



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Department of the Interior Region 10

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617

March 31, 2022

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning a planning process to address complex wildlife, resource, and wilderness management issues at Tomales Point within Point Reyes National Seashore. The planning area includes the 2,900-acre Tomales Point Tule Elk Reserve (Reserve). More than 85% of the Reserve is within the Phillip Burton Wilderness, with the remaining area also supporting public access and the historic Pierce Point Ranch buildings and interpretive exhibits. The impetus for this planning process are the impacts to the tule elk population and other resources within the Reserve arising from the historic drought conditions over the past eight years.

The NPS anticipates the planning process will culminate in a Tomales Point area plan and anticipates that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the plan will be an environmental impact statement. The NPS intends to include both programmatic and site-specific analysis, as appropriate, to inform wilderness and elk herd management decisions that can be implemented when the plan is final. The intent of the planning effort is to replace the 1998 Tule Elk Management Plan for Tomales Point and to address, where appropriate, any updates to the park's General Management Plan as it relates to the Tomales Point area.

To date, the NPS has identified a number of issues we intend to address as part of the planning effort, including:

- maintenance or removal of the tule elk fence;
- population management of the Tomales Point tule elk herd;
- supplemental water for the elk in times of need;
- wilderness management; and
- visitor use and infrastructure management at Pierce Point Ranch.

Before initiating a formal NEPA process, the NPS seeks your ideas on the scope of the plan, issues to be addressed, and data or other information to be considered. We will review every comment received, refine the extent of the planning effort based on public comments, and identify a preliminary range of alternatives for consideration. Once the NPS begins the NEPA process, there will be additional opportunities for public scoping, engagement, and comment.

Public Comment

The 30-day comment period will close on **Monday, May 2, 2022**.

The preferred method for submitting comments is online through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment site at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tpap>. Comments may also be submitted by mailing or hand delivering to:

Tomales Point Area Plan
c/o Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or any way other than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others are not accepted. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Project Timeline

The NPS has committed to a three-year timeline for this planning process, with this public engagement being the first step. The NPS aims to initiate a NEPA process by Spring 2023 and to complete the process by the end of 2024, consistent with applicable regulations.

Should you have questions regarding this announcement please contact the park Outreach Coordinator, Melanie Gunn, at 415-464-5131.

Sincerely,



Craig Kenkel
Superintendent