General Management Plan Update

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Muir Woods National Monument

March 2008

Purpose of Meeting / Next Steps

Purpose of Regional Office Presentation:

To obtain regional office support for testing the preliminary alternatives with the public through a newsletter, open house, and stakeholder meetings

Next Steps to a Preferred Alternative:

- ❑Newsletter production and distribution - April/May 2008
- ❑Public workshops and stakeholders meetings - June 2008
- ❑ Refine alternatives based on public comments - July 2008
- ❑ Choosing by Advantages workshop - August 2008
- ❑ Preferred alternative presentation to regional director - Sept 2008

Concept of Alternative 1 - Connecting People with the Parks

Reach out and engage the community and other potential visitors in the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of park resources and values

Visitor opportunities would be relevant to diverse populations

<u>Park management would focus on ways to</u>:

- attract and welcome people
- connect people with the resources
- promote understanding, enjoyment, preservation, and health

Concept of Alternative 2 - Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystem

Preserve and enhance a dynamic and interconnected coastal ecosystem

Recreational and educational opportunities would allow visitors to learn about and enjoy the coastal and marine environments

Visitors would gain a better understanding of the region's international significance and history (Biosphere Reserve)

Concept for Alternative 3 - Focusing on National Treasures

Focus on the parks' nationally important natural and cultural resources

Fundamental resources are managed at the highest level of preservation to protect their value in perpetuity and to promote appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment

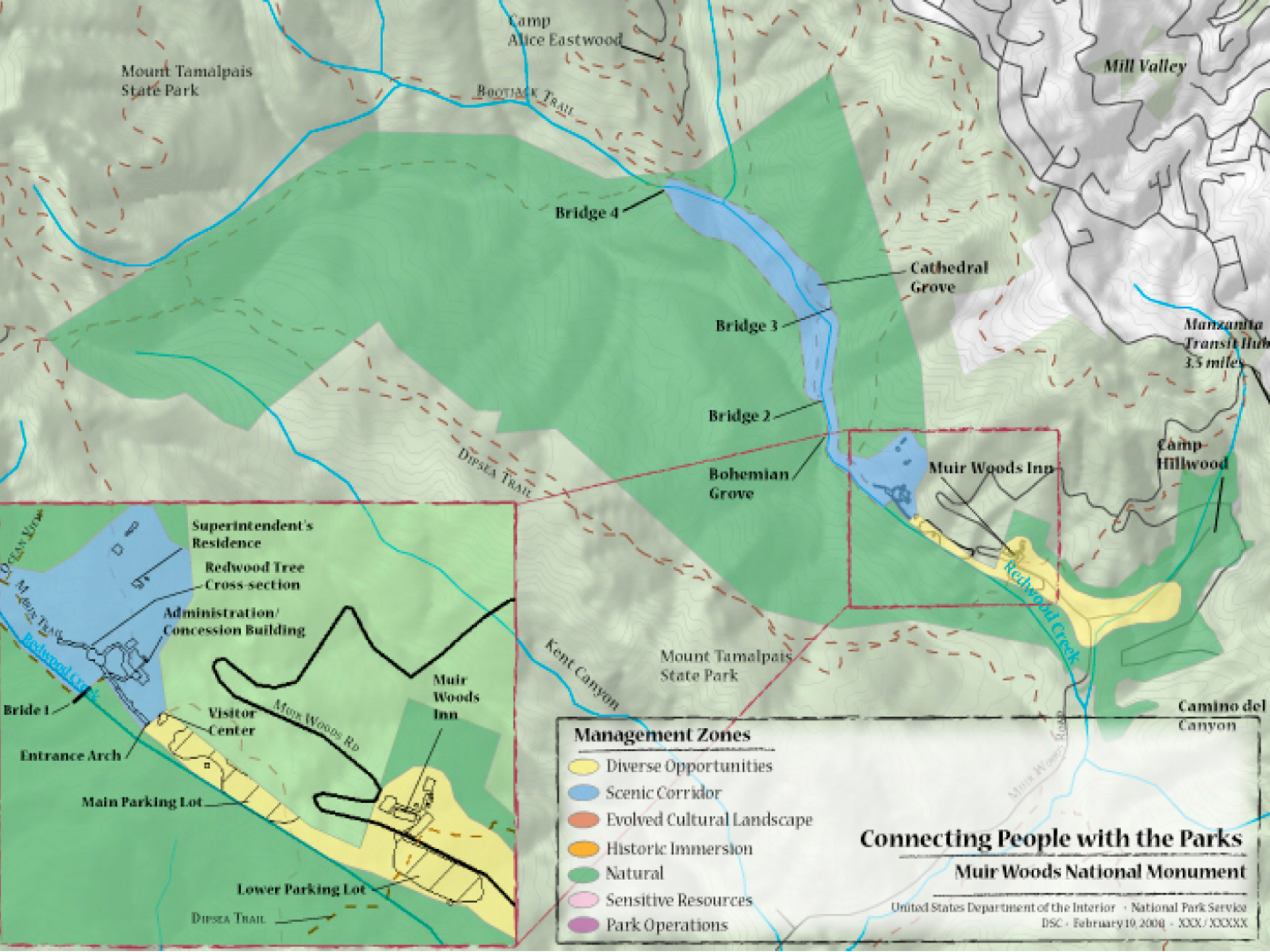
National Park Service would prominently support resource preservation and educational goals

Visitors would have the opportunity to explore the wide variety of experiences that are associated with national parks

Muir Woods National Monument – Alternative 1 Connecting People

Muir Woods is welcoming and accessible to a diversity of visitors – offering a variety of ways to enjoy and understand the old-growth redwood forest ecosystem and conservation story

1. Visitors have a National Park experience of an old-growth redwood forest ecosystem in a rustic setting with enhanced connectivity to adjacent public lands
2. Shuttle from off-site parking and transit/visitor info hub complements parking retained at site for off-peak and accessibility, parking nearest woods entrance removed. Visitor services provided outside of old-growth forest to support orientation, education, visitor comfort (picnicking, transit stop/concession services, potential overnight use in Camino del Canon).
3. Natural resource management strengthens the integrity of the old-growth redwood forest ecosystem, restores areas where development is removed and modifies retained development to reduce impacts.
4. Cultural resources support essential park operations and visitor opportunities
5. Non-essential operations relocated. Concession building transitions to educational/stewardship use.


Camp
Alice Eastwood
Mount Tamalpais
State Park
Bootjack Trail
Mill Valley
Bridge 4
Cathedral
Grove
Bridge 3
Manzanita
Transit Hub
3.5 miles
Bridge 2
Dipsea Trail
Bohemian
Grove
Muir Woods Inn
Camp
Hillwood
Redwood Creek
Superintendent's
Residence
Redwood Tree
Cross-section
Administration/
Concession Building
Ocean View
Muir Woods Trail
Redwood Creek
Bride 1
Visitor
Center
Entrance Arch
Muir Woods Rd
Muir
Woods
Inn
Main Parking Lot
Lower Parking Lot
Dipsea Trail
Kent Canyon
Mount Tamalpais
State Park
Camino del
Canyon
Muir Woods Road
Management Zones
Diverse Opportunities
Scenic Corridor
Evolved Cultural Landscape
Historic Immersion
Natural
Sensitive Resources
Park Operations
Connecting People with the Parks
Muir Woods National Monument
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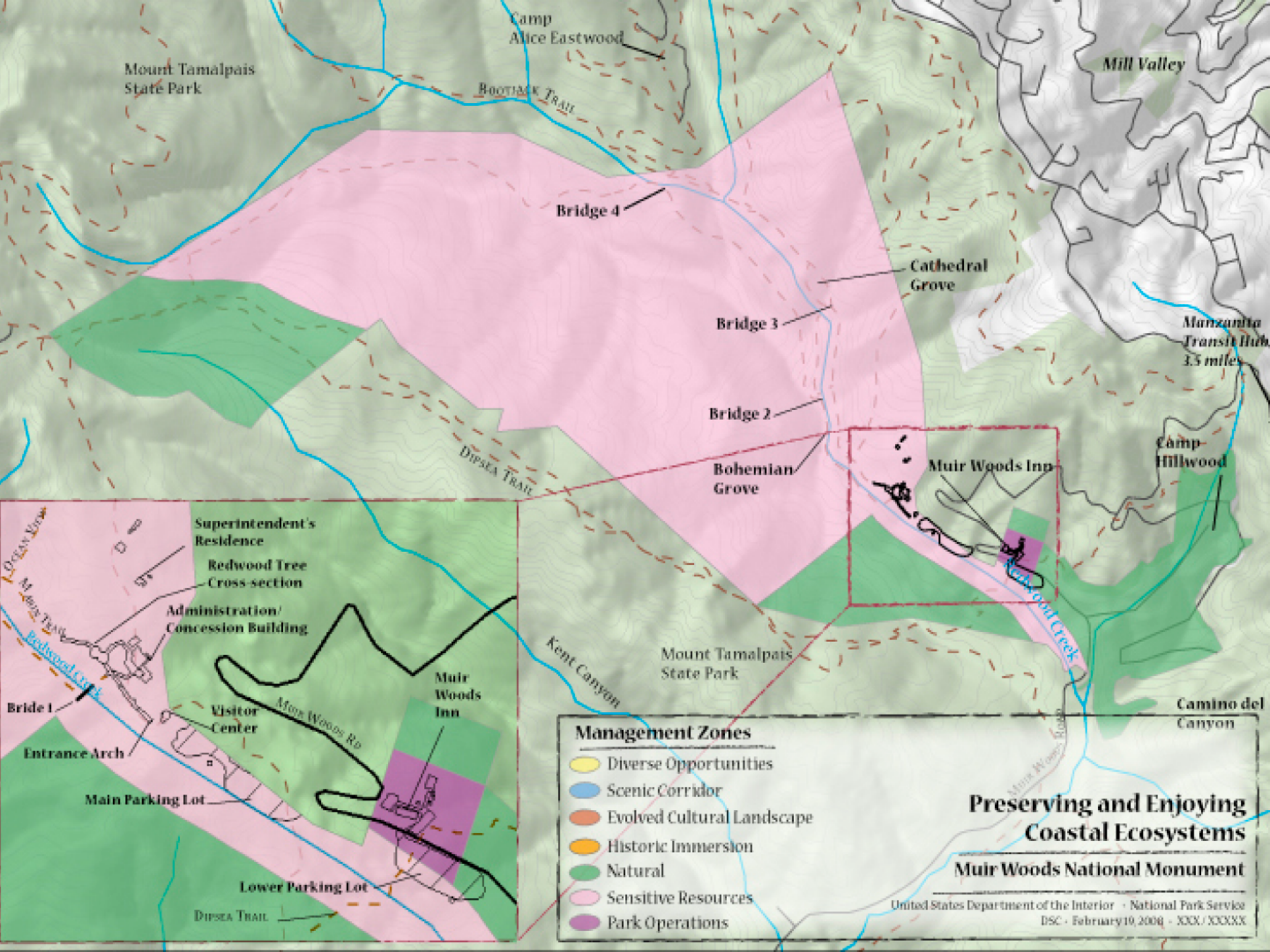
Muir Woods National Monument – Alternative 2 Coastal Ecosystem

Natural resources and processes restored to primeval forest conditions; visitors are immersed in natural, wild elements of a coastal redwood forest. To the greatest extent, natural processes would be left unimpeded. The story is about conservation.

1. Visitor experience focused on education and stewardship within primeval old-growth forest
2. Forests and Redwood Creek restored to natural conditions
3. Natural processes allowed; visitor opportunities adapt to dynamic environment
4. Cultural resources used for contemporary purposes; removed if conflict with natural resources goals
5. Majority of the built environment removed and restored to natural setting
6. Year-round shuttle alternative transportation only, all visitor parking removed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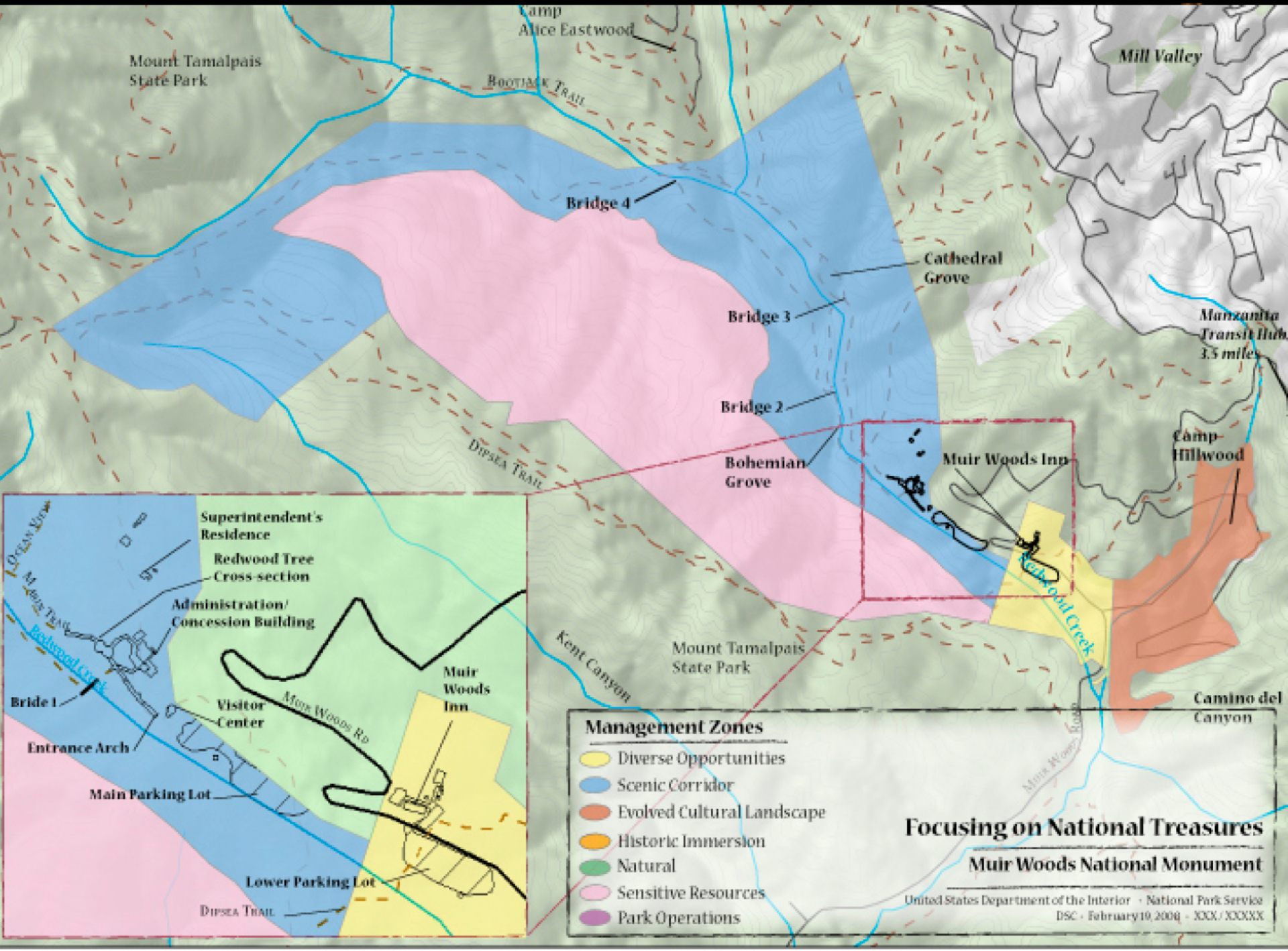
Muir Woods National Monument – Alternative 3 National Treasures

Managed as outdoor discovery museum, visitors provided opportunities to learn about and appreciate old-growth redwoods, Redwood Creek, and the monument's place in the 20th century U.S. conservation movement.

1. Visitor experience guided by various thematic trails exploring iconic features and stories
2. Natural resource management protects premier features of coastal redwood forest and creek
3. Preserves and uses cultural resources highlighting contributions to the conservation movement
4. Other visitor activities, services and park operations are outside of the old-growth forest footprint (picnicking, concession services)
5. Seasonal transit service - parking is removed near entrance to old-growth forest, the rest is retained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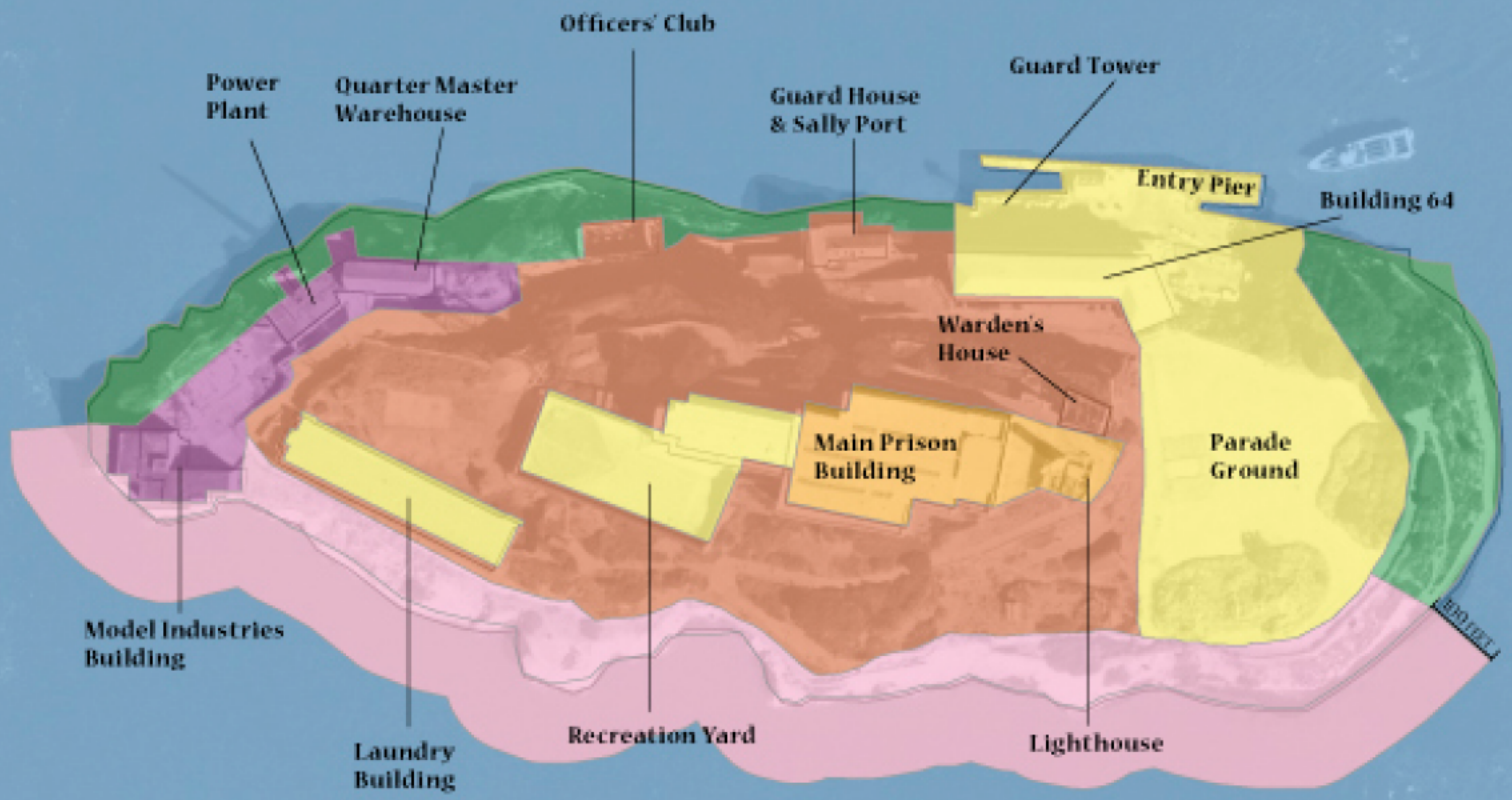
Alcatraz Island – Alternative 1 Connecting People

Managed to provide visitors with a variety of activities that connect them to the island's resources and its scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities in the heart of San Francisco Bay.

1. Visitors have access to majority of the island and its historic structures to experience the history, resources and setting. Indoor and outdoor spaces would be used to expand the range of activities available to visitors. Food service, meeting/program space and overnight accommodations (hotel, hostel/camping) would be provided.
2. Outside primary visitor use areas natural resources managed to preserve sensitive bird habitats. Gulls managed to reduce conflicts. Opportunities for wildlife viewing and stewardship provided; rubble piles removed
3. All historic structures are retained, most rehabilitated and used for visitor activities and park operations
4. Sustainable energy and infrastructure systems would be implemented & interpreted.



Management Zones

- Diverse Opportunities
- Scenic Corridor
- Evolved Cultural Landscape
- Historic Immersion
- Natural
- Sensitive Resources
- Park Operations

Alcatraz Island
Connecting People with the Parks

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

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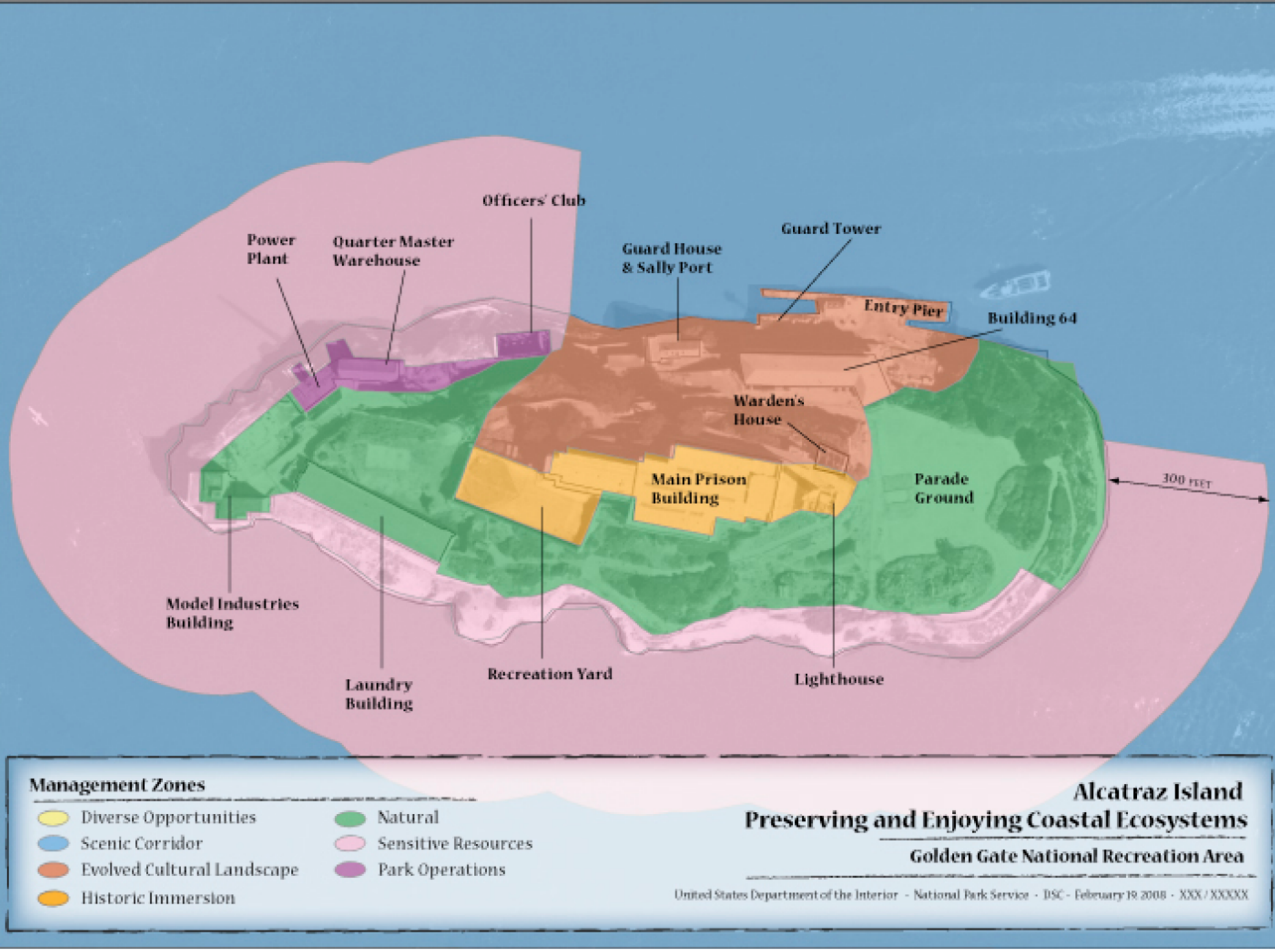
Alcatraz Island – Alternative 2 Coastal Ecosystem

Managed to connect visitors to the island's coastal and marine resources, San Francisco Bay and the Farallones Islands while interpreting the island's history.

1. Stories of human use on the Island told at the main prison building
2. Mostly managed for natural resources, controlled public access, activities focused on coastal and marine education and stewardship
3. Wildlife use of built environment at the model industries and laundry buildings
4. Other historic sites and structures stabilized to maintain NHL status and "historic silhouette" of the island
5. Overnight accommodations and food service support education, stewardship, and research


Officers' Club
Power Plant
Quarter Master Warehouse
Guard House & Sally Port
Guard Tower
Entry Pier
Building 64
Warden's House
Main Prison Building
Parade Ground
300 FEET
Model Industries Building
Laundry Building
Recreation Yard
Lighthouse
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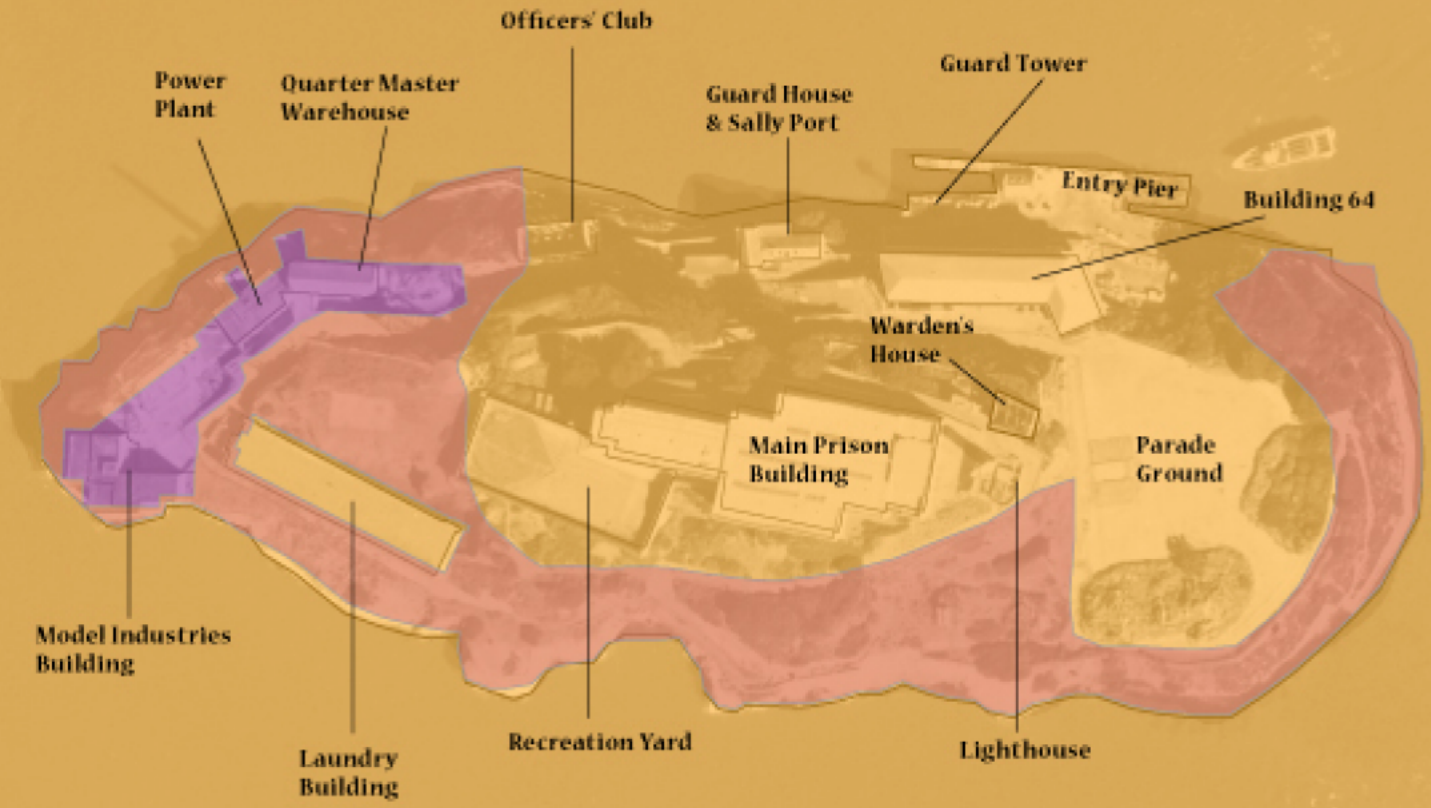
Alcatraz Island – Alternative 3 National Treasures

Managed to provide visitors opportunities to explore life during the federal penitentiary time period by walking in the footsteps of a prisoner or former resident.

1. Visitors learn about all periods of Alcatraz history; the immersion experience focuses on the federal penitentiary period
2. All historic sites and structures are retained, most are restored or rehabilitated to high level of integrity
3. Associated artifacts are brought back to the island for display and storage
4. Western sea gulls managed in primary visitor areas; habitat enhanced in natural zone, rubble is removed
5. Historic immersion includes passenger ferry departing from Pier 4 at Fort Mason



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Marin – Alternative 1 Connecting People

Connect people to the park, including those that haven't traditionally been visitors, by providing extensive scenic touring, recreation and educational opportunities in a diversity of park settings, as well as collaborating with local, state and regional land managers to improved trail connections and related information to connect neighbors to their park lands.

1. Access, services and diversity of programs provided at multiple portals to the park. In other settings, more rustic facilities are provided to support visitor access to the "wilderness next door"

2. Natural resources are managed to protect important resource values and ecological integrity while providing desired park settings for a variety of recreational activities

3. Cultural resources are preserved and interpreted and some are adaptively reused to support visitor education and provide visitor support services.

4. Improve south entrance to **Stinson Beach**

5. **Slide Ranch** could retain the environment education program and/or be managed to provide activities that support scenic touring e.g. picnicking, hiking and rustic overnight accommodations

6. **Golden Gate Dairy** is a visitor information and transit stop for orientation and services that support scenic touring

7. Entrance to **Tennessee Valley**, including **Miwok Stables** becomes a visitor portal that provides orientation and visitor services that support recreation and education in the region, including equestrian uses

8. Increased diversity of recreation, education and stewardship activities at **Fort Barry and Cronkhite and Rodeo Valley**

9. **Capehart housing** replaced with sustainable park operational center on the south side of Bunker Road

Map for alt 1 Marine

Marin – Alternative 2 Coastal Ecosystem

By working collaboratively, park sites in Marin County would be part of a vast regional network of protected and restored lands and waters that reach from the marine waters to the ridgetops of the Marin Headlands

1. Visitors explore and learn about coastal resources through an extensive network of trails, access to natural beaches, stewardship activities and educational programming

2. Natural resources are restored and enhanced removing impediments to a naturally functioning ecosystem and by managing in a holistic and seamless manner with surrounding land managers

3. Cultural resource management activities are focused on preserving resources that highlight the area's maritime history

4. Parking at **Stinson Beach** would be retained, but redesigned to protect Easkoot Creek. The south parking lot would be removed for wetland restoration.

5. **Slide Ranch** would be restored to allow for natural geologic processes to continue unimpeded - a trailhead with limited parking

6. Reuse the historic structures at **Golden Gate Dairy** for a science and stewardship center

7. Retain equestrian uses and facilities at **Tennessee Valley** and allow for modest improvements to support stewardship and restoration activities

8. Reuse of a building at **Fort Barry** and **Cronkhite** for a visitor center, while other structures are adaptively reused for other forms of park programming and operations

9. **Capehart housing** removed to allow for resource restoration and reconnection of fragmented habitats

Marin – Alternative 3 National Treasures