

## **Appendix C – Cumulative Actions**

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The cumulative project list was developed by an interdisciplinary team of GGNRA staff assigned to prepare the FMP. The team looked for past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that could affect the same resources as the FMP. NPS NEPA guidance states that cumulative actions considered should be those that would have additive impacts on a particular environmental resource to allow for reasonable decision-making about the management of that resource. The list should be limited to projects that would clearly have potential effects and are far enough along in the planning process to make some level of analysis feasible. As a general rule, the farther removed an action is from the project area or the project start date, the less need there is for detailed and exact analysis of the action's cumulative impacts.

Implementation of the FMP would have the greatest impact on resources within the federal parklands and on visitors to those parks. In addition, the FMP's implementation would affect air basin air quality and shared watersheds. Most projects in the cumulative actions list share the same affected area as the FMP or would impact similar receptors, whether they are park visitors or park neighbors. Some similar, non-park actions are also included in the cumulative list, such as vegetation management projects or prescribed burns conducted by other land management agencies, the Marin County Fire Department, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

No known large scale development projects are currently proposed for western Marin, Woodside or Pacifica; all three areas are largely built out and have restrictive zoning requirements on remaining vacant parcels due to steep, unstable slopes, seismic hazard, watershed impacts, or to protect the agricultural base of western Marin.

**Big Lagoon Restoration (Redwood Creek Watershed).** An environmental impact analysis of alternatives for creek and wetland restoration/enhancement in lower Redwood Creek at Muir Beach is being initiated by GGNRA. The project site is located at the mouth of the Redwood Creek watershed, which drains an 8.9-square-mile area on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Tamalpais in coastal Marin County. Historically, the entire area of Muir Beach and the adjacent lowland pastures were part of the Redwood Creek floodplain. The creek meandered across the valley floor and, during floods, deposited sediment across the floodplain area. Today, the creek has been confined and much of the floodplain eliminated due to the combined effects of road and levee construction, channeling projects, and placement of the NPS parking lot and picnic area. The project will restore or enhance ecological conditions and processes at the site, reduce flooding of local infrastructure, and continue to provide public access to the beach and restored wetland and creek. Project alternatives will consider the need to restore ecosystem conditions and functions, reduce flooding of local infrastructure, provide appropriate visitor access, and support suitable visitor experiences at the site.

**Marin Headlands/Fort Baker Roadway Improvement and Transportation Management Plan.** The purpose of the proposed action is to provide greater access to and within the Marin Headlands and Fort Baker for a variety of users, and to initiate these improvements in a way that minimizes impacts on the rich natural diversity and cultural resources of the Marin Headlands and Fort Baker. The project will provide infrastructure improvements to meet the following needs: (1) promote public transit, pedestrian,

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and bicycle travel to and with the park to improve visitor experience and enhance environmental quality; (2) rehabilitate the Marin Headland/Fort Baker transportation road and trail infrastructure in a manner that protects resources and improves safety and circulation; and (3) reduce traffic congestion at key park locations and connecting roads. An EIS was initiated in December 2001 to develop alternatives for multimodal transportation in and to the park.

**Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan (CTMP) for Parklands in Southwest Marin County.** The CTMP brings together Marin County, the NPS, California State Parks, the California Department of Transportation, other participating agencies, and the public in southern Marin County to identify and evaluate the development of recreational travel model options to reduce traffic impacts of visitors on gateway communities and the parks. Heavy volumes of traffic and parking impacts on roadways leading to national park areas in GGNRA (Muir Woods National Monument, Tennessee Valley, Muir Beach, and Stinson Beach), and Mount Tamalpais State Park have resulted in a need to evaluate alternative access to the parks other than continued reliance on automobile passenger travel.

**Trails Forever Projects.** These projects focus on the rehabilitation, physical improvement, and provision of additional enhancements for public enjoyment along the Coastal Trail. The Coastal Trail is a major, scenic pedestrian route through the park, stretching from Muir Beach in the north to Fort Funston and beyond in the south. Physically improved trail sections, enhanced vehicular access to trail segments, and vegetation management along selected trail segments are expected to have impacts on fire management operations within GGNRA.

**Fort Baker EIS.** Implementation of the Fort Baker EIS will include the creation of a retreat and conference center, major infrastructure upgrades, waterfront improvements, and native habitat restoration. Cultural landscape work authorized under this approved plan includes removal of hazard trees in the vicinity of buildings and roadways and the reduction of eucalyptus and Monterey pine groves that have escaped their historic boundaries. These projects would allow for the reestablishment of a compatible historic scene and to provide critical habitat for mission blue butterfly. The NEPA process for this project has been completed.

**Wildland-Urban Interface Initiative-Funded Community Projects.** The NPS provides funding to local fire departments, homeowners' associations, and public land management agencies to conduct fuel reduction projects (vegetation treatment and pile burning) in the interface zone with GGNRA to reduce the potential risk of a fire spreading from the park into residential areas or vice versa. The program began in 2001 and has funded projects from Sausalito north to Stinson Beach in Marin County. In the future, projects could be sited anywhere with a high fire risk along the roughly 40-mile interface zone of GGNRA lands and residential development. For purposes of cumulative air quality impact assessment, the typical work year includes 25 burn piles.

**GGNRA Habitat Restoration Programs.** Native plant habitat restoration projects occur throughout the park, led by both NPS natural resources staff (the Habitat Restoration Team and the Presidio Park Stewards) as well as the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Site Stewardship Program). Many restoration projects also occur in Muir Woods National Monument. A separate program exists solely to remove Cape-ivy from areas throughout the park.

**GGNRA and Presidio Trust Remediation Projects in the Presidio of San Francisco.** Site investigation and remediation projects are planned for certain contaminated lands transferred from the U.S. Army to the NPS. After remediation, the areas are typically revegetated with native plants, where appropriate.

**GGNRA Maintenance Operations.** The maintenance division conducts many ongoing operations throughout the park. Operations that may create cumulative impacts with fire management activities include road, trail, and stormwater system maintenance.

**Other Agency Projects.** Other agency projects with the potential to create cumulative impacts:

- PRNS FMP implementation;
- Presidio VMP implementation;
- Marin County Fire Department fuel management actions carried out on private lands, Marin Municipal Water District lands, and Marin County Open Space District lands; and
- San Francisco Watershed Fire Management Plan implementation.

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