



Impact Topics

These impact topics were used to evaluate and compare the potential effects of the management actions of each alternative.



Human Health and Safety

Impacts to the health and safety of visitors and staff could occur due to encounters with unruly or aggressive dogs and contact with pet waste.

Visitor Use and Experience

Visitors who do not prefer dogs would still encounter dogs at the park; however, opportunities for a “no dog experience” would be available. Visitors who prefer dogs at the park would still be allowed to walk dogs on-leash and under voice control within specified areas.

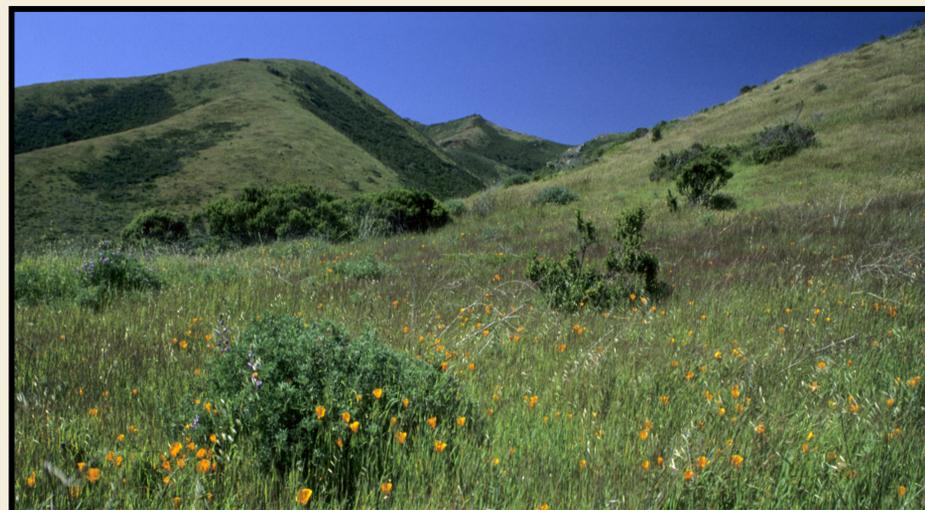


Special Status Species

Dog walking may impact special status species by disrupting key behaviors or impacting habitat (note that all habitat is essential for these species). Special Status plant and animal species could be impacted as indicated under Vegetation and Wildlife.

Wildlife

Intensive dog use could disrupt its use by wildlife or degrade the habitat. Dog hunting, chasing, and marking can impact wildlife feeding, breeding, and resting, and can even cause avoidance of certain habitat areas. Dogs or dog waste can potentially introduce diseases and transport parasites to wildlife or habitats.



Vegetation and Soils

Vegetation can be affected by trampling indirectly through the consolidation of soil and directly by treading upon the plant itself. Impacts to vegetation also includes digging, the spread of invasive/noninvasive plants, as well as dog waste that may concentrate nutrients in a particular area.

Cultural Resources

Ground disturbance in the form of trampling or digging could impact cultural resources.

Park Operations

Short-term impacts to park operations would occur during the initiation of the plan and during the concentrated education period. It is anticipated in the long-term that compliance with the new dog regulation would improve, ultimately benefiting the operation of the park.