

Wilder Ranch Park Plan Two Years Away

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By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

A smoothly-designed workshop to discuss ideas for use of Wilder Ranch in the state park system put about 70 members of the public to work Thursday night, generating suggestions on what should be included in the state's plan for the ranch.

Participants at the workshop at Natural Bridges School came up with ideas generally recommending the greatest preservation of the 3,864 acres of land along the north coast of Santa Cruz County.

Suggestions included keeping the land in preserve, making it a working ranch for students

and / or teachers, hostels, trails for hikers, bicyclers and horsemen, camping, museums, picnicking and wildlife refuges.

Bob Acree, the state parks representative in charge of planning for the ranch, told the audience that a two-year process was involved prior to his staff taking a general plan to the state Parks Commission.

He said the ideas generated at the first meeting Thursday night would be reviewed by staff to determine if they fit within the guidelines of "a

state parks definition," and at the second meeting (to be scheduled) staff will discuss which ideas are compatible.

Acree said at further meetings, all to be scheduled in Santa Cruz County, state parks staff will present its draft general plan.

The plan, plus environmental impact considerations, will take about two years, then the state commission must approve the general plan in order for the state legislature to consider the plan for funding.

Following that, whatever necessary construction must be done before the park is open to the public, Acree pointed out.

The 70 members of the public were divided into a number of working groups that discussed ideas, wrote them down and then presented them from the floor to the parks staff. Other ideas were that a marina be built off the Wilder property beaches.

Roger Calloway of the parks

staff pointed out that many persons asked for controlled access to the park when it is open, suggesting parking facilities near Highway 1 and increased use of mass transit to reach the park.

The ranch has about four miles of frontage on Highway 1 and the coast, and includes four beaches.

"The significant expression here," Calloway said, "is the support we are getting for the citizen planning process."

The group workshop, he noted, "allows the people to meet face-to-face, to work out their ideas, and the result is there is a greater respect among the group for each other's thinking."

Two present uses of the property that probably will not be repeated in the state's general plan are the Santa Cruz city dump (100 acres) and the Wilder quarry (300 acres), both privately held.

Also on the ranch's terraces

are Brussels sprouts fields that are now leased from the state. A number of persons urged continued agricultural use.

The total size of the proposed park includes the acquired 3,864 acres of the Wilder Ranch, an adjacent 950 acres, and 425 acres in further acquisition for a total 5,239 acres.

The ranch buildings of the Wilder family are on the site,

and were used for years as a dairy.

Staff noted that the Wilder park will hold a museum of early dairy artifacts that have been contributed.

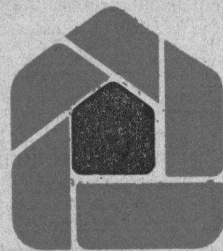
One suggestion given the Parks Department following the meeting was to establish a working dairy, using the original tools water power that ran the dairy.

Cuts In SC Elementary Schools?

Plans to cut the elementary schools' music program in half

Consent Motion

A motion urging county supervisors to adopt an ordinance requiring "informed consent" by the patient before psychotropic drugs can be administered will be considered by the Mental Health Advisory Board Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at the Health Services auditorium, 1060 Emeline Ave.



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