

**Pinnacles National Monument
General Management Plan**

Scoping Report

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**Prepared by
National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office, Oakland**

Scoping Report

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This report is a compilation of public involvement activities, public and internal comments received during the scoping period for the Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan (GMP). The report is divided into the following sections:

- I *Overview of Scoping Activities for the Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan.* **Page 3****
This section describes the public scoping process and the public involvement activities completed by the planning team.

- II. *Summary of Scoping Comments.* A summary of comments **Page 5****
received during public scoping, organized by topic.

I. Overview of Scoping Activities for the Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan

The Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan (GMP) team launched the GMP planning process in the spring of 2007. The planning team prepared a public involvement plan, and used it to guide the scoping process and public outreach. The planning team produced and mailed a newsletter in English and Spanish to organizations and individuals on the park mailing list. In addition, newsletters were distributed at the park visitor center, local communities, and at public meetings. The newsletter was also published and made available for comment on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

The purpose of the newsletter was to: 1) announce the start of the planning process; 2) inform the public on how they can participate; 3) present and obtain comments on park purpose and significance statements developed through foundation planning; and 4) to solicit comments on issues that the GMP should address. The newsletter also contained information on the date, time and location of public scoping meetings. The newsletter was also translated into Spanish and distributed to local communities.

Press releases announcing the GMP were also distributed to local newspapers. Several newspapers carried feature stories on the need for new GMP at Pinnacles and announced the upcoming public meetings.

On April 6, 2007 a Notice of Intent to prepare a general management plan and environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register. The Notice of Intent established May 31, 2007 as the close of the public comment period. Several comments received after this date were accepted and included in this scoping summary.

Public Meetings

In March 2007, the planning team held a series of public scoping meetings in California. Included in the agenda was an introduction from the Park Superintendent and a presentation on the GMP process and initial park purpose and park significance statements from the GMP Project Manager. Displays and stations were set up at the start of the meetings so that attendees could have one-on-one conversations with members of the planning team. After the presentation, group discussions were held about park planning issues and planning team members recorded comments on flipcharts. The planning team hosted the following meetings:

- Soledad, March 7, attended by 15 individuals.
- Hollister, March 19, attended by 11 members of the public.
- Paicines, March 20, attended by 7 members of the public.
- Santa Clara, March 24, attended by 3 members of the public.

Stakeholder Meetings

Throughout the scoping period presentations, meetings and conversations with local organizations, agencies and tribes were conducted by the Superintendent and members of the planning team. Organizations and agencies included the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, King City Rotary, San Juan Bautista Rotary, CA Fish and Game Advisory Commission, and the Salinas Rotary. In addition, park staff set up a booth at the Salinas Valley Fair.

Comments Received

Pinnacles received 110 written comments, and also incorporated comments from Pinnacles staff, and from an earlier round of GMP meetings in 1998. Most of the comments were submitted via the comment form that was distributed through the newsletter, the park visitor center at various public and stakeholder meetings, and posted on PEPC. The newsletter comment forms, previous comments summary from the 1998 scoping period, comments from a postcard produced in the summer of 2006, public meeting flipchart comments, e-mail comments, letters, and internal staff comments all were entered directly into the PEPC site. Most comments received were from individuals and organizations in California.

Native American tribes, agencies, and organizations submitting comments included: Access Fund, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, California Indian Wuksachi tribe, Californians for Western Wilderness, California Wilderness Coalition, California Wilderness Legacy Project, Friends of Pinnacles (various members), Girlventures, and Inn at the Pinnacles.

II. Summary of Scoping Comments

The following is a summary of comments received during the public scoping period for the Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan. Comments from internal scoping with NPS staff are also included in the summary.

The summary is organized by topic, and includes the following topics:

Natural Resources

- Fire Management
- Invasive Species
- Wild Pig Management
- Wildlife
- Endangered Species
- Condors
- Geological Features
- Native Plants/Wildflowers
- Wetlands/Water Resources
- Air Quality

Cultural Resources

Native Americans

Visitor Use and Experience Recreation

- General
- Trails/Hiking
- Biking
- Horseback Riding
- Climbing
- Carrying Capacity and Use Dispersal
- Increased Visitor Activity
- Crowding
- Solitude, Quietness/Soundscape Preservation
- Value the natural resources and setting
- Camping/Overnight Accommodations
- Ranger-led Programs and Activities

Education/Interpretation

- General
- Outreach

Wilderness

Facilities

- General

- Health/Safety
- Picnic/viewpoint areas
- Housing
- Administrative Facilities
- Sustainability/Green Technology
- Visitor Center
- Campground
- Level of Development/Commercialization

West Side

Pinnacles Ranch

- Facilities
- Recreation Opportunities
- Natural Resource Management

Access

- General
- Transportation
- Parking
- Access for Persons with Disabilities

Boundary/Adjacent Lands

- General
- Outside Development
- Boundary Adjustment

Land Use

Park Operations

- General
- Hours
- Law Enforcement/Safety
- Entrance Fees, Reservations, Permits
- Staffing

Partnerships/Public Involvement

Topic: Natural Resources

Wildlife

- Appreciate the diversity of plant and animal species.
- Wildlife is very abundant, and it was easy to have animals sightings.
- Pinnacles Ranch meadowland will be available for hunting & foraging for the Park wildlife (without sport killing or cows I hope).
- Bigger park would sure be great. And as wild as possible. With all the native species possible.
- I enjoy most the opportunity to see deer, variety of birds, bobcats, coyotes, etc.
- Pinnacles should be part of a collaborative effort that acquires for conservation and recreation the 5,000 acre parcel that was slated for construction. This would establish a major gateway to Soledad and Hwy 101, as well as a corridor for wildlife across 101 from Arroyo Seco.
- Pinnacles area is home to many diverse and endangered plants and animals. The park has the most diverse and healthy population of bees of anywhere in North America!
- Do not add recreation for ATV's and dirtbikes to such a precious and delicate.
- Let's just let the Pinnacles BE! Let the Pinnacles stay a natural wonder for us to enjoy and share in the natural miracles of nature. Condors, Bees ,Wildflowers, and Towering Spires! What more do we need?
- I hope and imagine that Pinnacles NM in the future will be similar to how it is now: a small gem of amazing rock, flora and fauna available to explore, hike, and climb in. In the future, I would love to see more (currently rare or endangered) birds and animals nesting and living in the park. We value the many nice hikes; the interesting plants, mammals, and birds that can be observed in the park; and the quiet camping.
- The trails, the birds, wildlife, wildflowers most enjoyable
- Will bears be reintroduced?
- What will happen to deer? with pig fences, vineyards?
- Have printed material and biologists available to students -handouts- plant & animal information
- Ensure that ecosystem processes will be protected, identify indicator species and active monitoring, reintroduce more missing species.
- Continue to protect tarantulas
- Encourage MAPS program in park for bird monitoring
- No non-native red fox allowed in park (bird issue)
- Protect raptors by keeping climbers out of nesting areas in spring
- Protect the Townsend Big-Eared Bat
- Wildlife protection supports visitor experience
- Establish owl walks on regular basis; Don't use tape recordings? adverse impact on birds
- I am glad that park use can be restricted without being closed completely to ensure the health of the animals.

Native Plants and Wildflowers

- The program of reintroducing native species to the park must be continued.
- I value the protection of native plant & animal species and their habitats.
- In the future I would like to see restoration of the newly acquired lands, including expansion of the pig fence, eradication of non-native species, replanting of valley oaks, and new trails.
- Need to continue protecting native plants and animals in the park.
- I most enjoyed the wild quality of this beautiful place. The chaparral and landforms especially.
- I enjoy wildflowers, especially the shooting stars, birds and the wildness of the trails.
- I most enjoy the birds, the flowers, the hikes & the peacefulness of the place.
- I value the wildflowers in the spring.

- Perhaps some areas could be burned or otherwise "disturbed" to promote flowering of some of the more unusual native annual species in the seed bank.
- Need standards and guidelines for identifying and protecting sensitive plant populations, including those listed in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California
- Plant communities - botanizing the flowers and reading the ecology: Fires, advance of different vegetation types, pondering the future - with and without fire.
- Restoration of natural plant communities, especially of wet areas, many now dominated by non-native grasses.
- Lichens should be identified as resources of high importance.
- Have shaded picnic areas on the West Side; use natural trees for shade and structure screening.
- Park needs botanist with a "practical" approach ? if you take care of plants, animals will be okay.
- Restore Pinnacles Ranchland (opportunity).
- Find place to park few cars (3-4) at Pinnacles Ranch ? botanically different from rest of park.
- Have printed material and biologists available to students -handouts- plant & animal information
- Restore ranch values with valley oaks to provide shade in summer.
- Would like to see grasses; no mustard & star thistle.
- Revegetation experiment in Pinnacles Ranch area/ use grazing for removal of exotics.
- Consider reintroduction of extirpated native species; Eliminate alien species that displace native vegetation Eradicate/control noxious weeds.
- Fire should be used to maintain health of plant communities.

Endangered Species

- Please place a high priority on resource protection, habitat and endangered species management.
- I am glad that Pinnacles NM works hard to protect so many endangered species.
- Need standards and guidelines for identifying and protecting sensitive plant populations, including those listed in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.
- Kingman lands have been farmed, so less constraints re t&e species.
- Protect the Townsend Big-Eared Bat

Condors

- It was exciting to have the possibility of sighting condors (even though I didn't see any).
- Seeing the condors was the most enjoyable experience in the Park.
- Limit access to areas that will not disturb condors
- Nothing beats the experience of standing atop a tiny summit in the High Peaks and getting buzzed by a California Condor.
- Appreciate the Monument's sensitivity to nesting raptors, condor rehabilitation and bat protection
- I would love to see hundreds of condors flying thru the high peaks.
- The restoration of condor populations and other endangered species should be encouraged. (Please do not use the word "reintroduction," as is found on your website, since condors were never "introduced" in the first place. The correct term is "restoration.")
- Keep closures for condors to a minimum.

Geologic Features

- I like the fact that such unusual and fascinating geological formations are available to enjoy in central California's rapidly expanding population areas.
- Enjoyed going through the caves the most.

- Value unique rocks.
- Enjoyed the wild quality of this beautiful place, the chaparral and landforms especially.
- Value the Bear Gulch Caves.
- Looked forward to the caves where it was cool.
- Incredible landscape & geology - great rock climbing & hiking.
- Love the rock climbing and unusual geologic formations in the Park.
- Odd, beautiful formations, long vistas from on top, super wildlife, challenging climbing.
- Caves should not be closed-visitors should take responsibility for own safety
- If caving is part of visitor experience, we need to make better use of Balcony Caves.
- The rocks at pinnacles are very unusual. there are few/no others like them in California
- Re-examine cave management policies.

Wetlands and Water Resources

- Campground should be removed from riparian and wetland areas and rebuilt in heavily damaged areas. Riparian and wetland areas should be restored.
- Restoration of natural plant communities, especially of wet areas, many now dominated by non-native grasses.
- Reduce impact on riparian areas.
- Acquire additional lands with priority on adding riparian lands.
- Park development is currently in riparian areas-parking lots, roads, etc; Riparian areas need to be reserved and development not expanded into those areas Take advantage of the flood event and move infrastructure out of the flood plain to benefit the resource and accommodate current and future visitation
- Don't replace west side campground in flood plain

Invasive Species

- Get volunteers to help remove invasive plants.
- Restoration of the newly acquired lands, including expansion of the pig fence.
- Eradication of non-native species.
- Least enjoyable are the presence of non-native plants and the problem with pigs.
- Non-native invasive plants and animals should be eradicated on an ongoing, systematic basis, either by NPS personnel or in conjunction with volunteers
- All National Environmental Policy Act documents prepared for specific development projects must include an analysis of the potential for weed spread and establishment as an environmental consequence of proposed actions. Measures and stipulations to minimize or avoid the spread of weeds should be provided in the GMP to: prevent the introduction of invasive species; detect and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner; monitor invasive species populations accurately and reliably; provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded; conduct research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction and provide for environmentally sound control of invasive species; and promote public education on invasive species and the means to address them.
- The overabundance of weeds - Mediterranean annual grasses, and the apparent lack of control of them.
- Invasive plants? Is there a plan on the West Side?
- Exotic (pig) damage has increased; need to control through various means; would like to see grasses; no mustard & star thistle.
- Use grazing for removal of exotics.
- Airstrip is an eyesore, full of exotics. Would like to see native grasses here.
- Eliminate alien species that displace native vegetation Eradicate/control noxious weeds

Wild Pig Management

- Restoration of the newly acquired lands, including expansion of the pig fence.
- Keep after those feral pigs.
- Extend pig fence to include, minimally, McCabe Canyon and riparian/wetland areas where campground is currently located.
- The feral pigs are interesting to see but do not belong in the park.
- New lands should be pig-free like the main portion of the park, if this would not be too expensive to achieve.
- The least enjoyable experience is the wild pigs.
- Let hunters in to get rid of the pigs.
- Exotic (pigs) damage has increased; need to control through various means.
- Pig fences are unnecessary

Air Quality

- The air should be clean.
- Most enjoyed the clean air, the solitude, the peacefulness, the wonderful views, the wildlife, the marvelous trees, the historic buildings, the friendly staff and trails. Clean air, great views, wildlife.
- Would increased traffic contribute to air pollution
- NPS should actively pursue air quality protection
- Don't restrict visitor use based on minor air quality impacts

Fire Management

- The GMP should recognize fire as a normal process necessary for the restoration of natural vegetative communities. Propose an aggressive fire restoration program, including as much wildland fire use as possible. Propose ways to minimize the impact of fire-suppression activities when it is necessary to fight arson and accidental blazes.
- Areas should be prescribed burned to promote wildflowers and to maintain healthy plant communities.
- Fire is a natural ecosystem process. Protecting "wild lands" requires the use of fire.
- Concerned about fire prevention in the park. Maintain fire breaks, Cut vegetation back to reduce fuel loads.
- The West side vegetation is a fire hazard.
- Concerned about evacuation if a fire occurred in the Park.
- Create fire shelters & teach people how to use them.

Topic: Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources in the Park

- I value the historical and natural traditions and beauty of this remote and yet accessible piece of California.
- Early CA ranching/homesteads; make a pamphlet and map showing names and locations of homesteads within the Park that predate park history, many in the 1880 to 1890 era. Also to mark locations with signs when near existing trails.
- There should be a greater focus on maintaining and interpreting CCC created structures: trails, steps, railing, dam, stable, gas house, lookout system.
- Address various periods in history/prehistory: Human History, Pre-park history, explore prehistoric use, Spanish period, Banditos use of the caves, More emphasis on pioneer history, Mission 66
- Fire tower at North Chalone -- now historic and eligible for the NRHP.

- Update list of classified structures.
- Early California CLI for PINN ranch
- Museum collections facilities
- The GMP should contain standards and guidelines for identifying and protecting the PNM's incredible array of historical sites and artifacts in the region. The GMP should also outline programs for educating the public about these sites and the history and culture they represent.
- Consider the uses of the cultural landscape with the Native American people. Synthesize archaeological, historical and ethnography material. Native American/ethnographic/archeological district.
- Different areas of park could be managed for different time periods. Wilderness=presettlement Kingman=farming.
- Preserve 2 homesteads as cultural landscapes (Butterfield and Bacon) - remove exotics on the rest of the ranch.
- Exotics management through grazing as part of plan to preserve cultural landscapes.
- Knowledge, Collections and access to them
- I want the GMP to help us remember and fund cultural resources.
- Consider best preservation of structure in selecting uses for historic structures. Pay more attention to cultural resources.
- Remove resources office from HQ's area. Design is incompatible with CCC structures
- Retain existing historic structures in park

Topic: Native Americans

- Hire a Native American Specialist to study the history of Native Americans in Pinnacles, work on Native American projects related to conservation, preservation and education, study the impact of the mission system and early California, do a traditional use study of cultural resources by the Amah Mutsun.
- The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band supports the concept of the Park having a cultural division. The Amah Mutsun culture should be a main tenet of this Division.
- Consider annexing property directly south of Pinnacles that has two Native American village/camp sites to ensure they are preserved.
- Add the area along 101 referred to as the "Rocks" to Pinnacles as it is sacred to Amah Mutsun Tribe.
- Plan should contain cultural resource information that parallels that of the San Diego County Master Plan (San Diego County is the leader on providing protections to Native American Cultural Resources). Incorporate language that identifies cultural sites and cultural regions.
- Develop a list that identifies the cultural resources of the Amah Mutsun; include the plant materials that were used for basket making, food, medicine, etc. Amah Mutsun will provide a master list of the plant materials.
- Restore a pre-contact Condor Ceremony that was documented by the Spanish.
- McCabe Canyon is a cultural resource for Amah Mutsun basket making materials.
- The Amah Mutsun would like to increase our visibility to employees and visitors of Pinnacles. We are willing to provide presentation on our Tribal history, story telling, occasional dance ceremonies, jewelry making, music, language, etc.
- Consider partnering with local Native Americans to interpret the use of the park by earlier peoples.
- Protect Native American sites
- Native American interpretation: needs to reflect how the areas where used by Native Americans (interpretive signs), education center, small Indian village with Native Americans showing the important uses of plants; uses of the cultural landscape with the Native American people.
- Synthesize archaeological, historical and ethnographic material
- Native American history complements homesteading history -- opportunity to interpret this story.
- Native American/ethnographic/archeological district

Topic: Visitor Use and Experience

General

- Provide diverse recreational opportunities. Diverse visitor opportunities to experience natural/cultural resources
- No ATV's and dirt bikes. It would be tragic if the Pinnacles was opened up to off-road vehicles. Do not open up Pinnacles to any destructive uses - keep it pristine.
- Would be very disappointed if the Park Service chose to honor the recreational desires of humans over the protection of the land and its inhabitants.
- Provide camping opportunities / do not remove camping.
- Accommodate rock climbers, hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.
- Recreation opportunities -- What types of access and use are appropriate and where:
 - New trails -- wilderness, ADA, PINN ranch, in McCabe canyon, new lands
 - Bicycles = enforcement issues; need to be careful about allowing them in certain areas
 - Other similar types of uses = skateboards, etc.
 - Picnicking / Areas for groups and large families
 - Front country camping (Pinnacles Ranch)
 - Backcountry / walk-in sites
 - Camping on the west side
 - Climbing management
 - Dogs?
 - Designated areas for photography / wildlife viewing
 - Horse trails / concessions where horses can be rented
 - Should the park be used for organized sporting activities?
- Enjoyed the excellent condition of trails & markers;
- The dark skies are going to be hard to keep dark, but hope that some stars will still be clear.
- Very clean.
- Quiet, peacefulness, and views of wildlife are a persons reward for the NPS positive action of closing West Pinnacles Campground
- Fondest memories were picnicking in the Chalone Creek picnic area
- Good relations with rangers.
- "People come to Pinnacles to hike, rock climb, watch and study wildlife, view wildflowers, and experience nature. Pinnacles offers solitude, challenge, and escape from urban development." That's from the Plan Your Visit section of the park's web page. If these sorts of activities can be sustained in the new GMP, then the park has fulfilled its purpose and significance
- Need "National Park" experience.
- Potential for new activities on new lands to make Park more meaningful for more people.
- Consider diverse visitor opportunities to experience natural/cultural resources
- Campfire programs in past drew community people
- Camping offers visitors important park experiences and should be provided
- Previous internal shuttle focused people on Bear Gulch and areas nearby -- with discontinuation there was more dispersal. But dispersal means that fewer people will have contact with a ranger

Trails/Hiking

- Value the well-maintained trails
 - Hikes were strenuous, fun, and very rewarding (and they were uncrowded)
 - Value the wildness of the trails.
 - Would like to see the trails preserved
 - Like hiking in the off-season.
 - The High Peaks trail was gorgeous.
 - Enjoy the western slope/entrance

- North Wilderness Trail
 - Like the cave trail.
- Would like additional trail opportunities. Create new trails& trailheads that help disperse visitors to other parts of the park.
 - At Centennial, initiate a "Ten Years, Ten Trails: A Decade of Trailbuilding" project to build trails that will disperse use on west and east sides, as well as perimeter.
- New trails – types/opportunities include:
 - Wilderness
 - ADA/easier: for the very young and senior park visitors. Paved accessible trails in Kingman's ranch.
 - A greater number of short trail options from different locations, to viewpoints.
 - Night hikes/ moonlight hiking
 - Self-guided trail
 - Horse trails
 - Big loop trails around outlying areas
 - New trails should be narrow footpaths with few structures for quality experience and minimum impact
- New trails – locations:
 - PINN ranch (interpret history)
 - Use airstrip area for ADA trail
 - Bear Valley
 - McCabe Canyon
 - Trail to new visitor center on the west side
 - Utilize pig fence as a trail
 - Provide trail connection from Pinnacles CG to main park trail system
 - Site of the proposed Soledad entrance station to the south end of the High Peaks Trail
 - Add/improve hiking trail along creek from campground into Pinnacles (up to bridge at least)
 - Develop a connector trail to the high peaks from the new visitor center following the ridge line
 - Ethnobotanical trail/garden, linking biology and the cultures of this place
 - Access to Mt. Defiance – trail on south side of Frog Canyon, hook up with North Chalone
 - Not many areas to view Pinnacles – develop trails that include views.
 - Build south wilderness trail loop; build to last – expand boundary if needed for sound alignment
 - West side – provide more access to peaks through new trails.
- Trail improvements:
 - High peaks trail needs to cross bench trail accessing restrooms and water.
 - Old Pinnacles Trail between parking and balconies caves can be made accessible to the disabled.
 - Need clear trail post signs: unclear as to which trail we were on, should be a sign on trails leading to the western side of the park that there are no through roads in the park
 - Additional restrooms (preferably solar composting) near most popular climbing/hiking areas.
 - Selective control of poison oak along trails and near climbing areas.
 - Address availability of water for long hikes: Put in a line and a spigot.
 - Condition of wilderness trail.
- The trail system should remain basically the same as it is now.
- Mark locations of homesteads within the Park that predate park history with signs when near existing trails.
- Signs along the trails are very nice and not only convenient, but help reduce the impact.
- Minimize signage on trails and climbing routes
- Remove the plastic fencing if hikers no longer short cut.
- Work with climbers to maintain good (while minimal) access trails without making a large number of trails.
- Maintain access to climbing along with interpretive signs and trail markers to encourage resource conservation.

- Comprehensive trails planning. With increased population, trails are getting crowded.
- Address trail system distribution; most trails in core area. Extend to new lands; people are drawn to main resources.
- Horses and bikes are not compatible with hiking. Would like separation of these uses.
- NPS should use volunteer and other low cost labor for trail development
- Close internal roads to all but bikes, shuttles, handicapped-provide bike racks at trailheads
- Need for trailhead parking to access individual trails; small lots; disperse impact
- Basic trail information at trailhead, i.e. indicate availability of water and restrooms
- Climber access routes; consider formalizing trails to avoid braiding

Biking

- Consider bike use:
 - mountain bike trails in already impacted areas / in the new lands / roadways
 - facilities for bikes; provide bike racks at trailheads
 - Could park farther out and bike in
 - Would ride bikes into the park. Narrowness of the roads and lack of bike racks do not make the park bike rider friendly.
 - Encourage visitors to hike and bike rather than drive and ride.
- Do not allow the use of mountain bikes, dirt bikes, ATV's, and motorcycles at Pinnacles:
 - Bikes degrade the trails, and the noise of motorcycles would ruin the wilderness experience.
 - There are many nearby areas for people to recreate with their motorized vehicles.
 - Conflicts of recreation and habitat of endangered species.
 - Horses and bikes are not compatible with hiking. Separate these uses.
- Severe lack of bicycle roads & trails to speed up travel around the monument.
- Consider shuttles and bicycle renting -- like Yosemite.
- Close internal roads to all but bikes, shuttles, handicapped.

Horseback Riding

- Horseback trails on newly acquired lands only / already impacted areas. This use is consistent with ranching history.
- Horse trails
- Concessions where horses can be rented.
- Horses have an impact on the environment. Use of horses for recreation should be strictly monitored, and when impacts are found they should be mitigated. If necessary, horses should be limited or prohibited if their impacts cannot be reduced to minimal levels.
- No horses on trails -- not compatible with hiking; need separation of these uses.

Climbing

- Maintain the unique rock climbing experience:
 - Love the heights and the adventures they allow for climbing.
 - The climbing was very unique because of the odd rock formations. Climbing routes are unlike anywhere else. PINN offers the some of the best winter climbing weather in the USA, and the best cragging this side of the Sierra, in central CA.
 - Enjoy the climbing very much in its current state, especially now that we are past the former gate hours.
 - Maintain rock climbing as a safe pursuit in the park. No changes that limit climbers access.
- Please allow updating old fixed protection (bolts) to keep things safe.
- Hope a way can be found to balance climbing with preservation - keep bunching of climbers to minimum, use colored chalk where possible, keep up old bolts, remove old rappel slings, maintain climbing access trails.

- Hikers and climbers want the convenience to park close by.
- Issues with climbing:
 - Big groups of climbers put up top ropes on every climb they think they want to try, and make too much noise, safety issues. Behavior is unacceptable, destroys the experience of the average weekend climber, and gives a bad impression to the average weekend hiker. Need regulations for big groups/need permits.
 - Concern with bolting in the rocks.
 - Bolting in wilderness is an issue; include regulations in purpose, etc. (appendix)
 - Develop a process for permitting new routes under careful review.
 - Protect raptors by keeping climbers out of nesting areas in spring
 - Consider formalizing trails to avoid braiding
 - Include a climbing ranger in developing regulations and plans
 - Climbers need access to cliffs under CMP
- Good climber-ranger relations, mostly quite friendly and they recognize climbers as an asset to the PNM. During earlier visits, some of the rangers were particularly aggressive and unfriendly toward rock climbers.
- Many park visitors are intrigued by the climbers and enjoy watching and talking to them to learn about their passion.
- Climbers practice a 'leave no trace' ethic / pick up trash left by other visitors. The climbing community is very responsible it should be left to determine fixed protection and route setting policies.
- No restrictions (other than obviously necessary erosion controls and raptor restrictions). Ways to continue to publicize raptor closures so that climbers know where not to go (generally this is done well).
- Measure impacts when considering limits. A single horse/ RV/ ORV/ motorcycle does more damage than a hundred climbers.
- GMP should recognize that rock climbing has been a historic activity in the park. Few parks in our country have as rich a tradition in rock climbing. That tradition should be preserved.
- Ensure that climbers are kept in the decision making process when it comes to climbing related decisions and regulations.
- Climbers should be enlisted (as volunteers) to help in climbing related projects (trail building, regulations, etc.).
- Consider climber gear when selecting new shuttle vehicles

Carrying Capacity and Use Dispersal

- Control the number of visitors. Impacts from increased visitor numbers
- Create new trails & trailheads to help disperse visitors to other parts of the park.
- Carrying capacity for trails
 - Noisy, large groups, impacts to vegetation and trails from overuse and abuse;
 - Address trail system; distribution; most trails in core area; extend to new lands; people are drawn to main resources; hiking reservations;
 - Need for trailhead parking to access individual trails; small lots
- Infrastructure - parking can be used to regulate resource capacity; Social capacity - can be measured by crowding; Resource capacity - can be measured by impacts
- Crowding - Resource impacts, Climbing, Coordinate w/ ATP; Monitoring; VERP;
- Need better distribution of visitors by using the new land. Chalone area is underused and should accommodate more visitors.
- Visitor Center location directs visitors to high impact areas. New location could disperse visitation (e.g., Peak's view).
- Establish carrying capacity / crowd control / reservations.
- Previous internal shuttle focused people on Bear Gulch and areas nearby -- with discontinuation there was more dispersal. But dispersal means that fewer people will have contact with a ranger.

Increased Visitor Activities & Opportunities

- More sponsored activities on this west side of the Park; i.e., night hikes, etc
- Ranger-guided walks/talks
- Need more happening on West Side
- New trails at Pinnacles Ranch / flatter, easier trails for families.
- Potential for new activities on new lands to make Park more meaningful for more people.
- No activities during the week. Bring back wildflower talk.
- Encourage school field trips -- requires road improvement on west side.
- Expand visitor center offerings and space; Visitor center needs more information.
- Interpretation should use both traditional techniques (e.g. campfire programs) and high-tech methods
- Provide specialist "on duty" roster so public can direct questions
- Promote amateur astronomy visitation and night sky opportunities Protect night sky

Crowding

- Limit crowds: noisy, large groups of hikers and climbers.
 - Informal climbing groups (some 50 people) have been noisy -- unacceptable behavior; destroys the experience of the average weekend climber.
 - Least enjoyed the large groups of hikers. However, wouldn't be upset if hiking group size remained uncontrolled.
- Impacts to vegetation and trails from overuse and abuse.
- Enjoy the lack of concessions and the congestion they create
- Disperse trails to decrease congestion. Add new trails somewhere away from existing trails.
- With increased population, trails are getting crowded.
- New contact station further out to relieve congestion at visitor center. Provide information to visitors as they enter the park.

Solitude, Quietness and Soundscape Preservation

- The park should be managed with the basic principal that people come for two reasons: to learn about the area's natural and cultural history, and to find peace and quiet.
- Enjoy the solitude, peacefulness.
 - Enjoyed the solitude and the fact that the campsite does not allow radios, which made for a peaceful experience.
 - Isolation - a sense of being alone in the wild.
 - Value the quiet camping.
 - Enjoy the quiet, the quiet of the beautiful natural surroundings, absence of man-made sounds.
- Least enjoyed noise from crowds (groups of hikers, climbers, boy scouts). Noise from campground.
- Pinnacles provides a quiet, fun outdoor experience; it is less well known/less populated.
- No motorcycles in Pinnacles National Monument; the noise of motorcycles would ruin the wilderness experience.
- Consider natural quiet = wilderness characteristic.

Value Visitors Place on the Natural Resources and Setting

- Want it to look the same as it does now and afford the same opportunities for wilderness experience
- Would like it to be as natural, uncluttered and uncommercialized as now.
- Value the public's ability to visit Pinnacle NM and see and experience a part of California 'the way it used to be.'

- The wildness it preserves in the central California coastal area; a naturally wonderful region that's been devastated by ranching and development
- The idea of preserving undeveloped parts of California is valuable. The dark skies are going to be hard to keep dark, but I hope that some stars will still be clear.
- Enjoyed the unique visual landscape. Odd, beautiful formations, long vistas from on top, super wildlife, challenging climbing. Pinnacles rugged beauty and the rock features are enjoyable to look at and to climb.
- Most-the variety of trails, vegetation and views contained in a relatively small space.
- The environment there is inspiring
- It provides an entirely unique environment, incredible hiking, and totally unique rock climbing. The adventure, relative solitude (for a national monument), and the distinct flora, and fauna have been a blessing in my life.
- The spectacular beauty, the peace and tranquility.
- Walking the trails, sitting on a rock and soaking up the peace and beauty.
- As pristine as it is now.
- Many commenters value the wild character of the park:
 - Enjoyed the wild quality of this beautiful place; the chaparral and landforms especially.
 - As wild as possible. With all the native species possible. Condors soaring above.
 - Preserve the "wild" aspects of the park. We do not wish to see more RV sites, cafes, and other "resort" additions. Those are plentiful already. The beauty of Pinnacles is that it is rustic yet close to city.
- The diversity of ecosystems. Having a place as ecologically diverse and unique so close to home makes Pinnacles a real treasure.
- Any natural place is worth protecting, just for its own sake
- Value the historical and natural traditions and beauty of this remote and yet accessible piece of California.
- Bear Gulch Caves, Bear Gulch trail to Hwy 146, during fall foliage. The view from the high peaks.
- The birds, the flowers, the hikes and the peacefulness of the place. Favorite place to camp (now you have the campground).
- It is a peaceful place in a crowded city region.
- Pinnacles is a small, sweet, unique park.
- Incredible landscape & geology; opportunity to see California condors, deer, variety of birds, bobcats, coyote, etc.
- Enjoyed the clean air, the solitude, the peacefulness, the wonderful views, the wildlife, the marvelous trees, the historic buildings, the friendly staff and trails. Also really enjoy having the hope of seeing a condor
- gorgeous scenery, condors, cleanliness of area
- The natural state of the park. the natural beauty, wildlife
- Getting close to a wide variety of plants and wildlife, hiking among fascinating rock formations, stunning natural vistas, rock climbing.
- Maintain the unique character of the Monument (Natural History and Soundscape).
- Beautiful vistas. Views of the Salinas Valley.
- Will want to bring my kids to the Park and have them see and experience the sort of things I experienced when I was their age.
- The climbing, scenery, caves, and wildlife.
- The Pinnacles National Monument is a treasure. It is a place of wildness and beauty. The Pinnacles area is home to many diverse and endangered plants and animals. I just recently heard that the park has the most diverse and healthy population of bees of anywhere in North America! Let the Pinnacles stay a natural wonder for us to enjoy and share in the natural miracles of nature. Condors, Bees, Wildflowers, and Towering Spires!
- The beauty of the entire park. It is a beautiful location with unusual geography where I can enjoy the natural world (particularly the rocks and bird watching) by hiking and climbing.

- Protect the views. Upon reaching the mountain tops, I would not want to see development--just the natural landscape. Either remove or do a better job of "hiding" the paved area, fire hydrant, building, construction equipment up behind the restrooms. This detracts from the Bear Gulch trail.
- unique locations, ecosystems, night hike, bat & stargazing
- Enjoy the rugged beauty of the wilderness and the wildlife is incredible.
- The PNM contains a truly priceless array of cultural and natural treasures, including: A California condor population. A number of caves and extremely scenic rock formations. Increasingly rare oak woodland habitat. One of only two designated wilderness areas in the Diablo Range (Henry W. Coe State Park's Orestimba Wilderness being the other). Countless reminders of thousands of years of Native American habitation. In addition, we know from direct experience that PNM offers exceptional recreation opportunities, including an enjoyable trail system, excellent birding, fascinating interpretation of cultural and historic sites and pleasant camping. Expansion of lands managed as wilderness
- Unspoiled quality of the monument & caves.
- The expanse of unadulterated habitat - original forests/chaparral
- Values 400 species of bees and lichens.

Camping/Overnight Accommodations

- Consider overnight backpacking/camping/ Wilderness camping option:
 - Allow overnight camping through a special use permit (West side, old campground area, and top of Chalone Peak). This would be a good experience for Boy Scouts
 - As a rock climber it would be nice to be able to camp in the park
 - Night time there was always very special especially when the moon rises over the pinnacles.
 - Very limited camping, in designated areas
 - Backcountry / walk-in sites
- Locations for backcountry camping:
 - North Chalone (tower).
 - Only allow in the less sensitive areas.
 - Open up camping again on the West Side. Low impact camping, no fires, just a place to set a tent and sleep. Tents up at 5pm, and down by 9 am
- Backcountry camping will result in need for more staff
- Campfire programs in past drew community people.
- Camping offers visitors important park experiences and should be provided
- Have youth camping by special designation
 - North Chalone (tower), a few sites at the Soledad picnic area, and some sites at Pinnacles campground.
 - For organized groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Young people under the supervision of responsible adults could then experience Pinnacles at its best.
 - Backpackers could park on one side, hike to the other, spend the night and return to their cars. The Chalone Peak hike would be very popular and would likely require some sort of lottery.

Ranger-Led Programs and Activities

- More sponsored activities on west side of the Park; i.e., night hikes, etc
- Ranger led hikes or interpretive walks. There should be ranger-guided walk/talks at the newly acquired ranch.
- Establish Bear Gulch Zone as an area where visitors would be able to enjoy the center and take part in ranger-guided programs. Programs would include talks on the center's patio, and walks of varying length from half an hour up to the occasional full day. Establish Ranch Zone as an area where visitors would be greeted with a small ranger station/contact facility. Rangers would lead guided walks/talks in and around the Ranch.

- Expand naturalist programs. More nature walks with park rangers. The rangers are very friendly and helpful, but would have their greatest impact if they could share their knowledge and expertise with visitors on scheduled walks through the park terrain. As we walk along the trails it would be of great interest to be with someone who could identify the flora and fauna, as well as geological formations and background along the way.
- Keep botanist on staff and have him/her interact with public.
- Establish owl walks on regular basis.

Topic: Education and Interpretation

Education and/or Interpretation Programs

- Manage the park with the basic principal that people come for two reasons: to learn about the area's natural and cultural history, and to find peace and quiet.
- More educational possibilities could be explored to explain the geology, existing bird and wildlife, history of resources, etc. Perhaps through video and slide shows as well as pamphlets.
- Pinnacles has a lot to offer for biological education to home schools, other schools that lack the curriculum.
- Build collaborative opportunities with surrounding educational institutions.
- Construct ethnobotanical trail/garden, linking biology and the cultures of the place.
- Interpretive brochures and signs.
- Be engaged in educating the general public about what real wilderness is.
- Expand and enhance interpretive programs, formal programming with schools, off-site programming,
- Interpret Pinnacles Ranch history - through a trail
- Resource Education
- Including a classroom on the West Side.
- Self-guided trail, west side, Learning Center (Env. Ed Ctr)
- Condor/species work
- Place for students -- where?
- Present better story about the bees.
- Emphasize education
- Interpretive signs should be kept to a minimum, in number, but especially in size. They detract from the landscape
- Promote public education on invasive species and the means to address them.
- Outline programs for educating the public about cultural sites and the history and culture they represent
- Ranger led hikes or interpretive walks.
- Have a videoconferencing virtual field trip opportunity like State Parks.
- Interface with national parks, county parks for education purposes = mutual exchanges, and collaboration among agencies.
- Have printed material and biologists available to students -handouts- plant & animal information.
- No activities during the week. Bring back wildflower talk.
- Role for career & life choice education at PINN.
- Interpretive displays should be accessible.
- Native American history complements homesteading history -- opportunity to interpret this story.
- What is the desired role of knowledge, research, and education in the park; Resource stewardship; Develop advocates; Better understanding park resources; Resource protection; Encourage and support research; Adults; Kids; next generation; In park/beyond park; share knowledge- access; incorporates vision and priority for education outreach.
- Interpretation & Education 25 years from now, people may come to see chaparral as much as pinnacles,
- Continue walks and education outreach
- Encourage school field trips --requires road improvement

- Expand visitor center offerings and space; Visitor center needs more information
- Get the word out about park to increase level of understanding re park plans and programs, e.g. why we fence, shoot pigs, leave trees in stream, etc.
- Have public meetings to discuss park approaches.
- Need to reach kids. Start locally. Interpretation should use both traditional techniques (e.g. campfire programs) and high-tech methods
- Keep botanist on staff and have him/her interact with public
- Let people know about tarantulas
- Outreach offsite to schools & elderly to inform re: values & opportunities of Pinnacles NM
- Outreach would include info on wilderness philosophy and how to prepare for visit.
- Provide specialist "on duty" roster so public can direct questions
- The plan should consider opportunities for environmental education
- Update materials in visitor center to educate people on sensitive species
- Use CCC-era historic buildings-living history.
- Encourage student research projects
- Prioritize interpretive center establishment.
- Learning Center /Environmental Education Center)
- Develop an education center / interpret Native Americans (important uses of plants, recreate a village).
- Offer quality visitor experience opportunities at dusk, dawn, and night; periodic open nights; night experiences for kids

Outreach

- Engage in "common ground" projects particularly with underrepresented geographic and/or ethnic communities. (i.e.: Salinas River Restoration project; installation of community park in Soledad; etc.).
- Use an "infovan." TV/radio, regular interpretation/events, and other techniques to establish a satellite presence particularly in above communities.
- Model Spanish-English bilingual programming and displays.
- Interpretive displays in different languages including park map; engage all visitor types not just traditional; recognize changing demographics.
- I want the GMP to help us address the interest, needs and points of view of under-represented communities

Topic: Wilderness

- The Park Service should be engaged in educating the general public about what real wilderness is. That doesn't mean easy access and smooth sidewalks.
- Establish the backcountry which would continue to be managed as it is now - as wilderness. Self-directed individuals who seek solitude would primarily use it.
- PINN should afford opportunities for wilderness experience.
- Protection of the surrounding wilderness is just as important (as preserving the volcano) if not more so.
- Keep most of new land as wilderness.
- Enjoy the rugged beauty of the wilderness.
- The new plan should include strict protections for these areas, so that their wilderness character is not degraded.
- The plan should set forth a policy of aggressively acquiring land for the Monument as it becomes available, and as new lands are acquired for the Monument, these should be designated wilderness if appropriate.
- In order to protect the cultural and natural resources described above, request that the Draft GMP:

- Contain an assessment of the suitability of PNM's non-wilderness areas for their potential eligibility for wilderness designation
- Propose a substantial expansion of the Monument's wilderness lands; and
- Propose to manage the recommended lands as wilderness until such time as Congress can act on the recommendation.
- Would like wilderness assessment to look at the possibility of recommending to Congress that every portion of the park not covered by a campground, road, or other major development be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Expand wilderness.
- Value the ability to rock climb, to find relatively undeveloped environment and ability to experience a "wilderness" feeling.
- Need Wilderness Management Plan
- Bolting in wilderness is an issue -- Include regulations in purpose, etc. (appendix)
- Protection of wilderness values and wildlife habitat should be first priority of plan

Topic: Facilities

General

- The park is well managed in terms of wildlife, multiple user groups, trails, restrooms and general cleanliness.
- Locate developments and services near boundaries rather than in center of park
- The Bear Gulch Zone -- characterized by the visitor center with the largest concentration of visitors in it. Visitors would be able to enjoy the center and take part in ranger-guided programs. This zone would also be a hub for park trails. Programs would include talks on the center's patio, and walks of varying length from half an hour up to the occasional full day. This zone would be optimized for day-trippers.
- The Ranch Zone --Visitors would be greeted with a small ranger station/contact facility. Rangers would lead guided walks/talks in and around the Ranch.
- Very little change except for new lands.
- Assess west vs. east side focus of park
- Move the main Eastside entrance closer to Hwy 25. Provide additional parking & better distribution of visitors by using the new land.
- 1 entrance sign/station
- Keep airstrip, add helicopter pad for emergencies and park staff
- Build new facilities before removing the old (e.g., camping)
- Move fee collection bldg; add pillar of green stone-like old, old entry. Make entry notable, but that fits.
- Consider moving facilities off the park and into the local communities. Lease office/admin space
- Remove newly acquired buildings
- Remove facilities that do not specifically benefit environment or visitor use/not high API
- Reduce impact on riparian areas; move infrastructure out of the flood plain/Bear Gulch.
- Remove resources office from HQ's area. Design is incompatible with CCC structures.
- Remove visible utilities (phone lines).
- Reassess signage

Health/Safety

- Chlorine added to the drinking water - it's toxic & carcinogenic!
- Lack of convenient bathrooms. I think that Pinnacles could use bathrooms inside the park (including backcountry, near most popular climbing/hiking areas, reservoir). Consider composting toilets.
- Toilets plug up regularly; improve toilet facilities esp. at group campsites; group toilet facilities should include soap for hand sanitation.

- Vault system; replace portables
- Lack of cell phone support.
- Take sewage out of park to another leach field; Underground in the future
- Water at new development
- Upgrade water supply
- Scarcity of water is a problem: Need to put water at former Chalone picnic area (housing removed visitor access to water).
- Need trash receptacles

Picnic / viewpoint Facilities

- Construct new picnic areas near Bacon and/or Butterfield homestead sites. Use shade structures if needed
- Need more benches near sites, i.e. on high peaks trails to sit and enjoy the view. Interpretative signs always welcome too.
- Don't like the fact that Chalone Picnic Area closed.
- Peak's view picnic area redesign
- Condor Gulch - amphitheater idea.
- Lack of shade trees in picnic area.
- Encourage family gatherings - provide group picnic areas
- Shade in the picnic area on west side; may be cottonwood trees or sycamore.
- Have shaded picnic areas on the West Side; use natural trees for shade and structure screening
- Provide overflow camp and picnic areas for busy periods.

Housing

- Need permanent and seasonal housing.
- Need housing to accomplish resource and visitor protection
- Eliminate temporary housing in park and replace with durable appropriate construction, using wood and stone
- Maybe park could locate an offsite area for housing
- Need for park housing on west side
- Provide adequate employee housing in park Staff needs relationship to the park to really interpret it, i.e. must live in it
- Underlying problem is expense of housing. Seasonal employees cannot find housing at all.

Administrative Facilities

- Need adequate office space
- Conference/training facility
- Relocate headquarters to Pinnacles Ranch
- Get admin. facilities out of the center of the park
- Move administrative buildings to Hollister
- Replace Resources office; Replace overall administrative office space
- Expand offices to help staff do their jobs.
- Share space with BLM in Hollister, to be closer to local decision-makers, orient visitors to BLM/NPS

West Side facilities

- West side needs entrance station and contact station. Implement approved plan.
- Could locate residences & main visitor center in Soledad, then have contact station in meadow.
- The West side is a mess-with litter on the trails, a miserable picnic area (also littered) and dirty restrooms (tissue litter everywhere).
- Provide electricity on west side.

- West side should have water, restrooms, and facilities for visitors - need interpretive features on this side (e.g., recorded histories). West side has all of the signs directing people to the park.
- Provide accessible features for elderly people.

Facility/Building Design

- Developments should mimic the CCC character.
- The gates to the caves and the green fencing used in erosion control is visually offensive.
- Continue use of wooden signs
- Use green building materials. Photovoltaic.
- Protect the views. Don't want to see development--just the natural landscape. Either remove or do a better job of "hiding" the paved area, fire hydrant, building, construction equipment up behind the restrooms. This detracts from the Bear Gulch trail.

Sustainability/Green Technology

- Use porous paving so rain water can seep back into the aquifer.
- Use electric shuttles, clean fuel vehicles, mass transit, especially sensitive areas.
- Use solar, wind power whenever possible.
- Build with green building materials (straw bale construction).
- Eco-design as primary consideration in any re-development. Minimize park's carbon footprint.
- Keep all programs within the available infrastructure.
- Global warming/air pollution. I'd like to see all your vehicles switched to low-emissions, alternative power vehicles.
- Recycle grey water,
- Meet highest standard sustainability.
- Consider installing back-country solar toilets.
- Partner with San Benito County to develop a Refuse Transfer station at PINN. This would/could include recycling bins and trash pickup for the area including PINN.
- Sustainability throughout operations -e.g., recycled paper, natural lighting, solar power.
- The Park/NPS should be a model of sustainability for the country/world.

Visitor Center

- Expand visitor center offerings and space
- Visitor center on both sides of park.
- New visitor center should be accessible.
- No grandiose visitor center.
- Visitor Center location directs visitors to high impact areas. New location could disperse visitation, relieve congestion; access to many areas.
- Update materials in visitor center to educate people on sensitive species
- Establish an interpretive center / learning Center / environmental education center)

East Side Visitor Center

- Consider purchasing house at entrance off 25/146 and make it a visitor center; would like it to be part of park.
- Vision for the east side visitor center: Visitors would be able to enjoy the center and take part in ranger-guided programs.
- PINN Ranch – greet visitors with a small ranger station/contact facility.
- Move east side visitor center and parking lots to park entrance (toward Hwy 25); Provide information to visitors as they enter the park; explain options early in visit.
- Moving visitor center further out could help to improve parking situation.
- Keep existing VC as an information center.

West Side Visitor Center

- Locate west side VC toward park boundary. New visitor center at the west entrance should be built as previously planned, with park rangers living on premises for the safety of visitors.
- Visitor center on the west side: concern about impact of development on the meadow (one of the prettiest spots).
- Either downgrade west side or upgrade to visitor facility equal to east side. Could meet population needs of Salinas Valley.

Campgrounds

East Side (Pinnacles Campground)

- Continue to allow camping on the east side. Get rid of non-native animals and plants.
- Simple, less expensive campground on the East Side, operated by the park not by a private concessionaire.
- Campground should be run by concessionaire.
- Keep campground and store open.
- Save the pool.
- Reconfigure the campground to make more efficient use of space.
- Remove campground from riparian and wetland areas and rebuild in heavily damaged areas. Restore riparian and wetland areas.
- Add plant barriers (grey pines?) to give "privacy" to campsites which are closer together.
- Add food storage boxes at each campsite.
- Reestablish walk-in access from Pinnacles campground
- Satisfaction with the campground:
 - The campground is fantastic, especially with the swimming pool and general store.
 - The campground is quiet (few or no generators, radios, pets) and there seem usually to be sites available without reservations. These are very desirable conditions! We hope that the NPS taking over the campground will not change its character.
 - It is my favorite place to camp (now you have the campground).
 - Like to reserve 'our campsite' in advance; we've been coming to #5 for more than a decade on Memorial Day Weekend.
- Dissatisfaction with the campground:
 - Noisy campgrounds & clogged toilets.
 - Complaints about showers
 - Camp store runs out of essentials.
 - Work to de-commercialize the look of the newly acquired campground. It looks too much like "KOA" rather than a national park.
 - The campground facilities need to be improved/upgraded (including the store, toilets).

West Side Campground

- Quiet, peacefulness, and views of wildlife are a person's reward for the NPS positive action of closing West Pinnacles Campground.
- Many commenters suggest to include a campground on the west side. Comments include:
 - I think the NPS should reopen the West Side campground, on the same size/scale as it was before; somewhat primitive and run by the NPS.
 - I miss the westside campground and the ability to climb from your camp without driving.
 - Low impact camping, no fires, just a place to set a tent and sleep; tents up at 5pm, and down by 9 am.
 - Needed so that out of area visitors have a place to stay.
- Don't replace west side campground in flood plain.
- Camping on west side should be provided outside the park boundary. Encourage external/neighboring landowners to provide opportunities.

Additional Campground Opportunities

- Include more camping opportunities at both park entrances.
- Front country camping (Pinnacles Ranch); backcountry / walk-in tent campgrounds near both entrances
- Expanding camping areas would decrease impacts versus day trips.
- Provide overflow camp and picnic areas for busy periods
- PINN Ranch looks like a primo site for new campgrounds.
- A campground that permitted walk-in access to the park would reduce the problems associated with driving/parking in the park and would potentially permit faster access to some less-used areas/trails.
- Consider RV access in the east; more motorhome sites would be nice - with water & electric, but no frills - keep the peace and quiet.

General comments:

- Chalone campground is a good experience, but small.
- Keep separate areas for tents and RVs.
- Shade structures would be great for camping & picnicking

Level of Development/Commercialization

- Keep the monument relatively undeveloped/ maintained the same/ unchanged as possible/ likes it the way it is.
- The beauty of Pinnacles is that it is rustic yet close to city.
- Protect and preserve the monument. Please don't "civilize" it.
- Keep the park: natural, pristine, uncommercialized, as wild as possible, undeveloped character -- except for the parking and visitor services areas.
- Limit development:
 - No new roads (including road through the park), structures, camping, "trail development", outhouses, RV sites, cafes, and other "resort" additions.
 - Avoid concessions and modernization (electricity, sewage, etc.)
 - No grandiose visitor center.
- Prevent development sprawl.
- Concession for horses.
- Please preserve the "wild" aspects of the park; ability to experience a "wilderness" feeling.
- Don't "develop" the west side at all, it is wonderful the way it is, very low key.
- Seek ways to minimize & reduce non-historic built environment.
- Any new need for office space, visitor centers, etc. should be developed in spaces with existing structures.
- Keep viewshed in mind when you develop
- Don't change east side trails or developed areas. Environment can't handle more

Topic: West Side

Visitor Center

- New visitor's center at the west entrance, as previously planned, with park rangers once again living on the premises for the safety of the hikers/climbers.
- Locate "Westside" VC toward park boundary.
- West side needs entrance station and contact station. Implement approved plan.
- Concern about what the development will do to one of the prettiest spots -- the meadow
- What would the size of the visitor center (on the West Side) be? What kind of amenities would it include?

Roads/Transportation

- If the west side is improved - it is absolutely necessary to improve the road/highway 146 to Pinnacles;
- Widen west entrance road to 2 full lanes -- dangerous now. Push for Fed-state joint venture on road.
- Select east and west shuttle lots

Campground

- See Visitor Use and Services; Camping/Overnight Accommodations section for comments.

Other comments

- Establish west side community group with advisory role for the park.
- Don't "develop" the west side at all, it is wonderful the way it is, very low key.
- Threats to west side: (1) 4 new wineries were approved for Metz Road; (2) a large development is proposed for 5,000 acres to include a campus for 200,000 students, retirement community, 4,000 homes; -- potential impact on views from Chalone and Hawkins peak
- West side - lacks parking - vegetation is a fire hazard - community has been built up - there should be a ranger there for safety issues
- Learning Center / environmental education center
- The west side is a mess-with litter on the trails, a miserable picnic area (also littered) and dirty restrooms (tissue litter everywhere).
- Enjoy hiking the trails - especially the western slope/entrance.
- Shade in the picnic area on west side; use natural trees for shade and structure screening -- cottonwood trees or sycamore.
- Invasive plants ; is there a plan on the west side?
- West side developments in 1976 plan have not been done, except for parking area
- It would be nice to have more accessibility on the west side, including a classroom.
- Need more happening on west side
- Protect the west side -- most accessible, nicest
- Likes the west side the way it is
- West side should have water, restrooms, facilities for visitors - need interpretive features on this side (e.g., recorded histories).
- West side has all of the signs directing people to the park.
- No opportunities for elderly people, so provide accessible features.
- What is the desired visitor experience on/from the West Side. Considerations include:
 - What is the desired level/quality of interaction between visitors and park staff ?
 - Are there services that should be provided outside the park, such as visitor services in Soledad?
 - What experiences should visitors be able to have on the west side? (family or group picnicking, camping, learning, wheelchair accessible experiences, wilderness
 - Current development and parking
 - Chaparral as is with VC in Soledad
 - Remove all facilities -- additional facilities- campground
 - Ecological conditions
 - Viewshed
 - West side population, education, partnerships
 - Backcountry/wilderness
 - Law enforcement challenges
 - shut east side and become a west side park
 - West side community/housing/ phone, west side vc, close west side access, entrance station on west, west side partnership-gateways with Soledad, west side campground, west side housing, west side entrance rd.
- Need for park housing on west side

- Either downgrade west side or upgrade to visitor facility equal to east side. Could meet population needs of Salinas Valley. Provide more access to peaks through new trails. Reason Pinnacles was set aside.
- Should provide electricity on west side.

Topic: Pinnacles Ranch

Facilities

- Have a small ranger station/contact facility.
- Locate entrance and Eastside VC closer to Hwy 25. New visitor center should be central, with access to many areas.
- Parking:
 - Set the gate along Hwy 25 further back (Reagan gate) because people need room for parking.
 - Relocate parking lots closer to Hwy 25
 - Near term: find place to park a few cars (3-4) at Pinnacles Ranch.
 - Provide both short-term and long-term parking.
- Need to address infrastructure for new lands.
- Kingman lands have been farmed, so less constraints re t&e species.

Recreation opportunities

- Disperse visitor use.
- New trails at Pinnacles Ranch should include:
 - Opportunities for easier trails / airstrip area for ADA trail.
 - Paved accessible trails.
 - Interpret Pinnacles Ranch history through a trail.
- There should be ranger-guided walk/talks at the newly acquired ranch
- Construct new picnic areas near Bacon and/or Butterfield homestead sites. Include shade structures if needed.
- Horseback trails on newly acquired lands only. There are lots of already impacted areas that can be used.
- Could there be mountain biking/motorcycle trails in the new lands?
- Rent out flat land for cattle grazing, so public can see cows.
- New campgrounds.
- Maximize access at PINN Ranchlands. Make it more friendly.

Resource protection/restoration issues:

- Restore Pinnacles Ranchland:
 - expand pig fence.
 - eradicate non-native species /exotics management through grazing as part of plan to preserve cultural landscapes.
 - replant valley oaks (provide shade in summer).
 - revegetation experiment in Pinnacles Ranch area/ use grazing for removal of exotics.
- Airstrip is an eyesore - full of exotics. Would like to see native grasses here (mow grass). Remove hangers.
- Keep most of new land as wilderness.
- Preserve 2 homesteads as cultural landscapes (Butterfield and Bacon)
- Early California CLI for PINN ranch

Operations

- Keep airstrip, add helicopter pad for emergencies and for Park staff
- Would it be possible to relocate headquarters to Pinnacles Ranch?

- Thoughtful approach to new lands use for administrative purposes and visitors ? Helps in our justification for gaining project/program funds

Topic: Access

General

- Access to park is remote.
- PINN has easy access.
- The freedom to come and go from the park as I please.
- Public access should be provided to the maximum broadest scope possible, 24/7, for hikers, rock-climbers, photographers; cave access
- The purpose of the park should be to preserve it so people can access it and enjoy it.
- Keep it rough, but keep it accessible.
- Make roads as safe and accessible as possible.
- West side is more accessible.
- Maximize access at PINN Ranchlands.
- Need to balance public access with resource protection.
- Open the park for people - more opportunities in flat areas. Make it more friendly.
- Reestablish walk-in access from Pinnacles campground.

Transportation

General comments:

- The Highway number. from Highway 25 to east headquarters could be changed now that it is park property, to avoid confusion with west side highway number.
- Move the main Eastside entrance closer to Hwy 25
- Use porous paving so rain water can seep back into the aquifer; use electric shuttles especially in sensitive areas.
- Limit access of personal vehicles.
- Address movement of visitors into and through the park.
- Close internal roads to all but bikes, shuttles, handicapped; provide bike racks at trailheads.
- Don't improve roads to accommodate RV use

Road connecting East and West sides:

- Consider a roadway connecting west and east Pinnacles, utilizing expansion area or border properties.
- Do not put a road through the Monument from West to East.
- It would be nice to have access to the entire park from either entrance, but at the same time not willing to sacrifice the lower populations (nature) that make Pinnacles the great place it is for this convenience.

Shuttle system comments:

- Long wait period for shuttle/long lines (Memorial Day Weekend).
- Difficult to figure out where to pick up shuttle and stops along the road.
- Provide more shuttles and drivers; more parking lots closer to the park would eliminate the need for shuttle buses.
- Have a method for people to get late shuttles if they miss the last shuttle even if there is a \$5 cost.
- Lower cost of ticket if you take shuttle.
- Consider climber gear when selecting new shuttle vehicles.
- Select east and west shuttle lots.

- Previous internal shuttle focused people on Bear Gulch and areas nearby. With discontinuation, there was more dispersal. But dispersal means that fewer people will have contact with a ranger.

Other transportation opportunities:

- There is a need for more alternative transportation including shuttles; Integrate ATP in GMP.
- Opportunity for external transportation into the park on Bus from Monterey.
- Encourage visitors to hike and bike rather than drive and ride.
- Make the park bike rider friendly; roads are too narrow and need bike racks; bicycle roads and trails could speed up travel around the monument; visitors could park farther out and bike in – new lands provide opportunity; bicycle renting, like YOSE.
- Park buses farther away from Pinnacles and use shuttle vans.
- Shuttles off of proposed high speed train (off US 101 corridor). By shuttling people in from the railroad this may cut out cars entirely.
- Offer clean fuel vehicles as transportation to park? Mass transit option.
- Have either a small/large parking lot offsite with shuttle service into the Park.
- Develop plan with Hollister for transportation/shuttle.

West Side:

- Improve West Side entrance road; moving facilities; state highway-maintained portion.
- Widen west entrance road to 2 full lanes. It is dangerous now-wine tasters are dangerous. Push for Fed-state joint venture on road.
- Commercial and school bus transportation is difficult; concerned about getting school buses safely to the West Side.
- Shuttle opportunities -- west side, Soledad.
- Switch to vans rather than improving the whole road.
- Use park and ride system in Soledad; use on weekends.
- Park on the outside, shuttle people in.
- Make roads as safe and accessible as possible, but 60 kids at once is too much.
- Address carrying capacity and consider reservation system or shuttle from Soledad.

Parking

- Relocate Eastside VC and parking lots closer to Hwy 25; could help to improve parking situation.
- Parking can be used to regulate resource capacity
- Remove Moses Spring and Bear Gulch parking lots. Restore areas.
- The Pinnacles parking lot is not large enough; often fills up by 10 am on peak weekends.
- Need increased parking on the periphery of the park as long as there is a reasonable shuttle policy.
- Preserve scenery but have more parking opportunities at both park entrances.
- More parking lots closer to the park would eliminate the need for shuttle buses?
- Have additional parking & better distribution of visitors by using the new land.
- Parking is adequate if you get up early and are willing to walk. Parking is still adequate if you come later in the day, park at the campground and enjoy the walk.
- Keep existing parking footprint; use reservation system.
- Hikers and climbers want the convenience to park close by.
- Provide access to Pinnacles Ranch with both short-term and long-term parking.
- Set the gate along Hwy 25 further back (Regan gate) because people need room for parking
- Address employee parking
- Accommodate short-term visitors (parking)
- Need for trailhead parking to access individual trails; small lots; disperse impact

Access for Persons with Disabilities

- Address wheel chair accessibility and elderly.

- Develop ADA trails / trails that would fall into the easy category to meet needs of senior park visitors, parents with kids, and other less ambulatory. Short trails options from different locations/viewpoints.
- ADA trail areas include: Old Pinnacles Trail between parking and balconies caves, airstrip area
- Interpretive displays should be accessible.
- West side should have opportunities for elderly people, so provide accessible features.

Topic: Park Boundary/Adjacent Lands

General

- Roadway connecting west & east Pinnacles, utilizing expansion area or border properties.
- Environmental damage caused by current and historic ranching within and without the Pinnacles boundaries.
- Existing private power line that runs through park has no legal easement. Owned by horse valley ranch since 1923.
- Soledad has poverty issues; New developments are planned; a 30% increase in housing is expected.
- West side - community has been built up - there should be a ranger there for safety.
- Are there services that should be provided outside the park, such as visitor services in Soledad?
- west side partnership-gateways with Soledad
- Overflight impacts / Aircraft from gateway communities and local landowners.
- Consider moving facilities off the park and into the local communities.
- Have a small parking lot outside and shuttle service.
- Could park get non-profits getting involved in managing adjacent lands as partnerships with Park?
- Keep/maintain fire-brakes within the park boundary and neighboring property.
- Improve park communication with neighbors.
- Think beyond park boundaries.

Outside Development

- Prevent development sprawl / plan for encroachment. Establish conservation/preservation easements to buffer it.
- Explore camping offsite on private area on west side.
- Designated integral vistas -- how can we preserve vistas from the impacts of future development?
- Threats to west side: (1) 4 new wineries were approved for Metz Road; (2) a large development is proposed for 5,000 acres to include a campus for 200,000 students, retirement community, 4,000 homes; -- potential impact on views from Chalone and Hawkins peak.
- Nice to have PINN as a neighbor because it means no housing developments.
- Address issues outside boundary impacts of development staff must be aware and involved; light pollution, air quality; water
- Housing has priority for limited space; Maybe park could locate an offsite area for housing.

Boundary Adjustment

- Expand the Monument. Acquire lands with riparian areas, any adjacent lands that are available, adjacent BLM lands to the north-protect core of park. Avoid mining claims in future acquisitions, gravel; analyze for mining issues prior to purchase.
- Park size = Twice the current size and surrounded by a wide perimeter of conservation and agricultural easements.
- Explore expansion opportunities through acquisition or conservation easements of surrounding large ranches.

- Pinnacles should be part of a collaborative effort that acquires for conservation and recreation the 5,000 acre parcel that was slated for construction. This establishes a major gateway to Soledad and Hwy 101, as well as a corridor for wildlife across 101 from Arroyo Seco.
- New lands acquired for the Monument should be designated wilderness if appropriate.
- Do not expand the national monument; do not acquire new lands.
- Boundary adjustment would increase capacity to meet visitor, improve ecosystem management
- Consider scenic/agricultural easements as at Pt. Reyes to protect land outside the park
- Enlarge the boundary to the north through acquisitions or easements
- There would be impacts on adjacent property owners if NPS acquires private and public tracts
- NPS should acquire nearby BLM land for park
- NPS should seek a major boundary addition
- Parking and roadside camping have impacts on local property owners
- Take strong position with Soledad on land uses to protect park gateway.

Topic: Land Use

- Same as it is right now - accessible for walking and viewing but only lightly touched by humans, such as maintaining the trails.
- The impacts (direct and indirect) of cattle ranching, reintroduction of natural fire, wild pigs, and protecting the monument from human impact.
- Very little change on new lands. Moving visitor center to park entrance, but also leaving existing as an Information Center.
- Keep most of new land as wilderness.
- Rent out flat land for cattle grazing, so public can see cows
- Uses of the new property, new trails.
- Concern about locations of camping areas / resource (riparian) areas. Shade structures would be great for camping & picnicking.
- Open the park for people - more opportunities in flat areas. - Make it more friendly.
- Keep backcountry as is / add new visitors to front country
- Locate developments and services near boundaries rather than in center of park
- Move out of Bear Gulch; sensitive area - parking lots, roads, etc; Riparian areas need to be reserved and development not expanded into those areas. Take advantage of the flood event and move infrastructure out of the flood plain to benefit the resource and accommodate current and future visitation
- Chalone area is underused and should accommodate more visitors.

Topic: Park Operations

General

- Management has done a good job maintaining and displaying our natural environment with the limited resources available.
- Lack of cell phone support. Lack of toilets at the reservoir.
- Need to manage informal groups/permitting.
- Kudos to the helpful and knowledgeable staff and responsible hikers/climbers who keep this place among the best and most well-maintained recreation spots in California.
- The park is running well, good people there, and little issues with litter; would like to see an emphasis on self regulation (visitors take their own trash out).
- There is a problem with illegal dumping at night
- Do not want "keep off the grass" signs.
- Keep closures of sensitive resources (not just condors) to a minimum. Balance this with visitor use.

- Need better signage to indicate what areas are national park lands.
- Don't allow dogs in the park.
- What are the desired operational/environment/infrastructure necessities? What will be here, what will be elsewhere? Lease office/admin space ? LE ops ? Emergency service ops ? Interp ops ? Consider operation levels needed to support increase visitation.
- I want the GMP to help us become a truly cooperative team, this the single most important outcome
- The East side is lovely, clean, well-maintained (visitor center, bathrooms, picnic area, trails). The West side is a mess-with litter on the trails, a miserable picnic area (also littered) and dirty restrooms (tissue litter everywhere).
- Partner with San Benito County and develop a Refuse Transfer station at PINN. This would/could include recycling bins and trash pickup for the area including PINN. This would be a great green move by PINN for us, the campground, and the community.
- The park is well managed in terms of wildlife, multiple user groups, trails, restrooms and general cleanliness.

Hours

- PINN now has better policy regarding park hours.
- The park should be open 24 hours/day. Would like freedom to visit the park without limited hours, to stay to see the sunset from some of the peaks (nice photo opportunities are lost); moonlight hiking.
- Address operating hours and be open in the evenings and in the morning earlier than 7:30
- Need criteria for day vs night use
- Day-use only has positive effects on wildlife.
- The park should offer quality visitor experience opportunities at dusk, dawn, and night
- Could provide programs in evening and still have gates closed or periodical "open" nights
- Provide night experience to kids; increase needed in ranger staff
- Legitimate after hours use may discourage unlawful use

Law Enforcement and Safety

Safety

- Need park rangers once again living on the premises [West Side] for the safety of the hikers/climbers.
- Keep airstrip, add helicopter pad for emergencies and for park staff.
- There should be a sign on trails leading to the western side of the park that there are no through roads in the park; hiking group was almost stranded.
- Easements are desired for rescue/safety
- Concern about evacuation if a fire were to occur.
- Climbing groups safety issues (use of unsafe anchors, blocking trails); need group regulations, communications/ cell towers.
- Availability of water is a serious matter. When someone hikes over the top and then down high peaks trail to end back down near the former picnic area they need to fill their canteen.
- Excellent job of protection of the area.
- Make roads as safe and accessible as possible.
- West side - vegetation is a fire hazard - community has been built up - there should be a ranger there for safety issues
- Caves should not be closed-visitors should take responsibility for own safety

Law enforcement

- Eliminate ticketing for late exit.
- Does not like threats by rangers. Some times belligerent enforcement of curfew.
- Enforcement issues; need to be careful about allowing them (bicycles, skateboards) in certain areas
- There is a problem with illegal dumping at night

- Make sure you don't punish everyone for the misdeeds of a few.

Entrance Fees, Reservations, and Permits

- Permit system for back-packers. A strictly limited number of one-night permits could be issued throughout the year. A substantial charge be levied for these permits to help defray added costs incurred by the Park Service
- Minimum-impact bivouac (just a sleeping bag) on top of a rock in the High Peaks such as "The Sponge" by a permit system of some sort.
- Informal groups need to be managed through permits.
- Need fee structure to keep demand/supply in balance.
- If it means, visitor must only visit by making a reservation & not letting just EVERYONE in, well, that is the best - to keep Pinnacles as pristine as possible
- The camping fee schedule should be revamped. It is ridiculous to charge a fee "per person" and goes against the long-standing tradition of camping fees in the national parks. A "per site" schedule should be adopted, and the fee should be reasonable, not more than \$15/night/site. It is clear that the campground is now privatized, and this is unacceptable.
- The fees connected to this use are prohibitive. Our business (climbing) has operated at a loss for over 6 years, but philosophically, we keep it going.
- Would like to reserve our campsite in advance.
- Prefers to keep existing parking footprint; use reservation system.
- Park fee (5-10 dollars) is low/reasonable.
- Reservation system may be the way to go.
- Lower cost of ticket if you take shuttle.
- Reservations; entrance station in east at new boundary
- Hiking reservations
- Higher fees should be charged to pay park costs
- Address carrying capacity; consider reservation system or shuttle from Soledad
- Avoid reservation system
- Youth should have access to the park at a reasonable price
- On permit basis, allow use of tower on North Chalone Peak

Staffing

- Park rangers needed at West side.
- Need interpretive rangers to provide guided walks/talks in and around the Ranch
- Would like park employees to be engaged in diversity/cultural competency training. Consider non-NPS trainings.
- Excellent and friendly staff
- Enjoyed the scenery, the friendly rangers advice, nice hiking trails!
- Expand offices to help staff do their jobs.
- Park needs botanist with a "practical" approach. if you take care of plants, animals will be okay.
- Park staff need training.
- High turnover of staff; need continuity in people.
- Backcountry camping will result in need for more staff
- Provide adequate employee housing in park

Topic: Partnerships and Public Involvement

- Get the word out about park to increase level of understanding re park plans and programs, e.g. why we fence, shoot pigs, leave trees in stream, etc.

- Have public meetings to discuss park approaches. Also use web site. Need to reach kids. Start locally.
- Consider partnering with local Native Americans to interpret the use of the park by earlier peoples
- Engage in "common ground" projects particularly with underrepresented geographic and/or ethnic communities.
- Establish west side community group with advisory role for the park.
- Aggressively seek out comments from the greater Bay Area as many climbers come in from the Bay Area.
- Ensure that climbers are kept in the decision making process for climbing related decisions and regulations. Climbers should be enlisted (as volunteers) to help in climbing related projects (trail building, regulations, etc.); Continue with the climbers input to keep the area safe, sound, and cared for.
- Get volunteers to help remove invasive plants
- Address how best to coordinate with local and regional recreation groups (particularly climbing organizations). Good communication between the various interest groups will ensure that organized climbing and hiking groups as well as casual visitors take an active role in maintaining the natural environment and preserving resources.
- Have partnerships with schools (USCS, Hartnell); encourage student research projects
- Possibility to pursue cooperation with private landowners for building a campground
- Could park get non-profits involved in managing adjacent lands as partnerships with Park?
- Interface with national parks, county parks. Education purposes = mutual exchanges, and collaboration among agencies.
- County-wide coordination for parks
- Improve park communication with neighbors.
- Establish more "Friends" organizations
- NPS should use volunteer and other low cost labor for trail development
- Establish volunteer program for MAPS project; encourage MAPS program in park for bird monitoring
- Park Day helps to involve the community