

No Action Alternative	Alternative 1. Connecting People – MUWO	Alternative 2. Coastal Ecosystem – MUWO	Alternative 3. National Treasures – MUWO
<p>Vision</p> <p>Muir Woods National Monument protects a primeval redwood forest located near the urban centers of the San Francisco Bay region. The national monument protects a portion of the larger Redwood Creek watershed that ranges from Mount Tamalpais State Park to the Pacific Coast at Muir Beach.</p> <p>Muir Woods National Monument is a national and international attraction and it is the first park unit within the national park system that many people visit and are exposed to. Visitor access to the national monument is along winding narrow two-lane roads. Parking at or near the national monument is often in limited supply. To accommodate the pulse of moderate to high visitation that the monument receives during peak seasons, the national monument has a series of boardwalks, footbridges, fence-lined and hardened trails, and visitor service facilities, including food concessions and a bookstore. All of these facilities are located within the footprint of the redwood forest, and many of them are also located within the floodplain of Redwood Creek. Scheduled, ranger-led interpretive activities are not available to all park visitors due to time and resource constraints, but are supplemented by interpretive waysides and self-guiding brochures. Visitors wanting to enjoy less crowded conditions have the opportunity to hike in adjacent Mount Tamalpais State Park, where the trails rise above the redwood forest into the open coastal mountain landscape.</p> <p>The condition of the monument’s natural resources has been affected by past land use practices. In the 1940s, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) used rock to stabilize and contain Redwood Creek in order to minimize the natural meandering of the stream within the floodplain of the redwood forest. Natural fires have been suppressed and controlled throughout the 20th century. Restoring these natural disturbance processes is an important part of the monument’s long-term resource management program.</p> <p>Needs to be more of a statement of the vision – rather than being a listing of things</p>	<p>Vision</p> <p><u>Look at previous descriptions of the “vision” of the alternative.</u></p> <p><u>Continues to provide an old-growth redwood forest experience in a rustic setting with a high level of visitor support, with facilities in locations that are protective of the environment.</u></p> <p><u>Missing overall discussion on the resource conditions and visitor experiences</u></p> <p><u>More active outreach to the public, range of experiences for diverse communities, and support facilities/services</u></p> <p><u>Each vision should highlight experience, setting, use levels, support facilities/services</u></p> <p><u>Coordinated transportation opportunities with associated orientation and education information</u></p> <p><u>Transportation hub that supports access.</u></p> <p><u>Mixes redwood creek watershed vision with muir woods – should really focus on muir woods. What are we interpreting, what do people have access to, how are we protecting resources, how you get there - not necessarily more people. Still want to preserve muir woods for contemplative experiences.</u></p> <p><u>Need to include partnership and facility description - including those outside the woods.</u></p> <p><u>New inducements that encourage other people to come. Accommodate the realities of different cultures experiencing place in different ways.</u></p> <p><u>Experience in the woods itself is different than the package of support facilities/services that are needed.</u></p> <p><u>The park would focus resources on public outreach to bring people to the park for a variety of programming and opportunities...</u></p> <p><u>Visitor experiences and visitor facilities begin outside the woods.</u></p>	<p>Vision</p> <p>Muir Woods National Monument would be restored to its primeval forest condition where visitors could immerse themselves in the natural, wild elements of a coastal redwoods forest. The message of conservation would be paramount. The fog-shrouded, old growth forest would be nurtured by unimpeded natural processes including natural flooding, decay of fallen trees, canopy layering, fire, etc. Floodplain function and stream processes would be restored to improve conditions for coho salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic life in Redwood Creek. Natural quiet and natural light and darkness would be maintained to sustain spotted owls, rare bats, and other inhabitants of this old growth forest.</p> <p><u>Visitor experience is intimate between individuals and the woods – solitude, contemplation with nature – need to focus on the experience rather than the means to the end. Need to not forget about accessibility.</u></p> <p><u>Science wasn’t captured – need to include that “science would happen here”</u></p> <p>Visitor use levels, activities, and access would be managed to accommodate the restoration of a naturally functioning ecosystem. <u>Need to discuss the active management of visitors to accommodate desired conditions. Help with dispersing displaced visitors to other redwood opportunities.</u> Historic trails and Civilian Conservation Corp-era structures would be put to contemporary uses or preserved where <u>appropriate they support natural resource goals. Seasonal viewing areas for salmon would be established while impacts to the stream and forest environment would be minimized.</u> <u>Fallen trees would be left intact and trails relocated over or around the fallen giants.</u> Some trails might be available only on a seasonal basis.</p> <p><u>Visitors would arrive on foot, bicycle, or via park shuttle buses. No tour buses would be accommodated.</u> in order to enhance the intimate feeling and solitude evoked by a quiet primeval forest. Only basic visitor amenities would be provide—restrooms, shelter, and water—and those would be located outside of the redwood forest. <u>Need to mention that some existing visitor facilities would be removed.</u></p>	<p>Vision</p> <p>Muir Woods National Monument focuses visitor education and opportunities on understanding and appreciating the national treasure that is the Coastal Redwoods Forest and the conservation story that is represented by this monument. The monument preserves and interprets the large redwood trees, Redwood Creek and Mt. Tamalpais, and tells the story of the monument’s significant role in the U.S. conservation movement. The most important resources would be showcased for a large number of visitors to see, touch, and learn about. The visitor experience would be facilitated by <u>thematic trails, like and an outdoor history and natural science museum-like galleries, “woods as classroom” – outdoor discovery school-</u> that showcase the premier features of the forest and the stories associated with historic and modern day conservation ideals. Each trail unveils a different story and experience. The monument would also be a place of inspiration. There would be a dominant NPS ranger presence throughout the woods to facilitate educational and interpretive opportunities that help visitors understand and appreciate the monument as a national treasure and a symbol of America’s conservation movement.</p> <p><u>Need to describe visitor use intensities</u></p> <p>Visitors would travel to Muir Woods National Monument via a slow-paced and scenic route, so they could enjoy their approach to this national treasure and would not be distracted by heavy congestion or infrastructure. Visitors could access the park via multiple modes including public transportation options. The National Park Service would work with California state parks to create visitor access opportunities.</p> <p>After arriving at the monument, visitors would find a range of learning opportunities from formal educational programs, to sensory-based learning, to self-discovery. Visitors would be encouraged to visit sites such as the cluster of historic Civilian Conservation Corp-era buildings near the superintendent’s residence where they could learn about the role of the monument and associated figures such as John Muir, William Kent, and Gifford Pinchot in early conservation history. Visitor use would be controlled and managed to protect the iconic features of the national monument.</p> <p>Resource management would focus on managing and</p>

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Comment [C2]: Decommmercializing the experience

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	<p>Muir Woods National Monument would contribute to a coordinated regional strategy of providing a variety of recreational, interpretive and stewardship opportunities throughout the Redwood Creek watershed. The visitor opportunities available in Muir Woods National Monument would be unique to that area and would complement those available within the region. Current visitor opportunities such as communing with nature, bird watching, and trail running would remain, and new opportunities and visitor services would be provided. Visitors would be able to rent recreational equipment, visit a warming hut, and stay overnight in the monument's rustic hostel at Camp Hillwood or camp overnight at the neighboring Camp Alice Eastwood.</p> <p>Visitor portals near to the park located in selected gateway communities would provide visitor orientation to a variety of outdoor opportunities that are available at Mount Tamalpais State Park, Muir Woods National Monument, and Golden Gate National Recreational Area. Through the regional coordination of outdoor recreation and interpretive opportunities, visitors would have a seamless range of activities that they could enjoy among the unique natural and cultural resources of the Redwood Creek watershed.</p> <p>In order to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources of the Redwood Creek watershed, the National Park Service would coordinate with other public land managers to meet shared resource goals.</p>	<p><u>Visitor experience starts at the entrance/transportation portal(s) in a nearby community.</u></p> <p>Visitor programs would explore the interrelationships of a functioning ecosystem, as well as the unpredictable changes that will result from human-induced influences; changes that will likely challenge the forest's—and our own—abilities to adapt. National Park Service work in restoration, resource stewardship, and climate change research also would be integrated into visitor programming. The visitor experience would serve as an active agent of change, inspiring visitors to help preserve the places they cherish and to become more civically engaged.</p>	<p>protecting the premier features of the coastal redwood forest. Cultural resources that support the stories associated with the monument's conservation history also would be protected. Some minimal treatment of resources may occur to highlight their interpretive value. Facilities may be redesigned or removed to improve resource conditions and to maintain a healthy, naturally functioning forest ecosystem. Any new facilities would be sustainable and light on the land.</p>
<p>The 1980 general management plan had zoned the entirety of Muir Woods National Monument as <i>Special Protection Zone – National Monument Subzone</i> in recognition of its special status as a national monument, the sole purpose of which is to protect a stand of virgin coast redwoods for public enjoyment of their scientific, scenic, and educational values.</p> <p>Entrance Area</p> <p>The Entrance Area to the national monument includes an upper and lower parking lot, small visitor information station with book store, fee collection booth, and restrooms. This area is a hub of activity and can become congested with the mix of pedestrians, automobiles, and buses. The current layout is inconvenient to visitors and the unsightly</p>	<p>Entrance Area</p> <p>The main Entrance Area to the national monument is zoned <i>diverse opportunities for visitors</i> in order to provide monument visitors with access to a variety of recreational, interpretive, and stewardship opportunities. Located within this zone would be the facilities and services that would support these opportunities and allow visitors to enjoy Muir Woods National Monument and adjacent park lands.</p> <p>Most visitors to the national monument would be introduced to the regional recreational opportunities at one of the information portals and shuttle bus access areas located within the selected gateway communities. These portals would help manage congestion and would provide information for visitors to plan their park activities.</p> <p>Upon arriving at Muir Woods National Monument by</p>	<p>Entrance Area</p> <p>The main entrance area, including the existing upper parking lot and visitor center, is zoned <i>sensitive resources</i> to restore natural conditions, including allowing natural flooding to occur. Redwood forest and riparian habitat would be expanded onto the re-established floodplain. <u>Facilities would be removed.</u></p> <p><u>Muir Woods Inn and lower parking lot should be on the inset map.</u></p> <p><u>Realignment of entrance would be required to accommodate shuttle access.</u></p> <p><u>Upper part of the lower parking lot retained to be transit stop location.</u></p>	<p>Entrance Area</p> <p>At the Entrance, the area surrounding the existing lower parking lot and old Muir Woods Inn is zoned <i>diverse opportunities for visitors</i> to provide an entrance of the monument that orients visitors to the opportunities and interpretive themes found in the outdoor conservation science museum. This zone would have visitor support facilities that would include use of the old Muir Woods Inn.</p> <p>The upper parking lot and Administration-Concession Building, is zoned <i>scenic corridor</i> to promote and emphasize visitors' experience and interaction with the premier features in the park—the creek and the trees. Large groups of visitors would be able to gather in a location such as the upper parking lot or the footprint of the current Administration-Concession Building for official park</p>

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Comment [C3]: This is based on existing "entrance" but the actual new "entrance" may change. Should probably include Muir Woods Inn in this discussion.

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<p>congestion has plagued the entrance to the monument during heavy use periods. Much of the parking and paved entrance areas are located within the footprint of the redwood forest and the floodplain of Redwood Creek.</p>	<p>alternative transportation, the visitor would be greeted by the rustic outdoor setting and indoor spaces that would include a transportation waiting area and associated facilities and services. Within the <i>diverse opportunities for visitors zone</i>, these facilities and the NPS presence would support visitor orientation, education, picnicking, and other appropriate outdoor and interpretive activities.</p> <p>The existing parking area <u>closest to the woods (the upper lot)</u> would be removed and the site would be rehabilitated to a natural setting that would support the preservation of the mature redwood forest and Redwood Creek. A small, designated parking lot would be managed (e.g. reservation system) for limited access and special events.</p> <p><u>Redesigned entrance area would accommodate transit hub and visitor support facilities.</u></p> <p><u>There are certain things in common in all alternatives – the upper parking lot is removed for parking use in all alternatives.</u></p>		<p>programs or other events that support the monument’s purpose. The Superintendent’s residence and Administration-Concession Building would be used to provide visitor support services.</p>
<p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek</p> <p>Just beyond the entrance station to Muir Woods National Monument are the mature Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek. Upon entering the forest, the visitor is provided with access to a small ranger station, a food and retail concession service area, and restrooms. At this location visitors begin their stroll through the mature redwood forest along the main boardwalk and paved trails. Footbridges over Redwood Creek provide numerous loop trail opportunities in close proximity to the creek. Along these developed trails the visitor can enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the creek and the large redwood trees. Most visitors experience Muir Woods National Monument using self-guiding brochures and interpretive waysides and memorials. A few areas along the main trail system provide opportunities for large group gatherings for scheduled interpretive programs. Trails such as the Ben Johnson, Fern Creek, and Dipsea trails provide visitors with extended hiking opportunities that offer access above the redwood-filled valley into the open and forested coastal ridges of Mount Tamalpais State Park. These trails have lower levels of visitor use and connect to an extensive network of trails and to camping opportunities such as those at Camp Alice Eastwood.</p>	<p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek</p> <p>The Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek is zoned <i>scenic corridor</i>. This zone begins at the historic wooden arch <u>ask Steve Haller what this is called</u> and includes the existing main loop trail system along Redwood Creek. This <i>scenic corridor zone</i> would be managed to provide a “national park experience” within the primeval redwood forest setting. Here the visitor would have a sense of immersion in nature (sights, sounds, smells of the big trees/creek) where quiet would be encouraged. Universal access would ensure that most visitors could experience this sense of immersion. Cathedral Grove would be included in this zone and would be managed to preserve the forest ecosystem while providing visitors with an opportunity to understand the monument’s important role in conservation history. <u>Include area up to the Hillside Trail in the scenic corridor zone</u></p> <p>The Superintendent’s residence (actually for administrative purposes) and Administration-Concession Building are included in the <i>scenic corridor zone</i>; their current uses would be converted to uses that support visitor programming, environmental education, and stewardship activities. <u>The building may be rehabilitated or replaced.</u> All other nonhistoric or <u>non-essential operational structures built structures that are not essential</u></p>	<p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek</p> <p>The majority of the monument, including Redwood Creek and the surrounding redwood forest, is zoned <i>sensitive resources</i> to achieve the highest level of natural resource integrity. Bohemian Grove, Cathedral Grove, and the Dipsea Trail are all located within this zone. Natural conditions would be restored and allowed to continue unimpeded. The main trail along the creek would be relocated out of the floodplain, and other trails and bridges may be removed, relocated, or redesigned to allow and promote natural processes. Redwood forest and riparian habitat would be expanded onto the re-established floodplain. The trail system would be redesigned to accommodate fewer visitors in a more intimate and appropriate setting. Paved surfaces would be removed, although the relocated main trail would provide universal access to the heart of the woods. The monument’s trail system would be designed to connect to other trails that would allow it to extend from the redwood forest to the ocean, highlighting the connection between the uplands and the ocean and the role that watershed restoration plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems. <u>All facilities and major infrastructure would be removed within the monument boundaries, including the Superintendent’s residence and Administration-Concession Building.</u></p>	<p>Redwood Forest and Redwood Creek</p> <p>A large corridor along and around Redwood Creek and up the northern slopes of the monument is zoned <i>scenic corridor</i> to promote and emphasize visitors’ experience and interaction with the creek and the trees. This zone includes Bohemian Grove and Cathedral Grove. The many trails in this area, including the Ben Johnson Trail and Dipsea Trail, would contain various nodes with interpretive opportunities and natural features to explore. <u>work with state parks to expand idea outside the monument boundaries– Loop trail opportunities.</u></p> <p>The core of the Redwood Forest <u>The majority of the monument</u> is zoned <i>sensitive resources</i> to preserve the trees and natural sounds that provide a backdrop to the adjacent <i>scenic corridor</i>. Visitor access to this zone would be controlled and limited to keep the area pristine <u>and protect the visual and sound resources.</u></p> <p><u>A lot of text in the vision of Alternative 3 would be more appropriate here.</u></p>

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Comment [C4]: Move to redwood forest row

Comment [C7]: Explain why this zone extends so far into the monument...

Comment [C6]: Will be considered upon further consultation with the SHPO and interested stakeholders

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<p>Throughout the life of the national monument, the National Park Service has increased its understanding of the health of a redwood forest. Past practices of allowing visitors to picnic and camp within the mature redwood forest introduced nonnative plants, birds, and animals. Natural fires have been suppressed throughout most of the 20th century and are now slowly being reintroduced to the valley as a tool to enhance the health of the redwood forest. In the 1940s, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) lined portions of Redwood Creek with rocks as a means to stabilize and contain the flow of Redwood Creek to within the existing channel. These actions protected a selected grove of redwoods located near the creek but eliminated the natural meandering of the stream within the floodplain and its role in sustaining a healthy redwood forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>to visitor opportunities would be removed.</p> <p>The majority of the national monument that is within the mature redwood forest footprint is zoned <i>natural</i> in order to preserve the natural systems and contribute to the primeval forest setting.</p> <p>Certain areas within the <i>natural</i> zone would provide opportunities for self-discovery and challenge in a more dispersed and wild park setting.</p> <p><u>To provide a continuum and diversity of park experiences, visitors will be introduced to ways of accessing the landscapes and recreational opportunities.</u>From Muir Woods National Monument, visitors could access many of the diverse landscapes and recreational opportunities of Mount Tamalpais State Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Ben Johnson, Fern Creek, and Dipsea trails provide access to a variety of day-long and overnight outdoor recreational opportunities.</p> <p><u>Restroom and water at the Alice Eastwood end of the scenic corridor zone to protect resources and provide visitor convenience.</u></p> <p><u>Operations piece of maintaining the woods?</u></p>	<p><u>Changing zoning on Dipsea trail and to area to the western boundary from sensitive to natural</u></p> <p><u>Add a note that we will look to reroute the Dipsea trail to find a more appropriate location for the Redwood Creek crossing</u></p>	
<p>Additional tracts of land have been acquired to support the administrative functions and visitor opportunities at Muir Woods National Monument. Facilities within the Camp Monte Vista tract (the Old Muir Woods Inn, Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue, and Camino del Canyon) allowed the National Park Service to move some of its operational and administrative functions to an area that is outside the mature redwood forest and away from sensitive resources. The future uses and desired resource conditions of these facilities will be explored in this general management plan.</p> <p>What should we say about special events at MUWO?</p>	<p>Additional tracts of land have been acquired to support the administrative functions and visitor opportunities at Muir Woods National Monument. Facilities within the Camp Monte Vista tract (the Old Muir Woods Inn, Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue, and Camino del Canyon) allowed the National Park Service to move some of its operational and administrative functions to an area that is outside the mature redwood forest and away from sensitive resources. The future uses and desired resource conditions of these facilities will be explored in this general management plan.</p> <p>The <i>diverse opportunities for visitors</i> zone includes the old Muir Woods Inn and portions of Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue and Camino del Canyon. All existing operational functions located at Conlon Avenue would be relocated or adapted to provide an attractive entrance path/road to Camp Hillwood. The camp, and its immediate surroundings, would be adaptively used for programmatic day use or overnight opportunities. The important values of the camp, such as the historic structure and its setting, would be preserved while adapting the facilities to contemporary uses.</p> <p>Areas outside the built environment are zoned <i>natural</i> to preserve the wild forest setting. Restoration of the surrounding natural resources and streams will be required.</p> <p><u>In all alternatives we will remove the housing and associated access</u></p>	<p>Additional tracts of land have been acquired to support the administrative functions and visitor opportunities at Muir Woods National Monument. Facilities within the Camp Monte Vista tract (the Old Muir Woods Inn, Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue, and Camino del Canyon) allowed the National Park Service to move some of its operational and administrative functions to an area that is outside the mature redwood forest and away from sensitive resources. The future uses and desired resource conditions of these facilities will be explored in this general management plan.</p> <p><u>Remove everything... look at old notes</u></p> <p>The majority of this area is zoned <i>natural</i> to preserve its wild character and the resources that contribute to creating a contiguous corridor of sensitive habitat. All facilities and major infrastructure would be removed within the monument boundaries, including Camino del Canyon, Conlon Avenue, and the native plant nursery. Water and sewer systems would remain, as well as essential small office or shop space <u>in the vicinity of the at the Muir Woods Inn</u> location. The current <i>park operations</i> area, located north of Panoramic Highway in the vicinity of the old Muir Woods Inn, would be retained. All other operational facilities throughout the park would be removed.</p> <p><u>Daphne to rewrite</u></p>	<p>Additional tracts of land have been acquired to support the administrative functions and visitor opportunities at Muir Woods National Monument. Facilities within the Camp Monte Vista tract (the Old Muir Woods Inn, Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue, and Camino del Canyon) allowed the National Park Service to move some of its operational and administrative functions to an area that is outside the mature redwood forest and away from sensitive resources. The future uses and desired resource conditions of these facilities will be explored in this general management plan.</p> <p>This area, which includes Camp Hillwood, Conlon Avenue, and Camino del Canyon, is zoned <i>evolved cultural landscape</i>. This area would be used for daytime educational activities and might also provide overnight accommodations for small groups. This area also could include an appropriate level of NPS operational support facilities. The character of development in this area would be rustic architecture.</p>

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Comment [C5]: This needs to be addressed in all the alternatives – a joint maintenance facility in Kent Canyon.

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	<p><u>In all alternatives – look at co-locating operational facilities and other things with state parks and others – least impactful area that works operationally – may still need to keep some close to the people</u></p>		

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