

Consultation, Coordination, and Preparation



back of divider

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The *Golden Gate National Recreation Area / Muir Woods National Monument General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* represents contributions from hundreds of members of the public; park partners; a variety of local, regional, and national agencies and organizations; and the staff of the National Park Service—all of whom are interested in a the vision that will successfully guide the park and monument over the next 25 years. The legal requirement (Notice of Intent) of notifying the public that the National Park Service is preparing a draft environmental impact statement for a general management plan was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 60, March 29, 2006.

Throughout the planning process, the planning team used a variety of methods to regularly communicate with the public stakeholders who were interested in the development of the general management plan. The foundation of communications was the preparation and distribution of newsletters and postcard updates. Five newsletters were produced and distributed before the publication of this draft plan. Each newsletter was mailed to more than 4,000 names listed on the park's mailing address. Newsletters #2 through #5 were translated into Chinese and Spanish. In addition to mailings, thousands of newsletters were distributed at key park sites, especially those sites that hosted national and international visitors. Each newsletter and announcement was also posted at the park planning website and sent by e-mail to public and organizations listed in the park's e-mail distribution list.

Four times a year, the park managers hosted an evening for questions and answers associated with park planning and management activities. These quarterly meetings were hosted throughout Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. At festivals throughout these counties, the park staff would host planning tents as another tool to communicate with the public and to invite them into the planning process. In addition, members of the planning team would meet with individual organizations and local communities to discuss how their concerns and ideas were being addressed in the development of the general management plan.

The first newsletter, issued in March 2006 and sent to more than 4,000 addresses from the mailing list, described the Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Muir Woods National Monument General Management Plan (GMP) process. The newsletter also included a comment form that asked people what they value and like most about the park, what they like least, their suggestions for management, their major concerns for the future of the park, and any other comments they wanted to provide to the GMP team. Nearly 300 electronic and mailed comments were received in response to this newsletter. Further, five public open houses were held in April 2006 in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties to gather additional input from the public. Focus groups with environmental, historic, and diversity organizations, as well as meetings with Native American representatives, park partners, and park founders ,were also held to gather

information about what these groups value about the park, and to gather their concerns and ideas for the general management plan. The results of recent internal scoping meetings with park staff, in addition to meetings held in 2001 and 2003, were also included in this planning step. The results from all the initial planning meetings (scoping) were reported to the public in Newsletter #2. All the public comments and the team's analysis of those comments were documented in a report *Scoping Summary 2006, General Management Plan* and made available at the park planning website. The public comments and related analysis helped guide the planning team in developing ways to address the planning issues and in developing the alternatives.

Newsletter #3 reported to the public the issues that the plan would address and a provided a description of the alternative concepts that would be used to guide the development of the GMP alternatives.

Throughout the spring and early summer of 2008, the park staff tested with the public the preliminary alternatives that the planning team had developed. Eight thousand copies of a 48-page newsletter that detailed the preliminary alternatives and invited public comments were distributed by mail and at key park and gateway community locations. Public comments were accepted between April 29 and August 1, 2008. More than 200 responses were posted by individuals and groups at the park planning website. The park staff hosted five public workshops and numerous meetings with various interest groups throughout the Bay Area to gather public response and to facilitate discussions of issues that were of concern. These workshops were attended by approximately 300 people. In addition, more than 180 letters and comment forms were received from a variety of individuals, organizations, and agencies. Overall, more than 45 commenters, provided more than 1,500 substantive comments on the GMP preliminary alternatives. All the public comments, petitions, and letters, including the planning team's analysis of those comments, were documented in a report *Summary of Public Comments on the Preliminary Alternatives* and made available at the park planning website. The park staff used this guidance in revising / strengthening the alternatives and when choosing the NPS preferred alternative. Newsletter #5 was distributed in 2009; it included a summary of public comments regarding the preliminary alternatives, highlights of the NPS preferred alternatives, and a status of the GMP planning process.

Finally, the GMP planning team monitored other park planning activities to ensure compatibility among proposed actions (e.g., Dog Management Plan, Marin Equestrian Plan).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE PARK

Planning / GMP Open House

Mill Valley, CA (2 meetings)

Muir Beach, CA

Pacifica, CA (4 meetings)

Princeton / Moss Beach, CA

San Francisco, CA (5 meetings)

Sausalito, CA (2 meetings)

Woodside, CA

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PARK

Information tables were made available at Tennessee Valley, Rodeo Beach, Linda Mar/Pacific State Beach, McNee Ranch State Park, Crissy Field, Point Reyes National Park.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, OFFICIALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Members of the planning team held planning tents, meetings, and roundtable discussions with the follow agencies and organizations:

Cabrillo Unified School District

Coalition to Save Ocean Beach/Friends of Sutro Park

Critical Coastal Area Task Force

IYELL

Marin City Labor Day Festival participants

Marin County Local Coastal Plan Update

Marin Horse Council

Mori Point Dedication Ceremony participants

Muir Beach CSD

Muir Woods Centennial event participants

North Coast Water District

Pacifica GGNRA Liaison Committee (city)

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

Peninsula Working Group

People for Open Space

Rancho Corral de Tierra Public Workshop

Redwood Ramble

Run for the Seals event participants

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

San Francisco Ocean Beach Vision Council

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)

San Mateo County Parks

Stinson Beach (community meeting)

Stinson Beach CSD

Sweeney Saunter

SECTION 7 CONSULTATION

During the preparation of the general management plan, NPS staff contacted the Sacramento, California office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Santa Rosa, California office of NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service to begin the consultation process.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act and relevant regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, the National Park Service determined that this general management plan is not likely to adversely affect any federal-listed threatened or endangered species. The National Park Service will send a copy of this draft management plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service with a request for a written concurrence with this determination.

In addition, the National Park Service has committed to consult on future actions conducted under the framework described in this management plan to ensure that such actions are not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or species of concern.

SECTION 106 CONSULTATION WITH STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over historic properties are required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, to take into account the effect of any undertaking on properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800, the National Park Service has sent a letter to the California state historic preservation officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on _____, inviting their participation in the planning process. Newsletters associated with this plan were sent to this office.

Under the terms of 1995 programmatic agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Park Service, in consultation with the state historic preservation office, will make a determination about which undertakings are _____ programmatic exclusions and which require further compliance (see table _____).

CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

Letters were sent to the following Native American groups on _____, inviting their participation in the general management plan planning process. *Add Names*

A scoping meeting with the following Native American groups was held in San Francisco, California on _____ to discuss issues, concerns, and opportunities.

Subsequently, newsletters associated with this planning process were sent to these groups in addition to the annual park briefing update. *Look up to see the name of this bulletin and its frequency in distribution.*

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT

Need to develop list

List of recipients

List of all agencies, organizations, and people to whom copies will be sent.

Federal agencies organized alphabetically

State and regional agencies

Local agencies

Indian tribes

Organizations

Individuals (if the list of individuals is longer than 3 pages, it may be placed in the project file instead of the EIS, with the notation in the EIS that the complete list of recipients is provided as necessary to indicate who will be receiving the final EIS)

PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS

The GMP planning team consisted of managers (Steering Committee) who guided the entire planning process. When developing and reviewing the issues and alternatives, the planning team included more than 50 managers and resource/technical specialists from the National Park Service and Golden Gate Parks Conservancy. In addition, the planning team included staff of the California State Parks, experts from academia, and members of consulting firms. Most of these planning team members also participated in various working groups that focused on individual issues and identified solutions that were incorporated into the GMP alternatives. Working groups were formed to address the following topics: Alcatraz Vision Team, Asset Management, Climate Change, Operational Facilities, Marine Resources, Native Americans, Park Boundaries, Partnerships, Trails, and Transportation.

Please include you bio in the following manner and provide to Stephan:

Member's Name, Position, __ years with NPS and profession or NPS, College degree

Example:

Ray Murray, Chief of Partnerships, 27 years with the NPS, 13 years with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 3 years with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service; B.S. In Forestry

STEERING COMMITTEE

Brian Aviles, Position

Mai-Liis Bartling

Frank Dean

Daphne Hatch

Nancy Hornor

Susan Hurst

Craig Kenkel

Howard Levitt

Brian O'Neill

Chris Powell

Aaron Roth

TEAM MEMBERS – CALIFORNIA

(In addition to the members of the GMP Steering Committee)

Cathie Barner, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Paul Batlan

Kim Coast

Martha Crusius

Jay Eickenhorst

Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Carey Feierabend

Darren Fong

Sue Fritzke

Stephen Haller

Jim Kren

Tom Lindberg, California State Parks

Don Mannel

Bill Merkle

Mia Monroe

Yvette Ruan

Michael Savidge

Jerry Scheumann

Paul Scolari

Emilyn Sheffield

Ed Ueber

Tamara Williams

TEAM MEMBERS – NPS DENVER SERVICE CENTER

Planning team

Sarah Bodo, Community Planner; 3 years with the National Park Service; Master of Urban and Regional Planning, B.S. in Finance.

Kerri Cahill

Patrick Malone, Natural Resource Specialist; 5 years with the National Park Service, 9 years with state and local government, and 2 years with a nonprofit land trust; M.P.A. in Environmental Policy and Public Management, B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Stephan Nofield, Project Manager/Senior Planner;

Scott Robson

Harlan Unrau

Don Wojcik, Community Planner; 1 year with the National Park Service, 11 years as natural resource planner with county government open space programs, 5 years as environmental policy analyst with nonprofit and academic organizations, and 2 years as civil engineer with municipal government; Master of Public Affairs in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management; B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Production Services

Jim Corbett, Visual Information Specialist;

June McMillen, Writer/Editor; 22 years with the National Park Service, 8 years with the U.S. Forest Service; Master of Environmental Science, B.A. in Anthropology.

PLANNING SUPPORT AND SPECIALISTS

Kristen Appel

Laura Castallini, Environmental Management Office

Lee Ann Ciancetti

Steve Griswold

Mark Grupe

Jan Harris

Marcus Koenen, NPS, Inventory and Monitoring

Sarah Koenen

Robert Lieber, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Andreu Lucas

Linda MacIntyre

Roy McNamee, California State Parks

Peter Newman

Ricardo Perez

Bruce Philips

Michelle Rios

Craig Scott

Carolyn Shoulders

Rich Meideman

Contracting Specialist, Experts

Jim Bacon, NPS, Yosemite National Park

Linda Dahl, NPS, Yosemite National Park

Robert Manning, University of Vermont

Jeff Marion, USGS, Virginia Tech

Vivki McCusker, NPS, Natural Sounds Program

Bonnie Nelson, Nelson/Nygaard

Peter Newman, Colorado State University

Diane Nicholson

Nina Roberts

Amy Merrill, Stillwater Sciences

Cliff Riebe, Stillwater Sciences

Alexa Viets

Don Weeks

