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Permit System for Fires on Ocean Beach

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To address the persistent unsafe conditions stemming from recreational fires on Ocean Beach, the National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to implement:

- Permit System (Public would be required to obtain a permit to have a fire on Ocean Beach)
- Winter No Fire Period (No Fires on Ocean Beach during Winter Burn Period as per recommend by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Air Quality Management District Spare the Air Program)

Following a reassessment of the program and implementation of the Revised Pilot Program in 2014, the NPS still has ongoing concerns regarding the fire program. To address these concerns and gain better compliance to the fire burning rules at Ocean Beach, the NPS is proposing to implement a permit system. The National Park Service (NPS) strives to maintain a clean and safe beach for all visitors while allowing for this recreational activity.

In addition, the NPS is proposing a "No Burn" period during the winter months (November 1 to February 28). This is a request made to the NPS from the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District as part of their Spare the Air program.

The City and County of San Francisco has obtained funding to support NPS management of the fire program at Ocean Beach. The scope of this support has not yet been defined.

NPS proposes to pilot these changes for 3 years using adaptive management practices.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, the NPS will host a public meeting (see Meeting Notices to the left under Project Links) to provide additional details on the proposed changes to the fire program. Please see the Document List link to the left under Project Links for a document that provides an overview of the proposed changes.

Based on input from the September 24 public meeting and stakeholder involvement, the NPS will formally propose the fire program changes the week of September 28. The proposed changes will be open for public review and comment for 30 days. After public review and comment the NPS will take into consideration public comments and make a final decision.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the September 24, 2015 Public Meeting can be sent to:

goga_planning@nps.gov



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Plan Process

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Following a reassessment of the Ocean Beach fire program and implementation of the Revised Pilot Program in 2014, a final public meeting was held on February 5th. Since that time the NPS has been working on developing the next steps for the Ocean Beach fire program.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, NPS will host a public meeting (see Meeting Notices to the left under Project Links) to provide additional details on the proposed changes to the fire program. Following the public meeting a draft proposal and environmental document will be released to the public for a 30 day period of formal review and comment. At the end of 30 days, comments will be analyzed and a final plan and decision document will be prepared for signature by the park Superintendent and then released to the public. Upon the completion of the steps below, the final plan will be implemented.

* indicates the current step in the planning process

- Step 1. Define purpose and need
- Step 2. Develop proposed action
- Step 3. Conduct external scoping and targeted outreach ***
- Step 4. Refine proposed action and identify environmental impacts
- Step 5. Prepare draft environmental document
- Step 6. Public review of draft environmental document
- Step 7. Analysis of public comment
- Step 8. Prepare final plan/decision document
- Step 9. Release final plan/decision document to the public
- Step 10. Implementation of final plan/decision



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Meeting Notices

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Public Scoping Meeting

Date	Start Time	End Time	Location
09/24/2015	6:00 PM	8:30 PM	County Fair Building Auditorium, Golden Gate Park 1199 9th Ave San Francisco, California 94122

We hope you can attend this public meeting, the doors will open at 6:00pm, and the presentation will begin at 6:30pm. For questions on any of the meeting topics email goga_planning@nps.gov.

Description:

Since our last public meeting on February 5th, we have been working on developing the next steps for the Ocean Beach fire program. As discussed in February, key elements of the proposed program include a permit system for beach fires, as well as a seasonal restriction on fires, to coincide with the Winter Spare the Air Season as defined by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Additionally, with the leadership of San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar, great progress has been made on a partnership between NPS and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to help assure the feasibility and sustainability of the beach fire program.

On the evening of Thursday, September 24, NPS will host a public meeting to provide additional details on the permit system and proposed seasonal restriction of beach fires. Please see the Document List link to the left under Project Links for a document that details the proposed changes.

Meeting Directions/Instructions:

URL/Webinar link:

<http://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/county-fair-building/>

Enter your starting address to get directions from Google Maps.



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Links

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Click on the links below for additional park/project information.

- [2014 Ocean Beach Fire Revised Pilot Program](#)
- [Current GGNRA Beach Fire and Campfire Regulations](#)
- [GGNRA Public Involvement Opportunities](#)

Note: Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You may download a free copy of [Acrobat Reader](#) from Adobe Systems.

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Proposed Fire Permit System Outline

In order to correct the issues and concerns associated with recreational fires at Ocean Beach the NPS proposes to implement the Fire Permit System outlined in the document below. The permit system would be piloted for a 3 year period with adaptive management practices in place.



Document Content:

 [OCBE Fire Program Outline - September 2015.pdf](#) (123.8 KB, PDF file)

Disclaimer: Links within the above document(s) were valid as of the date published.

Note: Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

You may download a free copy of [Acrobat Reader](#) from Adobe Systems.



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GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Ocean Beach Fires Update

September 2015



In order to correct the issues and concerns associated with recreational fires at Ocean Beach the NPS proposes to implement the Fire Permit System outlined below. The permit system would be piloted for a 3 year period with adaptive management practices in place.

The program would consist of the following main components:

1. Permit Reservation System

- Would use Reserve America's "Recreation.gov" system
- Could be obtained online or over the phone through the call center
- Would be available for two time periods daily, from 9am-3pm and 4pm-9pm
- Would cost between \$25 and \$35
- Permits would be made available up to 30 days in advance, with the ability to make a reservation within a few hours prior to the permit beginning
- Draft Permit Conditions:
 - Required for all fire pits at all times
 - Group size would be limited to 25 persons, with larger groups required to go through the existing Special Use Permit (SUP) process
 - Non-transferable
 - Permit holder would be required to be present at all times
 - Minimum required age for permit signatory would be 18 years old
 - Security deposits would not be required; however, full permit cost would be due upon reservation
 - Existing permits would be cancelled and no further permits made available if a Spare the Air Day is in effect
 - Per Reserve America refund policy, while permit cost would be refunded upon cancellation, processing fees would not be refunded

2. CCSF Support

- Thanks to the support of Supervisor Eric Mar, an allocation of \$185,000 has been given to San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the FY15-16 budget to support the Ocean Beach Fires Program
- Will provide support for necessary maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires

3. Seasonal Restriction

- NPS proposes a "rest period" for the beach from November through February, during which beach fires would not be permitted.
- This is in response to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's request to consider a restriction during Winter Spare the Air Season
- Would also allow the park to marshal limited resources.
- Would lessen overall environmental impact of beach fires on the beach ecosystem and air quality