King Gillette Ranch

King Gillette Ranch Planning Project

Planning Update #1

The National Park Service, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority recently initiated a public scoping process for the King Gillette Ranch Design Concept Plan on October 29, 2008. During the scoping period the agencies held an informal site visit on November 8, 2008 and a formal public scoping meeting on November 18, 2008 to present the Design Concept Plan (the Plan) and to gather public comments. The agencies have received more than 200 comment letters and emails through the close of scoping period on January 10th, 2009. All comments are now being reviewed and will be considered during preparation of the Design Concept Plan and accompanying Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (combined CEQA/NEPA document) which will analyze alternatives for the proposed Plan and potential environmental impacts.

King Gillette Ranch House

In preparation for the required Environmental Analysis, the agencies are developing concepts for rehabilitation of the existing stables and adaptive reuse of the structure as a Visitor Center as one Plan alternative. Additional Plan alternatives that will be considered and analyzed relate to the proposed location of the Joint Agency Operations Center, and other alternatives identified during the public comment period that are consistent with the Vision Statement for King Gillette Ranch and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan. A "no action" alternative will also be analyzed.

The Design Concept Plan will also respond to numerous public comments about trail use at King Gillette Ranch. The Plan will describe a vision for the trail network that provides connections to existing and proposed trails in several directions from the ranch. Trail use designation will also describe efficient access for a variety of recreational trail users, including hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

A public draft of the Plan and accompanying Initial Study/Environmental Assessment is expected to be released for public review and comment in August 2009. The agencies will initiate a 30- day public comment period for the draft Plan and anticipate holding a public meeting to receive public comment on the environmental analysis in September 2009.

Updates and other information regarding this project are available on-line at http://www.smmc.ca.gov/KGRP/index.html

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