

GGNRA small group debrief

Need to take a closer look at the actions proposed for the preferred alternative in relation to cost for the August CBA refinement meeting. Since Factors 3-5 had the most amount of advantage for their factors, should not have many changes.

Factor 4 Suggested changes to create the preferred alternative

- Howard had a concern of being “over prescriptive” in some areas while other areas were more general or constructive. Andrea mentioned that more level of detail in some areas was in response to the level of detail in the CBA tables.
- “Link hostel with stewardship hub in San Mateo” and “warming huts to promote site stewardship”—idea is to promote stewardship at all locations—stewardship site at Monterra would create opportunity to contact many equestrians
- idea is to promote and provide opportunities for stewardship messages at all visitor contact locations throughout park
- add Sutro Heights park to Fort Mason (Brian O’Neill’s suggestion) to expand stewardship conservation program for the gardens—could also house volunteers serving Alcatraz since it would be close to where the Alcatraz ferry would be relocated
- Howard—Slide Ranch, use stronger language in Alt 1 to support activities, and look for opportunities to support a diversity of programs for children—Nancy perhaps push to whole new level to focus on children and nature in the park, a NPS program rather than just partners—Stephan said this topic needs focused conversation by a future small group—GMP should clearly state goals and leave it up to future managers on how this might be implemented—Craig suggested this would be a guiding principle (something that each park should be doing). Kathy said we should also be looking at older populations as well (especially with the large proportion of baby boomers.)

Factor 5

- Mike S.—alt 2 had underlying transportation options that could be included in the preferred alternative
 - Daphne—Alt 1 focused on dealing with congestion rather than year-round like alt 2
 - Nancy—suggested small group look at transportation options to further refine them
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Alcatraz 9:30am

The group worked on their factors from 9:30 to 11:30.

Working in small groups provide for a greater level of detail and thoughts than would come out in large group. Going through the process the groups have trusted the others

Note: No Action is considered continuation of existing management trends and conditions. It is NOT the implementation of all existing, unfunded and unimplemented, plans.

11:30 Group presentation on advantages

Alcatraz Factor 1

Alt 1 least advantageous really opens the island for more uses and food, special events that would conflict with resource integrity and thereby be less advantageous. Habitats are disrupted in critical areas such as the parade ground. Model industries are used for operations

Alt 3 much better than alt 1 because of the closure of 1000 of marine env would be beneficial to sea birds. The laundry building is located in critical area for sea birds. in Alt 3 it would house the conservation center, it would be quiet uses with no food. Food is an issue with managing sea birds and attracts rats. The ECL zone is not as intense management of gardens in that zone as compared to div oport and therefore use for natural env. Seasonal closures to protect habitats. (Special events in laundry buildings special events needs to be compatible with the activities of cultural resource conservation, add in the alternative) Model industries are used for operations

No action very much limited access in laundry building during breeding season, **get rest of mgmt closure from Dalpne.** Marine env is used by outreach. Neglected cultural landscape

Alt 2 substantially better More areas would be open to the public but on a seasonal basis. Maybe more seasonal closure than in NO Action. Food service, bldg 64 and intense activities. 300 feet closure of marine waters around the island while preventing impacts to the sea birds. Laundry building and model industries allowed to deteriorate to ruins (cultural landscape minimal or marginally maintained) to enhance wildlife habitats and the parade ground still have rubble pile and closed seasonally.

Alcatraz Factor 2 National historical landmark

No Action Island wide deterioration of historic structures and cultural landscapes except in a few areas where the gardens enhance. Most buildings are in poor conditions.

Alt3 Sub Better to island wide improvements, to elevate structures to good to excellent, missing features, fences gates guard tower would come back and enhance its integrity, immersion zone, character defining features be reintroduced. parade ground ____ treatment **BO wants stronger distinction of treatment of the structures** (cultural res staff help build a table for GMP to ID prescription off historic structures and landscapes. Iconic collection goes to the island. Rehab buildings, restoration pier 4

Alt 1., much better island wide improvement sot cultural landscapes and structures. Some compromise to character defining features. parade group rehab, restoration pier 4

Alt 2 slightly better

No ACTION not advantageous

Alcatraz Factor 3

Diversity and rec exp opportunities. How much diversity is appropriate and rec. Deemphasize recreation but it less of the primary purpose for visiting Alcatraz and more about the NP exp on Alcatraz. There is a lot you can do in teaching and learning about the resource by experience the resource. Provided an opportunity for visitor to be in the resource to experience it.

0524

0= rating

5= substantially

Read the attributes from the CBA table.

enhanced on-hand opportunities is in all three alt provide for stewardship activities. But alternative 1 has a broader thematic choice. water trail, having camping. broader range of thematic experiences.

Alcatraz Factor 4

discussion:

DH Alt 2: never considered the level of visitation would be less, more of the island would be open, even seasonal. It's the broadest of all the alternatives exploring the NP experience by adding natural and cultural resource stewardship. Improvement over No Action.

CK the new alternatives share NPS provide a greater care of the cultural and natural resources. Public will more visibly see the improvement and NPS stewardship of resources.

NO Action has the least advantageous

Alt 2 better depth of experience, restoration in the historic zones, visitors will have an opportunity to better understand the themes. better understanding of natural resources values as well as cultural resources. adaptive reuse of building 64 for stewardship overnight accommodation. Paramount is the NHL status has to be maintained. significance of the island in immersion zone.

Alt 1 very much better. more visitors have access to structures and improvement of those structures allows visitors to better understand the stories

Alt 3 Substantially better – it focuses visitors on why this is included in the National Park and National treasure. This gives a high values in taking away the message of why the island is set aside. It helps visitors to understand and explore the real thing. Communicating the values of preservation and within a setting of the actual resources. There was nothing in the alternative that restricts the visitor numbers.

Alcatraz Factor 5

These were different ideas of what the alternative should do even though we don't have them formalized in the alternatives. The group decided to add this embarkation - discussion conversation as enhancement getting to the island and getting on the island

Alt 2 restricted on site access on the island, and marine access is mostly restrict to one area.

No Action slightly better has more access to the marine environment.

Alt 1 Very much - Pier 4 (would be considered) and have multiple access points to Alcatraz, (multiple bay external bay access points e.g Berkeley to Alcatraz or San Fran to Alcatraz, **Concept is connecting more people to the island this needs to be added to the language of the alternatives.** allows for water trail

alt 3 Much more pier – Pier 4 (would happen) intention is special tours leave from pier #4

alt 1 more, alt 3 more same measure but different ways to achieve it. One of the alternatives need to have these multiple point.

Determine Importance

F2 Alt 3 Paramount Advantage 100

SH: Alt 3 has the magnitude of attribute.

F4 NH opport to tell local, national stories, MS value of enhance quality of VE goes with interp opportunitis and public understanding, DH fundamental resource and voice of public express interest in not overdev island, interpt hist and natural resource protection. DH: don't need to continue to diversity of exp at Alcatraz like we did for GOGA. we are undervaluing the historic immersion in support with 4. **support for 90**

SH F1 support the natural resource why? BA thinks f4 because F3 would give more credence to visitor opport, DH the magnitude of diff between 0 and substantially better is greatest magnitude and is one of the park's premier natural resources at Alcatraz issue is coastal eco systems of visitor exp, managers voted for **F3 at 80**

F1 75

F5 30, BA: these are not that substantial of a decision

F1: NA= 60, pretty broad spread across these advantages

F1: Alt 3= 40, had that much less

F2: alt 1= rehabs and restores features and greatest amt of integrity in alt 3, alt 1 improves conditions only **60pts**

F2: alt 2= parade ground bird habitat, **35** this alt defines what is min amount of built env that must be sustained, what is left we are committed to caring for it for the long term.

F3: alt 3= 70 they are so close to alt 1

F4: alt 80 the magnitude was close

F4: ALT 2 = 55

DEVELOPING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

(split back into factor groups to discuss ideas for developing a preferred)

Using Alternative 3 as a base, the following changes are made (goal is to maintain as much importance as possible while trying to reduce cost

- higher level of restoration of historic structures translates into higher maintenance costs
- Cathie Barner suggested looking at setting priorities for buildings rather than make decisions on their fate now—"You never know where you might be able to find money to do something with these buildings." Brian worried about letting go of buildings just because of cost. Craig mentioned that the loss to cultural resources is offset by the substantial gain in bird habitat.
- need to check with Don on building use proposals
- Daphne-may not have used building 64 to fullest extent—might want to rethink using building 64 for overnight use so can get some of the character of what it was like to be on the island
- Multiple points for embarkation is a scheduling decision need to work with the harbormaster and the concessionaire—if really trying to have the ferry trip as an integral part of the immersion experience, it

would be difficult to manage from multiple locations. Craig—would be a difficult visitor experience if you paid to go out on a prison ferry and got to the same location as people that rode on very comfortable, modern ferrys. Brian A- need to coordinate very closely with the folks that may have other plans for Pier 4. Nancy-need to do a more detailed feasibility analysis. Yvette-to come from different places is a very bad idea. Mike Savage—may not need to tie to pier 4, but could look at other locations to recreate feeling at whatever portal seems most appropriate. This is a bigger discussion that needs.

- Cathie Barner—building 64 would work well as an events venue due to layout
- Steve—immersion is not an all or nothing proposition, don't have to restore every room, but instead select ones to save on operation costs
- Brian O—assume laundry building is important historic structure (Craig agreed) that is why Brian is surprised to see the proposal of the laundry building being managed as a ruin
- Craig—“it was Nancy's idea”, paramount advantage would go down because making decision to lose integrity on two historic structures, may be offset by increase in natural resource conditions
- Nancy—perhaps a more in-depth analysis on how these buildings could accommodate compatible uses that could perhaps pay for their upkeep—look at balance of preservation and public use
- Mike—questions cost factors between alt 3 and 4—need to consider potential revenue to offset capital and maintenance costs
- Daphne—wants to know if Alt 3 would be supported by public comment—would they think there is enough protection of resources??
- Craig—education and historic immersion visitor experience should drive decisions on building treatment (model industry building and laundry building have much less importance than other buildings—would rather also restore the gardens). If reuse buildings, then lose some advantage for natural resources. High value comes from experiencing extensive collection on the island. Could happen in building 64.
- Question is: do we rezone it for natural resources (ruin) or zone it for diverse visitor opportunities as outlined in Alt 3 newsletter description (multi purpose, special events linked to the concept and compatible with other activities on the island (mission compatible, etc.)
- Howard—would be appropriate to have a broad range of activities that don't necessarily have to be mission compatible
- Brian O—building is huge and could accommodate a large number of meeting rooms and spaces. Do we really want to use an existing historic building in the park that has huge capacity as meeting facility in the park? Would require special boat service to deliver participants to facility.
- Brian A—looking at zone placement and description.
- Sharon—feels that “event” is so broad, would rather see something more closely tied to education/conservation mission
- Cathie—Fort Baker has very clear criteria on environmental/education event criteria—would suggest developing criteria for Alcatraz
- Howard—recommends an institute screening device—sees potential for national meetings on incarceration, etc.
- Nancy—would not like to see all events having to be tied to mission, might need to be flexible to ensure financial viability
- Brian O—encourages flexibility on events to make it financially feasibility
- Craig—will not compromise the paramount advantage—will not save money, but may generate income
- DECISION—laundry building would be retained and tied to historic landscape and used to mission related functions, remove the model industries building allowing critical habitat restoration in that portion of island (explore other buildings that could be used to support maintenance needs—need to work with Don to make sure maintenance needs are met)
- Daphne—if continue use of laundry building, do you really gain much natural resource benefit by just removing model industries building
- Steve—under the foundation of the model industries building there are several key civil war fortifications

- Brian O—at what point do we have a capacity for bird nesting—if we improve the bird nesting substantially, can we really support hundreds of additional birds? linkages between density and numbers, may need to more aggressively manage the western gulls so other birds can remain viable
- Sharon—need to do a population viability model on habitat and number of birds, also need to explore what is happening on a regional basis—need to do a very methodical manner
- Daphne—need to look at species and sensitivity to disturbance
- Steve—concerned that visitors will lose sense of the work prisoners did during their time on the island and the importance to their mental well-being—if lose building, then need alternative media to ensure this story is communicated
- Craig—one floor of laundry building set aside for museum and artifact conservation and gardens and the other floor used for events. Had a conversation with Gerard Baker to talk about Native American interest in Alcatraz. Referenced American Indian seminar held at MORU to talk about desecration of sacred area. Might want to bring Gerard out to talk to the team.

CLOSEOUT

Post CBA

- review final public comment analysis with CBA decisions—Aug 1 last day for comments, will finish compiling and put on ftp site
 - focus review of costs associated with each alternative
 - prepare for regional director discussion/presentation of preferred alternative—will lock down the preferred alternative this fall
 - public comments—proposed actions/ideas analyzed and grouped—divide between gmp or implementation plans, and operations
1. Slide Ranch—Stronger supportive language in alternative 1
 2. Change marine zones from natural to Scenic Corridor in Marin except for sensitive zone
 3. Reconnect (all ages, seniors) children with nature—should be guiding principle (people with nature)
 4. review transportation wording for alternative 1
 5. determine how internal stakeholders are informed of the process and decisions of the CBA
 6. determine how external stakeholders will be informed of the CBA decisions/process
 7. Alt 1 LRC—feasibility Regarding 7F water rights determine for usage greater otherwise take Alt 2 Actions
 8. Alcatraz-feasibility—decrease the number of contributing structures to the national historic landmark
 - Is it feasible to manage birds (political, public, regulatory) issues to block Alt 1 & 3 proposed actions.
 9. Laundry building--1st floor museum and conservation center, 2nd floor events, also evolved cultural landscape (EVL) and model industries building for maintenance
 10. Are there additional ways to enhance natural resources on Alcatraz?
 11. Operational facilities
 12. Need to think about sensitive zone on Alcatraz tied to marine preserve.—define historic immersion zone and define what we would and wouldn't allow in the water
 13. guiding principle—all buildings would include sustainability principles—amount of interpretation on sustainability would change by alternative and the intent of the alternative

Brian O'Neill-feel very blessed to have the team we have