

King Gillette Ranch



September 10, 2009

King Gillette Ranch Planning Update #2

Visitor Center Focus Workshops

The public is invited to participate in one of two upcoming planning workshops for a proposed interagency visitor center for the Santa Monica Mountains to be located near Calabasas at King Gillette Ranch. These interactive workshops will help designers and agency planners create several possible design scenarios for the visitor center. Following public feedback from the meetings, concept schemes will be refined and incorporated into different development scenarios for the King Gillette Ranch Design Concept Plan scheduled for release this winter. These workshops are specific to the visitor center and not formatted to address other aspects of the Design Concept Plan (see update below).

Workshop # 1: Thursday, September 24, 2009

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

King Gillette Ranch

26800 Mulholland Highway

Calabasas, CA 91302

(light refreshments provided)

Workshop # 2: Saturday, September 26, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

King Gillette Ranch

26800 Mulholland Highway

Calabasas, CA 91302

(light refreshments provided)

Directions: King Gillette Ranch is located at 26800 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302.

From Highway 101: Exit 32 Las Virgenes Road. Turn south on Las Virgenes Rd. toward Malibu Canyon for 3.1 miles. Turn left on Mulholland and then take the first right through the gates at King Gillette Ranch. Follow the signs to the meeting.

From Pacific Coast Highway: take Malibu Canyon Rd. north 6.3 miles (this road becomes Las Virgenes Rd.) to Mulholland Highway. Go right on Mulholland and take the first right through the gates at King Gillette Ranch. Follow the signs to the meeting.

If constructed, this visitor center would be jointly managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The visitor center facility is envisioned as a centrally located one-stop source for information about the natural, cultural, and recreational resources in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and surrounding open space and beaches. This new visitor center would replace the National Park Service Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks.

Design Concept Plan Update

The overall land use plan known as the King Gillette Ranch Design Concept Plan will include an Environmental Assessment and Initial Study to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and of the National Environmental Policy Act. The plan will analyze the environmental impacts of no action and of several action alternatives.

During the initial public scoping period for the plan from October 2008 – January 2009, the participating agencies held several public meetings and received more than 200 written comments from the public. These comments were reviewed and helped shape the initial concepts. Following the success of these meetings, the design team felt more additional feedback from the public regarding possible interagency visitor center use, would be helpful. The upcoming visitor center workshops are considered an extension of pre-draft public scoping for the land use plan, will focus specifically on the visitor center, and are designed to solicit information on how visitors will use the facility and what visitor amenities are needed for that facility.

Following the workshops specific to the visitor center element, the agencies will finish drafting the plan and writing the environmental analysis. Once completed, the plan will be released for an additional 30 day public comment period. The plan will also include different scenarios for trail connections and use by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

Where are we in this planning process?

Step 1: Define Purpose and Need

Step 2: Conduct Pre-draft Public Scoping

Step 3: Develop Alternatives for EA/IS

Step 4: Conduct Pre-draft Scoping for Visitor Center Alternatives (Present status)

Step 5: Refine Alternatives

Step 6: Release Draft EA/IS for Public Review

Step 7: Analyze and Respond to Public Comments

Step 8: Prepare Final Plan/Decision Document

Step 9: Release Final Plan/Decision Document to the Public

Updates and other information regarding this project are available on-line at <http://www.smmc.ca.gov/KGRP/index.html> and through the National Park Service's planning website at <http://www.planning.nps.gov>. Select Parks, then "Santa Monica Mountains NRA" as the Park and "King Gillette Ranch Design Concept Plan" as the project.