

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

Golden Gate National Recreation Area & Muir Woods National Monument
General Management Plan
October 31, 2008

This summary report provides an overview of the public comments received in the summer of 2008 in response to the preliminary alternatives for the general management plan (GMP) that were presented in Newsletter 4.

Throughout the spring and early summer of 2008, the park staff mailed more than 4,000 copies of Newsletter 4 and distributed another 4,000 copies to individuals and organizations. In addition, an electronic copy was made available on the park's website and an email version was sent to individuals and organizations that provided the park with their email addresses.

The GMP preliminary alternatives were posted to the NPS Park Planning website for public review from April 29 - August 1, 2008. More than 200 responses were posted by individuals and groups. Five public meetings were held in June 2008 across the Bay area – attended by approximately 300 people. Approximately, 180 letters and comment forms were received from a variety of individuals, organizations, and agencies. Overall, about 400 commenters, not including those who came to the open houses, provided more than 1,500 substantive comments on the GMP preliminary alternatives.

Part 1, on pages 1-10, is a general overview of comments received from individuals, agencies, and organizations on the preliminary alternatives.

Part 2 on pages 11-23, contain a more detailed synthesis of the comments organized according to issue/concern topic.

PART 1: GENERAL OVERVIEW

Comments from Individuals

Agriculture

1. Maintain opportunities for agriculture in parts of the GGNRA

Alcatraz

1. Mixed comments about how much of the island to open to visitors; some want more access, others are concern about wildlife.
2. Numerous comments support no new facilities but desire to use existing historic structures for interpretation and contemporary purposes, but don't make it into Disneyland.

3. Concerns about overnight accommodations are: visitor access 24 hours throughout the island, increase disruption to wildlife/bird population, introduction of food and garbage that becomes accessible to wildlife, and lack of infrastructure necessary for food and overnight services, e.g. water, sewage, energy, and waste disposal.

Biking

1. Expand biking opportunities, longer loop trails, trailheads – especially in San Mateo County
2. Need safety improvements for bicycles on the roadways.

Boundary

1. Need a regional look at boundary changes regarding habitat, trails and other shared objectives, in addition to regional collaboration.

Dogs

1. Allow the historic use of off-lease dog walking, especially in sites around San Francisco. Most comments centered on Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, and specific areas in Marin County.
2. Provide opportunities for dog walking.

Education/Interpretation

1. Need more engaging programs for youth
2. Increase opportunities for visitor, partners, communities to engage in participatory science and stewardship.
3. Improve outreach to recreational fishers about resource protection

Fire

1. Continue working with Marin organizations in removing invasive plants and fire threats
2. Need to develop plan for removing invasive plants in Rancho Corral de Tierra

Fishing

1. Opposed to any additional restrictions on recreational fishing in the park

Equestrian

1. At minimum, maintain current opportunities but support expanding trailheads to handle trucks and trailers, short and long distance loop trail opportunities, and stables
2. Recognize this use as a part of the cultural heritage and landscape. We also are the eyes for NPS in monitoring public use
3. Desire to retain facilities at Golden Gate Dairy and concerned about facilities at Lower Redwood Creek.
4. Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) in retaining stables rather than relocation
5. Enhance equestrian public programming for youth and all ages

6. Work with local community and equestrian groups in developing plans for areas that affect the stables and trails

Hiker Huts

1. Work with San Mateo community to explore hiker hut concept paper submitted.

Housing

1. Support affordable housing within park for partners and employees
2. Support stream restoration at Capehart without losing housing units (need to replace units lost)

Management

1. Work closely with those affected by NPS plan
2. Work with other land managers for consistency in signing, access, maps, regulations, maintenance, and outreach

Muir Beach

1. Do not want new facilities that will attract more visitor use. NPS does not manage the crowds that already exist.
2. The community of Muir Beach desires to retain the rural, quiet setting.

Muir Woods

1. Wide range of support from retaining existing conditions to removing facilities.
2. Comments are in agreement about the necessity of preserving the old-growth redwood forest and that the public must continue to have access to the forest.
3. Retain just enough parking if alternative transportation is reliable and makes up for any that is removed.
4. Muir Woods is not a church; retain visitor amenities that support the experience.
5. Trails at Muir Woods are too armored and over developed vs. many like the trails clean and swept and accessible.
6. The presence of too many people is impacting the redwood forest of Muir Woods

Recreational Opportunities

1. Need to emphasize that outdoor recreation is the primary reason for why the park was established. This means the park should help support the needs of the urban population and not limit access to the park.
2. All alternatives are biased toward conservation rather than providing public access and opportunities to open spaces.

Roads

1. Provide scenic pull-offs, viewpoints, and even restrooms along with safer roads and access to park sites.

Slide Ranch

1. Retain environmental education at Slide Ranch.

Trails

1. Trails are the heart of the park and need more discussion in the GMP including trail connectivity, multi-use related opportunities and issues, accessibility, and safety.
2. Increase regional planning for a comprehensive trail system that is coordinated among many properties.

Transportation

1. Continue to explore and institute alternative transportation solutions.
2. Implement transportation strategies in collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions and land managers.

Comments from Agencies

California Coastal Conservancy

1. Preliminary alternatives are so broad that the conservancy doesn't fully understand the basis of the alternatives.
2. At Mori Point and Pedro Point - support Alt 1, in-step with the investment made over the years.
3. At Montara Lighthouse – support Alt. 1, and enhance current hostel and day use programming and not limit overnight use to specific groups
4. Educational should also focus on engaging visitors, communities and partners in participatory science, education, and stewardship with emphasis on the coastal environment.
5. Support Alt. 2's emphasis on forms of recreation that would not significantly reduce the cross section of the public that could access GGNRA – allowing for visitor experience of nature and would allow for the enhancement of natural resources
6. Park Service leadership/ collaboration is needed in addressing proactive adaptation and management regarding climate change and sea level rising.

California State Parks

1. Stresses the importance of collaboration and recommends that stronger language be included in the GMP. Recommends close coordination on trails issues to ensure seamless visitor experiences.
2. Supports off-site welcome center for Muir Woods and recommends development of a visitor intercept facility (parking, trailhead, restroom, etc.) at Homestead Hill on GGNRA land. Suggests operation of this facility could be a partnership between NPS, State Parks, and Marin Municipal Water District.
3. Supports Alt. 1 for the Banducci site (Lower Redwood Creek) as it preserves equestrian use and allows for development of stables proximal to Santos Meadows facilities.

City of Pacifica, GGNRA Liaison Committee

1. GMP needs more narrative about Pacifica and the San Mateo areas including discussion of lands that could come into the park.
2. Support scenic corridor designations. Picardo Ranch should come into the park. Support equestrian uses. NPS should commit to maintaining trails for equestrians.
3. Need to look for areas to provide for trucks and horse trailers.
4. Hikers huts are not the same as rustic overnight accommodations; want the plan to explore the idea from the concept paper.
5. Advocate connecting trails and public transportation opportunities throughout San Mateo County with Rancho Corral de Tierra.
6. Desire more programs for youth and facilities dedicated to youth programs and support possible intern and stewardship programs.

City of Pacifica, City Council

1. Council concurs with GGRNA Liaison Committee (see above).
2. Multi-agency visitor information and orientation center should be located in Pacifica; and agree that a smaller facility in south San Mateo County.
3. Increase trail access to Bay Area Ridge Trail and SF Watershed lands.
4. Provide for continuation of Shelldance Nursery.
5. Supports Scenic Corridor designation, clarification of hiking hut concept, equestrian trail and uses, and public transit.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

1. Acknowledge specific collaboration and partnerships when describing potential actions.
2. Support water quality improvements leading into the coastal zone.
3. Add National Marine Sanctuary boundaries to the GGNRA maps
4. Discuss in greater detail collaboration in protection and education of the marine sensitive resource zones
5. Tie management zones and strategy in sensitive marine zones with recommendations from the Seabird Technical Advisory Committee, including areas of Rocky Point and Muir Beach. (The GMP does not address Muir Beach.)
6. Address climate change for each management zone.
7. Support Alt. 2 proposals for Highway 1, Slide Ranch, and Lower Redwood Creek
8. Clarify language for Natural Zone in Alternative 2 for off-shore waters
9. Support Alt. 2 for Pedro Point and Devil's Slide in protecting the bird colony.

San Francisco Public Works Department (Executive Committee for the Ocean Beach Restoration – Great Highway Erosion Control Project)

1. Alternative 1 is in tune with the efforts started in 2002 but want more detailed specifics.
2. The complexity of use and users should be discussed in the GMP
3. Alternatives 2 & 3: areas described as natural along Ocean Beach are not actually natural. The bluffs are fill. If natural erosion occurs it will expose deleterious material.

San Mateo County Parks

1. Encourages GGNRA to assist in implementing and meeting the goals (at many sites) of the Regional Trail Master Plan. Also recommends connection between Picardo Ranch and San Pedro Valley County Park.
2. Supports continued agriculture at Rancho Corral de Tierra, as well as overnight lodging options (RV, tent, cabin camping).
3. Recommends review of Midcoast Action Plan, which documents recreational needs of the area, for ideas for Rancho property planning. Encourages GGNRA to be a leader in mitigating water quality issues that could impact Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and restoring streams to support salmon.

Stinson Beach County Water District

1. Requests to be a “partner” and be added to formal contact list. As a landowner and special district inside the park, requests to be included in future technical working groups or stakeholder meetings.
2. Supports upgrading Stinson Beach facilities, especially septic disposal system. Recommends upgrading of septic system; requests that septic and bathroom facility be addressed even if parking is removed.

Tamalpais Community Services District

1. Supports Alt. 2 because it preserves peacefulness and sanctuary of Headlands. Opposed to additional development, especially at Tennessee Valley and Kirby Cove. GGNRA should focus on invasive plant management and restoration.

US Congresswoman Jackie Speier

1. Recommends San Mateo County Historical Association as a partner for historic resources study.
2. Recommends Sanchez Adobe as site for multi-agency interpretive center. Suggests GGNRA contact Caltrans and Coastal Conservancy as possible funding partners.

Comments from Organizations

Alcatraz Alumni Association

1. Support rehabilitation of buildings to support expanded visitor opportunities on the Island. (See letter for specific building proposals.)

Coastside Horse Council

1. Support expanded equestrian opportunities and continued multi-use trails at Rancho Corral de Tierra. Maintain barns and stables. (See comprehensive letter and attachments for specific proposals.)

Crissy Field Dog Group

1. Suggests using a more integrated approach for the management concepts so that alternatives are not mutually exclusive.

2. Current conditions as described in Newsletter #4 are not accurate and do not reflect historic dog use and other recreational activity.
3. The structure of the plan is not adequately described and prevents meaningful comment.
4. Major concerns exist over the relationship between the GMP, the Dog Management Plan/EIS, and the Crissy Field Plan/EA – how are they connected, and will one preclude decisions of another?

EnviroHorse

1. Support increased trail access and connections for hiking and equestrian use at Phleger Estate – opposed to bike use.
2. At Rancho Corral de Tierra: support multi-use trails with regional connections, keeping existing stables, creating adequate parking and trailheads, and developing a horse camp.

Equestrian Trail Riders' Action Committee (ETRAC)

1. Supports continuation of multi-use trails throughout the park. Support unpaved trails and expanded parking that accommodates trailers.
2. Support trailhead development and increased parking at San Mateo County lands, especially at Rancho Corral de Tierra. Support horse camp at Rancho. Support longer trail loops for bikes and equestrians and connections to regional trails. Recommend formation of a volunteer Mounted Horse Patrol for Rancho property. Maintain equestrian facilities and stables at Rancho. (See letter for specific proposals for Rancho property.)
3. Opposed to bikes at Phleger Estate.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

1. Support Alt. 2 for Alcatraz and oppose major elements of Alts. 1 and 3 – namely the opening of closed areas, building of additional facilities, and establishment of food service and overnight accommodations which would adversely impact bird behavior and habitat. Support expanded interpretation of the Island's natural history.
2. Support Alt. 2 for the SF coastline, with the exception of Land's End. At Land's End and Ft. Miley, support keeping exotic trees as they are important to migratory birds.
3. Support community garden at Ft. Mason and preservation of trees that provide habitat elsewhere.
4. Concerned about plans for Ocean Beach – need to ensure that a functioning dune system is maintained and habitat for Western snowy plovers is enhanced. (See letter for specific proposals about zoning of Ocean Beach.)
5. At Fort Funston, maintain Battery Davis until threatened by erosion and have a removal plan in place. Also incorporate importance of preservation of bank swallow habitat into zoning and description of alternative. Encourage NPS to restrict dogs to paved areas and require use of leashes.
6. Encourage expansion of sensitive resources zone to cover the entire channel of the Golden Gate. Support designation of waters offshore of Ft. Funston and Mori Point as part of a marine reserve.
7. Support Alt. 2 for San Mateo County, including opposition to increased access to the SFPUC Watershed – it should remain a nature preserve.

Marin Audubon Society

1. Supports Alt. 2 - opposed to new development, extensive new trails, and increases in visitor use of the marine environment.
2. Support restrictions on visitor use at Muir Woods – including redesign of the trail system to limit access, but concerned about new impacts. Support removal of paved trail surfaces.
3. Opposed to food service and overnight accommodations at Alcatraz. (See letter for specific proposals on zoning and closure areas on the Island.)

Marin Conservation League

1. Supports Alt. 2 because it focuses on natural resource preservation and restoration.
2. Recommends review of Marin Countywide Plan and increased collaboration with adjacent public land managers to support regional stewardship goals.
3. Recommends that the GMP elaborate on how the trail system will be addressed and incorporated in the plan.
4. Supports Slide Ranch at its existing location; Alt. 1.
5. Maintain existing parking at Stinson Beach.
6. Supports expansion of parking and picnic at Tennessee Valley, coupled with restoration of disturbed sites and removal of non-essential structures.
7. Opposed to food service, warming hut, and overnight accommodations in Tennessee Valley and Rodeo Valley.
8. Supports combination of Alt. 1 and 2 for Capehart housing – keep minimal park housing and restore the remainder.
9. Supports Alt. 1 for Muir Woods Camino del Cañon because it is already impacted and allows for conservation education.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition

1. Supports safety improvements for pedestrian and bicycling use.
2. Supports expanded trail opportunities and connections to communities.

Marin Green Dog Alliance

1. Supports GGNRA as a recreation area with expanded trail connections, continued existence of fire roads throughout Marin County, and continued/expanded access for on-leash dog walking.

Marin Horse Council

1. Supports maintenance of stables at Golden Gate Dairy and in Frank's Valley.
2. Opposed to any reduction in the number of horses boarded in Muir Beach.
3. Opposed to removal of stables at Tennessee Valley and conversion of balloon hanger in Headlands.
4. Recommends further restrictions on trail access for mountain bikes due to safety concerns.

Ocean Riders

1. Concerned about conflicts between bikes and equestrians and safety – recommends limiting bike use to fire roads.

2. Maintain all existing equestrian facilities and equestrian opportunities in all management zones.
3. Support combining the ideas from Alts. 1 and 3 at Golden Gate Dairy: relocating only six horses to the Banducci site (Lower Redwood Creek) and slightly reducing the number of horses at Golden Gate Dairy.
4. Support keeping Slide Ranch in its current location.
5. Support organic farming at the Banducci site.
6. Support Alt. 1 for Tennessee Valley and Miwok Stables – maintain stalls, add horse camping and mounted patrol program.
7. Support facility development ideas of Alt. 1 for the Marin Headlands; but need to add equestrian uses.
8. Opposed to conversion of balloon hanger into a maintenance facility.
9. Support Alt. 1 for San Mateo County lands. Pursue Picardo Ranch acquisition so long as equestrian facility remains.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

1. Supports protection of seabird habitat on Alcatraz, including seasonal closures, expanded use of sensitive resources zone, and the “wilding” of the Island.
2. Opposed to expanded visitor use, food service, and overnight accommodations on Alcatraz due to potential for impacts to wildlife.
3. Supports closures and protection for seabirds during breeding season (February-September) and recommends a “no-use” marine zone (300 feet distance from shore) during this period.

Redwood High School, Larkspur

1. Supports Slide Ranch in its current location.

San Francisco Horseman’s Association

1. Support increased accessibility to parklands for hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders.
2. Recommend keeping all existing equestrian facilities.
3. Limit new development and buildings in the park and focus on increasing and improving the trail system, including trailhead improvements with amenities (see letter for specific proposals).

San Mateo County Farm Bureau

1. Requests NPS place more emphasis on the importance of irrigated row crop commercial farming operation at Rancho Corral de Tierra.
2. Recommends incorporating buffer zones between active agricultural operations and public trails to prevent public safety issues and protect food safety and security. Looks forward to participating in discussions about trail planning at Rancho and in San Mateo County.
3. Concerned about “incorporating agricultural landscapes into the visitor experience” from the standpoint of not impacting the viability of the agricultural production.
4. Stresses importance of water resources for domestic and agricultural uses, not just for riparian and habitat value. Better descriptions of water resources should be included in the No-Action description.

San Mateo County Historical Association

1. Support Alt. 1 for San Mateo County – especially the multi-agency visitor facility along Highway 1. Recommend that it be sited at the Sanchez Adobe historic site in Pacifica. Excited about partnering with GGNRA and the County on this project.

Santa Cruz Horsemen’s Association

1. Support preservation of equestrian facilities at access to riding trails throughout the park.

Slide Ranch

1. Opposes any relocation of Slide Ranch operation and facilities and encourages NPS to select Alt. 1, which supports continued use and enables GGNRA to meet its mission and environmental education goals.

Stinson Beach Village Association

1. Would like to have more detailed information on what NPS will do in “exploring” options for alt. transportation.
2. Wants to know where new “sustainable facilities” would be located.
3. Interested in reviewing plans for parking lot removal.
4. Supports new roadside facilities along Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway that could help reduce pressure on main lot at Stinson Beach.
5. Encourages NPS to conduct a transparent process – different than the Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan (CTMP) effort.

Surfrider Foundation

1. Encourages greater regional collaboration with agencies in response to climate change and changes to beach access.
2. Support Alt. 1 as it promotes recreational access.
3. Opposed to elimination of south parking lot at Stinson Beach.
4. Opposed to abandonment of Highway 1.
5. Support Alt .1 for Slide Ranch.
6. Support Alt. 1 for Golden Gate Dairy; opposed to removal of residences and any restrictions on equestrian use.
7. Support Alt. 1 for Forts Barry and Cronkhite as it expands recreational uses.
8. Opposed to any motorized boating in the 1,000-foot strip of off-shore waters.

Transportation Alternatives for Marin (TAM)

1. Supports increases in non-motorized access to GGNRA lands
2. Recommends specific facility improvements for pedestrian and bicycling from Vista Point to Ft. Baker, at Manzanita station, in Tamalpais Valley, in Tennessee Valley, from Manzanita to Muir Woods, a northern Marin loop, and at Stinson Beach. (See letter for specifics.)

University of California, Berkeley, Dept. of Anthropology

1. Supports “Living Indian Museum System” concept for GGNRA.

PART 2: COMMENTS BY TOPIC

Accommodations

- Provide a diversity of overnight accommodations – camping to rustic huts/lodges
- Keep affordability in mind
- Don't let the park get touristy with accommodations, keep it "green"
- Opposed to any overnight accommodations (hotels or camping) on Alcatraz due to impact on birds and other natural resources
- Alcatraz lacks infrastructure to support accommodations and is not earthquake proof
- Montara Light hostel should be open to all not just designated groups

Biking

- Need improved safety for cyclists, including bicycle paths and lanes; cooperate with other land managers to make bicycle connections
- Mountain biking is a viable recreation option; need more mountain bike trails
- Bicyclists should not be allowed in any natural area, or single-track trails but only on paved roads because of their resource impacts and conflicts with other users
- Bikes should be allowed in the Phleger Estate
- Bikes should not be allowed in the Phleger Estate
- Specific routes for bicycle trails were proposed, (see comment #51)
- Desire loop bike opportunities and connections with communities
- Mountain bikes on narrow trails cause user conflicts and accidents

Boundary

- Need a regional look at boundary changes regarding habitat, trails & other shared objectives
- Focus financial resources on restoration within the park rather than buying land
- Obtain a small coastal parcel in the City of Pacific – west of the post office
- Add National Marine Sanctuary boundaries to maps

Cultural Resources

- Restore Alcatraz to its condition in 1963 – a small town on the island, keep the historic gardens, restore the parade ground, remove the rubble, keep Alcatraz as a historical site
- Preserve the Capehart housing for its historical significance
- Preserve historic structures along Conzelman and Bunker Roads
- Focus on the history of Ft. Cronkhite
- Tightly manage Point Bonita Lighthouse – protect resources and public safety
- There isn't a conflict between Alts. 2 and 3 for the military lands

- Agriculture is key component of the cultural landscapes of the park
- Protect existing agricultural uses as part of the area's, and the park's cultural heritage (incl. Golden Gate Dairy, Banducci, and Slide Ranch).
- Slide Ranch is important for its Portuguese history among other values
- Preserve the cultural and rural character around Muir Beach
- The dog walking community is a cultural resource
- Preserve and interpret the ranching and equestrian culture in Marin and San Mateo counties, including preserving the ranches and stables
- Use the Sanchez Adobe as a living history museum or as a multi-agency visitor center
- Remove the Nike radar, it's a nuisance
- Maintain coastal fortifications only until erosion and natural processes prevail, then adopt managed retreat
- Opposed to any overnight accommodations (hotels) on Alcatraz as it would ruin the integrity and character of the cultural resource setting

Dogs

- Collaborate between native plant, cultural resource, and dog communities
- Dog walking is a viable recreational opportunity; need to maintain the rights of dog owners including new areas in San Mateo County
- Preserve dog walking opportunities in Marin county, especially for the communities of Sausalito and Mill Valley where the GGNRA "uplands" are at their back door
- Need to define areas where on-leash dog walking is allowed
- NPS should provide more facilities that support dog walking activities
- Investigate more options for dog management and accommodation at Fort Funston
- Preserve dog walking opportunities at Rancho Corral de Tierra, including off-leash
- Shuttle system should include dog walkers
- Dogs are part of the family, so the park needs to be accessible to all family members
- Need more detailed planning that allows for consideration of where dogs really need to be restricted versus where more access could be provided
- Need more off-leash opportunities
- Use the public to help with monitoring and enforcement of regulations
- Dog management at Ft. Funston should be protective of sensitive resources
- Dog management at Ft. Funston should include off-leash dog areas

Education

- Slide Ranch should stay at its current location. The location (surrounded by diverse coastal ecosystems and its proximity to a large urban area) is critical to its educational success. The programs are crafted around the resources in this setting. No other site could compare to this location.

- Need more interactive programs that engage children
- Alt. 1 should also include engaging visitors, the public, and partners in participatory science
- Need improved interpretive/educational signage
- Park rangers on the ground are the most important part of effective education
- Embrace and expand programming targeted at youth

Equestrian

- Prefer that equestrian stables not be relocated to Lower Redwood Creek; may hinder creek restoration efforts
- Support partnering to maintain an equestrian presence at the Frank Valley Camp with no further reduction in the horse population or presence in these combined areas.
- Support Alt. 1 for the former Banducci flower farm allowing for the development of stables on GGNRA land proximal to the Santos Meadows facilities
- Don't support moving horses to Banducci: would lose the visibility of horses in the community; part of the area's history; need to work with the Volunteer Fire Department to test compatibility.
- Need improved horse trailer parking that is safe at Tennessee Valley and other locations; horse tie-ups needed at Tennessee Valley and other locations; water troughs and picnic tables needed at specific locations. (See comment #94 for details.)
- Oppose removing barn and paddocks at lower Tennessee Valley
- Horse stables should stay at Muir Beach
- Maintain horse use and stables at Golden Gate Dairy in their existing location
- Oppose any options for expanding visitor services at Golden Gate Dairy as the area is already congested
- Oppose moving Miwok stables to lower Marincello Rd; area has been restored
- Outreach for kids and other public programming is needed at stables
- Sometimes public programming and private boarding aren't compatible due to safety issues
- Marin lands are a hiker's and equestrian's paradise
- Maintain Presidio Riding Club facilities and expand stables
- Equestrians should be included in the evolved cultural landscape zone
- Equestrian history is an important part of the cultural landscape. Protect the presence of horses – this is a very important part of the park and supports the community
- Question the existence of data for needing to move equestrian facilities away from creek corridors – look at BMPs for minimizing impacts – already doing this at most sites
- Support Alt. 1 for most of the park, but it does not go far enough in retaining existing equestrian facilities and expanding trail opportunities
- Keep equestrian trails open, even if some need to be redesigned or relocated
- Connect hiking and equestrian trails; clearly sign where different users can go
- Need to develop a mounted horse patrol
- Need an equine evacuation plan – see Marin Horse Council

- Need a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee for equestrians; carefully plan for equestrian facilities and uses with input from knowledgeable community members
- If stables were closed at Rancho, public would have to commute long distances to access other stables
- The horse stables at Rancho are well-kept and should remain, they contribute greatly to the community and represent the area's history
- Equestrian use is fine as long as the users are educated on appropriate use
- New equestrian trails and loops should be planned in Rancho, Phleger and on Sweeney Ridge
- Include equestrian use at Pedro Point and Devil's Slide
- Need more detailed site planning for equestrian facilities – area identified for relocation of stables in Rancho is very steep

Facilities

- Any new development should be done in a sustainable manner
- Provide sustainable housing at Capehart along with creek restoration
- Support continued adaptive reuse of Ft. Barry and Ft. Cronkhite structures along with warming hut and transit stop
- No new structures should be added at Alcatraz; don't commercialize like Disneyland
- Place Intertribal Living Museum on Alcatraz
- Oppose large parking areas at Golden gate Dairy, lower Redwood Creek, or Muir Beach
- Oppose warming hut at Fort Funston
- Opposed to converting the historic balloon hanger to NPS maintenance use
- Oppose a visitor service facility at Tennessee Valley – it is already congested. An information station with better signage and maps would be better
- Provide a trail to the beach from the Marine Mammal Center
- Support proposals on Conzelman Rd, Bunker Rd, Hwy 1 and Panoramic Hwy; enhance parking along Conzelman and Bunker
- Support visitor facility improvements in Oakwood Valley
- Remove Slide Ranch facilities and put in a trailhead
- Keep Slide Ranch facilities at current location
- Remove or reduce the size of the south parking lot at Stinson Beach
- Support improvements in parking and visitor amenities at Stinson Beach
- Support removing non-historic structures and restoration to natural conditions
- Need visitor services at Muir Woods shuttle location
- Concern about new visitor structures at shuttle location
- Muir Woods has been over "armored." Remove paved parking and trails, focus on the trees
- Muir Woods is not a church, keep plenty of close parking and services for families

- Support creation of an offsite "welcome center" for Muir Woods. Also support the development of a parking facility, picnic area, transportation connection, trail head, restrooms, and information center at Homestead Hill on GGNRA land to serve multiple jurisdictions
- Keep some parking at Muir Woods until reliable transit is provided, and for off-peak times
- Support use of Camp Hillwood structures for educational opportunities
- Diverse visitor opportunities and related support facilities help engage visitors in the park
- Share facilities (e.g., parking, trails) among different users
- NPS should provide more facilities that support dog walking activities
- Need plans for parking needs along the urban/rural boundary
- Add pullouts, viewpoints, and restrooms along Hwy 1 and Panoramic
- Be flexible in locating wireless facilities within the park
- Need more trailheads but not too big

Fire

- Fires have been suppressed for too long in Muir Woods
- Fuels should be diminished for border areas that are at least 2X as wide as the trees are tall for forested boundaries and probably acres wide for chaparral boundaries
- Fire planning – Look at San Mateo County plans
- Need to cross-reference goals and objectives of Fire Management Plan with GMP

Fishing

- Opposed to any additional restrictions on recreational fishing in the park
- NPS should maintain all jetties and piers to maintain fishing opportunities
- NPS should establish and outreach program to educate recreational fishers about changes in rules and regulations, including establishing relationships with tackle shops and fishing supply stores

Management

- Support new statues and symbols on Alcatraz. (See comments #19 and 32.)
- Consider the sustainability of Alcatraz
- Work with other agencies to expand off-road parking, passing areas, and turnouts
- Slide Ranch is a great example of connecting people to parks, a great community resource
- Need to increase Ranger patrol from Lands End through Ocean Beach

Marine Resources

- The offshore area at Muir Beach is very sensitive and a closure to motorized boats, and motorized boat fishing, perhaps as far up as Slide Ranch, would be desirable
- Support shore fishing except near the mouth of Redwood Creek

- Question the proposal to establish a sensitive resources zone (marine reserve) along the shoreline and within the sub-tidal portions of the GGNRA. It raises the need to do site-specific studies of sensitive resources before making far-reaching management decisions.
- High levels of visitor use that would occur in the offshore areas at Fort Baker, Muir Beach and Point Bonita would result in adverse impacts to diving birds. Monitoring should occur.
- The zoning of offshore marine areas should be more protective – expand use of sensitive zone to include the entire channel of the Golden Gate
- Support designation of offshore waters at Fort Funston as part of marine reserve
- Preferred alternative should include specific actions for protection of breeding seabirds at Devil’s Slide Rock.

Natural Resources

- Preserve the native wildlife on and around the island of Alcatraz; nesting birds are compatible with human use, protect the bird habitat
- Support the idea of Alcatraz being in a more natural state – historic gardens gone wild
- Oppose opening currently closed areas (Alcatraz trails and Parade Ground) to public use due to impacts on bird nesting and breeding
- Opposed to any foodservice on Alcatraz due to impact on wildlife and human-wildlife interactions
- Opposed to any overnight accommodations (hotels or camping) on Alcatraz due to impact on birds and other natural resources
- Consider sustainability of Alcatraz
- Restore natural processes at Bolinas Lagoon
- Support restriction of visitor access to protect Mission Blue Butterfly
- Support abandonment of Hwy 1 if a slide occurs
- Concern about any visitor use/services proposals that restrict creek restoration options
- Should explore water storage options to protect salmon in Redwood Creek
- Remove invasives – need to mention these goals in the plan
- Removal of invasive trees (Eucalyptus) should take into consideration the need for tree replacement, especially for their carbon reduction values and also for migratory bird habitat
- Support restoration of dunes at Stinson Beach although there is also concern about the congestion this may cause in the community – need to improve alternative transportation options
- Restore as much natural habitat in Tennessee Valley as possible – keep it wild
- Support removal of Capehart housing and restoration of the area
- Need 100 foot setbacks from creek banks – follow Marin County Plan
- Educational programs need to teach people to protect the environment
- Preservation of trees should be the primary focus at Muir Woods; remove the trails from the valley, restore to a more natural state
- Camino del Cañon should be rated as a sensitive resource area due to nesting spotted owls

- Support restoration of Redwood Creek, but need balance – an all-shuttle option will restrict too many people. Support mixture of shuttle and some parking
- Muir Woods is messy – clean up the brush, can't see the trees
- Reduce duplication of trails
- Make liberal use of the sensitive resource zone
- Data regarding the impact of equestrian operations on water quality are inconclusive – in fact, water quality has been improving since 2000 when Best Management Practices (BMPs) were implemented at Rancho
- Use BMPs to manage equestrian stables rather than relocation
- Alts. 1 and 3 have the best plan for protecting resources while also providing for visitors
- Restore Black Point at Fort Mason
- Dog management should be protective of natural habitats
- Question the feasibility of a natural zone at Ocean Beach
- Protect the integrity and diversity of Milagra Ridge
- Grazing can be a beneficial tool for managing grasslands and vegetation
- The impact of off-leash dogs and people on birds and other natural resources is overstated
- The Fort Mason community garden provides important habitat for birds and other animals
- The area off Point Bonita (Bird Island) is now home to a common murre colony and also Brandt's cormorants - the zoning of the offshore area in preferred alt. should be re-evaluated

Planning

- Planning doesn't consider the needs of the surrounding community – need to consider them like a “threatened and endangered species”. Banducci Farm is a life-sustaining resource
- Identify any differences in utilities to Muir Beach
- Need to identify how zoning affect partner programs
- Need to think about the impact Slide Ranch has had on children when considering planning
- Need to address climate change in the plan
- The value of collaboration and comprehensive planning cannot be overstated and should be included in the final GMP as a strong and powerful directive of implementation for years to come. This collaborative process should be strong enough to help shape the future updating of the Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan.
- Many policies and programs in the Marin Countywide Plan deserve your consideration, and the GGNRA plan should be consistent with that plan.
- County of Marin is committed to restoration of Redwood Creek
- Need to address the needs for safe, accessible, and multi-use trails
- Need to make sure there is clarity on how specific comments have been addressed in the plan
- Need to talk with the local communities and specific groups, use workshops to delve into subjects further
- Need to work at getting input from diverse and emerging audiences

- Need to be more clear about your proposals – a lot of “vague” references
- Include captions on photos
- Need to mix and match from the alternatives – the preferred should be combo of all three
- Need to explain how we will accomplish our goals in the plan
- Reinstate the advisory council
- Investigate and determine trail access and ownership
- Don’t let language regarding the SFPUC restrict other recreation plans for these lands – let the county develop a comprehensive trails plan
- Improve trail connectivity to other public lands
- Look at other successful models of equestrian use on public lands, need site specific planning for equestrian facilities and uses
- Rancho must be carefully planned and in partnership with local community
- Look up plans for San Mateo at *www.eparks.net*
- Need to coordinate information among public land managing agencies, e.g., trail maps
- Don’t make all areas serve everyone – specialize the areas within the park
- Too much information and difficult to navigate the newsletter
- Newsletter is terrific and well organized (see comment #194)
- Emphasize fire fuel load reduction and provide opportunities for sustainable agriculture
- Support the Living Indian Museum concept
- Base the environmental review of the plan on science “ecology” not the politics of “environmentalism” (comment #182), on peer-reviewed scientific evidence
- Too little emphasis on recreational uses and access, too much on conservation and preservation of natural resources
- Needs some clarity of how the other plans fit into this plan, e.g. equestrian
- Description of existing condition is not correct, doesn’t reflect dog uses
- The need for inclusion and clarification of overlapping jurisdiction of GFNMS are needed

Recreation

- Need private boat tie-up at Alcatraz
- Support overnight uses at Alcatraz
- Hotel on Alcatraz Island would ruin its cultural history
- There is not enough focus on recreational opportunities at Ocean Beach
- Visitors facilities need to be improved at Ocean Beach
- Any alternative must include at least 2 wildlife protection zones at Ocean Beach
- Support water trail and beach access, camping and connections to the Bay as long as resources are protected
- Need to protect sensitive off-shore areas from Muir Beach to the north

- Preserve recreational uses that are shoreline dependent
- Preserve the “peacefulness” of the Marin Headlands
- Keep Headland’s visitor center where it is, there are no views or attractions at Capehart
- Support warming hut at Fort Cronkite
- Don’t lose natural experience at Kirby Cove
- Tennessee Valley: maintain the rustic qualities and lack of major facilities, don’t expand
- Tennessee Valley warming hut and expansion of trailhead is needed
- Need a trail connection between Franks Valley and Muir Beach
- Connect hiking and equestrian trails; leave equestrian trails in place
- Support downgrading fire roads to trails
- Need to give consideration to the hiking, foot races, and bicycle tours that cross park lands
- Improve bicycle safety and opportunities
- Do not eliminate equestrian facilities
- Need equestrian facilities and opportunities throughout the park
- Visitors should not be coddled and expect all the comforts of home
- Dog walking is a viable recreation opportunity
- Current conditions are not correctly reflected at Oakwood, Gerbode, Marin City Ridge (comment #217)
- Traditional recreation includes off-leash dog walking
- Carefully consider recreational use by commercial/large nonprofit uses displacing or significantly impacting recreational users.
- This is a National Recreation Area – there is no emphasis in the plan on recreation
- Don’t restrict access to large areas in GGNRA – it should be open to as many people as possible, the park has acres and acres, don’t make it off-limits
- Balance resource protection and recreation opportunities
- No alternative is aligned with original purpose of park “the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning”
- All the concepts are biased to conservation and ignores balancing between recreation and conservation
- San Francisco depends on GGNRA for access to outdoor recreation, don’t close us out
- No visitor center at Golden Gate Dairy, no bus stop, too small of space, can’t handle large volumes of cars
- Continue horse use and agriculture at Golden Gate Dairy
- Preserve the non-commercial feeling of Muir Beach
- Recreation opportunities connect people to the parks
- Need more interpretation and education in the park

- Support Alternative 2 to heighten visitor's experience of natural resources while still providing access to a cross section of the public
- Need picnic tables at Ft. Baker for hikers and bicyclists
- Rancho should have diverse recreation opportunities, keep existing recreation opportunities

Special Events

- The number and size of special events are growing out of control
- Plan needs to address informal uses and occasional large special events

Trails

- Trails are the heart and soul of GGNRA, need to directly address that the trail system will provide safe, accessible and multi-use trails. Also, enhance trail connections (to other parklands and communities) and provide long-distance trails
- Requiring on-trail access is appropriate given the status of the Mission Blue Butterfly
- Expand access to trails by improved parking and right of entry along the park periphery
- Support additional trail connections to the California Coastal Trail
- Continue trail connections through the Redwood Creek area, connecting to Highway 1
- Support downgrading of roads to trails
- Desire of California State Parks - Marin District to maintain trail connections, develop improved signage, maintain trails to similar standards, and providing regional information
- Support extending multiuse trail to connect with the Mill Valley Bike Path (Bay Trail)
- Address feeder trail restoration and maintenance and trail connections at Tennessee Valley
- Connect Frank Valley to Muir Beach Trail.
- Consider pedestrian connection from Pier 4 to Fort Mason Center – a more level grade for walking
- Continue the improvements of Lands End by providing escrow and endowment funds
- Connect trails to the Legion of Honor area and manage the forest
- Support Devils Slide as a trail
- Phleger Estate - new/multi-use trails, repair or realign existing trails, connect trails
- Connect Mori Point and Sweeney Ridge with a trail and wildlife bridge over Hwy 1
- Have a boardwalk at the top of Timber Path at Mori Point
- Trail thru SFPUC watershed is concern for fire and compliance w/ watershed plan threatened and endangered species
- Create E-W linkage by expanded easements with SFPUC from Bay Area Ridge Trail to the ocean; make them multi-use, work with BART
- Have a connecting trail between southern end Sweeney Ridge and San Pedro Valley County Park
- Support use of SFPUC roads or trails to connect Sweeny Ridge with San Pedro Park, Montara Mountain, Rancho, and Scarper Peak, etc. Also connect San Andreas Trail to Sweeny Ridge
- “North El Granada” (school district) has potential for trail through this school property

- Trail system should be expanded to accommodate increase in use
- Trails should be removed from the valley in Muir Woods to allow natural processes
- If Muir Woods trails are relocated, they should still be ADA (accessible)
- Provide unpaved multi-use (bikes, horses) trail in Muir Woods
- Allow for more visitor access to Muir Woods via the historic railcar trail
- Remove duplicate trails
- Removing trails on valley bottom will limit access to the creek and the trees in Muir Woods
- Some trails should not have to be shared by both bikers and equestrians
- Allow dog access to a substantial amount of trails
- Should include bicycling on trails. Bikes are not more damaging to resources than hikers
- Trail plan is forcing all the user groups onto the same trail increasing tension and conflicts
- Should address the trail system and its ability to provide safe passage for walkers, hikers, runners, equestrians
- Preserve equestrian access to and through Golden Gate Park from Fort Funston
- Maintain equestrian trails at Picardo Ranch
- Make multi-use trails equestrian friendly in Rancho
- Create new trails in Phleger and Rancho for horses that are loops - 2hr/4hr/6hr, connect with other lands
- Consider volunteer horse patrol for all trails
- Provide adequate rig parking to support equestrian uses
- Consider human use impacts from trails adjacent to agriculture areas
- Need crossing at Hwy 1 to provide access from CA Coastal Trail to Bay Area Ridge Trail near Rancho
- Prefer trails kept in natural state (non-paved) but in a way that allows multi-use if possible
- Provide dirt/gravel shoulder along paved trails like CA Coastal Trail in Pacifica
- Need to work with all land managers to improve consistency of trail management and regulations
- Need to have Oakwood Valley Trail open to dogs
- We urge the NPS to work with Bob Winklemann to resolve trail connections and pedestrian safety issues at Muir Beach

Transportation

- Support moving Alcatraz access to Pier 4, potential partnering with San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- Consider smaller boats/ferries to Alcatraz to limit impacts
- Conzelman and Bunker Roads – only remove parking if safe, convenient and frequent transportation available, the proposed Marin Headlands roads improvements are great
- Need to consider enhanced parking along Conzelman, Bunker and McCullough Roads

- Vista Point/Ft Baker - look at impact of all transportation related to this area.
- Golden Gate Dairy: Alt. 1 is reasonable if fire truck access is preserved and a safe bicycle route is available from proposed Diaz Ridge trail connecting to California Coastal Trail
- Concern about large parking area at Golden Gate Dairy, lower Redwood Creek, Muir Beach
- No bus stop or supporting visitor transportation at Golden Gate Dairy; too small
- Support public transit to Muir Beach and collaboration with County
- Support idea of abandoning Highway 1 in the event of a major landslide
- Oppose abandonment of Hwy 1 in the event of a major landslide due to impact on community of Stinson Beach
- Concern that if Hwy 1 is abandoned, public access would suffer and other public and private facilities could be negatively affected, also this is a spectacular road, have significant implications for two communities, increase traffic on Panoramic Highway, diminish public access
- Support maintaining Hwy 1 and providing increased informational signage and pullouts
- Strongly support improved safety measures for bicyclist on Hwy 1
- Remove or reduce the size of the south parking lot at Stinson Beach, although there is also concern about the congestion this may cause in the community – need to improve alternative transportation options before removing parking
- Support for improvements in parking at Stinson Beach
- Tennessee Valley - need more parking/shuttle, including separate facilities for horse trailer parking
- Desperate need for bike lanes - especially in Marin Headlands and over Mt. Tam.
- Consider needs of community regarding use of the roadways, concern over closures to Muir Woods Road and Hwy 1 between Muir Beach and Stinson Beach – this is infeasible and unrealistic
- Hikers need better parking and/or shuttle or bus service to trailheads
- Need visitor services at Muir Woods shuttle location
- Integrate sites by transit – Muir Woods to Banducci to Muir Beach
- Convenience is the uppermost consideration in providing parking and shuttles
- Support for no automobiles to Muir Woods, exception for cars carrying handicapped persons
- Concern over parking facility at Tam Junction due to displacing local shops, while inviting many cars to a section of Hwy 1 that is already over-flowing, also this area is in a flood zone
- Support the development of a parking facility, picnic area, transportation connection, trail head, restrooms, and information center at Homestead Hill on GGNRA land
- Concerned that requiring nearly all visitors to arrive by shuttle would greatly decrease the number of people who will experience Muir Woods. Support approach of providing a shuttle service and decreased/modified parking
- Muir Woods is similar to Yosemite (access and traffic), smaller vans and buses would be better
- Keep parking at Muir Woods until reliable transportation from convenient site is available; retain some parking on-site at Muir Woods for off-peak access
- The Muir Woods shuttle to the Sausalito ferry is essential and needs to be heavily publicized
- No visitor's center at Muir Beach. Shuttles from San Francisco or Mt Tam Junction are a better solution

- Shuttle service is needed for people with dogs
- Parking should be planned and marked to discourage parking in residential neighborhoods
- Include a small ferry terminal and ferry operation to Ft. Baker from San Francisco, Alcatraz, Angel Island, and other portions of the GGNRA
- Transportation solutions should be environmentally friendly
- Housing in the park minimizes transportation needs and driving
- Support bringing the street car back through Fort Mason
- Street car to Fort Mason is too expensive. First priority should be solutions for accessing Ocean Beach and Fort Funston
- Correct the safety issues at West Ft. Miley – egress, road surfaces
- Alt. 3 may be most advantageous for transit. Uses multiple transportation operators to connect national treasures
- Sheldance Nursery – need safe access from Hwy 1
- Need public transportation to Slide Ranch and Stinson Beach area of the park

Undeveloped Lands

- Preservation is critical to Muir Woods, support idea of removing structures
- Protect open space at Fort Mason's Great Meadow
- Lands End should be preserved and enhanced for its natural and scenic beauty

User Capacity

- Very concerned that impact from expanded visitor use will degrade/risk natural resources.
- Tennessee Valley is never crowded now. A wide variety of users would further cause congestion
- Hikers and equestrians need protection from bikes especially on single track trails
- Please consider adequate parking for different types of users (e.g., horse trailers, RVs)
- Visitor traffic in Muir Woods is far beyond what this small site can carry
- Establishing the capacity at Muir Woods is important to do first; then the other decisions follow, e.g. shuttles and removing facilities
- Consider having separate trails at congested areas (1st ½ m of trail) and then merge back to one, separate user groups where tensions occur
- Consider potential impact of use on neighborhoods
- Need language for how public access in SFPUC can be managed while protecting water.