and habitat species, a plan must be provided, to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator that will effectively convert the erosion control plantings to habitat plantings without jeopardizing the erosion control aspects of the project.
- b. Timing of Planting Nursery Stock. Transplant materials shall be planted approximately one month following the commencement of the first major rains of the year and can continue until April or as mutually agreed by the habitat restoration consultant and the Plan Operator and depending upon the availability of any irrigation.

6. Priority for the revegetation of any habitat area to be dedicated to the County of San Mateo as “conserved habitat” in conformance with the provisions of the Agreement and any Operat-

ing Program for any administrative parcel shall be in accordance with the following protocol:

- a. Erosion control is of primary importance and shall be considered simultaneously with habitat restoration only when conditions permit. Seed mixes or planting plans can and should include the use of host specific plants whenever feasible.
- b. Habitat restoration shall take precedence AFTER erosion control has been managed to the satisfaction of the City and the Plan Operator. Conversion of erosion control vegetation to suitable habitat vegetation shall take place as soon as practicable. In no case will this take place later than two (2) full years following establishment of successful erosion control vegetation. For the purpose of these Guidelines this means that plant growth which has been established on slopes likely to erode and which has prevented soil erosion especially during repeated heavy storm events to the satisfaction of the City and the Plan Operator. To meet this requirement, any erosion which causes any surface slippage (debris flows) or rilling in excess of two (2) inches into the soil during a storm season must be prevented. The restoration consultant must provide plans, which will remedy such excesses as soon as practicable.

7. **Monitoring Program.** Any revegetation plan intended to provide suitable habitat for species of concern in accordance with the Agreement shall require a 5-year monitoring program. Such a monitoring program is to be especially in force during the habitat restoration portion of the plan element. Any financial assurance required shall be released only upon the satisfactory establishment of the habitat vegetation to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator.
8. **Financial assurance** shall be provided in accordance with part VIII (B)(2)(b) of the "Agreement With Respect to the San Bruno Mountain Area Habitat Conservation Plan" to the satisfaction of the local agency with planning jurisdiction over the project and the Plan Operator. Release of the financial assurance shall be dependent upon the success of the revegetation of the disturbed habitats and shall be to the satisfaction of the Plan Operator. Accordingly, financial assurances shall be for a period no less than five (5) years following the completed planting in accordance with the approved comprehensive revegetation plan of any separate phase of grading or other disturbance to conserved habitat areas to be reclaimed.

RG:REVEGGDL/April 9, 1999

Appendix 2

Public Workshop #1

March 7, 1998

Workshop Summary

This document summarizes the results from the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park public workshop #1 at the War Memorial Community Center in Daly City, on Saturday, March 7, 1998 from 9:30-11:30 am. The purpose of the meeting was to involve the public in the process of developing a master plan for the park.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened with a welcome and introduction to approximately 17 attendees by Ron Weaver, Site Supervisor for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Ron mentioned this is the parks 20th anniversary and gave a brief synopsis of events over the last twenty years.

Park and Recreation Division personnel also in attendance included Gary Lockman, Kendall Simmons, Roman Gankin, and Linda Dyson.

PRESENTATION

Bill Fee, Principal of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (RHAA) introduced the consulting staff, Douglas Nelson (Facilitator) and Debra Olson Suarez (Recorder). Doug provided a brief presentation to describe the process that will be used to develop a master plan for the park. A slide show was also presented to demonstrate some of the issues and natural diversity that exists within the site. Emphasis was given to help viewers understand how important it is for this process to achieve a balance between use and resource protection.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

A short question and answer session followed the presentation to help participants clarify the master planning process. Questions were asked regarding the management of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the newly listed endangered species, the Callippe Silverspot butterfly. Roman Gankin replied that the HCP, has always recognized the Callippe Silverspot in the management of the HCP. This species has been monitored since the inception of the HCP, and now that the butterfly has been listed as an endangered species, an amendment may be needed to the HCP.

Other questions were asked regarding potential for educational and interpretive programs within the park. Doug stated that this is one aspect of the master plan that will be looked at, the programs will depend on the desires of the park users and available resources.

It was mentioned at this time by Kathy Manus (participant of the workshop) that a good source of information may be the meeting notes taken at the Annual Forum last year (1997). She stated that the comments taken reflected the interest of the group participants at that time, and may be helpful to our process. (County staff to provide a copy of the comments to RHAA.)

Upon completion of the presentation, Doug opened the meeting up to the participants for comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Various comments/issues were addressed, overall there was good participation from the group. The following is a list of issues viewed by the participants to be of most importance. (In no particular order)

- Maintain horse access and use within the park. This is a current established use, and should be maintained and possibly improved by providing trailer areas and facilities.
- Gorse (exotic plant) removal needs to be on a routine and regular (annual) basis. A strong consensus seemed to exist for exotic plant removal, with an exception for Eucalyptus. Eucalyptus was considered beneficial by some as

providing wind breaks, wildlife habitat and stabilizing the soil for the adjacent homeowners.

- The parks needs more overall ecosystem management.
- The park needs more funding, “Volunteers can’t pick up slack for lack of funds or staff”. The park needs more staff to manage the resource and provide educational and interpretive services.
- A children’s playground at the picnic area should be provided.
- Passive and active recreation spaces are needed, especially due to the increased number of residents in the area. Active recreational needs such as rock climbing and a rope course were considered compatible activities to hiking and bird watching. Designated picnic areas and open field areas would provide space for unstructured play, and may reduce the conflict between passive activities in other areas. One question asked was - How much would an open field change the character of the park?
- The park needs to maintain a balance between local and regional use. The park is used by many different groups of people and should not be considered a neighborhood park.
- The botanical garden should be maintained, it is a resource for educational use and native plant materials. If a water source was established it may be able to provide water for wildlife and horses.
- Areas such as trails need to be multiuse (shared), and staff should be provided to enforce rules and regulations (i.e. dogs on trails, bicyclists on hiking only trails, off road vehicles, etc.)
- The park should take over the management and ownership of the Indian burial mounds adjacent to the southeastern area of the park. (The land is currently owned by the Terra Bay developer.) The native peoples feel that any development is against their religion and will disturb the burial mounds. A suggested option for the site compared it to the Miwok Village at Pt. Reyes NS, which allows for educational opportunities through interpretive programs.
- A multipurpose interpretive center building (size of a classroom for 20-50 people) is needed to provide an indoor space for education and organized activities. The climate on San Bruno Mountain is not always conducive to outdoor environmental education activities. In addition to this, a side building could also be provided for storage and use by the botanical garden “staff”.
- The master plan needs to address current and future uses of the park. Do we want to encourage increased visitation? Who is using the park?, Trail access- how many people drive verses walk/bike/ride into the park? What is the impact on the resource, and facilities?

Other comments considered secondary included the following:

Outside influences should be managed/controlled. Areas specifically mentioned included increased housing developments on the perimeter of the park and quarry activities. These outside influences are considered to have a direct influence on the park and to the health of its resources (i.e. butterflies lungs damaged by dust)

Homeowners around the park may be willing to assist with butterfly habitat by planting native vegetation within development. They would need assistance and education from park staff as to appropriate vegetation.

Regarding active recreational uses, it was mentioned that certain activities may encourage local outside funding for development of a particular activity, especially at the edges of the park, close to neighborhoods. It was also mentioned that the county and state needs to be careful not to trade off open space to local communities that continue to develop their land, eliminating open space. San Bruno Mountain is not to be viewed as a neighborhood park.

Feral cats need to be removed. Current program is helping reduce population, it needs to be continued and monitored.

Botanical Garden area needs signs for pedestrian crossing roadway, and debris box for green waste.

It was identified that there is currently no public transportation to San Bruno Mountain. The question was asked whether service could be established by Sam Trans, BART or by a private shuttle (funded by local cities) to provide connections to the park. It would be helpful to use visitation statistics, current and projected, to gain support for these services.

Appendix 3

Public Workshop #2

June 25, 1998

Workshop Summary

On June 25, 1998 the second of three public workshops for the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park Master Plan was held. This was an evening workshop conducted at the South San Francisco Municipal Services Building, 33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. The following is a summary of the workshop.

INTRODUCTION

Ron Weaver, Site Supervisor of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, started the meeting. Ron began by thanking the surrounding cities for providing the County the opportunity to conduct a broad based survey of the residents as part of the master plan process. He stated where we were in the process, and what was the next step. Thanking the participants for attending the meeting, Ron emphasized public input and how participation is a very important part of the process and we are looking for reactions regarding the material being presented tonight.

Ron also provided information regarding the current condition of the park after this year's heavy rainfall of over 55". He mentioned trail damage and repairs that were being made, and the expansive growth of vegetation throughout the park. Concerned about the Gray Fox population due to an outbreak of distemper in the park, Ron asked participants to notify the park if they see any sign of the fox. A few participants responded positively with confirmation of recent sightings. On this positive note, Ron introduced Douglas Nelson of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (RHAA).

Other County representatives attending the meeting included Linda Dyson, Lynne Fritz, Gary Lockman and Sam Herzberg.

PRESENTATION

Doug began the presentation explaining why a master plan for the park was being conducted. He explained how the existing master plan was completed in July of 1982, before the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was established in November of 1982, and how attitudes, and demand for recreation and resources have also changed over the years. Doug also explained the function of the HCP as a land use document. The first in the country of its kind, the HCP was established in order to manage the resource of endangered species and provide funding for this management.

The Master Plan will become a blueprint for the park. Doug emphasized the importance of establishing a master plan especially at a time when cutbacks in funding for capital improvements and staff are prevalent. If a plan is established, and funding does become available, projects can be identified and accomplished. Doug also mentioned how the park now has many "new neighbors" (due to the increased development outside the park) with people having direct access to the park for daily use. This change of use is also a new consideration since the previous master plan was developed. It is very important to get community involvement in this process to develop a product of the community which in turns gains political support.

Doug then presented:

Goals of the Master Plan

- Promote preservation and enhancement of ecological values and diversity through preservation of existing ecological resources and enhancement of degraded areas.
- Provide for San Bruno Mountain park's continued role in meeting the open space and recreation needs of San Mateo County and the Bay Area.
- Update park development proposals from the existing General Plan to meet current conditions and needs. All park development will be consistent with the goals of the HCP.

HCP Objective for the County Park

- ..”the HCP approach to the County Park is to conserve existing habitat by minimizing the effects of the encroachment of humans and introduced plant species. This will be achieved by minimizing construction activities, limiting access to particularly sensitive areas, and eradicating unwanted plants or trees.”

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan, Vol. 2, 1991, regarding county park lands.

Doug then explained to the participants where we are at this time in the master plan process. He explained how the last public workshop was for information gathering and how the information received through the workshop, the focus group meeting, and the two questionnaires have developed the proposals that are being presented tonight. It was also explained at this point how it is important to understand the purpose of the HCP. The HCP was written primarily for private development outside the park boundaries not for the park specifically. Since the existing Master Plan (1982) was developed before the HCP, the development shown in the current Master Plan was “folded” into the HCP. He then asked people to review the “Opportunities & Constraints Map” and notice areas designated as development or as conserved habitat. According to the HCP, development of trails is considered to be acceptable unless in areas of sensitive habitat.

The results of the questionnaire sent out by the cities to survey every household in the four surrounding communities of Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco, and Brisbane was summarized. Doug reminded people that this was not a scientific survey, but rather a tool with which to gauge the community thoughts and interests. From the survey, 74% of the people responding visited the park more than once a year. The following were some of the activities people like to do in the park:

- 76% Hike/walk
- 24% Bike
- 11% Picnic
- 18% Running
- 1% Horseback riding

Doug stated that although only 1% mentioned horseback riding as an activity, this does not mean the activity will be eliminated.

Other responses regarding preservation/recreation. Which is more important?

- 80% Preservation
- 19% Recreation

Can preservation and recreation compliment each other?

- 67% Yes, can co-exist
- 24% No

Types of Restoration

- 48% Limit park development
- 18% Limit public use
- 3% Remove existing facilities

This overall response reflects the vision of people who want to preserve San Bruno Mountain, but also who like to enjoy the resource.

People were then asked to review the “Land Use Proposals and Ideas” and “Management and Policy Proposals and Ideas” tables and maps to see what ideas we have heard to date. They were reminded that this was not a final list, and can be improved upon, and this was the purpose of our discussion tonight. (See attachments for material information). After review of material, the meeting was opened for questions, discussion and comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & DISCUSSION

- Some local residents expressed interest in allowing dogs into the park. They felt that walking with dogs allowed a certain level of comfort. There are no local dog areas and dog owners could help to monitor use and provide “doggie bags” for waste cleanup. Not particularly interested in a fenced dog run area. Can the County ordinance against dogs be changed?

- If additional trailheads/access points were established, would additional parking be developed at trailheads, and if so will it be free?
- Trails out of Brisbane are too steep. This comment also raised the question of whether or not these trails are designated or “social” trails.
- Participants asked the status of the Brisbane Quarry. Sam Herzberg, planner for the County, replied that the resource/operation has about a 10-15 more years before closure; then it becomes part of the HCP and Crocker Industrial Park.
- Conserve, Minimize and Preserve should be the park concept.
- Exotic species are brought in by development; they are a threat to the park. Trails are a significant impact; not benign. The mountain offers plenty of opportunity already.
- Preservation of Indian mounds outside of the park is very important. The park should try to obtain the land. It is one of a few shell mounds in the Bay Area still intact, considered to be sacred by the Native Americans. Consultants should be used during any trail construction due to possible Indian sites being present within park. The site is close to the park boundary and the master plan should identify it as a high priority; possible acquisition. It may also have potential as a funding source for park if the land is acquired, the site could be developed into a historic monument with fees charged for visitation.
- No new trails are needed except a request to open the ridge trail to Oyster Point for bikes.
- There is water at the summit already, stored in water tanks.
- Put “styles” in at the summit trail to reduce bikes.
- The saddle area provides a good starting point for a corridor to the north. Development/impact should be dispersed, to minimize development of this potential corridor area. A tunnel under Geneva was also recommended.
- Use of volunteer horse and trail patrol is not a substitute for rangers.
- No dogs should be allowed in the park due to sensitive habitat.
- A plan does exist for the Botanical Garden, it needs to be incorporated into the master plan.
- Volunteer patrols do not work unless there is an effective ranger presence.
- Picnic areas are potential problems, they are not sensitive to the habitat. Nike Site is too windy; not good for picnicking.
- Nike Site and road to Nike Site is Mission Blue butterfly habitat.
- Planning documents provide an opportunity for “scoping” out funding sources, every planning document is revised at some point.
- Keep equestrian use on San Bruno Mountain. A water source and hitch area are needed. Provide a staging area at south slope with trails into park; volunteers could adopt the site. An overnight equestrian horse camp similar to Jack Brooks in Memorial Park is needed.
- San Bruno Mountain is an incredible ecosystem/habitat; need to educate kids and take them to the park. Still original habitat from over 300 years ago?
- Trails from the perimeter can fragment habitat. The park would need additional staff and funding to assist with potential problems.
- Need to note fines/penalties at access points into park. Callippe Silverspot butterfly is listed as endangered and additional access points have the potential to increase poaching. More staff is needed to deal with problems.

On the following pages are materials presented at the meeting summarizing proposals and ideas for land use and management and policies:

Review of Land Use Proposals and Ideas

Proposal	Size/other info.	Remarks/Compatibility with HCP	Potential site	Key
More trails accessible by disabled persons	Requires less steep grades (less than 1:12), smooth surfaces (hard paving or regular maintenance)	Most practical where existing terrain is not too steep. Can result in excessive grading in steep areas.	Existing Bog Trail is accessible. Other trails in saddle area may be or have potential to become more accessible.	
Children's play area	Play structures, toddler and older, approx. 1,000 sf	Proposed for existing developed area, no impact on HCP	Existing picnic area	1
Botanical garden	Size, program, and maintenance needs to be defined.	Initial phases complete, work is underway. Currently not in HCP development area (in conserved habitat). Conform to HCP requirements for restoration. Water/utilities would be desirable. Would need management planning component for Botanical Garden.		2
Ropes course		Proposed for existing developed area, no impact on HCP	Existing picnic area or day camp	3
Playfields	Open turf fields for unstructured play and sports	Compatible with HCP if located within existing developed areas	Picnic area or day camp	4
More bicycle trails	Currently permitted in Saddle area. Proposed expansion to ridge trail and other parts of park.	Difficult to enforce selective trail closures, loops would be desirable but are generally not feasible due to steep terrain. May be in conflict with current bicycle use policy on mountain side of the park due to sensitive habitat.		
Multipurpose/interpretive facility	For docent and education programs. Multipurpose room, restrooms, small kitchen, office for ranger and maintenance staff, and storage. Include tool/supply shed at botanical garden site. Approximately 3,000 to 4,000 sf.	Existing utilities would need to be extended to botanical garden site. Minor amendment to HCP would be needed for botanical garden site.	Existing general plan: just west of existing parking area. New proposal to locate it adjacent to botanical garden.	5
Relocate existing maintenance yard and facilities	Requires 2,000 to 4,000 sf. Materials and tools storage, small office space, vehicle garage. Existing Nike site could be converted to public use for historic interpretation and vista point picnic area.	Existing general plan: Proposed for saddle area. (Very high visibility)	Possible sites inside and outside of park. See map.	6

Proposal	Size/other info.	Remarks/Compatibility with HCP	Potential site	Key
Drinking water at summit		Currently no water service at summit	Summit parking area	
Restrooms at summit	Would need to be vault or composting toilets (no sewer or water connection), unless utilities are established.	Summit area is a developed area in HCP	Summit parking area	
Picnic area at summit		Summit area is a developed area in HCP	Summit	
Public transit to park		Samtrans route to connect with BART	Bus stop close to entrance of park	
More eucalyptus removal		Currently no more eucalyptus is proposed for removal due to agreements with surrounding cities. HCP calls for additional removal. Only effective if coupled with intensive revegetation and maintenance, may be beyond current staffing/funding		
More gorse removal		High management priority. Requires intensive maintenance effort. Some funding from HCP.		
Additional picnic areas	Site identified in existing General Plan	HCP allows for picnic site identified in General Plan		7
More benches along trails	Locate at key viewpoints and rest spots along trails	Keep adjacent to trails, do not encourage off trail travel		
More access points and connecting trails from south side of mountain	Currently there are no existing designated trails, several proposed trails are identified in General Plan and HCP approved developments	Additional proposed access points and trails will be subject to HCP review process	South slope, see map	8
Dog run in Saddle area	1 to 3 acres minimum size off-leash area	May conflict with existing uses in existing developed area (picnic area) and may conflict with HCP in conserved habitat areas. In conflict with existing County ordinance which does not allow dogs on any county park lands.		
Equestrian use of trails	Currently permitted on trails in ridge area (County park) and not permitted in saddle area (State park)	Staging area/trailer parking is lacking, erosion issue (particularly on wet trails), spreads weed seeds, general impact to sensitive habitat would need to be evaluated.	Possible area on south slope by previously proposed day camps, or East of botanical garden, would need water source.	9
More interpretive signs			At trail heads and along trails at key points	
Self-guiding trails and brochures	Efficient way to increase interpretive resources without significant investment in interpretive signs, less vulnerable to vandalism.		Several locations possible: Saddle Trail, Old Guadalupe Trail, Bog Trail, Ridge Trail, Summit Loop Trail, Dairy Ravine Trail, Buckeye Canyon.	
Phones for security along trails	Pay phones at trailheads and road crossings, emergency only phones at other locations.	Could not be placed in areas of sensitive habitat, due to possible impact.		
Remove road through park (Guadalupe Canyon Parkway)		Likely community opposition. Maintains historic connection between Daly City and bay side communities.		
Relocate electric power transmission lines	Review alternatives with PG&E	Relocation within conserved habitat areas could result in impacts		

Review of Management and Policy Proposals and Ideas

General Idea	Proposals	General information/remarks
Need more staff & funding	More Ranger involvement and control in park	
	Need to control illegal activities such as, off-road vehicles, dogs in park and bikes on non bike designated trails	
	Volunteers can't continue to perform duties of park personnel for lack of staff	
	Need more funding to continue gorse and eucalyptus removal, and restore habitat	Funding provided through HCP
Provide public education	Provide/Increase education activities & programming for all ages (children and seniors)	Interpretive facility with programs would assist in this process
	Publicize walks and lectures	Contact local cities, organizations regarding widely distributed existing publications, and include park information
	Involvement with local schools and universities	Opportunity for coordination of educational programs on site, and scientific monitoring studies for habitat management through universities.
	Educate public on resource management and fire	Education would assist in managing ecosystem
Public relations	Develop good public relations campaign for the park to create interest in resource and develop stewardship and develop alternative funding resources	Utilize network of local cities and organizations to "advertise" park
	Announce trail closures at main parking lot	Utilize temporary signage at key points
	Notify park users of herbicide spraying	Utilize temporary signage at key points
Preserve Native American sites	Preserve Ohone shell mounds by acquiring land and protecting resource	Outside of park's and master plan boundaries. Would need funding source to acquire land, and intensive management of site for protection.
	Leave Indian Mound and surrounding area alone	Outside of park's boundary, to be protected and managed by local jurisdictions
Connect San Bruno Mountain to other open space areas, provide a contiguous corridor	Establish wildlife corridor and greenbelt.	Would need to develop agreements with other agencies and landowners to work towards future connection points
Control feral cats		Current program is working, continue to monitor.
Better trail maps	Provide more trail maps at different locations	Produced by County, or encourage private vendor to develop
	Provide a self-guiding trail map	Could be utilized on majority of trails, opportunity for interpretive education
Potential to increase visitation	Remove or lower \$4 entrance fee.	Reduction or elimination of fee might meet economic needs of visitors in local communities. Could result in loss of revenue for the park.
Allow dogs on trails		Current ordinance does not allow dogs in park, this would need to be amended. Dog access to park may also conflict with habitat conservation and endangered species in sensitive habitat areas.
Undesignated/Social trails	Management needs to identify all existing trails.	Existing trails need to be identified and county needs to evaluate potential for use or removal

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

STATE AND COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN

- LEGEND**
- Designated Hiking Trails
 - - - - Designated Bike & Hike Trails
 - Master Plan Boundary
 - Real Property Boundary
 - ① Childrens Play Area
 - ② Botanical Garden
 - ③ Ropes Course
 - ④ Playfields
 - ⑤ Multi-purpose Interpretive Facility
 - ⑥ Maintenance Yard
 - ⑦ Picnic Areas
 - ⑧ Trail Access Points
 - ⑨ Equestrian Staging Area

Land Use Proposals

County of San Mateo
Parks and Recreation

Rovston
Hanamoto
Alley & Abey



Appendix 4

Focus Group Meeting #1

March 26, 1998

Meeting Summary

This document summarizes the results from the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park focus group meeting #1 at the Colma Town Hall in Colma, CA, on Thursday, March 26, 1998 from 3:00-5:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to involve individual stakeholders in the process of developing a master plan for the park.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened with a welcome and introduction to approximately 13 attendees by Ron Weaver, Site Supervisor for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Ron mentioned this is the park's 20th year of the county's management of San Bruno Mountain. He also stated that the participants were invited to the meeting due to their direct and unique connection to the park and to provide input regarding the specific needs and local interests regarding the use of the park.

Park and Recreation Division personnel also in attendance included Gary Lockman, Roman Gankin, and Rolito Recio.

PRESENTATION

Doug Nelson of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (RHAA) gave a brief presentation. Doug discussed the process that will be used to develop the master plan for the park, and how factors such as the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), urban development and local interests for recreational uses will influence this process. He stated now is the time to identify these and other issues in order to develop a well balanced plan, and the existing master plan developed by Dillingham & Associates in 1982(?) would be used as a foundation for the new master plan.

Each participant was then asked to introduce themselves. Attending the meeting were: (In no particular order).

David Schooley	Bob Hess
Mac Carpenter	Elly Hess
Ron Schafer	Mike Stallings
Barry Nagel	Dennis M. Cropleal
Al Seubert	Michael Vasey
Reno Taini	Lion Baumgartner
Louis Manus	

FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

Various comments/issues were addressed, this is a summary of statements made. (In no particular order)

- Trailheads are needed into park from Colma.
- Safety concerns around the perimeter of the Brisbane Quarry.
- With all issues, natural or cultural, we need to keep in mind budgets, fees and funding.
- Children are resources for San Bruno Mtn. There should be a greater push for education, and hands on experiences. A ropes course training program, would allow opportunity for local junior and high school students during the school week.
- Maintain habitat.
- Take school children for hikes. Allow more opportunity for education.
- Existing master plan identifies too much development. The park needs to develop within reach of a budget and be sensitive to the environment.

- Protect and preserve the mountain, especially rare and endangered species.
- Concern over growth of housing.
- Try to expand and connect to open space areas, provide a contiguous habitat and access points to other areas. For example, a corridor from McLaren Park or local cemeteries to eventually connect with Sweeny Ridge. “Let it grow”.
- Is the county satisfied with the current use and visitation?
- A lot of people have their “hands on” San Bruno Mtn., how can we better share information gathered by various user groups? Individual groups could provide park with information gathered which could be used as handouts to educate visitors.
- The park needs a public relations campaign. Population has grown considerably from when original master plan was developed. Residents/users may be frustrated if there is no change from last master plan. Need to develop public relations campaign in order for the mountain to gain “value” for the user. “Parks sell themselves” people need to understand the value of the park relative to themselves (this may be a personal experience that allows a person to connect with the resource), overall it will help in developing support for the park and possibly generate funding.
- People can be brought to the park through an organized group/activity, but also need to encourage people to visit the park on their own.
- San Bruno Mtn. has many unique resources. We need to get people back into the park from local access. Spreading the idea of rare and endangered species in “your own backyard” may be a good idea, may be intriguing.
- Management of sensitive ecosystem should be the highest priority, and build other priorities around that. Habitat should be #1 priority and recreation #2.
- Develop monitoring systems conducted by students and volunteers to track environmental changes through time and measure if succeeding in habitat restoration.
- The park needs a mission statement, and the master plan should be developed from that.
- San Bruno Mtn. is a rich bioreserve. Laws need to be passed regarding pest plants within cities to reduce the spread of exotic vegetation and incorporate habitat management into city plans.
- Exotic plants in the park are expanding their habitat, (i.e. eucalyptus) and should be controlled.
- Need to include senior citizens in group, and educational opportunities.
- Funds not available for visitor center, need to get people more involved with creek restoration, trail maintenance and construction.
- A non static, multi-purpose visitor center would provide people with a meeting space to get out of a climate that is not always conducive to outdoor group activities/education.
- There is a deficiency in public transportation and access in general to the park. School busses currently have a route over the mountain. Brisbane/BART connection stopped due to limited use. Increase in visitation may make it more economical.
- Get trailheads to local communities. People could walk from local schools, neighborhoods, etc. Once a trail begins it will be noticed.
- The County of San Mateo and RHAA can work with cities to inform public regarding the master plan process. Start with questionnaire, solicit ideas. Invite press to meeting, promote the park and process to the public.
- Concessions may help generate revenue and develop a visitor center. Follow model used by local park and recre-

ation departments, such as having a volunteer or paid teacher to provide educational services.

- Concessions should be “treaded” carefully on, they are not a “cash cow”.
- Opening up bottom of mountain with trails may create problem with mountain bikes. Mountain bikes come in before the park opens and after it closes. Need more enforcement of trail regulations, possibly receive help from local police departments. The problem will increase with more growth and trail access. Bike groups should monitor resources and donate funds. Self policing gives incentive to protect resources and the steep topography does restrict the use and speed of the bikes.
- The master plan needs to avoid being too specific and binding. It should include general policy statements and be adaptive, observe needs/uses and change over time. It also needs to incorporate ideas for funding.
- Need to develop stewardship of the park by county and cities to raise money for park and habitat.
- Population growth is local and park should be recognized as a local and critical resource.
- Rather than designating the park as a neighborhood, urban, or wilderness park it should be considered “urban wildland”.
- We need to educate public on resource management. Fire is a part of the ecosystem’s history, and may need to be maintained.

During the discussion clarification was made as to the role of the HCP by Roman Gankin:

- The HCP is a legal document that covers the entire mountain. Its purpose is to protect habitat for rare and endangered species. Loss of this habitat would require an amendment to the HCP and moneys designated for mitigation. If not destroying prime habitat, certain development may occur, it needs to be consistent with the HCP. The amount and type of use would be on a case-by-case basis. For example to put a visitor center in area currently overrun with exotic vegetation, and considered poor habitat, may not be considered an incompatible use within the management of the HCP lands.

Appendix 5

Focus Group Meeting #2

July 8, 1998

Meeting Summary

On July 8, 1998 the second of three focus group meetings was held at the Lipman Intermediate School, in Brisbane, 3:00-5:00 PM. This document is a summary of the meeting including discussion and comments made by the participants. The following people were in attendance.

Ed Barney	City of Daly City
Dennis Crossland	City of South San Francisco
Lynn Fritz	County of San Mateo
Melody Kercheval	PG&E
Robin Leiter	City Manager, Brisbane
Gary Lockman	County of San Mateo
Louis Manus	Friends of San Bruno Mountain
Al Seubert	City of South San Francisco
Jay Watson	Watson Communications
Ron Weaver	County of San Mateo

INTRODUCTION

Lynn Fritz, Superintendent of San Mateo County Parks opened the meeting. She mentioned how the existing master plan was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). She also stated how the public workshops, former focus group meeting and the questionnaires have helped to assess the needs of the surrounding communities. And introduced Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (RHAA), consultants who were hired to be the facilitators of the master plan process. She explained how the focus group represents various city jurisdictions and interest groups and it is an important part of this process that these voices be heard.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Doug Nelson of RHAA then began the presentation by stating that the information gathered to date has been developed through public and focus group meetings and questionnaires. And everything being presented was an idea that may or may not be included in the master plan. We feel that we have begun to develop a pretty clear picture of what the community wants though this input.

Doug also mentioned that the existing master plan is a starting point for the new master plan. Since the existing master plan was incorporated into the HCP, the HCP acknowledges these plans and development areas. The HCP is a legal agreement between private landowners and agencies. The HCP was created to help the private landowner to develop their land and to protect habitat.

Goals of Master Plan

- Promote preservation and enhancement of ecological values and diversity through preservation of existing ecological resources and enhancement of degraded areas.
- Provide for San Bruno Mountain park's continued role in meeting the open space and recreation needs of San Mateo County and the Bay Area.
- Update park development proposals from the existing General Plan to meet current conditions and needs. All park development will be consistent with the goals of the HCP.

HCP Objective for County Park

- ..”the HCP approach to the County Park is to conserve existing habitat by minimizing the effects of the encroachment of humans and introduced plant species. This will be achieved by minimizing construction activities, limiting access to particularly sensitive areas, and eradicating unwanted plants or trees.”

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan,
Vol. 2, 1991, regarding county parklands.

As a point of discussion, Doug mentioned although restricting and influencing the park, the HCP is not a resource management plan. It is focused upon the sensitive habitat for butterflies and development of land outside of the park boundaries. It does not address other resource issues, natural or cultural, nor does it consider any recreational uses. The master plan needs to provide the park with a management plan that addresses all park issues and opportunities.

Doug explained to the participants how the need for a second questionnaire was developed through the first focus group meeting, in which the cities offered to conduct a broad based survey of their communities. He then briefly reviewed the questionnaire results. Doug mentioned how this response was a good gage/indicator of what the community cares about.

At this time the Review of Land Use Proposals and Ideas and the Review of Management Policy Proposals and Ideas tables and maps were reviewed. (See attached)

Doug emphasized to the participants that the tables reflect what we have heard; if something you are interested in is not on this list, please let us know. In general the prominent voice that we have heard is from people who want limited development; and preservation is very important. San Bruno Mountain is an important resource and people feel it should maintain its interest as a park and open space. We are not hearing specific ideas other than what has been shown. Today is the day to hear what the cities and other groups want.

In a discussion regarding access to the park, Doug mentioned how the result of the HCP and the development has actually increased demand/interest in the park by creating all the new neighbors on the perimeter of the park. As a result, more people consider San Bruno Mountain a neighborhood park, and want access from those areas. Although RHAA is not under mandate to focus on increased use in the master plan process, we are responding to the increased interest in and use of the park. A participant stated that people do create their own “social” trails.

Doug also stated, in general all parks have a lot of regulation, but San Bruno Mountain is more complicated due to the conflicts between HCP and agency mandates. The County has a park to manage; what can this park be, or should it be? We want ideas for compelling uses in the master plan.

At this point, Doug explained how over the next three months we will be conducting executive interviews with certain individuals, and developing a draft master plan. This plan will be presented to the focus group members, prior to the third public workshop. And to please let us know if there is a specific use or issue you would like addressed.

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION COMMENTS

Questions and comments were made throughout the meeting. The following is a summary of those comments:

- The HCP helps to maintain the habitat, but other resources need to be considered. (Doug replied, the master plan will look at the park as a whole and consider discussion of the need for a resource management plan, natural and cultural, and a recreation plan.)
- High and low habitat areas within HCP conserved habitat areas need to be identified. HCP areas should not just be designated as “conserved habitat” without potential for any development in the future. Resources need to be identified; if not butterfly habitat, can the land be used for future development? Species of concern are not in every part of the park. Are we short circuiting the master plan process if we are not able to identify areas as habitat or not? Joint uses may be compatible. (Doug - According to the HCP if an area is designated as conserved habitat and is in poor condition, the HCP states the habitat needs to be improved to become good habitat. But we can make recom-

mendations for a particular development to be considered by the HCP. Another participant stated amendments to the HCP can be done, but through a lengthy process.

- We don't need to focus too much on playfields. Turf areas are already established in Terra Bay and other developments. A demand for playfields has not been heard, but existing turf areas should remain.
- The response to the questionnaire of 231 replies is not a good representation of 230,000 people. Assumption of the needs of the people is not good enough. (Doug – We can only respond to what we hear, we are looking for concrete ideas and input from the cities to put together proposals, and this is what we have heard.)
- The term playfields is misleading. It is really open space for picnics and informal play, a usable open space.
- We should seek input from the park commissions of the surrounding cities. This may help provide input into the master plan process.
- The HCP directs people to keep out of sensitive areas. The master plan needs to direct people to areas that can be used. This indirectly protects habitat. For example; meadow areas for informal play.
- We need to think of funding. For example; the two bottom areas designated as potential playfields have no access or roads. How would this development/use be paid for? (Doug – Funding should not be a limiting factor. The cities and County may be able to join forces to raise funds for particular developments. Funding is not a major constraint; but we also recognize some limits.)
- Potential to offer street access into park, without providing parking, such as by Hillside Ave?
- Need more staffing to monitor trails and park use.
- Restrooms and drinking fountains at the top of the summit are an inappropriate expenditure. The majority of visitors to the mountain come to the summit for a brief visit and to look at the view. These facilities are best in areas of higher use such as the lower portion of the mountain. Drinking water at the summit could be accomplished through a bottled water drinking fountain, rather than “running” pipe up the mountain. The existing water at the summit is not potable, it is runoff from the building roofs, collected in tanks. Picnic tables are not conducive to the site. The climate is not very hospitable the majority of the year.
- The HCP is trying to preserve and enhance all habitat. There may be a conflict with trail construction, etc. even within approved HCP development areas. Habitat is still a consideration within those areas.
- A meadow or open space area is a critical need in north San Mateo County. A little open usable space is key. Someplace with a play structure, and for family use.
- The visitor center should be built, along with a nature/interpretive trail; something self guided, to provide interpretive material for natural/cultural history and education (i.e. Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ). Need to get people to think of the park in this way.
- RHAA or County should conduct intercept surveys in the community to get input from the community. (Question from participant, is there something other than what has been presented that you or your constituents need/want? Let us know, now is the time.)
- The material presented here today is good; it demonstrates a park of all things; a neighborhood park, with local access, a community park with some facilities, and a natural park with preserved habitat. The types of uses identified and density look good.
- Is Northeast Ridge providing parking at their trailhead? Are other developments providing parking or primarily neighborhood access?

- The Bay Area Ridge Trail Advisory Committee would like us to consider a connection to the Bay Area Ridge Trail; or at least a spur.
- Trails should not be about parking. Cities maybe could purchase right of way to provide access into the park from cities.
- An interpretive center would be a great place as a central gathering area and also a place to “show off” /display (library) all of the scientific reports/studies that have been completed at San Bruno Mountain.
- The park in general has difficulty attracting people up to the saddle. Need to develop opportunity to gather formally at other places, lower to base of mountain.
- Tank Ravine is a potential access area for a daycamp site; good as educational opportunity.
- The “HCP people” should be available to teach instructors or lead kids on hikes to study the resources in the park.
- Is there an opportunity to improve the HCP amendment process with the master plan? (Doug – The master plan does not suggest changes to the HCP itself. A feasibility study would need to be conducted for amendment to HCP within individual parcels.
- It is important to keep those areas identified as development areas in the HCP as developed areas, since they have already been approved in the HCP. We don’t want to lose those areas for potential future uses.

Appendix 6

Executive Interviews

The following summary reflects comments and issues mentioned through the executive interview process of developing the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park (SBM) Master Plan. The following people were interviewed:

Mike Crilly	Jefferson Union High School District
Monica Hudson & Mac Carpenter	City of Colma
Roman Gankin	San Mateo County Parks & Recreation
Theresa LeBlanc	California Department of Fish & Game (DF&G)
Robin Leiter & Fred Smith	City of Brisbane
Kathy Manus	Friends of San Bruno Mountain (FSBM)
John Martin	City of Daly City
Barry Nagel	City of South San Francisco
Thomas Reid	Thomas Reid Associates (TRA)
Ron Schafer	California Department of Parks & Recreation (DP&R)
David Schooley	San Bruno Mountain Watch (SBMW)
Mike Vasey	San Francisco State University
Jay Watson	Watson Communications
Ron Weaver	San Mateo County Parks & Recreation
David Wright	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&W)

General statements regarding funding, staffing, public relations, resource management etc. were made. Each person interviewed offered an opinion from their perspective or particular area of interest, they did not necessarily comment on the same issues. The following is a summary of items discussed and statements made. (In no particular order):

Dog Use in the Park

Note: Current County ordinance does not allow dogs in the park.

- One person felt there are currently numerous facilities for dogs in the area.
- The habitat at SBM is too sensitive for dog use. Specifically the Gray Fox would feel a direct threat from dog presence. The stray dogs entering the park are enough for the park to handle.
- Once dog use is established the precedence will be set for future use. SBM should not have a dog run.
- A creative model for a dog park is in Eugene Oregon, where a group of individuals purchased land in order to create and operate a dog park with a run area, etc.
- No dog runs at SBM, they require high maintenance.

Equestrian Use in the Park

Note: Horses are currently allowed on the mountain side of the park, on existing trails.

- Horses require a lot of facilities, parking and water; the mountain does not currently provide those facilities. In addition it would be inappropriate to have trailers occupying current parking areas.
- A study should be done to evaluate the amount of equestrian use before providing equestrian facilities. The park needs a strong survey/study to show the need for increased use.
- The additional investment and maintenance needed may be an inappropriate use of County resources.
- Horses are not allowed in the Saddle area due to State regulations.
- Can trails have shared use without conflict? What is the long-term effect/impact of having horses on the trails? Will it compromise the habitat?

- The City of Colma talked to the local landowner regarding the proposed use of the adjacent site for equestrian use or as play fields. The landowner stated they supported the idea of equestrian staging adjacent to their property on the mountain as long as access and parking can be developed on park property, secure fencing can be established and the locations are not visible from the cemetery property. They do not favor the development of meadow areas above their property because they do not wish to invite large numbers of people to locations adjacent to cemetery lands. The concern is that the use will generate noise and activity incompatible with the quiet, contemplative atmosphere required by the cemetery and will introduce the potential for vandalism of gravestones and other cemetery features.
- FSBM support the new use of volunteer horse patrols in the park. They need space for a turnaround, tie-ups, shade, a water source and a method of clean up.
- SBMW felt in certain areas horses would be OK, but not in fragile areas.
- Horses fit better on the trail than a mountain bike.

Bicycles on Trails

Note: Currently bicycles are only allowed in the saddle area, or on the road to the summit.

- Some people are better able to access areas by bike. It would be nice to be able to travel the entire ridge line by bike.
- DP&R felt more bike trails would be fine and mountain bike use is OK, but only if trails are carefully planned due to potential conflicts between users/safety. Bikes should not be allowed on single-track trails, and trails should not be designated for bikes only. The trails would need to be planned out well.
- SBM presents an opportunity for mountain bikes. Current bike designated trails do not present the challenge for “real” mountain bikers. East Ridge and South Slope are potential areas for trails, but does the County want to establish this use? The County would need to accept the liability issues and additional staff would be needed for the management of bike users. Single-track trails designated only for mountain bikes would be nice. There is a big population of mountain bikers on the peninsula and not many local facilities. Bikes are easier to manage if trails are designated for them.
- The City of South San Francisco felt more bike trails would be OK, but additional bike access may be difficult to enforce. Bike use may be an activity that appeals to the community.

Trails and Access

- Brisbane would like to see a “porous boundary”. So “many” people can access the park from their neighborhoods. One to two more access points would be nice. In the future, the City would like to acquire property in Brisbane Acres and establish a trail head and open space connection to the park.
- Brisbane would like the Master Plan to consider future trail connections into the park.
- Self guiding trail brochures are an excellent way for people to learn about the park.
- Bench placement along the trails needs to be sensitive.
- Careful consideration needs to be made regarding access on the south side of mountain. There is the potential for impact on erosion, long term maintenance, sensitive habitat areas, safety, etc. In addition, every neighborhood may want its own access point, and on or off street parking needs to be considered.
- The County should not develop more trails than they can afford to maintain.
- Access to the park at the south end of Colma, generally paralleling the south boundary of the Holy Cross property, already exists. It appears to serve as a walking and running trail with limited use by surrounding residents. Holy Cross has not had any history of problems with people using this trail. If the access is to be improved at this location additional information needs to be provided about the improvements, trailhead parking, etc.
- Potential access points on the south end of Colma, an emergency access or fire road. Nearest public street is Evergreen.

- Daly City is not looking at neighborhood trail access. SBM is more of a regional park.
- South San Francisco felt that more access points on the south side would be nice, but the park also needs to be practical to ensure trail maintenance. The Terra Bay plan shows trail head parking by the new recreation center. (They are looking at the possibility of 2 potential trail heads, they have not yet been approved.)
- Hillside & Holly street is a good access point for trails.
- The proposed trails from the existing General Plan look good and are acceptable.
- In developing the new Master Plan the total amount of disturbance should be evaluated. The original master plan had trails that were never established, but were approved in the HCP. These trails can be developed without an amendment. The total number of trails (acres/miles) approved for development can be used as a basis for new trails. If the master plan were to increase the total amount of trails, and or development, an amendment would be necessary.
- Expansion of the trail system would not be a traumatic impact to the resource, it may help to monitor and control habitat.
- SBM needs to establish low slope access for Brisbane into the park. One area is to parallel quarry road with one crossing and head up Wax Myrtle Ravine towards the saddle area.

Public Transportation

- Several people were in strong agreement that the park needed public transit to the entrance gate. This in general would help generate interest in the park, and to possibly provide access to population that may not be able to otherwise get to the park. Also public transit would be a benefit to school groups if service was provided during the school year.
- On occasion it has been a financial hardship for individual recreation programs and other organized groups to send a bus to the park after proposition 13. (Lack of funds)
- Public transit should be established to the park entrance (Sam Trans). Recently a group had to cancel coming to the park due to lack of transportation.

Staffing

- Current Staffing includes 2 permanent Rangers (Ranger IV and Ranger III) and 4-5 park aids, (similar to seasonal help, although utilized all year part time)
- An estimate was given that the park needs a full time Ranger contingency of 4 Rangers as a basic staff level. In addition the need for a full-time Naturalist to work with the HCP, and educate the public. Someone with a natural science background that can also communicate information to the public. An example of this type of position exists at Fitzgerald Marine.
- Staff has little time to perform resource management activities. The County needs to acknowledge the need for a resource manager, possibly the Naturalist position to identify what needs to be done, other staff (if provided) could conduct the work.
- Staffing should be brought back to about 4-5 rangers.

Visitor Center

- The development of an interpretive center is an appropriate use of funds by the County. The mountain should and will prove itself as a place for education, to study weather, plants, and animals. It could provide an opportunity to develop a research library, a single location for all the data being collected, for people to utilize.
- DP&R felt an interpretive center was exactly what parks are all about, and if also utilized as a meeting space it may become part of the community.
- FSBM supported the proposed location for the visitor center next to the Botanical Garden. A model for this type of facility is the Mid Peninsula, Russian Ridge Center (about the size of a double wide trailer).

Additional Facilities/Development

- Currently the general use of the park by people does not adversely impact the resource. It is the illicit activities such as dumping, collecting and off-road vehicles that damage the resource.
- If cities want to make a commitment to support additional facilities, then more facilities may be acceptable. (The day camp is not currently supported, but it was requested by cities).
Traditional recreational uses limited to city recreational programs are not applicable to the mountain.
- Brisbane would like to see a small picnic area, with turf, a trail head, and interpretive center, on the mountain side of park. They would like to see a replicate of the picnic area that was previously surrounded by eucalyptus, with a central “meadow” clearing. Also benches along trails, a drinking fountain at the summit, hike in picnic areas (trails with one or two tables/benches for picnic use.) The Nike Site as a potential picnic area, and picnic areas along the ridge tops.
- DP&R felt that children’s play areas are high maintenance and liability and would reduce SBM “sense of place”. City parks should take care of play structures, they are not a service SBM should provide.
- SBMW felt a children’s play area in the existing picnic area would be not be a problem; it is an appropriate use within an already developed area.
- FSBM would like additional facilities for the Botanical Garden, such as: a water source, tool shed, lock box, restroom, storage facility, and to be able to set out discovery boxes and displays.
- Telephones at trail heads, or along the trail, reduce sense of place.
- The City of Colma believes it might be appropriate to introduce isolated picnic tables along trails on the Colma side of the mountain at locations where visitors could reach them by hiking. They do not believe that large group picnic or gathering areas are appropriate near cemeteries.
- Jay Watson would be willing to enter into an agreement with the County to provide drinking water at the summit. The drinking fountain could be either located on his property, or on the County’s. It could be fed by bottled water which would be stored indoors at one of his buildings. This would create a closed drinking water system. He felt this solution would help to address the environmental requirements of the site, by not being intrusive and running water pipes, and also meet possible public needs on a daily basis.
- A potential interpretive site is at the summit, it is a good vista point. People do stop and rest at the top. Simple uses such as a picnic table, self-contained toilet, and the water that was offered by Jay Watson would be nice. The FSBM start their hikes at the summit and walk down to the parking lot. The Saddle area is a much windier area than the summit.
- The concept of facilities (picnic tables, trash cans, restrooms) are to help people, but in reality seem to create more problems with vandalism, littering, etc. than they are worth. These uses are not appropriate at the summit. The summit it is not as heavily used as the lower portion of the mountain. People who come to the summit are there for a short visit, or illegal activities, and do not need these facilities.
- FSBM want to minimize the disturbance/changes to the park.
- Daly City felt that there may be certain areas within areas designated as “conserved habitat” by the HCP that will not be conducive for habitat enhancement. These areas, to be identified by TRA, are so disturbed by exotic species, or have poor soils etc. that it may be cost prohibitive and therefore low on the priority list for habitat restoration. These areas may provide the opportunity for public improvements, such as picnic areas, play fields, and open space for kite flying, football or baseball.
- SBMW would like to see the remaining eucalyptus grove at the currently proposed day camp site restored to native grassland, and not developed for recreational uses.
- The land leased to Pacific Nursery should be purchased through another bond act and added to the County park. It would be a good area for a demonstration farm. The land is too disturbed to be restored as valuable habitat.

- SBM is not the same as the San Francisco Watershed lands regarding access. We have the opportunity within the park to develop uses.
- TRA would like to see improved interpretation, signage, and warnings to help deal with illicit activities.
- Increased facilities may attract people to the mountain. This in turn may lead to potential volunteers to help with exotic vegetation control. The park needs more volunteers.

Use of Volunteers

- Currently volunteers are working on their own, Ron Weaver keeps in touch with them, but they are setting their own schedule and activities. No direct guidance, Ron is only advisory.
- Volunteers need to be more involved in volunteer trail patrols, trail maintenance, picnic area restoration & plant maintenance, outreach to public, and other more common park activities.
- The park needs more volunteers to help with exotic vegetation control.
- FSBM stated they help with ranger patrols, maintain bulletin boards, host school and church groups, and conduct butterfly/bird counts. For the school and church groups they take the kids on hikes and work in the garden. This fall, Jefferson School district will be bringing approximately 75 kids (3 science classes) to them to get involved in biology related work. They can assist with resource monitoring and garden work. The FSBM provide people on site to direct activities, provide tools, plant identification, and snacks.
- FSBM are currently undergoing a training program in order to conduct trail patrols. The training educates them as to how to make individual contacts, general scope of duties, and radio communications and protocol training.

Funding

- Brisbane may be willing to contribute funding if the contribution is perceived as being beneficial to residents. This would also be dependent on who else contributes. An interpretive center could be a definite amenity to the community.
- DP&R felt the idea of lowering the entrance fee was not a good idea. It creates a loss of revenue. The entrance fee is reasonable for a leisure type activity. The park is in the “leisure time business” and they compete with expenses used for movies, etc. Parks are very under priced.
- The FSBM are currently processing their 501c3 for non profit status. They hope to attract funding to the park through two potential sources, San Mateo Foundation and the Carmel Valley Association. These are two organizations that have shown an interest in their work and have offered potential funding.
- FSBM primary interest is in the Botanical Garden. Currently they have been receiving funds through the HCP for restoration work.
- FSBM felt the proposed LAND USE IDEAS were disappointing because they are not connected to a budget or development costs. It is important to have an idea of what the park has to spend. It is also a way to teach the public what costs are associated with the park, if not, people do not understand the realities of park management and costs.
- SBMW is a non profit organization, that accepts grants and other funding to help their cause. Their primary focus is on habitat restoration and education. They also focus on areas around the park, to continually help the resource “grow” through land acquisition and/or potential corridors.

Public Relations

- The County has not appeared to be interested in publicizing the park, staff has made suggestions that were never approved.
- The current staff level cannot handle an increased level of use, therefore they are not interested in increasing visitation.
- The City of Brisbane would like SBM to be a place that is “loved” which will in turn gain support for the park.

- The “Organization” needs an in-depth County-wide survey, conducted professionally (for creditability), to identify user groups and meet future needs of the park. Although this would not include the amount of interest in the park that may be generated from outside the county, which may be a large number of users.
- The park needs more public relations, it is very important for revenue and preservation.
- Daly City felt the park needs more promotion. There is no general public interest/involvement in the park since there is no “vested interest” in the park. The Saddle Area could handle more substantial uses. Additional facilities would create an opportunity for many more people to access and use the park, thereby gain support and interest in the park and generate funds. It may even help provide funding for habitat restoration.
- South San Francisco felt the Saddle Area was not a real draw for people, other than the average hiker. Some people don’t even know about SBM, and pass through the area. Other people don’t take an interest in the mountain because they feel “ it is there, and it won’t really change much”, so they’re not interested in SBM.
- Daly City felt if the public doesn’t perceive SBM to be accessible to them, they will not support it.

Climate

- The climate on the saddle is worse than in South San Francisco.
- Climate on the Saddle may be a limiting factor, but it is the same as all parks in Daly City which are routinely crowded. A lot of people cannot travel long distances for recreation and therefore stay in the area.
- The climate is a big limitation in the park and the Nike Site is not conducive to a picnic area or vista point.
- The weather on SBM is not that different from the surrounding communities, but if a group is planning an outing, they are more willing to travel farther to a more conducive climate, than to go to SBM and endure the bad weather. Currently organized youth groups very poorly utilize the existing facilities.
- The climate on the Saddle does not lend itself to perpetual use. People are not always aware of the climate on the Saddle until they arrive.

Indian Shell Mounds

- FSBM would like to see shell mounds CA-SM-40 & 92 included into the park as an interpretive site, within the constraints presented by the Native Americans. They support the alternative plan or the environmental approved plan to develop the Native American aspect of the park. Model for this type of facility would be Coyote Hills Park in the East Bay. With a reconstructed village, shell mounds and cultural activities with native peoples.
- SBMW is currently in the process of trying to raise money for the purchase of the Ohlone shell mounds in the Terra Bay development West of the park.

Corridor

- A corridor is a great idea it needs to be done in order to maintain wildlife diversity. A large amount of land is needed to maintain a diverse wildlife population.
- There is a potential corridor line between SBM and McLaren Park according to SBMW. Other areas of potential corridors exist around the perimeter of the park and towards Sweeny Ridge. (Maps provided to RHAA)

Master Plan Should Address

- In developing the master plan we need to answer three basic questions to gain support for the Master Plan we should consider:
 - Are we developing more acres than is already approved in the HCP? (The net number of acres already shown in the HCP for development should not increase over the net acreage of habitat.) It will be almost impossible to receive HCP approval of an amendment that shows an increase in the amount of developed areas, unless new development is in areas of no habitat value. We need to work within the cumulative maximum park development acres and decide where to site uses.

- Are we removing existing high quality habitat areas or areas already under restoration?
- Does the proposed activity present a new threat to the resource?
- City of Brisbane felt park and recreational use should assume priority in the Master Plan
- DP&R does not want to see the “sense of place” sacrificed for the implementation of several of the issues presented in the land use proposal.
- Maintaining habitat etc., (as discussed in focus group meeting #1) as highest priority was not and has not been adequately addressed to this point. The Master Plan should include these ideas into the final product.
- The master plan needs to reflect the importance of SBM as a natural ecosystem. The biology is constantly changing and needs to be managed over the long term.

Management of SBM

- The additional land use and management policy proposals should be considered as follows:
 - a scientific advisory board should be established to track the HCP activities, stewardship proposals, recreational impacts, etc. This board could provide peer review activities and suggest additional research which should be done to improve natural area management practices (This would help to manage the resources of the mountain from the parks perspective, and could be used as resource management tool regarding resource impact within the park. Example: a board which receives a \$500 yr. honorarium to review document and provide recommendations - peer review- of HCP. Made up of individuals with expertise and have interest in the park.)
 - develop an ecological stewardship program that would support coordination of volunteer activities geared to enhancing park habitats and natural areas as well as providing monitoring and educational opportunities for the public. (Possibly someone with a scientific background, but primarily good people skills and able to communicate, inspire people and publicize the park.)
 - Authorize funds to create a GIS based map of SBM Master Plan that could be used for future planning and long term natural areas management (Bring the management of SBM into new technology for long term management of the resource)
 - establish a SBM Advisory Council which would provide representation for major stakeholders on the mountain and conduct regular meetings so that issues can be discussed and communication among the stakeholders maximized. (This is valuable due to past controversy on the mountain. SBM needs more open communication)
 - seek funding for a specific “urban wildland management plan” for the park that would assess the park’s specific ecological values and come up with a natural areas management plan tailored to maintaining the park’s ecological integrity (This ties in with the GIS comment)
- All of these proposals will require some long term funding.

Resource management

- There are various remnants of cultural resources on the mountain. A cultural inventory or study needs to be conducted.
- Brisbane would be opposed to any more eucalyptus removal. The amount of funding to restore land for habitat is limited.
- Resources do not remain stable and will not stay stable at the present rate of treatment. Gorse and other exotics are becoming more present. SBM needs to re-establish controlled burns, or grazing or both. Historically SBM was grazed by Tule Elk and antelope prior to deer and cattle. Native Americans maintained the mountain through burning. Consideration also needs to be made if grazing animals were re-introduced, how do you manage the population?

- SBMW is concerned about the absence of Fire on SBM, and they feel a burn program should be developed for SBM. Fire is an important part of the ecosystem and a historic feature of the mountain. The mountain is developing a massive fire potential due to excessive fuel load from lack of burning.
- The park needs to develop a public understanding of the resource, to do nothing would be disastrous. The eucalyptus removal was great for the resource, but created a large public outcry. People have learned to like the mountain with exotic vegetation (trees), but trees are not native to the mountain.
- SBMW would like to see people from every city to get involved in habitat restoration, and help the rare and endangered species.
- SBMW like to see an increase of habitat through restoration and land acquisition.
- The attempt to remove gorse in the saddle is not working because enough is not being done.
- The park needs to “get going” on a resource management plan.

Botanical Garden

- FSBM long-term goal is to develop a good-looking Botanical Garden by the year 2000, with interpretive signage, a propagation area and to be able to maintain it. They also want to staff the visitor center, and promote the environmental aspect of SBM, to attract people into the park as a recreational and environmental park. They hope they will be able to generate enough funds to become self-sustaining with community input.
- The Botanical Garden is a great idea also if it uses plants for interpretation.

Maintenance facility

- The park needs a resolution regarding the maintenance facility. Either decide to keep the existing site and make the necessary improvements, or build or rent a new site. The existing site is in need of repair and is a waste of money without long term commitment for the facility. This is an issue that needs to be addressed early in the Master Plan process. If the maintenance facility was moved, the Nike Site could be developed as an interpretive facility and provide an opportunity for the expansion of the County’s radio system (which is at the site). It would be a cost savings to the County if they want to expand the existing radio equipment that is housed in the Nike Site, and the revenues generated could be put into parks department for a maintenance facility. The site is better suited as a visitor site/vista point and provides access to Daly City with potential trail connections. The location is inappropriate as a shop and a more “honorable” use could be established. If the site is to be improved for a maintenance facility the County would need to establish a potable water system, and a reliable electrical source (possibly switching to propane). Currently the site has high a visibility to the public.
- FSBM are opposed to changing the current use of Nike Site. FSBM want to minimize the disturbance/changes to the park. Rangers are using it successfully now as a maintenance facility, and it is not conducive to a picnic area or vista point. The climate is a big limitation in the park. The Nike Site can be upgraded to provide better facilities. If used as a vista point the single lane road to the site is OK for pedestrians and bikes, but not for vehicles, and there is no parking in the area. Its remote location provides security resulting in a limited amount of vandalism to the maintenance facility. (Note this area is considered good Mission Blue butterfly habitat.)

Play fields/Meadows

- No need for recreational lawn areas (No more turf). The existing areas do not get the appropriate level of use to show need for additional areas. Grass areas exist in the picnic area and day camp. Play fields by Tank Ravine are not suitable, the cost of running water to site would be outrageous. New developments should be providing turf areas as part of their development agreements, these are agreements the cities have control over.
- Turf areas are OK for pick up games. Cities are the more appropriate venue for organized sports, however the bottom of the mountain is more accessible to people and the weather is more conducive than the Saddle Area.
- The End Use Plan for the Hillside landfill in Colma is to develop a small park possibly with a trailhead, and parking.
- The residents of Colma are in need of a community play field, large enough for soccer and baseball activities.

- FSBM do not want additional turf areas. They are expensive to maintain, and are under utilized, not a real value for the money. The park already has 2 large turf areas.
- Daly City would like to see simple open space areas with turf or natural grasses. No sports complex, but a relatively flat space. Play fields are a premium on the peninsula.
- Play fields are not practical on SBM, South San Francisco will address their needs within the city.
- According to DP&R play fields are not necessary, “meadows” are OK, but no ball fields, they are not normally seen in state parks.
- The cemetery landowners do not favor the development of meadow areas above their property because they do not wish to invite large numbers of people to locations adjacent to cemetery lands. The concern is that the use will generate noise and activity incompatible with the quiet, contemplative atmosphere required by the cemetery and will introduce the potential for vandalism of gravestones and other cemetery features.

Owl and Buckeye Canyon

- Owl and Buckeye Canyons should be owned and/or managed by County, they are currently owned by California State Department of Fish and Game (DF&G). The areas are hard to get to, which makes them difficult to manage. They have good potential for interpretation and natural history.
- Would like to see some management of Owl and Buckeye Canyons. Currently DF&G do not provide any maintenance to the site. Communication between the two agencies (DF&G and the County) is important.
- Buckeye and Owl Canyons, are designated an ecological reserve, and were purchased for the purpose of butterfly habitat. Preservation of the butterflies is the primary goal, recreation is secondary. DF&G does not have a management plan, but are a part of the HCP landowners. Due to lack of staff they currently rely TRA and SBMW for exotic vegetation removal and butterfly counts.
- There are no official designated trails, only those used by the groups working on the habitat. And DF&G will not be making any official trails.
- The property has several easements, information will be sent to RHAA.
- DF&G is concerned over mountain bike use at the ridgeline causing erosion down into the canyon.
- As an ecological reserve, there are specific approved uses which include research and scientific studies. A definition of ecological reserve was sent to RHAA.
- DF&G, due to lack of staff, *may* be interested in entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or some type of management agreement with the County for Owl and Buckeye Canyons. But the agreement would need to be for the management of the resource as butterfly habitat, not for recreational uses. Environmental education may be considered an acceptable use, but trails/access would be a sensitive item, depending on the route/location of the trail.
- A new law passed in the last year and a half which provided DF&G the ability to sell or trade properties through the Wildlife Conservation Board. This is a real estate board which buys, sells or trades surplus property. DF&G can identify properties as “surplus” based on ecological value and “dispose” of the property when the resource is no longer considered to be viable (ecological resource is gone) or if they want to trade for a piece of land with another agency which may be of more value to them. The Department however, is very picky as to who and what agency the land will go to. In the case of SBM the land would have to remain as butterfly habitat, not for recreational uses. This may be an option for Owl and Buckeye Canyon, but again, sold or traded to still maintain butterfly habitat and would need to be negotiated by upper management.
- Due to the lack of funds, DF&G is unable to conduct a prescribed fire in the canyons. They still need to develop a burn plan, and resubmit for possible funds next year. This is still a goal of the Department. Apparently there are federal funds available “Section 6” moneys, a grant for endangered species, which would assist them with funding for prescribed burns.

- DF&G has relied heavily on TRA and SBMW for the majority of the areas resource management.

Ropes course:

- The ropes course is currently being built by Jefferson Union High School District.

What is a ropes course?

- Ropes are set up through trees to develop a team building effort through a series of obstacles/issues that need to be solved as you move through. The site being used is in the eucalyptus grove on the side of the road to the existing day camp.
- The equipment is portable and “devices” can be attached to the trees when in use, and removed when not in use. It is not for general use by the public, it is part of the school curriculum. Primarily for students in Jefferson Unified High School District. This district includes students from Pacifica, Brisbane, Bayshore, and Jefferson Elementary. (Daly City and Colma attend Jefferson Elementary). May be future involvement with schools to south, but only schools within San Mateo County.
- Potential for public use on weekends? Maybe through the adult school program, but that would be up to the program coordinator. Currently there are only 1-2 staff members with the proper training for the ropes course.
- South San Francisco felt a ropes course would be a nice amenity.

Comments about HCP

- Amendments have been made to the HCP for developers. Brisbane felt the County should be able to use the same guidelines and amendment process if necessary. The Master Plan should not rule out potential ideas/uses just because it is not stated in the HCP.
- Some people think that amendments to the HCP detract from the environmental aspect of the mountain.
- HCP is a document for mountain to be managed as an ecosystem. To protect and manage for the species of concern. If species are not present or removed from the area they can't just relocate easily. SBM is unique, surrounded by urbanization, re-colonization of butterflies could not take place without man's help.
- The main concern of the USF&WS is that RHAA is aware of the three documents regarding SBM and the strong limitations they present on the mountain. The HCP, “Implementing Agreement”, and the Permit.
 - The HCP was prepared to obtain the permit (Section 10), it was required for application of permit.
 - The permit (Section 10) allows incidental take of endangered species by a non-federal entity.
 - The HCP implementing agreement is “what actually gets done”
 - If any of these are not adhered to the permit can be revoked. Unauthorized take would involve Section 11 (penalties).
- The HCP tells how amendments are made. Amendments can be made at two levels, first - very minor adjustments to the plan such as moving a boundary 5 feet. Second, is under major changes and can only be considered every 3 years.
- Exotic species control and natural history education will not suffice to protect the ecological values of San Bruno Mountain. It is also erroneous to assume that the Habitat Conservation Plan will take care of this problem. The San Bruno Mountain HCP was, and still is, controversial. It is operated by an environmental consulting firm with a specific and limited mandate. There is no adequate peer review and it is not set up to support ecological stewardship of the mountain's resources. One of the keys to a successful SBM Master Plan, will be integrating the SBM HCP into a more holistic plan that supports better science and informed public involvement in the management of the park's ecological integrity.

Education/Misc.

- FSBM would like to see “good” environmental interpretive signage in the Botanical Garden and in the park. If signage can not be provided, the self-guided brochures are a secondary option.

- SBMW are currently involved with school groups. They take children on hikes educating them about natural ecosystems, native plants etc. they also visit schools and make presentations. They also teach and utilize children for habitat restoration.
- Jay Watson would like the County, TRA or individual environmental groups to provide education regarding native species and removal of exotics. As a property owner he is asked periodically to remove exotics, but not given any guidance. When the HCP was first established someone from TRA was on site almost daily. He would like someone to provide him (and his staff) with more knowledge of what resources he has so he can provide more protection of the resource.
- Jay Watson stated that he apparently has some rare resources on his property (rare plant species, butterfly food source plants, fossils, etc.), he would like assistance to provide interpretive signage (education) for these resources. He would like to educate the public as people walk through the site. He felt that the general public comes to the summit to look at the view and are not informed of the valuable resources in the area.

What is SBM? or What Should It Be?

- The County needs to recognize the international significance of SBM. They have a responsibility to the resource, and it needs to be managed as such. They need to provide the staff necessary, beyond volunteer groups and integrate the scientific community to contribute to the mountain. They also need to foster development to protect the resource, as the HCP has established development on private property.
- The County should establish a natural resource group for scientific studies, SBM should be an official laboratory and information gathered could be interpreted to the public and be recognized as a worldwide resource.
- The County should consider the park be redesignated as a preserve. (Similar to what happened at Edgewood) This may lead to policy, ordinance changes within the park.
- The City of Brisbane felt the land at SBM was acquired as a park, but it is viewed as an ecological reserve by the County. It is managed as “What is good for the butterfly is important, but the park does not matter.”
- The eucalyptus removal left scars on the site, the City of Brisbane felt the park did not consider the visual impact as a park.
- City of Brisbane stated that when the land was set aside, “They” said it would be a “park”. When questioned about their definition of a park? “A place for people to get away from stresses, scenic beauty, quite, natural area, opportunity to engage in recreational activities, to restore the spirit”. Recreational activities such as hiking, picnicking, walking/jogging, relaxing, someplace to take out a blanket and read a book, a meadow area for kids to run and play, not regulation ball fields or courts.
- The City of Brisbane also felt the park is reluctant to make any improvements for recreation due to potential impact to the resource. Planning needs to be considered for resource impact to be minimal in sensitive areas and more development in disturbed areas. The park should not be fenced off.
- The mountain itself is a high profile park, although the “clientele” may be ignorant of the activities available to them.
- We live in an urban environment, people go to parks to get away. We need to be careful not to sacrifice “sense of place”.
- It appears that everyone wants this park to be something for everyone, it shouldn’t be. SBM needs to identify what the purpose of the park is.
- The County has management responsibility of the State Park land. These two adjoining pieces of property need to be managed for the same types of uses. This not only assists in management of the land, but also reduces the confusion of the user as they pass between the different properties.
- DP&R felt the State land is for protection of natural and cultural features, with opportunities for appropriate recreation, such as hiking, picnicking, camping, equestrian, nature study, photography. Not a state recreation area for special events, ropes course, and play areas.

- SBM needs to protect what's there, not keep everyone out.
- The County needs to decide how they will deal with the "real estate" as a continued biological resource. "Other activities" OK, but certain areas should have no impact at all, regardless of outside input. The park can provide recreation opportunities to surrounding residents, but is not a community or neighborhood park.
- The County needs to manage the park as a resource as it has Fitzgerald Marine, Tescadero, Memorial Park, etc. It is not just a park for the public.
- SBM is unique and special. Limited compatibility exists between recreation and habitat. If areas of little or not habitat value can be determined, then we can discuss the use of areas for some type of active recreation. This may require an HCP amendment, it will depend on if it would be a major or minor loss of habitat. Minor amendment would/may apply to areas of low value.
- SBM is in an area of high population density. There is a continuing deficit of open space/recreation opportunities for people to enjoy. Daly City felt SBM is a tremendous potential asset and is not meeting the need for open space recreation. Also the resources/funding available to the HCP Trust, to preserve and enhance the habitat are inadequate to meet the goals of the HCP. The perception of SBM as a preserve area, to be unused is inaccurate. Habitat and recreation can co-exist, they also mutually support each other. SBM is an asset that is not being used at all.
- Daly City would like to suggest that FSBM expand their efforts at the Botanical Garden, and others can help to enhance habitat and natural features, this may even beautify the area with a wild garden.
- Some interest groups show great concern that more access to the park leads to more degradation, that is a narrow focus.
- SBMW does not see the Saddle Area of SBM as a place for development, but does see it as a preserve area.
- SBM is of biogeographical significance in the San Francisco Peninsula, an important part of the areas legacy. Would like to see the conservation of the resource.
- The proposal made for land use and policy recommendations show the prime recreation area in the saddle; this is reasonable, but we need to be careful about the types of recreational uses that are allowed.
- SBM has a natural ecosystem and has cultural value. The biology is constantly changing and needs to be managed over the long term.

Appendix 7

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

A questionnaire was distributed to residents by the County and adjacent cities to provide an understanding of preferences regarding issues on San Bruno Mountain. Results of the questionnaire are on the following pages.

Some of the findings include:

- Most respondents visit the park more than once a year.
- A vast majority of respondents come for hiking and running, with bicycling as the next popular activity.
- A vast majority of respondents see “preservation of natural resources” as the most important priority.
- A smaller group says that more recreational facilities are needed.
- A vast majority of respondents believe that recreation can coexist with restoration of natural resources.
- A majority of respondents want to “limit new park development” and “plant native plants.”