

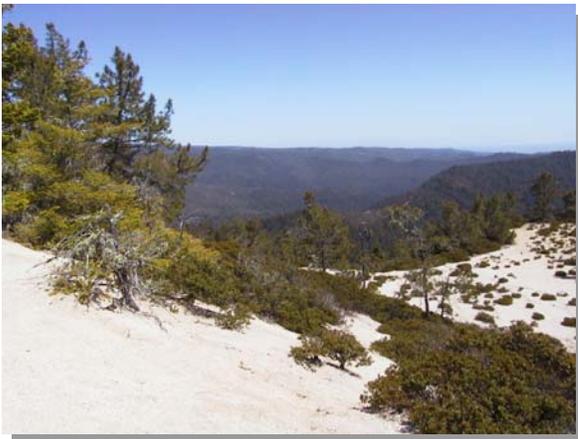
State Wilderness and Backcountry

Existing Conditions

- The West Waddell Creek State Wilderness was designated by the State Park and Recreation Commission in November 1982.



- The wilderness area includes approximately 5,900 acres primarily in the Waddell Creek watershed. These areas are characterized primarily by dense redwood and Douglas-fir forests in rugged mountainous terrain.



View from Gazos Creek Road

Planning Issues

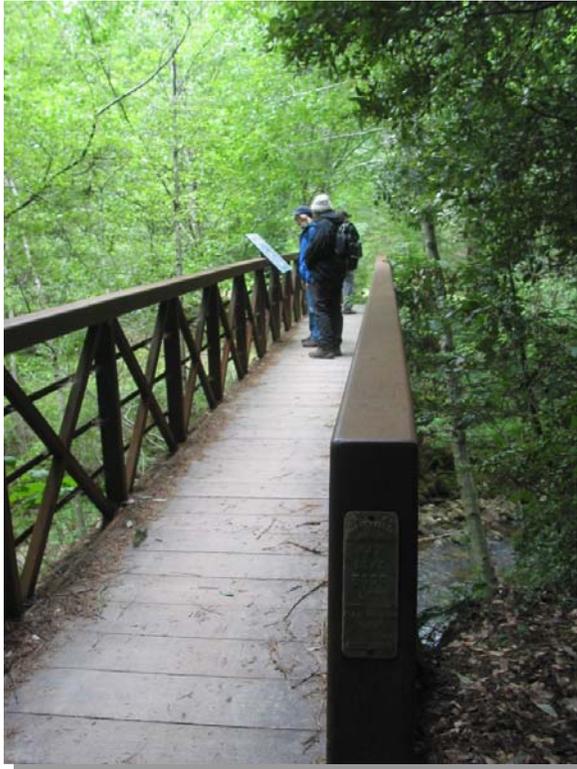
- *Wilderness designation restricts facilities development and mechanized uses, which protects resources and minimizes modification of the natural landscape.*
- *These restrictions also help to preserve the primitive visitor experience.*



Skyline to the Sea Trail

- *Lands acquired since 1982 include property within the Waddell Creek watershed that have potential for inclusion into the state wilderness.*

- Trails in the wilderness are for hiking and equestrians only. Mountain bikes are only authorized on park roads and designated trails in the backcountry.



Trail bridge crossing Waddell Creek

- In the backcountry, numerous trailheads in the park and the surrounding region provide access to an extensive park and regional trail network. Trailside camps are designated in various backcountry locations.
- Prescribed burns and other tools for resource management are implemented.

- *When the state wilderness area was established, the road corridor was kept outside the wilderness boundaries in order to maintain emergency vehicle access into the backcountry.*

- *This road bed includes a portion of the Skyline to the Sea trail that currently provides equestrian, hiking and bicycle access to a trailhead below Berry Creek Falls.*



Waddell Creek

- *Past storms damaged a bridge crossing and roadway, which closed the road to vehicle use.*