

Note: This draft succession policy relates to actions proposed in the Preferred Alternative identified in the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) draft Environmental Impact Statement. The NPS may modify the preferred alternative, or identify a different preferred alternative, in the GMPA Final EIS.

Succession Policy for Ranch Operations within the Ranchland Zone for Point Reyes National Seashore and the North District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area

The history of ranching at Point Reyes National Seashore and the north district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area includes the families that settled and ranched in the park since the mid-1800s. The succession policy is intended to support the multi-generational ranching in the Ranchland Zone while ensuring vibrant and vital operations continue into the future in a manner that supports park natural and cultural resource objectives. In many cases the park is working with the grandchildren of families that sold to the park. Ongoing commitment and investment in these operations includes the presence of the family on the ranch.

The Succession Policy for Ranch Operations within the Ranchland Zone is intended to provide more clarity and transparency to the succession process. As part of the process of establishing the current interim leases issued consistent with the Settlement Agreement, ranch operators identified immediate family members that have been included on the interim leases. All signatories to the current interim leases would be included as the named Lessees on any new lease/permits issued consistent with the outcome of the final EIS and Record of Decision. Named Lessees on an individual permit, with the agreement of all other current Lessees may request to add immediate family members to that lease/permit.

The NPS would use the following process to maintain active ranch operations within the Ranchland Zone in a manner that supports park natural and cultural resource objectives.

1. In the event that named Lessees: (i) do not wish to enter into a lease/permit; (ii) cannot agree upon an arrangement among named lessees for continued operations under a new lease/permit, (iii) have not consistently met performance standards for the agricultural operation and other named Lessees are not willing to take on responsibility for improved operations; the NPS would consider proposals from other leaseholders operating in the Ranchland Zone to continue ranch operations. In evaluating other park leaseholders, the NPS would assess proposed operations for consistency with the activities authorized as part of the final EIS and Record of Decision and past performance based on adherence to lease/permits and Ranch Operating Agreements.
2. In the event that no other park leaseholders are interested and NPS determines that it is appropriate to maintain the lease/permit area in agriculture, the NPS would pursue issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) to identify a new operator. The RFP process would be conducted consistent with NPS policy and regulations, and the criteria for review would be identified at that time.