

Mt. Konocti Master Management Plan Development
Public Meeting #1
Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 6 to 8 p.m.
Lake County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Courthouse

AGENDA

1. Introductions.
2. Property history, regional context, current status of acquisition, property description and conditions of use.
3. Master Management Plan Development.
 - A. Purpose
 1. Create a vision for the mountain and strategies to achieve goals and objectives.
 - B. Layout
 1. Introduction: Will provide information on the location and content setting of Mt. Konocti and explain the plan and outline the overall format of the document.
 2. Conditions: Develop a comprehensive review of the mountain, land use, identify existing physical, natural, cultural (Indian and other), educational, aesthetic and recreational resources. Also to be included will be an operations and maintenance manual based on Best Management Practices.
 3. Role of volunteers.
 4. Goals and objectives: What do we want the park to look like once the management plan has been implemented in its entirety?
 - C. Discuss approach, key planning issues.
 1. The major planning issue we want to achieve is defining and achieving a balance between resource protection and recreation uses for an active and growing community.
 2. Protect the parks many resources.
 - A. Thin erosive soils, natural communities, and special status species. Native flora and fauna protection should be a high priority.
 3. Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) as part of the MMP to address oak community management, invasive species management, and fire management.
 4. Identify staff, volunteer, and contract responsibilities, educational opportunities, docent recruitment and training, creation of a Friends of Mt Konocti working group, etc.
4. Overview of plan development process.
 - A. Series of general meetings, creation of Technical Advisory Committee(s) (TAC) for flora and fauna identification, trail design, identification, construction and use, fire management, emergency services, etc.
 1. Identify specific issues, projects or policies the public would like to have reviewed and commented on during the public process. (fire, types of use, parking, restrooms, maintenance etc.)
 - B. Review of available material that can be used to develop the Master Management Plan.
 1. General Plan.
 - A. General Plan conformance.
 2. Previous investigations, studies.
 - A. Resource assessment, inventory.
 - B. Threatened or endangered species identification.
 - C. Countywide trail and pathways design efforts to date (Konocti Regional Trails Plan (KRTP) and Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Grant (RTCA)).
 - D. Cave investigations.
 - E. Existing County Ordinances.
 - F. Other.

- C. Areas of Concern:
 - 1. Wildlife and rare and sensitive plant species.
 - 2. Archeological, historical resources.
 - 3. Resource management and protection.
 - 4. Emergency services, fire management, etc.
 - 5. Trail planning and types of use.
 - 6. Soils protection.
 - 5. Potential operations and capital improvements funding sources.
 - A. General fund.
 - B. Buckingham Peak Communications site revenue.
 - C. Federal, State, and Foundation grants, and private donations.
 - 6. Public input.
 - A. List any and all ideas that are within the allowable parameters listed below for park resource management, development and use and use.
 - 1. Day use only.
 - 2. Keep gate closed.
 - 3. No off road vehicles and minimal vehicle use only.
 - 7. Announce/schedule future meeting(s).
 - 8. Adjourn.
- Att: Property Map

A list of attendees and the Property Map are attached.

The meeting was called to order by Kim Clymire, Director of Public Services for the County of Lake. Kim welcomed the group and introduced District 2 Supervisor, Jeff Smith and his wife, Cathlene, Kelly Cox, Lake County Administrative Officer, and Rich Burns from the Ukiah office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The purpose of this community meeting is to discuss the issues involved in creating a Master Management Plan for the Mt. Konocti property being purchased from the Fowlers, and to discuss and request community input and support for the following Parks Projects:

1) Hammond Avenue Park in Nice: this is a 12 acre park with \$3.2 million dollars in proposed park amenities, including a ballfield, restrooms, playground equipment, skate park and 4 acre wetland with boardwalk into the wetlands for bird watching;

2) Hinman Park in Nice - a 36' gazebo was just finished in the park, and new irrigation system and stamped concrete sidewalks were put in. We will be applying for a grant for a new restroom.

3) Riviera Park - Fairway Drive, Kelseyville. We will be working with the Kelseyville Unified School District to build a park on a 4 acre parcel which they own adjacent to the elementary school. They will let us use the property if we will build a neighborhood park. We are applying for a grant to build an open space ballfield, restrooms, playground equipment and parking facilities - about a \$500,000 project.

4) Alpine Park in Lucerne - we are purchasing more property and want to add a new gazebo on the lakefront

5) Clark's Island in Clearlake Oaks: removed all trailers and will maintain as an open space park with benches, tables and interpretive signs

6) Lower Lake Museum, the original Lower Lake Schoolhouse: earthquake retrofit, approximately \$1.5 million.

7) Rodman Slough trail construction, improvements and maintenance

8) Acquisition of property located at 3555 Lakeshore Blvd., Nice for parks

Anyone interested in signing a letter of support for the above projects or would like further information about any of these projects, please contact the Public Services Department at 707-262-1618.

Mt. Konocti:

The County closed escrow last October on the Buckingham Peak Communications site, and entered into an option to purchase the balance of the Fowler property consisting of approximately 1,500 acres. We hope to exercise the option within a few months, and close escrow by the end of the year, which is a condition of the option.

We need to have a preliminary management plan in place prior to opening the park to the public. The purpose of these public meetings is to get community input regarding the conditions of use.

Certain restrictions/conditions come with the purchase of the property and include:

- 1) Day use only, except by special arrangements;
- 2) No motorized vehicles, except by authorized use;
- 3) Gate to remain closed;
- 4) Preservation and conservation of the land

We need to decide:

- 1) Will we allow horses?
- 2) Will we allow mountain bikes?
- 3) Do we want to have separate trails for hiking, equestrian and biking, or can some be shared?
- 4) Will we allow dogs?

We have a committee currently working to develop a countywide Regional Trails system for hiking and kayaking all around Lake County. Chuck Lamb and Holly Harris have volunteered countless hours creating maps and brochures and working with County staff and a National Park Service trails expert to make this trail system a reality. The vision is to have a ridgeline trail from Clearlake Oaks to Hwy. 101, and all around Lake County, to include the Mt. Konocti trails.

Since we do not have the funds to hire a professional consultant to prepare the master plan, we will rely on the many local people with the talent, knowledge and expertise to assist us in preparing the plan.

Rich Burns is introduced and asked to speak about our cooperative work together. The Black Forest purchase began eleven years ago, and was a 5 or 6 year project. It took loyal partners to do that. Today we are in the process of purchasing a large portion of Mt. Konocti for public use, and it is a testament to the many people and organizations who have worked over the years toward this goal.

Cal Fire wrote the fire management plan for the mountain, which we can incorporate into our plan. The property can be used for educational purposes for the schools, and it will all be operated cooperatively. The BLM and County properties will all blend together.

In response to a question from the audience, the Indian Tribes were contacted regarding the purchase and we have had representatives from some of the tribes at several meetings. We've had representatives from Robinson Rancheria, Habematolel, and Middletown Rancheria. We have also been in the newspaper, on the radio, had public hearings before the Board of Supervisors, and have done what we could to notify everyone in the County regarding this purchase. We know the mountain is sacred and important to the tribes and we want to be sure the tribes are included in the process to preserve the mountain. We will continue to include the tribes as a part of this process.

Our Master Management Plan Development includes the following goals:

Develop a comprehensive review of the mountain, including land use, identifying existing physical, natural, cultural (Indian and other), educational, aesthetic and recreational resources, and create an operations and maintenance manual based on Best Management Practices.

Identify the role of volunteers and docents. We want them to be the eyes and ears on the mountain - to walk the trails and help with security. We will also work with Kelseyville Fire and Cal Fire to help with fire management plan and emergency response.

In response to a comment from the audience that the mountain is sacred and should not be open to the public, Kim assured the audience that we will do everything we can to preserve and protect the mountain.

Determine what we want the mountain to look like once the management plan has been implemented in its entirety.

Define and achieve a balance between resource protection and recreation uses for an active and growing community.

Protect the park's many resources and be sensitive to soil erosion, natural communities, special status species, and native flora and fauna. Maintain and preserve the beautiful oak grove, and many other natural resources on the mountain.

Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) as part of the MMP to address oak community management, invasive species management, and fire management.

Identify County, Cal Fire, and BLM staff, volunteers, any contractors, support educational opportunities, docent recruitment and training, creation of a Friends of Mt Konocti working group.

Create Technical Advisory Committee(s) (TAC) for flora and fauna identification, trail design, identification, construction and use, fire management, emergency services, etc., and identify the specific issues, projects or policies the public would like to have reviewed and commented on during the public process. We will be looking at plans created by other similar parks to see what has worked and hasn't worked.

There have been cave explorations on the mountain, and we want to be sure that is strictly regulated and controlled.

Protect wildlife and rare and sensitive plant species, archeological and historical resources and soils.

Funding sources:

Park Bond grant funds will be applied for;

Communication site lease payments of approximately \$80,000/yr) - the Board of Supervisors has approved expenditures from this revenue source for capital improvements and maintenance.

Public input:

Alan Siegel from Carle High School offered his entire school to work on the mountain project. They will provide the transportation. This could be the beginning of a schools/community park collaboration, providing community service projects for the kids. He will get involved to make this happen with the other schools as well as Carle.

The CDF, Sheriff jail help will also help with labor.

Is there power and water on the mountain? Will you be allowing amateur radio?

No water, but power for communication site use.

Yes, amateur radio will be allowed on the antenna.

Mt. Konocti seems to be a natural for solar power.

We are doing an analysis of the best way to upgrade it, and solar will be considered.

Will dogs be allowed? He is in favor of allowing dogs, and not allowing bikes.

We are considering it and want input.

Dogs are a safety issue

Dogs leave their scent, which interferes with natural wildlife use. Might want to have minimal use in specific areas - not the entire mountain.

Dogs should not be allowed off leash

Bill Knispel, Back County Horsemen, would like to see an equestrian trail on the mountain and offered to put in and maintain the trails.

Have there been any volcanic studies on the mountain?

The faults are mapped. We would get 1 to 2 years of warning before a volcanic eruption.

Would like to have bird walks on the mountain

Also with docents or special events, picnics, winetasting, star watching, by appointment

Rich said there is no hunting or shooting allowed in the Black Forest

That is already a condition of the sale

No horses, dogs or bikes due to the mountain being a sacred place.

Set aside space for sacred/spiritual use

Try to get multi-use

Mountain is currently being used by tribes for traditional Vision Quest which lasts over several days. If no use is allowed at night, this will interfere with their spiritual use. He doesn't feel they should have to get permission to use the mountain at night.

Suggests creating a council of tribal elders to oversee these religious issues

Can the tribe purchase a piece for their use?

There is a process to work with BLM to do that. Native American Advisory Group.

What type of infrastructure and restroom facilities are planned?

Due to lack of water, there will be a vault sanitation waterless restroom at the bottom and one at the top, discreetly placed in a convenient spot. Also interpretive signs will be along the trail with benches for resting and enjoying the views. You will need to bring your own drinking water.

What about parking?

We're working on that. We need to plan for at least 30 cars.

What about medical aide?

We are working with Cal Fire and Kelseyville Fire Department regarding emergency and fire response.

What about docents?

We will take as many as are willing to sign up.

What is the park's designation and will you tie in to Clear Lake State Park?

The park will be a County Park, and we are working with BLM toward acquisition of property on the mountain. We have identified some property that BLM may buy as part of their property exchange program. The Board has agreed to fully fund the Fowler property acquisition. Any donations received will go toward purchase of the Fowler property, leaving a balance of County funds to pay for future acquisitions. We have identified the parcel between the Fowler property and the State Park as a priority, so that someday you will be able to hike from the State Park to the top of Konocti.

Time frame for when trails might be developed?

Initially we will use the existing roads as the hiking trails. They are maintained by Cal Fire and those leasing tower space on the communications site.

Can we mark the existing roads on the map so it is easier to see them?

Yes

Will multi-use trails work?

It is much less expensive to have multi-use trails.

Is there any type of forum for the youth of Lake County to address these issues?

Alan represents a lot of youth from his school. We want to hear what they want.

Has there been a botanical study? Won't that need to be done before any hiking trails are cut?

Yes. We'll need to do those studies before make any changes on the mountain. We will be looking for volunteers and grant funds. Grad students would also be a good idea.

Have we set up a website so that people can respond online?

We have a website - PreserveKonocti.org. We will have a link to Mt. Konocti.

Archeological studies - should be at the top of the list of priorities: protection of artifacts found in excavations; prevention of desecration of artifacts; and safety issues regarding cave exploration.

The list is not in priority order. We need to decide how to handle all these issues. We will want to have our volunteers keep people on the trails and away from the sensitive areas - but we don't want them to have to act as police.

The next meeting will be the same agenda - and we will continue to get public input. We will send out minutes to all attendees.

Chuck Lamb discusses fund raising efforts and ways to donate on the PreserveKonocti.org website. Tickets are now being sold for a fundraising raffle sponsored by Konocti Project. The drawing will take place at the Heron Festival at Clear Lake State Park on Sunday, April 26th at 3 p.m. The current prizes include a top of Mt. Konocti guided tour with brown bag lunch for 4 (Kim Clymire); winemaker dinner for 8 at Rolling Knolls Vineyard (Clay Shannon); winetasting sampler for 4 (Susan Feilor, Lake Co. Wide Studio); pontoon boat rental for one day - 8 people; inflatable 2 person kayak (Chuck Lamb & Holly Harris); guided kayak trip for 2-Anderson Marsh or Cache Creek (Herb Gura); Mt. St. Helena guided tour and brown bag lunch for 2 (Pete McGee); guided bird watching eco-hike in Clear Lake State Park or Rodman Slough (Brad Barnwell).

Watch the website for more prizes.

The price of the tickets is 5 for \$10. This raffle allows you to be part of the purchase of the mountain, with the possibility of winning a terrific prize! You may buy tickets tonight, or at any of the following locations:

- 1) Shannon Ridge Tasting Room - Clearlake Oaks
- 2) Lake County Visitor Center - Lucerne
- 3) Lake County Wine Studio - Upper Lake
- 4) Wild About Books - Clearlake
- 5) Clearlake Bait - Clearlake

The next public meeting will be held Wed. March 25, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Courthouse, Lakeport

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Alan Siegel	Kevin Kealey
Armand Pauly	Linda Juntunen
Ashley Burns	Monica Rosenthal
Bill Knispel	Nancy Ruzicka
Bill Rett	Norb Yates
Bonnie Barker	Peter Windrem
Brad Barnwell	Rich Burns
Brandy Welch	Richard Hoyt
Cathlene Smith	Richard Persons
Chuck Sturges	Robert Sterlins
Chuck Lamb	Roberta Lyons
Cliff Ruzicka	Roberto Garcia
Cora Ann Blue	Shirley Boone
Dallas Cook	Stephen Boone
Ed Smith	Steve Sayers
Helen Turley	Susan Feiler
Holly Harris	Susanne Scholz
Jaclyn Ley	Tom Nixon
James Ley	Victoria Brandon
Jeff Smith	
Jim Brown	
John Parker	
Judy Barnes	
Julie Blevins	
K.P. Ross	
Karen Sullivan	
Kathy Barnwell	
Kelly Cox	

