

Comment ID #		Comment (Direct quotations from comment submissions)
84	P	Muir Woods is particularly accessible to those who live in Muir Woods and our love of the place is a part of our reason for being here. We are fortunate to be able to take solitary and inspirational walks at early morning or late evening hours, but we also take delight in sharing these wonderful woods with fellow visitors from around the world.
84	P	We appreciate well planned and executed improvements to the park such as the boardwalks and bridge replacements. We would look forward to hearing of any plans to improve parking areas, but we are not receptive to any alternative plan to remove the main parking area as well as a major portion of the lower parking lot, or to remove the loop trail or any bridges to accommodate a restoration of "floodplain function" along the valley bottom. It would be a shame to replace the opportunity for full access along existing trails with a more limited trail system that is above the valley floor, "highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities."
84	P	We are also concerned about a spillover effect of limiting parking at the park. Visitors in cars, intent on seeing the woods, would utilize available parking on residential streets to the extent such parking was convenient to any planned shuttle stops.
84	P	We would like to suggest long range planning for the undergrounding of power lines in critical areas for scenic and safety considerations.
86	C	More interpretive interaction. Educates and allows questions to be answered. More accessible trails to be available for mountain bike riding. Shuttle service to Muir Woods is a great idea but must be priced reasonably. Maintain Muir woods accessibility for disabled citizens, they really appreciate and enjoy the experience. Establish biking, hiking and primitive camping in San Mateo. Yes, no plans to create single track mountain bike trails. This is important due to the great number of mountain bikers in California whom pay taxes and deserve a place to ride. more mountain bike trails!!!!
90	C	I am a resident in San Francisco and a passionate advocate for nature. One of my favorite places in the world when I cross over the bridge is Muir Woods. I know its always been an incredible money machine for the GGNRA with the tourist industry, however it saddens me to hear of any more building and expansion within the general management plan of this small jewel. I believe it already exceeds it capability with what human beings ask from it vs. what it gets from us. Let us look to other places within the GGNRA hour growth and leave Muir Woods as it is. If anything I am for a plan that would even pull back from what we already have there.
100	P	I strongly support continuing the current Manzanita-Muir Woods shuttle, and the West Marin shuttle, so long as the bus/vans remain small and don't endanger those of us who drive that winding road regularly. Manzanita is an area long ago surrendered to cars. Please don't let Muir Beach become another.

166	P	<p>C. Muir Woods National Monument: The parking lots at Muir Woods should not be reduced or eliminated until and unless the number of cars using them has been diminished by the use of shuttle buses and parking facilities at connecting mass transit transfer points. I am extremely concerned about the impact of moving Muir Woods facilities to Muir Beach, and encourage discussion of land swaps with the State, where useful and feasible, to accommodate those needs as an alternative. It is also untenable to even consider closing Muir Woods Road to local traffic as that would leave the residents of Muir Beach highly vulnerable to being stranded during emergency situations and road maintenance.</p>
166	P	<p>In addition, while I support efforts to restore the natural flood plain and create a sustainable visitor program, it would be a shame to replace access along the valley floor with a limited trail system above the valley floor that is "highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities." This is not consistent with the need for Muir Woods to provide an accessible opportunity for visitors to fully experience the wonders of this great treasure.</p>
166	P	<p>D. Public Transit: I support efforts to provide public transit to the Muir Beach parking lot to lessen the impact of private cars. I would urge the Park Service to collaborate with the County to provide appropriately-sized public transit for both local residents and Muir Beach visitors.</p>
170	P	<p>I am writing to encourage you to leave Muir Woods as it is...so that all people can enjoy it, especially handicapped people who can now drive up to the entrance, and be allowed to enter easily, and enjoy the beautiful trees. With the new plan, they as well as the elderly would have a great distance to go to access this wonderful park. One of its greatest gifts is its accessibility...it is designed so beautifully now, it is hard to imagine why you are trying to alter the plan...the wonderful way it unfolds, and the simplicity of the walk which people can so easily enjoy needs no further adjustments...sometimes it is best just to leave something alone...it makes one wonder why you are trying to change something that works so well. The bridges that you want to take out also add to the simple peacefulness of the pathways...the loop trail makes it possible for all types of people to go as far as they are able....it is perfect as is...please leave alone!!</p>
178	P	<p>I have read the alternative scenarios proposed for Muir Woods. First I would like to share this: I am a professional graphic designer of 27 years, and I had a great deal of difficulty navigating through the information that was meant to make the alternatives clear. The various pages and columns were split up in such a way as to be disorienting. The layout alone could be vastly improved. Also, and more importantly, the language employed in communicating the various scenarios is manipulative and vague in most cases. Each of the scenarios presented sound...well, "sound" - in a way. But reading between the lines, I would have to say that only alternative 2 comes close to what I envision for not only Muir Woods, but for all National Park lands and historical sites. This could be summed up as the "less is more" approach. Less building, less pavement, less messing with the natural setting equals a more real and healthy experience both for the sites themselves and the visitors.</p>

178	P	Visitors should not be coddled and expect all the comforts of home when they are not home. If they wish to go shopping, even for gear and guidebooks, they can go to REI before getting on the shuttle to the woods. If they get wet or cold or hungry on their visit, chances are they will survive and have a great story to tell when they get home. The next time they come they will be prepared.
178	P	Qualified and caring rangers and volunteers sharing their knowledge and experience are the most important part of the park experience after the place itself. Determining what their needs are in order to perform their duties is the most important task at hand. Although interpretative exhibits are interesting if well done, they do not take the place of a live naturalist in a live setting. And if, in their creation, they threaten to destroy the very thing they are interpreting, what is the point?
178	P	I personally abhor the idea of thematic trails. I'm not opposed to educating the public from different and interesting perspectives, but these perspectives must be considered in context with each other if we have any hope of reconnecting the whole person to the holistic reality of nature.
178	P	Determining what is necessary for "minimum impact" is difficult and subject to interpretation. But if that is the stated goal, which I believe it should be, it will pave the way for less pavement, the removal of unnecessary buildings and structures, reduction of superfluous signage, and the restoration of the natural environment.

218	L	<p>Generally Marin Audubon supports Alternative 2 because its goal is to achieve the highest level of natural resource protection. We particularly support controlling visitor access.</p> <p>All activities, educational or otherwise, should be passive and designed to lead the visitor to appreciate and participate in the unique and majestic experience of an old growth redwood forest, which exists few places in the world. We support removal of buildings, restoring natural conditions of Redwood Creek, restoring floodplain functions, and creating conditions to allow the creek to naturally meander. This would be a great benefit to spawning salmon. We support this alternative's emphasis on protection of this unique redwood ecosystem.</p> <p>We also support redesign of the trail system, to accommodate fewer visitors. We do not object to trail remaining in the floodplain as long as it is recognized it may flood during some winter rainy periods, but we do support restoration of natural processes as the primary goal.</p> <p>Concerning possible relocation of trails, GGNRA needs to assess possible adverse impacts of relocating the trail. Could there be more environmentally sensitive conditions and impacts, such as erosion potential, tree removal and/or habitat loss, with relocating elsewhere? All trails should have a natural surface. Removal of paved surfaces which were installed by GGNRA some years ago, after which the trees began to show signs of decline, is long overdue.</p> <p>Under Alternative 1 Muir Woods would be managed to provide a national park experience which would include various activities. In our view the best educator is experiencing nature itself. Buildings and simply take people away from this magnificent forest. Improved access means more people and larger crowds which detract from this primeval forest and its quiet atmosphere.</p> <p>Alternative 3 would create a museum type experience which is unnecessary and out of place in this majestic habitat. We appreciate that visitor use would be carefully limited but wonder if this simply means there would be more trails that people would be limited to. We think theme trails are an unnecessary distraction from the majestic nature of this natural ecosystem. Any trail relocation should be carefully evaluated to ensure the construction and use impacts would not be worse than where they are now.</p>
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<p>219</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>4. Muir Woods National Monument: Juggling the need for access to this venerable stand of redwoods that was created close to a major population center with the express purpose of being remarkably accessible, and the preservation of those same great trees, is a balancing act that we understand well. Our concern is that the parking lots at Muir Woods not be reduced or eliminated until and unless the number of cars using them has been diminished by the use of shuttle buses and parking facilities at connecting mass transit transfer points.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned about the impacts of moving Muir Woods facilities to Muir Beach. and encourage discussion of land swaps with the cte, where usable and feasible, to accommodate those needs.</p> <p>In addition, we local Marin County people love to hike in Muir Woods! While we support efforts to restore the natural flood plain and create a sustainable visitor program, it would be a shame to replace access along the valley floor with a limited trail system above the valley floor that is “highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities.” This is not consistent with the need for Muir Woods to provide an accessible opportunity for visitors to fully experience the wonders of this great treasure.</p>
<p>226</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>SPECIFIC COMMENTS BY SUB-AREA:</p> <p>Muir Woods:</p> <p>Overview: The approach to “managing” Muir Woods should place the highest emphasis on restoring the primeval character of old growth redwood forest and its natural functions. Visitor use is inevitable and important in its global importance as a World Heritage site, but visitation should be secondary if we expect the ecosystem to be self— sustaining over the long term. We are in the unhappy circumstance of possibly “loving the place to death.”</p> <p>Arrival and Entry: This area should be reduced in size to allow Redwood Creek a more natural floodplain. Visitor access should rely upon an expanded shuttle service, and physical improvements for visitors, including shops and most administration should be relocated.</p> <p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek: The natural conditions of the redwood forest and floodplain should be preserved and where necessary, restored (e.g. habitat along Redwood Creek within the Monument) to the greatest extent possible. We are emphatic that this is not an “outdoor museum!” The cultural history of Muir Woods is secondary to the long-term integrity of the ecosystem.</p> <p>Camino del Canon (Muir Woods Addition): This area, which has had a long history of human use, offers the opportunity for conservation education. It could accommodate both administration and education facilities for Muir Woods as well as provide for natural landscape preservation. For this area we would recommend the Alternative Concept 1 approach.</p>