



Your Participation is Appreciated

The National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Yurok Tribe are hosting five meetings to receive public input on the California Condor Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (EA).

Please join us at one of the following public scoping meetings:

January 23, 2017	Sacramento, CA 6-8 pm Federal Building 2800 Cottage Way
January 24, 2017	Eureka, CA 6-8 pm Wharfinger Building 1 Marina Way
January 25, 2017	Klamath, CA 10 am-12 pm Yurok Tribal Office 190 Klamath Blvd.
January 25, 2017	Medford, OR 6-8 pm Jackson County Auditorium 7520 Table Rock Rd. Central Point, OR
January 26, 2017	Portland, OR 6-8 pm Oregon Zoo 4001 SW Canyon Road

Each meeting will begin with a short presentation leading to an open house format, providing an opportunity to view informational posters and slides, ask questions, or give comments to agency, tribal, or state staff. During the open house public comments will be recorded for use later in the development of the California Condor Restoration Plan/EA.

Background

The NPS, USFWS, and Yurok Tribe are partnering to develop a California condor restoration program in Redwood National Park (REDW) within Yurok Ancestral Territory (YAT). This interagency project would continue efforts to restore condors in California and would further the goal of returning the condor to its historical geographic range.

The condor plays an integral role in the Yurok Tribe's world view and as their population slowly rebuilds throughout their range, they act as a powerful symbol to the Tribe, who simultaneously are reviving their culture. Much of REDW falls within YAT and partnership in this project strengthens already close ties. Decisions to be made include whether establishment of a restoration program should move forward; if so, should USFWS conduct a rulemaking process to designate the population at this facility a non-essential, experimental population under the Endangered Species Act 10(j) rule or as a population designated as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act.

Purpose of and Need for Action What is the Purpose?

The purpose of this project is for the NPS, USFWS, and Yurok Tribe to contribute to the recovery of the California condor by establishing a thriving population in their historical range and breeding areas through a restoration program centered at REDW.

What is the Need?

This proposed restoration program would further the goals outlined in the USFWS California Condor Recovery Plan. Restoration of the condor would also meet NPS restoration goals and align with the purpose of REDW to "share perpetual stewardship and watershed-scale restoration of ancient coast redwood forest, mountains, streams, and coastline for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of people forever." The condor plays an integral role in the Yurok Tribe's worldview and the Tribe's initiation of this recovery effort serves as a symbol of their efforts to preserve and promote Yurok culture. Much of REDW falls within YAT. The Yurok Constitution requires the Tribal Council to "[r]estore, enhance, and manage the tribal fishery, tribal water rights, tribal forests, and all other natural resources" (Yurok Tribe 1993). Returning the California condor, a cultural and biological keystone species, is one piece of the larger restoration efforts ongoing by the Tribe to recover the Yurok cultural and physical landscape within YAT. The condor, as is believed in tradition, was amongst the first peoples of the world, and, as such, plays an integral role in the Yurok Tribe's world view and serves as a symbol of the efforts to preserve and promote Yurok culture. As condor populations are now increasing in numbers, the establishment of a California condor restoration program at REDW would expand the geographic scope of recovery of the condor while aligning with the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe.

The NPS Organic Act (54 USC 100101(b) et seq.) and its amendments state that the NPS is an agency that "shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas. . . which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and such means as well leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations". In addition, the restoration of threatened, endangered, and extirpated species is consistent with the values ascribed to REDW, is beneficial to the restoration of the species as a whole, and is a key mission of the NPS. The NPS administers lands in REDW within the historical range of the condor.



Issues Identified

The following highlights several of the issues identified early on in the planning process:

Condor Biology

Current threats facing condors, including lead poisoning, micro-trash ingestion, eggshell thinning, habituation, predation, shooting, drowning, wind turbines and powerlines, will be addressed.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Other special status species could be affected by construction of the proposed release facility and nest monitoring.

Black Bears and Mountain Lions

Baiting at the proposed site and carcass storage and disposal could increase localized presence of scavengers and predators.

Cultural and Historical Resources

The cultural landscape and visual resources of the Bald Hills area could be affected by any ground-disturbing activity and new features on the landscape.

Tribal Issues

Establishment of a release facility and monitoring activities related to the program could affect the tribal landscape. The condor has been culturally and spiritually tied to the Yurok people since time immemorial. Condor, as is believed in tradition, was one of the first peoples of the world and has been part of Yurok ceremonies since their creation. Condor feathers are required for Yurok world renewal ceremonies in which they are part of the regalia worn by men and through which the spirit of the condor contributes to the dance. The Tribe does maintain some appropriate regalia, but time and use cause damage to the feathers and regalia. Regalia must be replaced and renewed as needed, through dropped feathers, which are considered gifts from the condors. Condor feathers have become available through repositories developed under broader condor restoration efforts, but reintegration of the condor itself to the Yurok landscape is necessary to fully restore the cultural, spiritual, and ecological relationship established before time was time.

Socio-economics

Landowners and business owners could be affected by the reintroduction of the California condor through Endangered Species Act protections. If the restored population is designated an “experimental population” some of these impacts could be lessened.

What other issues, concerns, or suggestions do you think should be considered as we develop the California Condor Restoration Plan/EA?

How to Provide Comments

Public participation is vital to our planning process. Public scoping is an early and open process to determine the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA.

If you cannot attend the public scoping meetings, you can easily participate by submitting comments by February 28, 2017 directly online on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web site at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RedwoodCondor>, and use the “Submit Your Comments for Public Scoping” link found in the “Documents and Links” section.

Or mail written comments to:

Redwood National and State Parks
Attn: California Condor Restoration Plan/EA
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Please be sure to include your full name, mailing address, and e-mail address with your comments so that we may add you to our mailing list and provide you with information throughout this planning process. Comments must be received by February 28, 2017.

Schedule

August 2016	Internal Scoping
January/February 2017	Public Scoping ← YOU ARE HERE
Spring 2017	Alternatives Development
Spring/Summer 2017	Preparation of EA
Summer 2017	Public Comment on EA
October 2017	Decision Document

Updates on the planning process, meeting notices, and documents will be provided as they become available on the PEPC at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RedwoodCondor>.