

Get Involved

The purpose of scoping activities is to obtain comments on the proposed project. Members of the public and interested organizations are encouraged to provide comments on the full spectrum of issues and concerns that should be addressed in the Draft IS/EA; to assist with defining a suitable range of alternatives; to advise on the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts; and to suggest possible protection measures that could reduce project impacts.

You are invited to attend the open house format public meetings:

July 17: 5 PM to 7 PM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arcata Office
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521

July 18: 5 PM to 7 PM

National Park Service
North Operations Center
500 Aubell Lane
Crescent City, CA 95531

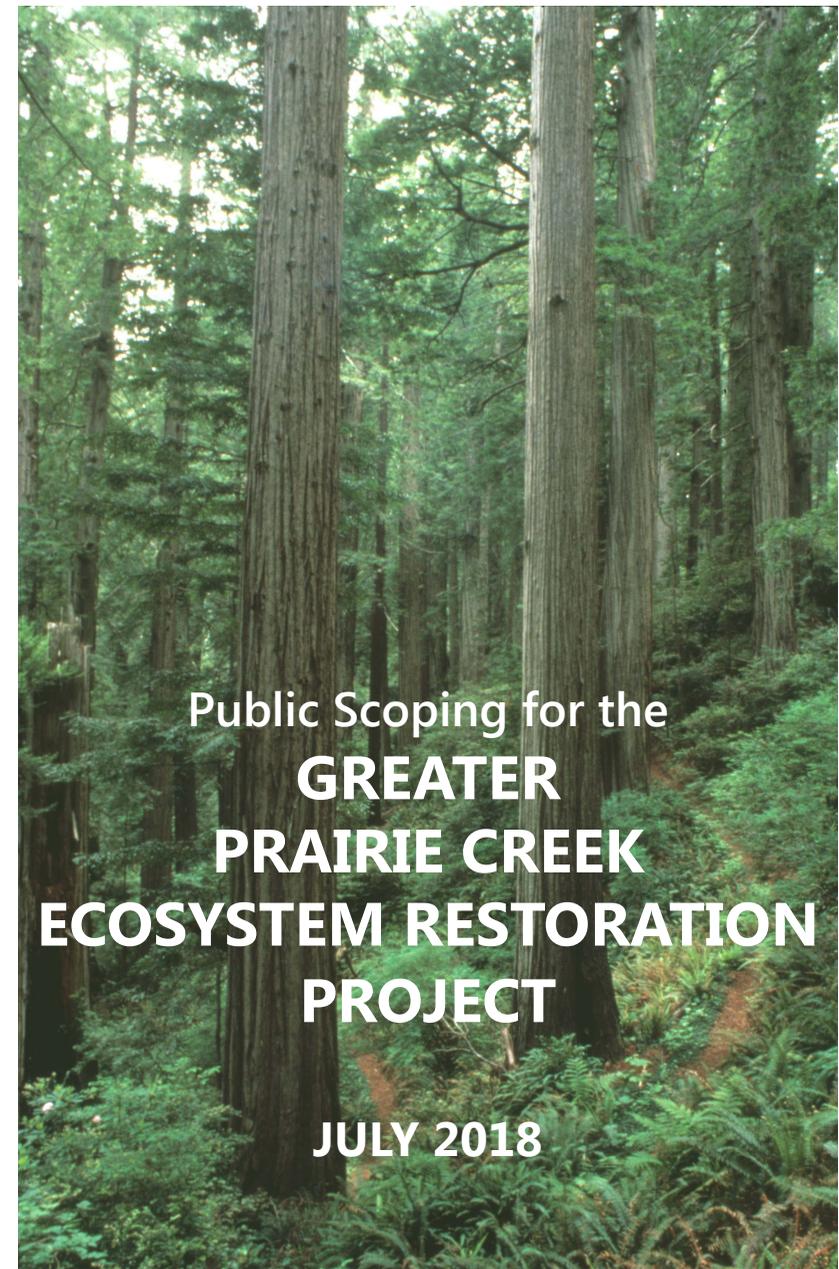
If you cannot attend, we still want to hear from you. Comments can be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GPC> or mailed to the following address by August 6, 2018:

National Park Service
South Operations Center
ATTN: Leonel Arguello
P.O. Box 7
Orick, CA 95555

It is our practice to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. If you would like us to withhold your name and address from disclosure, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. If you use the website, check the box "keep my contact information private." We will honor your request, but please be aware that we may still be required to disclose names and addresses under federal law.

Don't forget: public meetings are scheduled for July 17 and 18, 2018.

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
South Operations Center
ATTN: Leonel Arguello
P.O. Box 7
Orick, CA 95555



REDWOODS
RISING™



Project Information and Schedule

Under the umbrella of Redwoods Rising, the National Park Service (NPS) and California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) are beginning the planning process to continue restoration efforts in the Greater Prairie Creek (GPC) watershed through forest and aquatic restoration and road removal. NPS and CDPR are preparing a joint Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, respectively. As part of this planning effort, NPS and CDPR will also assess the effects of restoration activities on cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Public Resources Code 5024, respectively. The agencies are holding two public meetings for the project in July 2018.

IS/EA Milestones

July 2018

Public and agency scoping

Early 2019

Release of Draft IS/EA

Summer 2019

Issuance of Decision Documents

The GPC Ecosystem Restoration Project (the project) is located primarily in the lower portions of the Prairie Creek watershed within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP). The project area was extensively logged from the 1930s to the mid-1970s. The forest now consists of dense stands where tree growth and development is hindered, species compositions have shifted, and habitat quality is low. Unmaintained logging roads, landings, and stream crossings are eroding, leading to sediment entering the stream channels. These historical uses have degraded aquatic habitat and the mainstem of lower Prairie Creek is without large pieces of wood needed for fish habitat.

The project area is a high priority for restoration because of its location between two of the largest remaining stands of old growth redwood forests in RNSP. Addressing issues related to forest structure, erosion threats, and aquatic habitat in the planning area would accelerate habitat connectivity and development of beneficial conditions for park resources, including threatened and endangered species.

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Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the GPC watershed and restore ecosystem processes that have been degraded by historical land use. Rehabilitation would be accomplished through thinning second growth forests to reduce stand density and alter species composition to promote growth of remaining trees, understory vegetation, and the development of a multi-story canopy; removing or repairing roads to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation into streams; restoring in stream habitat complexity; and augmenting riparian corridors by planting native vegetation.

These actions are needed to accelerate development of forest characteristics more typical of late-seral forests, prevent chronic and catastrophic sediment inputs to creeks, and enhance habitat for populations of aquatic species.

Preliminary Alternatives

NPS and CDPR plan to evaluate a No Action Alternative as well as the Proposed Action in the IS/EA. Under the No Action Alternative, large-scale ecosystem restoration activities would not be undertaken.

The Proposed Action calls for forest and aquatic restoration and road removal over 9,200 acres within the GPC watersheds. Restoration activities would occur in phases over time. Forest restoration would entail forest thinning to reduce stand density and enhance forest health using two operational methods: lop and scatter and biomass removal. Proposed aquatic restoration would include placement of large wood in streams, riparian planting, and enhancement of existing riparian stands. The Proposed Action would include the removal of logging roads and related road infrastructure that threaten aquatic resources through the recontouring of these disturbed areas to pre-logging conditions. Some roads would be retained and maintained. Proposed Action implementation is anticipated to commence in late 2019.

