

KING RANGE

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE OCTOBER 2002

A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KING RANGE NCA

Greetings from the King Range!

As fall settles on the Lost Coast, dusty roads become damp from the first rains of the season, fewer campers and hikers come to visit, and local residents begin preparing for winter. It's an ideal time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. The Bureau of Land Management is doing just that – in a big way – as we begin efforts to update the Management Plan for the King Range National Conservation Area.

We will use this plan to guide management and stewardship of King Range public lands for the next two decades. The original plan has been amended several times since its adoption in 1974, and over the years, new programs have been created to address changing environmental conditions, visitor demands and pressing needs. It is time to update the plan.

Updating the Management Plan offers both the BLM and the community a unique opportunity to produce a comprehensive long-range plan – one that will address current needs and guide us into the future. To create this blueprint for the area's future, we will listen to and work closely with the community, visitors and everyone who cares about the King Range. We cordially invite you to participate in this planning process. You can start by filling out the attached Visioning Worksheet and attending one of the Public Scoping Meetings in November (see inside).

Please share your ideas about ways we can improve the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) and have a positive influence on neighboring communities and the larger region. During the past several years, the BLM has heard many concerns and ideas expressed by local community members and visitors about such topics as fire management, stream restoration, public access, improvements to visitor services and facilities, and the desire for more educational programs – just to name a few. We'll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process.

So please join us in charting the future of this magnificent area and help preserve its legacy for future generations to enjoy. The range of possibilities is in your hands.



Lynda Roush
Arcata Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management



THEN AND NOW

Things have changed quite a bit since the King Range National Conservation Area Management Plan was first issued in 1974. The region's population has grown, its economic base has changed, and recreational use of the area has increased dramatically, placing more demands on the King Range than ever before.

For example, when the plan was written in 1974, Shelter Cove had about 30 homes and use on the Lost Coast Trail totaled less than 1,000 visitors annually. Now, in 2002, Shelter Cove has 450 houses – with over 50 new homes being built this year alone – and use on the Lost Coast Trail is expected to exceed 17,000 visitors.

Not only do we need to update the plan to address current conditions, we also need to craft a plan that can anticipate and adapt to future trends and changes for the next 20 years, while still preserving the King Range's unique characteristics. During this planning process, the BLM and the public will work together to create a vision for the King Range's future. What do you think the King Range should look like in 20 years? in 50 years? in 100 years? Once we define the vision, we must figure out how best to achieve it.



The Lost Coast of Northern California

THE KING RANGE AND ITS CONSERVATION

The King Range National Conservation Area offers visitors from all over the world the opportunity to experience over 35 miles of rugged coastline, soaring cliffs and more than 60,000 acres of lush forests in northern California's Humboldt and Mendocino counties. Extending between the mouth of the Mattole River in the north and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the south, the region is known as the "Lost Coast" because the steep terrain, harsh weather, and unstable soils have naturally limited road building and development.

Its dramatic beauty and uniqueness prompted a group of local residents to propose special protection of the area. The U.S. Congress responded by passing the King Range National Conservation Area Act in 1970. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, was assigned responsibility for acquiring and managing public lands within the designated conservation area. In 1974, BLM produced a Management Plan, describing policies, types of land uses, activities and programs that would be used to achieve the Act's objectives. This is the plan that we are now updating.

Today, the King Range remains one of the longest and rarest stretches of coastline in the country protected in a wild, primitive, natural condition. The area offers an array of public uses, including backpacking, car camping, wildlife viewing, hunting and scenic driving to name a few. While our basic mission remains the same – conserving the area's unique and primitive coastal environment – the plan update gives everybody a chance to review and improve the way we manage the range to achieve that goal. The plan update will help ensure that the King Range National Conservation Area remains a legacy for future generations to enjoy – just as all of us do today.



UPDATING THE PLAN — HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

The Management Plan is a guide for preserving and enjoying the King Range National Conservation Area – for today and for the future. The plan update will build upon the vision of the original plan and its evolution over the past three decades. The update process will also take into account the changes that have occurred in the area's environment, in the types of uses and numbers of visitors, and in neighboring Lost Coast communities.

The King Range NCA Management Plan, first adopted in 1974, has been amended previously to address a variety of issues:

- Transportation (1986)
- Wilderness area recommendations (1988, 1991)
- Fire management (1988)
- Visitor services (1992)
- Old growth forest species (Northwest Forest Plan 1994)
- Black Sands Beach closure to off-highway vehicles (1998)

The existing plan provides a good foundation, and many of the management decisions and programs will be carried forward and integrated into the plan update. However, we want your ideas and suggestions about how we might best update the plan to meet current and future challenges and community priorities.

Some of the key topics that we have heard about from the public over the last several years include:

- visitation and tourism,
- balancing competing land uses,
- maintaining a sustainable environment while accommodating visitors and public uses,
- fire management,
- public access,
- working cooperatively with private property owners,
- economic opportunities,
- forest products gathering (mushrooms, beargrass, etc.),
- fish and wildlife habitat,
- watershed restoration, and
- water quality – just to name a few!

We'll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process. It is important to identify key concerns and topics early, so they can be incorporated into the planning process and environmental analysis.

While updating the plan, we also will be guided by certain legal parameters, along with consideration of environmental and social conditions which will shape the area's future. Some of the laws that are relevant to our plan include the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. With this guidance, we will work together to determine which BLM management policies and practices are working well, and what improvements can best help to adjust the plan to address current conditions, community and visitor priorities, and future trends.



A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES

PARTNERS IN PLANNING - HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

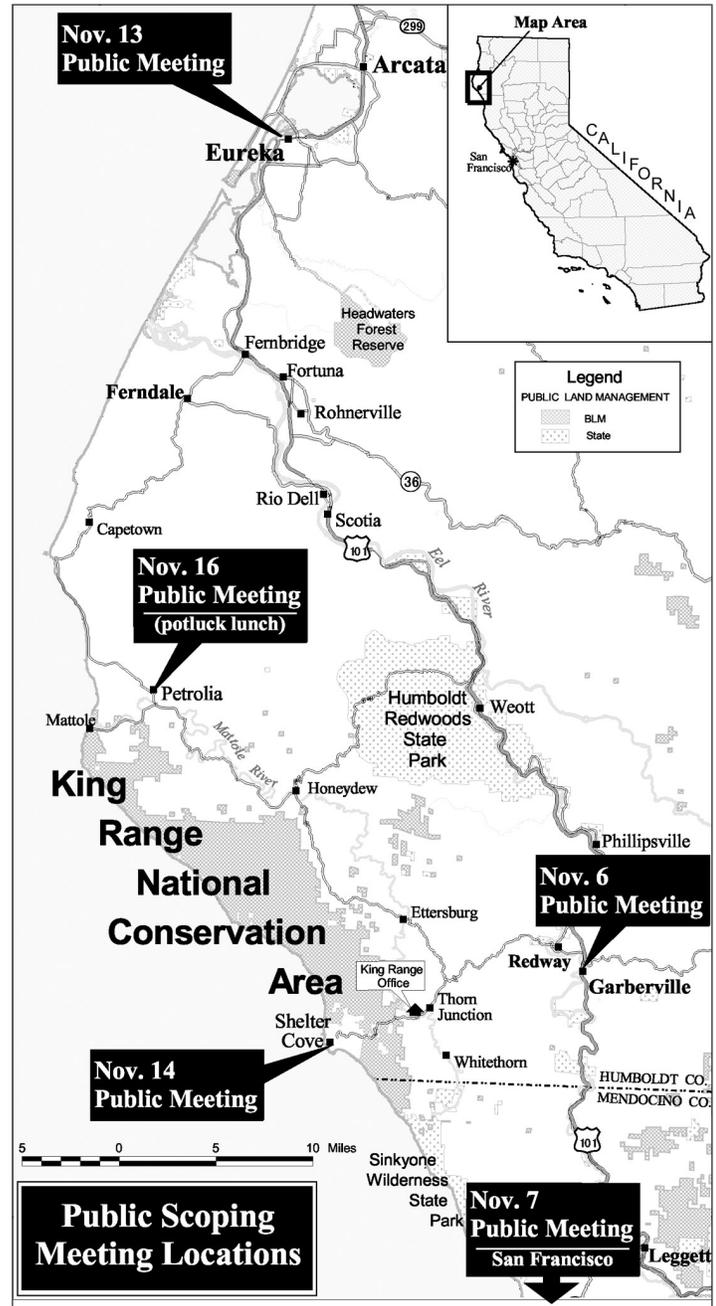
A great plan requires community involvement in the planning process. We want to hear from you. You can get involved in a number of ways.

1. Start by filling out the Visioning Worksheet and send it back to us by December 15, 2002.
2. Attend one of the public scoping meetings in November 2002.
3. Contact us by phone or via website anytime during the process.
4. Participate in workshops in the Winter and Spring 2003 to discuss specific topics and alternative approaches.
5. Give us your comments on the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement – likely available for public review in Summer 2003. (An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared along with the Management Plan update.)
6. Participate in the second set of public meetings – in Summer 2003 – to discuss the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. See timeline on back page.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS KICK OFF THE PLANNING PROCESS THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES BEGINS WITH YOU!

Help us kick off the planning process by attending one of the public scoping meetings. This first set of meetings will focus on developing a long-range vision for the future of the King Range NCA, as well as flesh out the spectrum of goals, concerns, ideas, problems and potential solutions that people have.

See the maps to find the time and place that's most convenient for you. If you can't attend one of these meetings, you can still share your ideas by filling out the Visioning Worksheet and/or contacting us by phone or on our website.



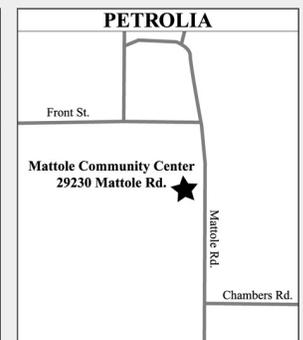
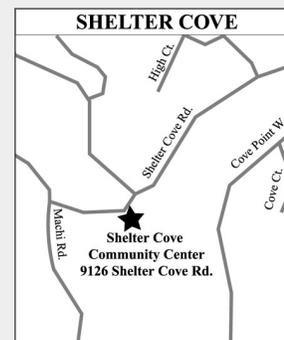
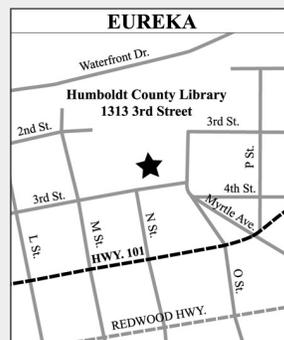
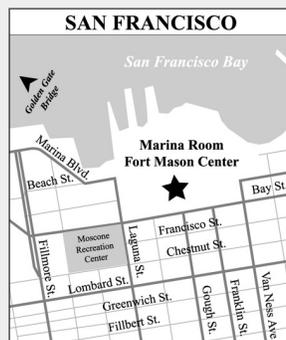
Wednesday
November 6th, 6-8 PM
Veterans Memorial Building
483 Conger St.
Garberville, CA

Thursday
November 7th, 6-8 PM
Fort Mason Center
Marina Room
San Francisco, CA

Wednesday
November 13th, 6-8 PM
Humboldt County Library
1313 3rd St.
Eureka, CA

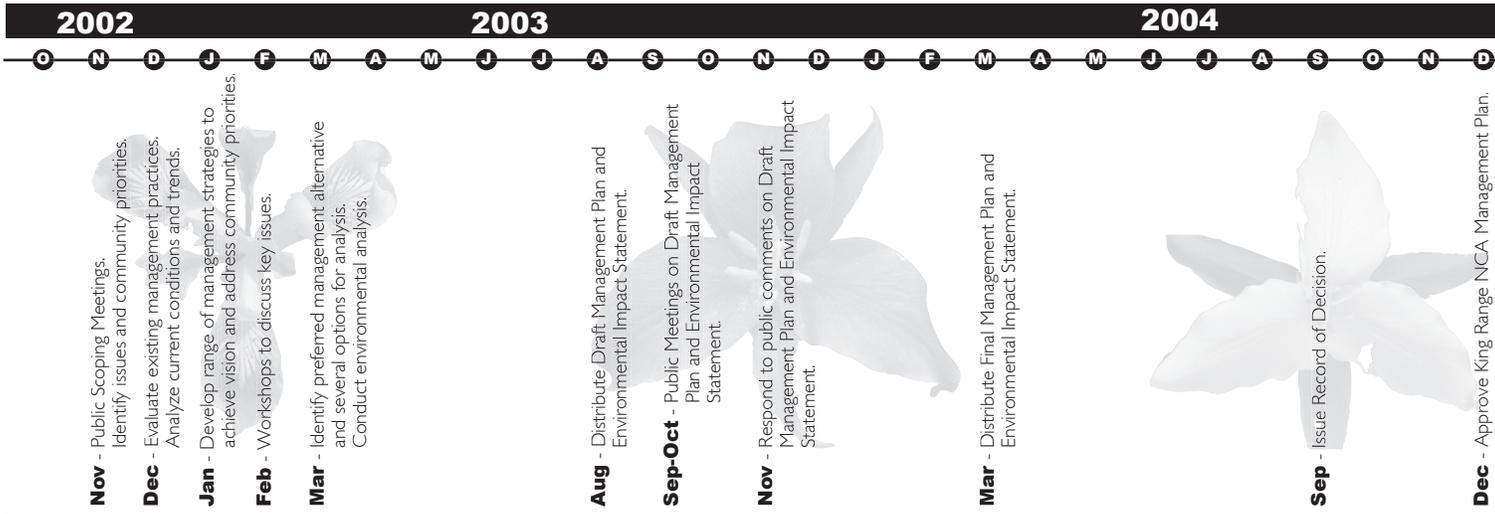
Thursday
November 14th, 6-8 PM
Shelter Cove Community Center
9126 Shelter Cove Rd.
Shelter Cove, CA

Saturday
November 16th, 1-4 PM
Mattole Community Center
29230 Mattole Road
Petrolia, CA
This one will be a Potluck!



TIMELINE OF PLANNING PROCESS

Dates are subject to change.



CONTACT US!

Do you have questions or comments about the Management Plan update process? Please contact:

Bureau of Land Management - Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521

Plan Hotline 707.825.2368

For general information about visiting the King Range NCA, please call 707.986.5400

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/king_range.html

You may also obtain progress information and submit your comments via our website. To receive future news about the King Range planning process, please write, call or contact us via the website to be added to the mailing list. (If you received this Planning Update through the mail, you're already on our list and don't need to sign up.)



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Bureau of Land Management - Arcata Field Office
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