

2.14 Recreation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
14. RECREATION—Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

A large portion of Del Norte County's total land area is owned by several public land ownerships providing a multitude of recreational opportunities. While there are no recreational facilities or parks in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project site, many parks and trails are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Project study area.

Several large national and State recreational areas/parks are located within the vicinity of the study area, including the Smith River National Recreational Area, Redwood National and State Parks, Pelican State Beach, and Smith River Public Fishing Access. The Smith River National Recreational Area, located approximately two miles east of the Proposed Project site (accessed via Rowdy Creek Road), is located within the Six Rivers National Forest and provides over 300,000 acres for hiking, rafting, camping, and hunting (USDA Forest Service, 2007). Redwood National and State Parks are located between approximately nine to 17 miles south of the Proposed Project site. In May 1994, Jedemiah Smith, Del Norte Coast, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks joined with Redwood National Park in a cooperative management effort. These parks are managed cooperatively by the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Currently, these parks contain a combined 131,983 acres (federal: 71,715 acres; State: 60,268 acres) and make up 45 percent of all the old-growth redwood forest remaining in California (National Park Service, 2007).

Several smaller public parks are located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project study area that provide public access points to beaches along the coastline and the Smith River. These parks attract enthusiasts of marine and river activities such as boating, fishing, and beach combing. These parks include Pelican State Beach, Clifford Kamph Memorial Park, Mouth of Smith River Park, and Smith River Fishing Access and are further described in Table 2.14-1, below (Del Norte County, 2003).

**TABLE 2.14-1
 RECREATION AREAS IN THE PROJECT VICINITY**

Recreation Area Name	Responsible Agency	Details	Location Relative to Proposed Project Site
Smith River Public Fishing Access	State of California	The Smith River public fishing access is a significant viewpoint in the area. A parking facility on a terrace above the Smith River presents river, riparian vegetation, and waterfowl scenes as well as views of distant upland forest. Provides access to the Smith River for boating, fishing, and other day use activities.	Approximately 2.5 miles south of the Proposed Project site along U.S. Highway 101.
Mouth of Smith River Park	Del Norte County	Immediately north of the mouth of the Smith River is a rocky beach with limited sandy pocket beaches and numerous tide pool areas.	Approximately 3.5 miles north of the Proposed Project site along U.S. Highway 101
Clifford Kamph Memorial Park	Del Norte County	A County park on the beach with nine tent-only campsites. Recreational opportunities include beach access, picnicking, beach combing, surf-fishing, and other day use activities.	Approximately 5.0 miles northeast of the Proposed Project site along U.S. Highway 101.
Pelican State Beach	State of California	A State beach that provides camping and day use activities.	Approximately 7.0 miles northeast of the Proposed Project site along U.S. Highway 101.

SOURCE: Del Norte County, 2003

Regulatory Context

Del Norte County General Plan

Section 5, Recreational and Cultural Resources, of the *Del Norte County General Plan* contains the following recreation goals and policies that would be applicable to the Proposed Project (Del Norte County, 2003):

Goal 5.A: To encourage the development and maintenance of existing and new parks and recreational facilities to serve the needs of present and future residents, employees, and visitors.

Goal 5.B: To encourage the protection, the use, and the promotion of State- and Federally-owned beaches, forests, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of Del Norte County residents and visitors.

Policy 5.B.34: The County shall continue to emphasize the importance of maintaining and retaining Highways 101 and 199 as primary routes which cross through the parks to serve the County and its communities.

Policy 5.B.35: The County shall encourage Redwood National and State Parks to manage the parks and encourage protection, use, and promotion of the parks for visitor education and enjoyment, pursuant to its adopted Management Plan (1999).

Goal 5.C: To develop a system of interconnected hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.

Policy 5.C.1: The County shall support development of a countywide trail system designed to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Provide safe, pleasant, and convenient travel by foot, horse, or bicycle;
- b. Link residential areas, schools, community buildings, parks, and other community facilities. Whenever possible, trails should connect to a countywide trail system and regional trails;
- c. Provide access to recreation areas, major waterways, and vista points; and
- d. Provide for multiple uses (i.e., pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle).

Recreation Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a) **Increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated: *Less than significant.***

Increases in demand for recreational facilities are typically associated with substantial increases in population. As further described in Section 2.12, *Population and Housing*, the Proposed Project would require up to 10 total crew members on the site at one time, including PacifiCorp and contracted construction personnel. The Proposed Project construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately three months, and therefore would not result in a substantial increased demand for recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated. Impacts would be less than significant.

- b) **Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment: *No impact.***

The Proposed Project does not include any plans for the addition of any recreational facilities nor would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any adverse physical effects on the environment from construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities.

References – Recreation

Del Norte County, 2003. *Del Norte County General Plan*, January 28, 2003.

National Park Service, 2007. <http://www.nps.gov/redw/faqs.htm>. Accessed October 2, 2007.

USDA Forest Service, 2007. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers/recreation/smith-river>. Accessed on October 2, 2007.