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RESOURCE AREA DESIGNATION SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with the dual mission of protection and preserving the resources of the state park system and of providing recreation opportunities and facilities for public use. Classification of Castle Rocks State Park as a Natural Park recognizes its natural and scenic resource significance. The sense of solitude is a hallmark of the experience at this park. It is in this remarkable setting that IDPR must bring together diverse recreational, educational, and interpretive opportunities while protecting the sometimes fragile resources.

The resource area designation process identifies areas in a park that are most suitable for various activities within the framework of resource protection. Designations define the patterns of human activity in a given area. Designations control use and development and guide the arrangement of park activities and facilities to obtain a balance between visitor enjoyment and protection of park resources.

PURPOSE

Some resources, such as historic structures, archeological and paleontological sites, and sensitive riparian and wetland habitats, require greater protection than others. Development and

recreational activities have to be limited in these areas. Other sites are suitable for intensive recreation, camping, trails and interpretive facilities. To integrate land characteristics, protection needs and area-specific suitability for development and/or recreation activities, a resource area designation system has been developed for use in parks statewide. This system considers the unit's classification and purpose, the area's resource values and sensitivities, recreation potential, and desired visitor experiences.

Resource values are the relative importance of historical, cultural and natural resources to society. Resources of national, statewide or regional significance are to be considered of high value and importance. Archaeological and paleontological sites and historic structures are of high value. Specific factors used in evaluating resource values include rarity, endangerment and uniqueness. Resource sensitivity is a term used to qualify the degree to which a resource can be adversely affected by human activity. Cultural and natural resource sensitivities play key roles in determining appropriate development and use in specific areas. The designation of resource areas is based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivity information.

SUNSET IN ALMO VALLEY

*Across the summer fields of home
I gazed at close of day
And memory paints the vision clear,
Emotion bids it stay.*

*A fringe of willows with the hill
back-dropped
The mountain valley shows
Gold against the amethyst
Green against the rose.*

*Touched by a light that hath no name,
A glory never sung,
Aloft on sky and mountain wall
Are God's great pictures hung.*

*The granite spires of castled rocks
No longer are gray-browed;
They melt in gold and rosy mist;
The rock is softer than the cloud.*

*The valley holds its breath,
A warm light is unfurled.
The silence of Eternity
Seems falling on the world.*

*What presence from the
Heavenly heights
To those on earth incline?
What enters in my soul to stay?
It is a symphony divine!*

*A symphony of color sifts
Through purple veils of air
And wraps the willowed stream
and field
With loving mystic care.*

Continues on following page

PROCEDURE

A resource area designation system has been developed to classify all lands managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Six levels of protection (or appropriate levels of development/activity) are recognized in this system. These levels span a wide range of resource management strategies, from low resource impact management in the Scientific Area to high resource impact management in the Recreation and Service/Support Areas. All land within a state park shall receive resource area designations during the preparation of the master plan for the unit. Depending upon the unique characteristics of each park, any or all of the six resource area designations may be utilized; however, it should not be expected that all resource area designations will appear in all parks. Resource areas are designated and their boundaries delineated by the Planning Review Team during the park's master planning process and are approved by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board with its adoption of the plan. Resource area boundaries may be refined during the preparation of subsequent implementation plans by park staff. Resource area changes or relocation of resource area boundaries require staff analysis, justification and Board approval.

RESOURCE AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Descriptions of these resource

area designations along with management objectives, characteristics, and typical activities are outlined below. A map depicting the various area designation boundaries for lands administered by Castle Rocks State Park is displayed on the "Resource Area Designation Map" (See Map 6.1).

A table describing all the categories in the Resource Area Designation System is in Appendix 5A. The designations for Castle Rocks State Park are explained below.

SCIENTIFIC AREA

The Scientific Area is designated with the letter (S) on the Resource Area Designation Map.

Description - Scientific areas encompass resources that have unique or exceptional natural, scenic, and educational value. These may include: outstanding geological formations or features illustrating geological processes; fossil evidence of the development of life on earth; an ecological community illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome; a biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climax community; an ecological community illustrating the process of succession and restoration to a natural condition following disruptive change.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to protect and perpetuate the individual features

of unique natural or scientific significance or areas of land or water which possess inherent conditions of exceptional natural, scientific or educational value.

Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and where applicable for interpretive services. Human access to Scientific Areas is limited to educational and scientific purposes. Appropriate management may include prohibition of use to protect the resource from degradation. This resource area shall be adequate in size to protect the values within the area. Resource modification can occur in this resource area to maintain or restore these areas in as natural a state as possible.

Resource Area Characteristics
- Although Scientific Areas are primarily established to safeguard unique resources, these areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are isolated, relatively inaccessible and free of all but natural sounds. As visits to these areas must be approved by park staff, visitors to these areas are assured a personal experience that is undisturbed by other park users.

Typical Activities - Activities causing extremely low impact to the natural resources, such as guided interpretive walks and scientific study.

NATURAL AREA

The Natural Area is designated with the letter (N) on the Resource Area Designation Map.

Description - Lands and waters containing outstanding natural communities and possessing natural integrity. This area encompasses exceptional geologic, wildlife, botanical, lacustrine, riparian, and riverine environments. Natural Areas are established to promote, to perpetuate, and where necessary, to restore the natural character of the land.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to preserve the resource in a near-natural state. Appropriate management includes protection of the resource from degradation, inappropriate development, and over-use. Resource modification can occur in these resource areas only to maintain or restore these areas in as near-natural state as possible.

Resource Area Characteristics
- Natural Areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are secluded, with subdued noise levels and a serene, peaceful environment. In these areas, a visitor may occasionally encounter individuals or small groups seeking a similar experience.

Typical Activities - Activities causing low impact to the natural resources, such as hiking,

*A lover's claim on all is mine I see
to have and hold.
For beauty seen is never lost.
I'm flushed with joy untold!*

*My heart beats high in ecstasy!
God's colors all are fast!
The beauty of this sunset hour
Into my soul has passed.*

*The golden valley pales and shades;
Slow fades the vision from the sky,
And like a benediction
This glory, too, must die.*

*No whisper from the mountain pines,
No fragrant cedars tell
Of her, who paused and gazed
this day,
And love those scenes so well.*

Poem written by Pearl Ruth Taylor in 1922 at age 16.



Looking towards the ranch house from Castle Rock in the Ranch Unit

wildlife watching, photography, cross-country skiing, dispersed picnicking, small-group interpretive walks, and boating activities that do not degrade the environment or detract from the desired visitor experience.

HERITAGE AREA

The Heritage Area is designated with the letter (H) on the Resource Area Designation Map.

Description - These areas encompass structures and features of significant historic, cultural, archeological or architectural value.

Management Objectives - Preservation of historic and structural integrity is of paramount importance. Emphasis will be placed upon provision of opportunities for education and interpretation in and around areas, structures and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural value. Appropriate management is to facilitate visitor appreciation without degradation of the resource.

Resource Area Characteristics - Heritage Areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. Although able to accommodate groups of visitors, these areas are quiet, passive and thought-provoking. During periods of peak use, visitors to these areas are almost certain to encounter other visitors seeking the same

experience.

Typical Activities - The Heritage Area is a moderate use area for historic-period preservation, restorations, and interpretation. Activities include those causing low impacts to the resource, such as personal inspection, photography, scientific study, small-group interpretive walks and special events. Recreation-related facilities are generally secondary and will be separated from the site(s) of historic/cultural resources by sufficient buffers. Activities in keeping with the historical period of the historic/cultural resources are encouraged.

RECREATION AREA

The Recreation Area is designated with the letter (R) on the Resource Area Designation Map.

Description - Lands and waters offering moderate to high levels of diverse recreation and development opportunities, with a secondary function of conserving the natural character of the surroundings.

Management Objectives - The primary objective of a Recreation Area is to provide recreation opportunities so that park visitors can safely enjoy the park and its resources. Appropriate management is to facilitate recreation without irreparable resource damage. The highest level of development and activity in a park is intended to occur within this resource area. Recreation Areas are established where cultural



Natural shelter created by leaning rocks at Backyard Boulders formation

resources are absent and the soils, slope, drainage and vegetation can support intensive recreational activities. The landscape within this area can be modified substantially to meet this objective.

Resource Area Characteristics
- Recreation Areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are public and dynamic. They are readily accessible, busy, crowded, noisy and characterized by almost continuous activity. Visitors to a Recreation Area during periods of peak use are certain to encounter many other visitors engaged in a wide variety of recreational and social activities.

Typical Activities - Typical activities include those causing potentially moderate to high impacts to area resources, such as developed camping; group sports; developed picnicking; boat mooring, launching and beaching; swimming; beach activities; non-motorized trail use; motorized trail use; parking; outdoor interpretive programming; and overnight lodging in dorms, lodges, cabins, yurts or recreational housing. Also included are the activities listed in the Natural and Heritage Areas above.

SERVICE/SUPPORT AREA

The Service/Support Area is designated with the letters (S/S) on the Resource Area Designations Map.

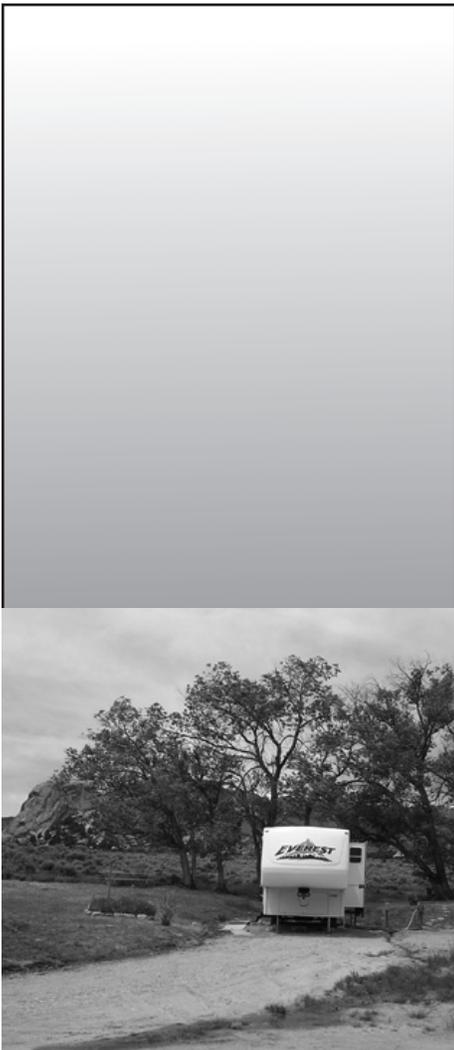
Description - Lands necessary to provide services to park visitors, housing to park employees, and support the maintenance of park facilities, equipment and vehicles.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to support activities in the other five areas in a safe, efficient and economic manner. Although activities in this area are essential to the other areas, they are not necessarily aesthetically compatible. Appropriate management is to centralize service, support and maintenance functions in specific, limited areas buffered from activities in the other areas. Facilities in this area should be designed and managed to efficiently accommodate the maximum levels of use anticipated.

Resource Area Characteristics
- Service Support Areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. Service Support Areas providing visitor services are readily accessible, busy, noisy and characterized by continuous daytime activity. Visitors to Service Support Areas during daylight hours are certain to encounter many other visitors seeking services and engaged in a wide variety of recreational and social activities. Service Support Areas supporting staff functions only, e.g., park maintenance and staff housing facilities, are not open to the public.



Existing picnic facility at amphitheater near ranch house



Existing RV pad for use by volunteer hosts - one of two near ranch house

Typical Activities - Typical visitor activities include park admission, registration, fee collection, visitor information, retail sales, indoor/outdoor interpretive programming, provision of developed moorage, developed parking, and concession operation. Staff activities include seasonal and permanent employee housing and activities associated with shop buildings, storage yards, fueling facilities and utility stations.

DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Two management alternatives were created based on resource characteristics and capabilities and feedback from public workshops, the planning review team, the stakeholder advisory team, park staff, and written comments from the public. The creation of preferred development alternatives organizes, clarifies and refines the multitude of issues reviewed during the planning process into a cohesive plan.

Management Alternative A – Low Level Development

The concept behind the low level management alternative is that minimal development of the three units of Castle Rocks State Park will guarantee the preservation of both the solitude one senses upon visiting as well as the cultural heritage of each park unit. This strategy will allow the maximum protection of the park's

resources while developing low impact activities and interpretive opportunities. (See Map 6.2)

General considerations with this plan include:

- A) Strengthen the cohesiveness between the units through common design elements, aesthetics and signage.
- B) Increase coordination of activities with other agencies active in protection and management of the resources of the park such as the NPS, BLM, USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- C) Develop new, or review of existing, management plans for resource issues such as grazing, wildfire, noxious weeds, and cultural resources.

Management objectives identified as unique to this management alternative include:

- A) Ranch Unit: This alternative recommends maintaining the unit in its current state with little modification. It would permit access to climbing and hiking opportunities farther in the park, but keep them at a primitive level. No roads would be developed beyond the ranch house. The emphasis would be on interpretation of cultural and historical resources that would not impact the pristine nature of the current park.
- B) Administrative Unit: Both

plans recommend increasing interpretive and picnic activities at this unit while planning for conversion of the current visitor center if a new visitor center is built at the Smoky Mountain Unit to administrative offices.

- C) Smoky Mountain Unit: Both plans call for a new visitor center to be developed in the future at this unit due to its central location between the park and national reserve. This alternative limits campground development to the amount agreed to in the Recreation and Public Purposes lease between IDPR and BLM.

Management Alternative B **– High Level Development**

The concept behind the high level management alternative is to maximize access to the three units of Castle Rocks State Park to offer diverse recreational opportunities while protecting a core area with the most significant natural resources.

General considerations with this plan would be the same as the low level development concept and include: (See Map 6.3)

- A) Strengthen the cohesiveness between the units through common design elements, aesthetics and signage.
- B) Increase coordination of activities with other agencies active in protection and management of the resources of the park such as the NPS, BLM, USDA Forest Service,

Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

- C) Develop new, or review of existing, management plans for resource issues such as such as grazing, wildfire, noxious weeds, and cultural resources.

Management objectives unique to this management alternative include:

- A) Ranch Unit: Increased access for recreational activities is key to this alternative. The plan proposes developing an access road to the Castle Rock formation. The road would provide easier access to a larger segment of park visitors. Development of trails that lead to other areas of the park as well as links to other public lands should be developed. A bunk house is planned near the existing ranch house to provide group camping opportunities. Construction of a pond, which would have to be stocked, would provide a fishing opportunity and serve as a reservoir for irrigation water. Finally, a covered picnic shelter will provide a space designated for picnicking and a gathering place for groups.
- B) Administrative Unit: Both plans recommend increasing interpretive and picnic activities at this unit while planning for conversion of the current visitor center if a new visitor center is built at the Smoky Mountain Unit.
- C) Smoky Mountain Unit: Both



Meeting of PRT and SAT members at ranch house



Flagging laid out in summer of 2005 to evaluate potential trails to rock formations

plans call for a new visitor center to be developed in the future at this unit. This alternative recommends working with BLM to develop back country yurts in close proximity to the Smoky Mountain Unit.

- D) Expand camping at Smoky Mountain Unit per lease agreement with BLM.

Preferred Management Alternative Selection Process

The selection process was designed to:

- A) clearly define the problems discovered through analysis of the project,
- B) consolidate a comprehensive range of planning options identified through committee and public input
- C) presentation of alternatives and selection of the preferred management alternative by Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the Planning Review Team.

Proposed Development, Land Use Plan, and Facility Designation

The High Level Management Alternative was selected by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the Planning Review Team after careful consideration of the resources and input received after review of the alternatives by the public. This alternative was selected because it would enhance the unique recreational opportunities found at Castle Rocks State Park while continuing to protect the sensitive natural

and cultural resources that make this such a special place. Some modifications were made to this alternative to comply with feedback from the SAT, PRT and the public.

The elements of the selected alternative are described on Map 6.4: “Proposed development, land use plan, and facility designation” map at the end of this chapter.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE CASTLE ROCKS RANCH UNIT

Park Entrance and Fee Collection

- The main entry into the park will be the driveway leading to the ranch house.
- Park entry fees will be collected at the entry near the road. A self-service fee station will be used. An information kiosk will be located near the entry.

Access, Circulation and Parking

- A turn-around large enough for tour buses and vehicles pulling trailers will be located at the entry.
- Vehicular circulation will be improved by moving the corral, equestrian loading and parking up the hill from the ranch house. The current parking lot will serve day use visitors.
- Develop a road to the Castle Rock formation. A small parking lot and restroom will be developed at the end of the road. The group’s decision was not to build a loop road, but



IDPR jeep - One goal is to maintain existing ranch roads for administrative purpose

to evaluate it in the future if public demand warrants it and if resources can be protected.

- The entry road bridge over Almo Creek will be rebuilt.
- Improve existing trails and develop new trails that improve access to other key natural features of the park. Develop interpretive sites along trail routes. Where possible, plan trails that will improve access to other adjoining public lands.
- Continue to use existing jeep trail as emergency and administrative access to remote areas of the park.
- Realign entry road

Education and Interpretation

- The relocated corral can service activities that enhance educational opportunities regarding the ranching heritage of the park.
- The ranch house will serve as a visitor contact place and satellite visitor center. The ranch house currently has small displays about families that lived on the ranch. The ranch house interpretive displays will focus on the ranching heritage of the area. Remodeling may occur to serve new activities.
- Livestock grazing and associated ranching activities will continue as a way to emphasize the ranching heritage. RanchFest will be continued to involve the local community and visitors in recognizing and celebrating the ranching heritage of the area.
- Rock art, archeological surveys and digs will provide examples

of the rich prehistoric culture and artifacts of the park.

- The mitigation wetland will be devoted to maximizing biological diversity and non-consumptive recreation such as birding, wildflower and wildlife viewing. The wetland will be fenced, receive aggressive treatment of noxious weeds and will be monitored.

Recreational Opportunities

- The CRSP Climbing Management Plan, 2003, is incorporated as a supplement to this master plan. Climbing routes will be increased where possible without harm to the natural and cultural resources.
- The trails management plan will address the needs of climbers who want to access the rocks, equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers. The plan will identify possible links to other public lands, other units of the park, and the CIRO.
- All trails within the ranch unit will remain non motorized.
- The existing interior ranch road will be maintained for administrative use and emergency access into the park. It will also serve as a trail for approved uses such as equestrian, pedestrian, or mountain biking.
- A pond should be built near Almo Creek, if environmentally feasible, north of the ranch house. It will be stocked with non-native fish to provide fishing opportunities.
- Existing game hunting opportunities will be



Almo Creek full with spring run-off



Visitor Center at the Administrative Unit

maintained.

Housing and Facilities

- A bunk house, which will be available to the public, either as individuals or groups, by reservation, will be constructed near the ranch house. Housing for staff will also be developed for supervisory and security purposes.
- A group picnic area with covered shelter will be constructed near Almo Creek north of the ranch house. A road and parking area will provide access.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Education and Interpretation and Recreational Opportunities

- An interpretive display will provide another link to the California Trail, which crosses the Administrative Unit.
- An information kiosk will link this unit to the Ranch and Smoky Mountain Units and provide information about CRSP.
- Picnic tables will be located on the shaded lawn.

Maintenance and Operation

- The current visitor center will be converted to staff offices once the new one is constructed. Staff housing will be developed along with volunteer host recreational vehicle sites.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT

New Visitor Center

- A new visitor center will be shared by CRSP and CIRO and will be the main point of contact for the state park. Fees will be collected at the visitor center.

Education, Interpretation, and Recreational Opportunities

- The new visitor center will be the primary contact point for park and reserve visitors. The center may include an indoor theater.
- An amphitheater will be developed at the campground within walking distance of the camp sites.
- The existing campground will be expanded according to the BLM lease agreement.
- Expand camping opportunities with the addition of a tent camp loop and back country yurts. Identify possible links to other public lands recreational opportunities in the trails management plan.

Castle Rocks State Park			
Opinion of Probable Cost :: Cassia County, Idaho :: June 2006			
<i>Cost Estimate Item</i>	<i>Level of Priority</i>		
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<i>Overall Park Development</i>			
Signage - One at each park and 3 along routes to park	\$ 24,000.00		
Sub-Total	\$ 24,000.00		
<i>Ranch Unit</i>			
Entry Information Kiosk	\$ 6,000.00		
Entry gate, turn-around & paved entry road to ranch house	\$ 190,000.00		
Reconstruction of bridge along entry road with rails	\$ 30,000.00		
Relocate existing corrals	\$ 28,000.00		
New Corral loading, turn around and small parking lot	\$ 15,000.00		
Realignment and expansion of current parking lot	\$ 30,000.00		
Develop park road to Castles formation with turnaround	\$ 250,000.00		
Parking at Castles formation	\$ 8,000.00		
3 Vault toilet facilities at Castles w/ site improvements	\$ 40,000.00		
Improvement of existing trails and jeep trail		\$ 125,000.00	
Construction of new trails		\$ 75,000.00	
Interpretive and Recreational signage along trails		\$ 10,000.00	
Construct new fishing pond			\$ 30,000.00
Construct trail to pond			\$ 9,000.00
Improvements to existing Ranch House	\$ 105,000.00		
New bunk house	\$ 840,000.00		
Group picnic shelter and tables with vault toilet	\$ 80,000.00		
Picnic shelter service access road and turnaround	\$ 18,000.00		
Picnic shelter parking	\$ 5,000.00		
Sub-Total	\$ 1,645,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 39,000.00
<i>Administrative Unit</i>			
California Trail Interpretive Trail Kiosk	\$ 6,000.00		
Information Kiosk	\$ 6,000.00		
Picnic tables			\$ 3,000.00
Convert current visitor center into staff offices			\$ 60,000.00
Develop housing, infrastructure for full-time and seasonal employees and volunteers		\$ 240,000.00	
Develop volunteer host recreational vehicle sites		\$ 36,000.00	
Sub-Total	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 276,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
<i>Smoky Mountain Unit</i>			
Develop new visitor center			\$ 2,200,000.00
Center will have indoor theater for interpretation			
Center will service both CRSP and CIRO			
New amphitheater with restroom			\$ 300,000.00
40 camp site campground loop expansion	\$ 2,310,000.00		
New tent camping loop with vault toilet (15 units)		\$ 180,000.00	
Develop 4 back country yurts with new 10' access trail	\$ 120,000.00		
4 Vault toilets (One at each unit)	\$ 60,000.00		
New trails for access to other public lands			\$ 60,000.00
Sub-Total	\$ 2,490,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 2,560,000.00
Sub-Total for each level of priority	\$ 4,171,000.00	\$ 666,000.00	\$ 2,662,000.00
Overall total for all proposed development			\$ 7,499,000.00

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE 'B' - HIGH LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

CONCEPT

The access to the three units of Castle Rocks State Park (CRSP) will be maximized to offer more diverse recreational opportunities while maintaining as much of a core area still in the Natural resource area designation as possible.

GENERAL

- The three units will be linked through design elements and signage. A CRSP logo will be used on signs, information kiosks and printed materials. Road signs and a location map at each unit will cue the visitor that there are three park units with different services and activities. Informational signage and interpretation regarding historical trails should be developed.
- Park staff will continue to work with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for natural resource management of the park and adjacent federal land. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will continue to be a partner in wildlife management. The State Historic Preservation Office will be a key partner along with the other agencies in stewarding the significant cultural and archaeological resources of the park.
- A grazing management plan for heritage interpretation will be developed to assure continued ranching use, resource protection, and an income stream.
- A wildfire management plan will be developed for the highest level of benefit for wildlife, pasture and wildflower viewing while protecting significant park values and visitors from wildfire.
- A buffer zone will be developed with the Almo community and the Cassia County Commission to define and protect vistas into and out of the park.

ADMINISTRATION UNIT

(A1) Education and Interpretation and Recreational Opportunities

- A interpretive display will provide another link to the California Trail, which crosses the administrative unit.
- An information kiosk will link this unit to the ranch and Smoky Mountain units and provide information about CRSP.
- Picnic tables for use by staff and public, will be located on the shaded lawn.

Maintenance and Operation

- The current visitor center will be converted to staff offices once the new one is constructed. Staff housing will be developed along with volunteer host sites with necessary services.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT

New Visitor Center

- (B1) A new visitor center will be shared by Castle Rocks State Park and the City of Rocks National Reserve. The visitor center will be the main entrance for both. Fees will be collected at the visitor center.

Education, Interpretation, and Recreational Opportunities

- The new visitor center will be the primary contact point for park and reserve visitors. The center will develop an indoor theater for standard orientation A/V and all weather use.
- (B2) An amphitheater will be developed at the campground within walking distance of the camp sites.
- The existing campground will be expanded per BLM lease agreement.

RANCH UNIT

Park Entrance and Fee Collection

- (C1a) The main entry into the park will be the driveway leading to the ranch house.
- (C1b) Park entry fees will be collected at the entry. A self-service fee station will be available at the entry. An information kiosk will be located near the entry.

Access, Circulation and Parking

- (C1a) A turn around large enough for tour buses and vehicles pulling trailers will be located at the entry.
- (C1b) Vehicular circulation will be improved by moving the corral, equestrian loading and parking up the hill. The current parking lot will serve day use visitors.

Education and Interpretation

- (C2) The relocated corrals can service activities that enhance educational opportunities regarding the ranching heritage of park.
- (C3) The ranch house will serve as a visitor contact place and satellite visitor center. The ranch house currently has small displays about families that lived on the ranch. The ranch house interpretive displays will focus on the ranching heritage of the area.
- Livestock grazing and associated ranching activities will continue as a way to emphasize the ranching heritage. Ranchfest will be continued as a celebration to involve the local community and visitors in the ranching heritage of the area.
- Rock art, archaeological surveys and digs will provide examples of the rich prehistoric culture and artifacts of the park.
- (C4) A mitigation wetland will be devoted to maximizing biological diversity and non-consumptive recreation such as birding, wildflower and wildlife viewing. The wetland will be fenced and monitored with aggressive treatment of noxious weeds.

Recreational Opportunities

- The Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Plan Management Plan, 2003, is incorporated as a supplement to this master plan.
- A trails management plan will be developed as a supplement to this master plan. It will address the needs of climbers who want to access the rocks, equestrians, hikers and perhaps mountain bikers. The plan will identify possible links to other public land and to the other units of CRSP and the City of Rocks National Reserve.
- All trails within the ranch unit will remain nonmotorized.
- (C5) Day use facilities at the ranch unit will be expanded by adding a group picnic area with a covered shelter.
- The current ranch road will be maintained for administrative use and emergency access into the park. It will also serve as a trail for approved uses such as equestrian, pedestrian, or mountain biking.

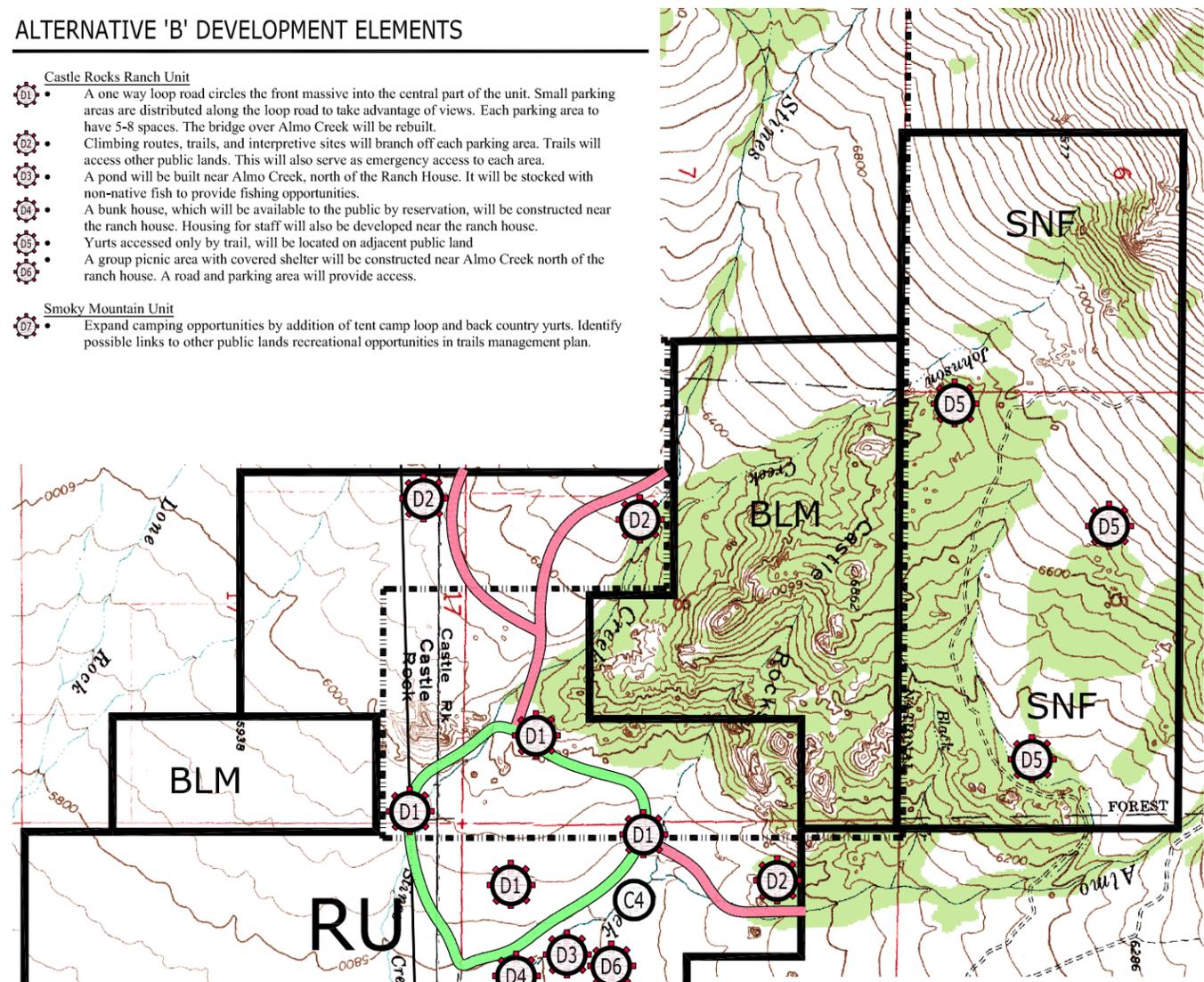
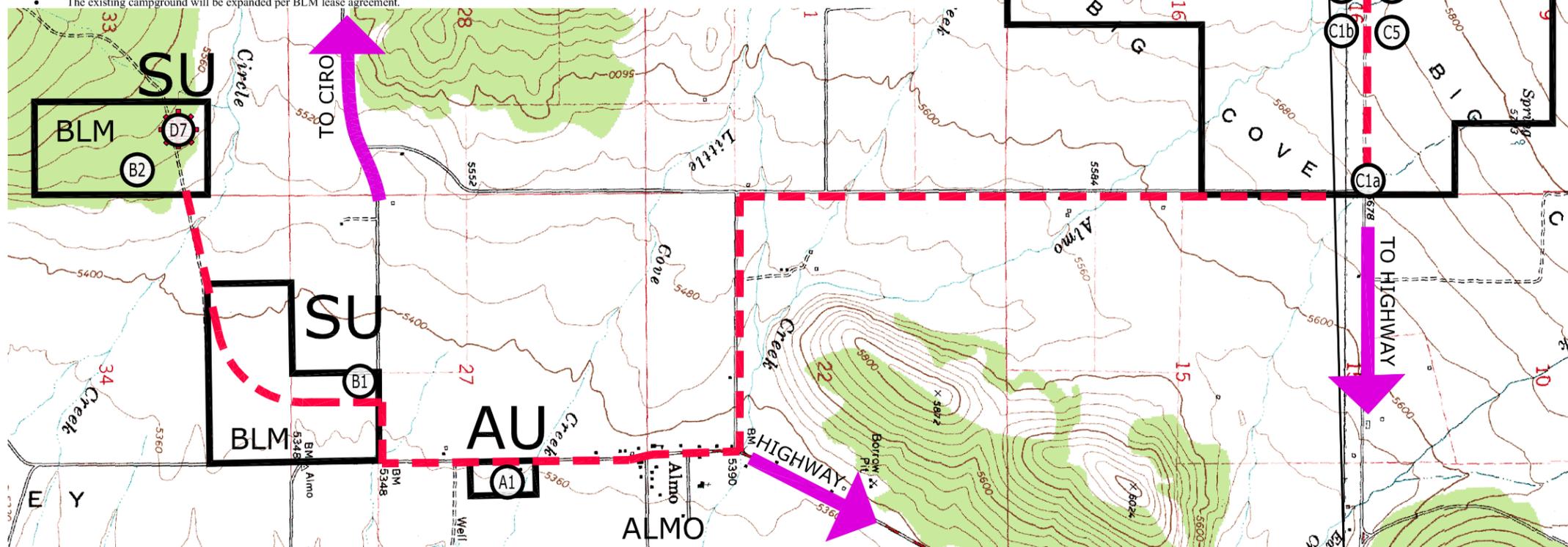
ALTERNATIVE 'B' DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS

Castle Rocks Ranch Unit

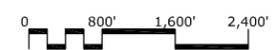
- (D1) A one way loop road circles the front massive into the central part of the unit. Small parking areas are distributed along the loop road to take advantage of views. Each parking area to have 5-8 spaces. The bridge over Almo Creek will be rebuilt.
- (D2) Climbing routes, trails, and interpretive sites will branch off each parking area. Trails will access other public lands. This will also serve as emergency access to each area.
- (D3) A pond will be built near Almo Creek, north of the Ranch House. It will be stocked with non-native fish to provide fishing opportunities.
- (D4) A bunk house, which will be available to the public by reservation, will be constructed near the ranch house. Housing for staff will also be developed near the ranch house.
- (D5) Yurts accessed only by trail, will be located on adjacent public land
- (D6) A group picnic area with covered shelter will be constructed near Almo Creek north of the ranch house. A road and parking area will provide access.

Smoky Mountain Unit

- (D7) Expand camping opportunities by addition of tent camp loop and back country yurts. Identify possible links to other public lands recreational opportunities in trails management plan.



LEGEND	
	CRSP CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK
	IDPR ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY
	RU RANCH UNIT
	SU SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT
	AU ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
	NHL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - CITY OF ROCKS
	BLM BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
	SNF SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
	INTER-UNIT ACCESS ROUTE



CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE 'A' - MINIMAL DEVELOPMENT

CONCEPT

Minimal development of the three units of Castle Rock State Park will guarantee the preservation of both the unique solitude one senses upon visiting as well as the cultural heritage of each park unit. This strategy will allow the maximum protection of the park's resources while developing low impact activities and interpretation opportunities.

GENERAL

- The three units will be linked through design elements and signage. A CRSP logo will be used on signs, information kiosks and printed materials. Road signs and a location map at each unit will cue the visitor that there are three park units with different services and activities. Informational signage and interpretation regarding historical trails should be developed.
- Park staff will continue to work with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for natural resource management of the park and adjacent federal land. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will continue to be a partner in wildlife management. The State Historic Preservation Office along with these other agencies will be a key partner in stewarding the significant cultural and archaeological resources of the park.
- A grazing management plan for heritage interpretation will be developed to assure continued ranching use, resource protection, and an income stream.
- A wildfire management plan will be developed for the highest level of benefit for wildlife, pasture and wildflower viewing while protecting significant park values and visitors.
- A buffer zone will be developed with the Almo community and the Cassia County Commission to define and protect vistas into and out of the park.

ADMINISTRATION UNIT

A1 Education and Interpretation and Recreational Opportunities

- A interpretive display will provide another link to the California Trail, which crosses the administrative unit.
- An information kiosk will link this unit to the ranch and Smoky Mountain units and provide information about CRSP.
- Picnic tables for use by staff and public, will be located on the shaded lawn.

Maintenance and Operation

- The current visitor center will be converted to staff offices once the new one is constructed. Staff housing will be developed along with volunteer host sites with necessary services.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT

New Visitor Center

- A new visitor center will be shared by Castle Rocks State Park and the City of Rocks National Reserve. The visitor center will be the main entrance for both. Fees will be collected at the visitor center.

Education, Interpretation, and Recreational Opportunities

- The new visitor center will be the primary contact point for park and reserve visitors. The center will develop an indoor theater for standard orientation A/V and all weather use.
- An amphitheater will be developed at the campground within walking distance of the camp sites.
- The existing campground will be expanded per BLM lease agreement.

RANCH UNIT

Park Entrance and Fee Collection

- The main entry into the park will be the driveway leading to the ranch house.
- Park entry fees will be collected at the entry. A self-service fee station will be available at the entry. An information kiosk will be located near the entry.

Access, Circulation and Parking

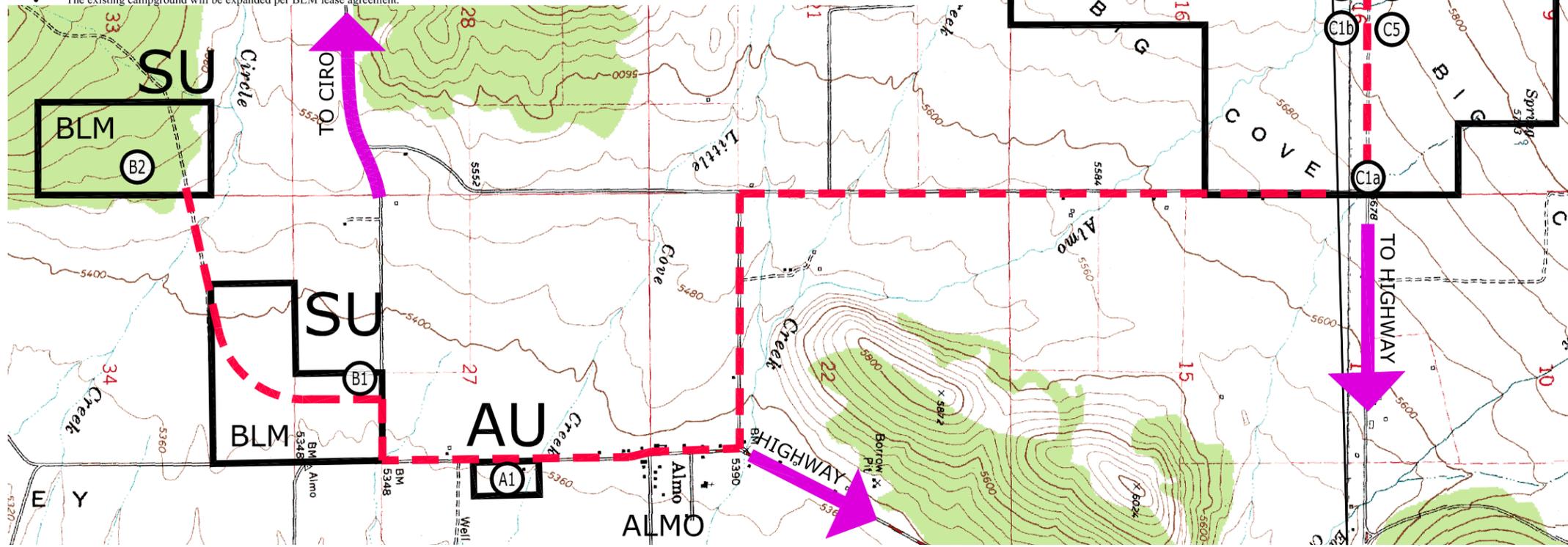
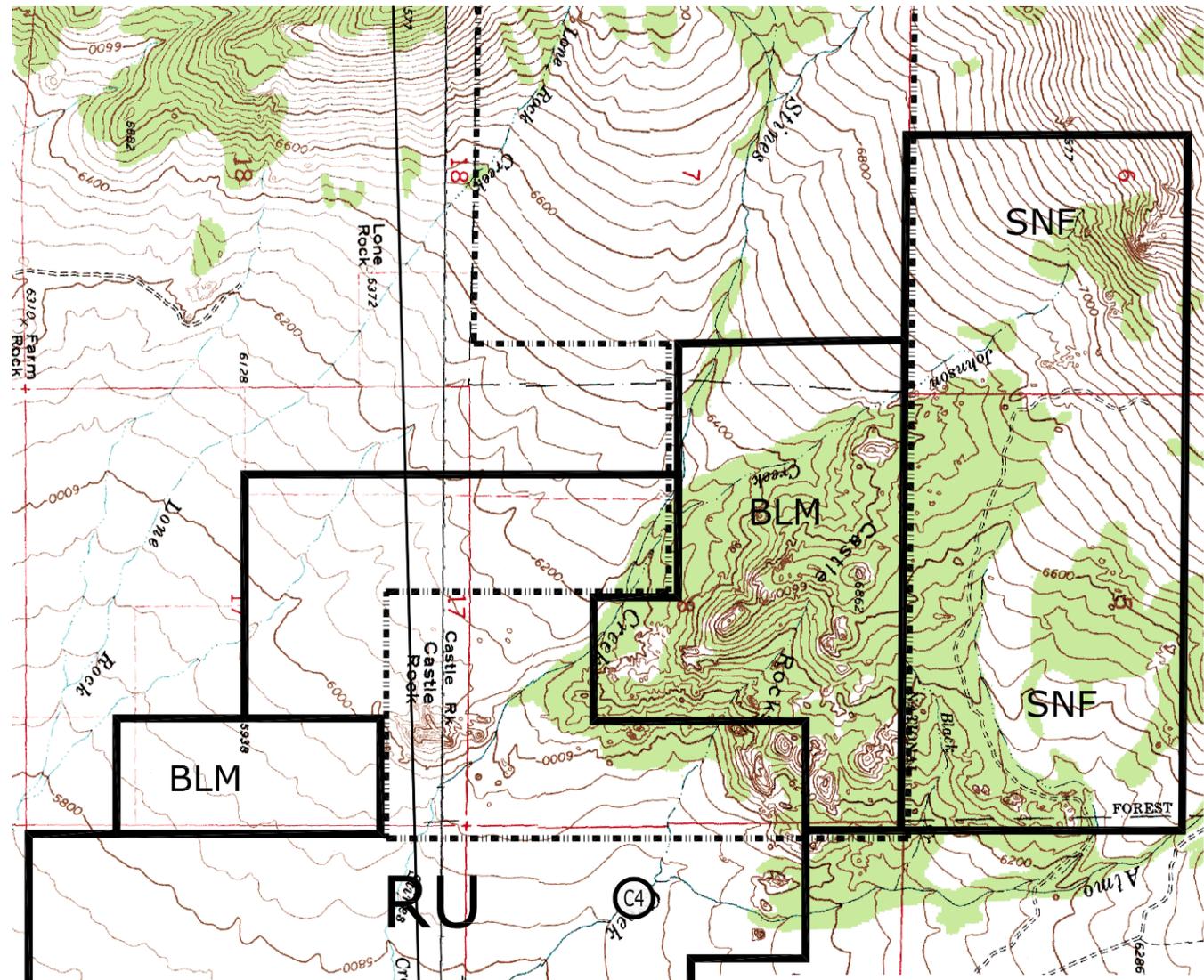
- A turn around large enough for tour buses and vehicles pulling trailers will be located at the entry.
- Vehicular circulation will be improved by moving the corral, equestrian loading and parking up the hill. The current parking lot will serve day use visitors.

Education and Interpretation

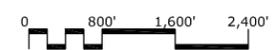
- The relocated corrals can service activities that enhance educational opportunities regarding the ranching heritage of park.
- The ranch house will serve as a visitor contact place and satellite visitor center. The ranch house currently has small displays about families that lived on the ranch. The ranch house interpretive displays will focus on the ranching heritage of the area.
- Livestock grazing and associated ranching activities will continue as a way to emphasize the ranching heritage. Ranchfest will be continued as a celebration to involve the local community and visitors in the ranching heritage of the area.
- Rock art, archaeological surveys and digs will provide examples of the rich prehistoric culture and artifacts of the park.
- A mitigation wetland will be devoted to maximizing biological diversity and non-consumptive recreation such as birding, wildflower and wildlife viewing. The wetland will be fenced and monitored with aggressive treatment of noxious weeds.

Recreational Opportunities

- The Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Plan Management Plan, 2003, is incorporated as a supplement to this master plan.
- A trails management plan will be developed as a supplement to this master plan. It will address the needs of climbers who want to access the rocks, equestrians, hikers and perhaps mountain bikers. The plan will identify possible links to other public land and to the other units of CRSP and the City of Rocks National Reserve.
- All trails within the ranch unit will remain nonmotorized.
- Day use facilities at the ranch unit will be expanded by adding a group picnic area with a covered shelter.
- The current ranch road will be maintained for administrative use and emergency access into the park. It will also serve as a trail for approved uses such as equestrian, pedestrian, or mountain biking.



LEGEND	
	CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK
	IDPR ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY
	RANCH UNIT
	SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT
	ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
	NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - CITY OF ROCKS
	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
	SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
	INTER-UNIT ACCESS ROUTE

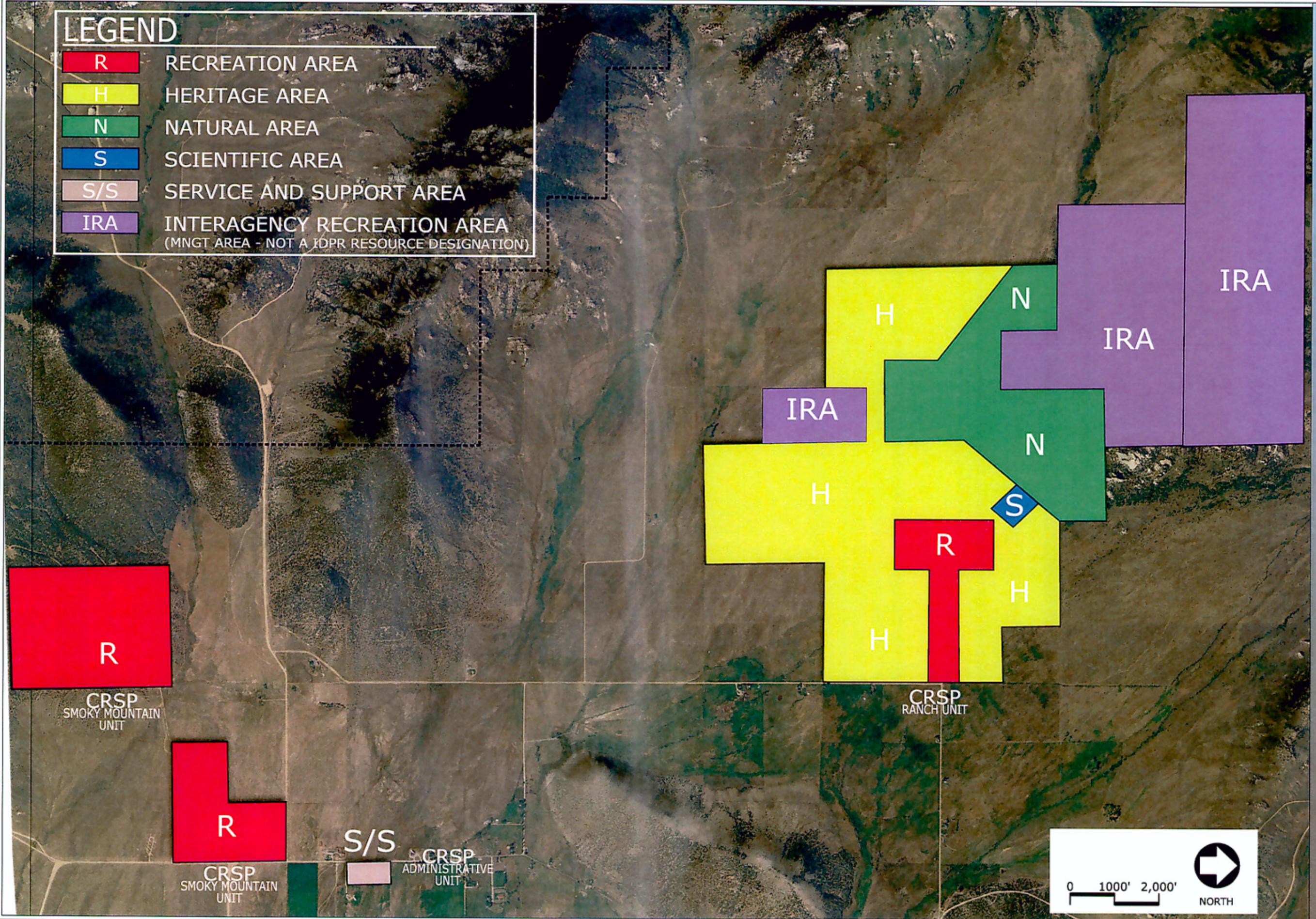


CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK



LEGEND

R	RECREATION AREA
H	HERITAGE AREA
N	NATURAL AREA
S	SCIENTIFIC AREA
S/S	SERVICE AND SUPPORT AREA
IRA	INTERAGENCY RECREATION AREA (MNGT AREA - NOT A IDPR RESOURCE DESIGNATION)



CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK

RESOURCE AREA DESIGNATION MAP



LEGEND

- CRSP CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK PLANNING AREA
ADMINISTERED BY IDPR - UNIT NAME BELOW PARK NAME
- - - CIRO CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE BOUNDARY
ADMINISTERED WITH IDPR FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- - - NHL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY
CITY OF ROCKS
- CT CALIFORNIA TRAIL
ADMINISTERED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- IRA INTERAGENCY RECREATION AREA
JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY IDPR, BLM, & USDA FOREST SERVICE

GENERAL

- The three units will be linked through design elements and signage. A CRSP logo will be used on signs, information kiosks and printed materials. Road signs and a location map at each unit will cue the visitor that there are three park units with different services and activities. Informational signage and interpretation regarding historical trails should be developed.

ADMINISTRATION UNIT

A1 Education, Interpretation and Recreational Opportunities

- An interpretive display will provide another link to the California Trail, which crosses the Administrative Unit.
- An information kiosk will link this unit to the Aanch and Smoky Mountain Units and provide information about CRSP.
- Picnic tables for use by staff and public, will be located on the shaded lawn.

Maintenance and Operation

- The current visitor center will be converted to staff offices once the new one is constructed. Staff housing will be developed along with volunteer host sites with necessary services.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN UNIT

B1 New Visitor Center

- A new visitor center will be shared by Castle Rocks State Park and the City of Rocks National Reserve and will be the main point of contact for the state park. Fee will be collected at the visitor center.

Education, Interpretation, and Recreational Opportunities

- The new visitor center will be the primary contact point for park and reserve visitors. The center will develop an indoor theater with standard orientation A/V.
- An amphitheater will be developed at the campground within walking distance of the camp sites.
- The existing campground will be expanded per BLM lease agreement.

Expansion of Camping Opportunities

- Expand camping opportunities by addition of tent camp loop and back country yurts. Identify possible links to other public lands recreational opportunities in trails management plan.

RANCH UNIT

21a Park Entrance and Fee Collection

- The main entry into the Ranch Unit will be the driveway leading to the ranch house.
- Park entry fees will be collected at the entry. A self-service fee station will be available at the entry. An information kiosk will be located near the entry.

21b Access, Circulation and Parking

- A turn around large enough for tour buses and vehicles pulling trailers will be located at the entry.
- Vehicular circulation will be improved by moving the corral, equestrian loading and parking up the hill. The current parking lot will serve day use visitors.
- Develop a road to the Castle Rock formation. A small parking lot and restroom will be developed at the end of the road.
- The entry road bridge over Almo Creek will be rebuilt.

22 Education and Interpretation

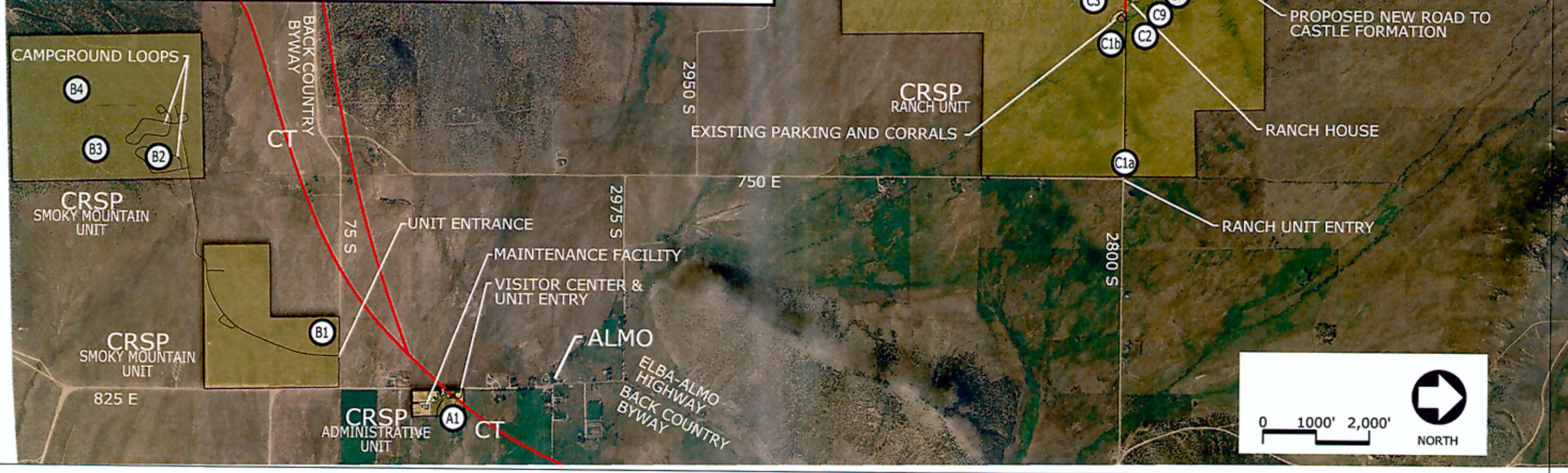
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- Rock art, archaeological surveys and digs will provide examples of the rich prehistoric culture and artifacts of the park.
- A mitigation wetland will be devoted to maximizing biological diversity and non-consumptive recreation such as birding, wildflower and wildlife viewing. The wetland will be fenced and monitored with aggressive treatment of noxious weeds.

23 Recreational Opportunities

- The Castle Rocks State Park Climbing Plan Management Plan, 2003, is incorporated as a supplement to this master plan and will be implemented as needed.
- A trails management plan will be developed as a supplement to this master plan. It will address the needs of climbers who want to access the rocks, equestrians, hikers and perhaps mountain bikers. The plan will identify possible links to other public land and to the other units of CRSP and the City of Rocks National Reserve. The plan will identify routes to key parts of the park and provide interpretive opportunities along those routes.
- All trails within the ranch unit will remain nonmotorized.
- The current ranch road will be maintained for administrative use and emergency access into the park. It will also serve as a trail for approved uses such as equestrian, pedestrian, or mountain biking.
- A pond will be built near Almo Creek, north of the Ranch House. It will be stocked with non-native fish to provide fishing opportunities.

24 Housing and Facilities

- A bunkhouse, which will be available to the public by reservation, will be constructed near the ranch house.
- A group picnic area with covered shelter will be constructed near Almo Creek north of the Ranch House. A road and parking area will provide access.



CASTLE ROCKS STATE PARK
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, LAND USE PLAN & FACILITY DESIGNATION