

Dear [focus group president/contact]

The National Park Service is beginning a new general management planning effort for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, including Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site, and I would like to invite you to participate in this important planning effort. General management plans (GMPs) are the planning documents for each unit of the National Park System that provide a decision-making framework for administering parks. These plans set forth the basic philosophy and management concepts for each park and establish guidelines for park operations for the next 15 to 20 years. The plans are combined with environmental impact statements that analyze the impacts of implementing alternative ideas for future park management.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a remarkable resource that is part of daily life in the San Francisco Bay area. The park contains superb examples of the region's natural resources and cultural landscapes, featuring important wildlife habitat, coastal environments, scenic views and historic resources. However, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is just one element in the region's complex and interrelated natural and cultural heritage. That is why this planning effort will rely heavily on extensive public involvement. Through one-on-one meetings, surveys, group presentations, focus groups, public open houses, websites, newsletters, and comment forms, we will keep the public informed on the GMP process and the associated schedule, as well as ask people to share their hopes, concerns, and vision for the park, its resources, and the experiences park visitors should expect and enjoy.

As part of this public involvement effort, we are convening focus groups to meet with the GMP team during the public scoping phase of the planning process. These focus groups will include representatives of organized environmental and historical groups, and diverse communities. Representatives will be asked to provide information about how the represented groups value the park and any thoughts their organization has on park management issues that may be considered during the general management planning process. Specifically, we would like the focus group to provide input on the following questions:

- Why is Golden Gate National Recreation Area an important resource in a regional context, and what attributes of the park do your group especially value?
- Does your group perceive any resource concerns with current park management?
- What are your group's thoughts on how the park can resolve these concerns, while achieving its park purpose?

We would like to have two representatives from each organized group participate in the focus group process. I invite you and one other member from your group who are well informed of your organizations' concerns and thoughts regarding management of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, including Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point Historic Site, to attend the meeting.

The focus group for X will be held on X from X am until X am. The location for the meeting will be:

XXXX

Directions:

XXXX

Please R.S.V.P. to X by X. Also, if you have any questions about the meetings, please contact X directly.

Thank you for your interest in Golden Gate National Recreation Area and your participation in the general management planning process.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Neil  
Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area