

# BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS

The 1978 National Parks and Recreation Act (16 USC 1a-7) requires that the general management plan address potential modifications to the park boundaries. Park boundaries are often initially drawn to reflect a wide range of practical considerations, and they do not necessarily reflect natural or cultural resource features, administrative considerations, or changing land uses. Park managers frequently respond to problems with adjacent lands as they arise, but Congress, state and local governments, and the general public often ask questions about what is really necessary to protect park resources. The impacts associated with current or potential changes in adjacent land uses could pose threats to and limit the park's ability to strengthen the fundamental resources that support the park purpose and significance.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument is just a portion of a larger area of protected open space in the Bay Area. The natural and cultural resources of the park would face a greater threat if not for the many other open space areas that contribute to the integrity of coastal ecosystems, scenic views, recreational opportunities, and preservation of historic resources.

Throughout the life of this general management plan, potential boundary modifications will be guided by the following three major goals.

## **Goal 1**

Strengthen the diversity of park settings and opportunities related to the park's purpose that encourage, attract, and welcome diverse current and future populations, while maintaining the integrity of the park's natural and cultural resources.

## **Goal 2**

Strengthen the integrity and resilience of coastal ecosystems by filling habitat gaps, creating habitat linkages, providing for recovery of special status species and the survival of wide-ranging wildlife, restoration of natural processes, and ecosystems capacity to respond to the effects of climate change. Boundary adjustments would be guided by science-based approaches that build on the goals of cooperative regional efforts.

## **Goal 3**

Preserve nationally important natural and cultural resources related to the park's purpose.

In addition to being guided by these goals, the park staff will play a partnership role in regional land protection efforts. This role includes coordinating with other adjacent public land managers and open space organizations when land acquisition goals and objectives can be shared.

Any proposed boundary changes will be critically evaluated to confirm that such actions contribute to achieving the park's mission and resource protection and that the park is not accepting undue management burdens. Proposed land acquisitions must be feasible to administer considering their size, configuration, costs, and ownership. In addition, changes could be made if the land acquired was needed to address operational and management issues, such as visitor access, or to have logical boundaries that correspond to roads, ridges, or other features. The potential boundary modifications will continue to be made with regional collaboration in mind, while working to strengthen and protect the park's natural, cultural,

recreation, and scenic resources.

## **Proposed Boundary Adjustments**

Three boundary adjustments are proposed. Each meets NPS criteria for boundary adjustments and is consistent with the goals stated above.

### **1. Offshore Environment, San Mateo County**

In San Mateo County, the park's boundary along the Pacific Coast is highly fragmented and uneven in width. It varies from the line of mean high tide to ¼ mile offshore. An adjustment is necessary to establish efficient and coordinated inter-agency management of the critical offshore marine environment. The present boundary poses difficulties in cooperation with community public safety departments and resource management agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and California State Parks.

The proposed boundary adjustment would establish a consistent, continuous boundary between the San Francisco County line at Fort Funston and Pillar Point above Princeton Harbor. The proposed boundary would extend ¼ mile from the line of mean high tide. Management of the areas added to the park boundary would be guided by the primary management purposes identified in the existing State Lands Lease that the park retains over portions of the offshore marine environment.

1. To enhance public safety, use, and enjoyment of the subject lands and waters.
2. To protect and conserve the environment and any cultural and historical resources that may be present.
3. To preserve the subject lands in their natural state and protect them from development and uses that would destroy their scenic beauty and natural character.
4. To provide for recreation and educational opportunities.
5. Management of the subject lands shall be consistent with the administration and management of GGNRA, so long as it is not inconsistent with California state law.

In a separate action, the park could pursue acquisition of a continuous land lease.

*Simple Map?*

### **2. Gregerson Property, San Mateo County**

Forming a long rectangle of about 200 acres, with three sides in common with the 4,200-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra property, the Gregerson Property was acquired by Peninsula Open Space Trust in 2001. The property is largely undeveloped with the exception of an unpaved road and a light residential structure. The road, which runs along the ridge, provides access to the upper reaches of Rancho Corral de Tierra, and is critical for management purposes. In addition to supporting this operational need, the property would simplify and reduce the length of the park's perimeter; expand the area of habitat for federally listed plant and animal species; reconnect wildlife corridors across a ridge; support recreational opportunities; and protect remarkable scenic coastal views. The property possesses the same qualities as Rancho Corral de Tierra, identified in the recent boundary study (NPS 2004), and would be managed as part of the

larger unit. Rancho Corral de Tierra was added to the park boundary in 2005, through Public Law 109-131.

*Parcel Map?*

### **3. Vallemar Acres – part of Cattle Hill**

The parcel consists of 60 acres of undeveloped land owned by the City of Pacifica. It lies on the southern, lower slope of Cattle Hill and extends to the property lines of residences on the north side of Fassler Avenue. This parcel would be managed as part of the Cattle Hill parcel. The area was determined appropriate for acquisition in the Pacifica boundary study (NPS 1998).

*Parcel Map?*

### **4. Highway Frontage – part of West Cattle Hill**

This rectangular parcel consists of 5 acres of undeveloped land along Highway 1. It is owned by the State of California and managed by Caltrans. It forms the western end of Cattle Hill. This parcel would be managed as part of the larger adjacent Cattle Hill parcel. The area was determined appropriate for acquisition in the Pacifica boundary study (NPS 1998).

*Parcel Map?*

## **Potential Future Boundary Adjustments**

Several areas are of great interest to the park and appear to meet the NPS criteria for boundary adjustments. The park will continue to pursue protection of these properties, possibly including a boundary adjustment, guided by the goals expressed above.

### **A. Priority Conservation Areas**

Four areas adjacent to the park were identified as Priority Conservation Areas through a regional planning effort (“Golden Lands, Golden Opportunities,” Bay Area Open Space Council, 2009). Multiple strategies and multiple land managers could have a role in managing these lands. At this time, no specific boundary adjustments are proposed by the park in these areas. However, future studies are anticipated to evaluate which specific properties within these areas would be most appropriately managed by NPS.

*(Park map with no background and big bullets)*

#### **1. Marin City Ridge, Marin County**

Undeveloped lands adjacent to the park’s Marin Headlands unit could enhance protection for the park’s natural, scenic, and recreational resources while improving trail connections into an underserved community.

#### **2. Pacifica Conservation Area (South of Mussel Rock to McNee Ranch State Park) San Mateo County**

Disconnected, undeveloped parcels at the fringes of the community could enhance the park’s trail linkages to the California Coastal Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail and improve

natural resource corridors.

### **3. Montara Mountain Complex, San Mateo County**

Undeveloped parcels adjacent to Rancho Corral de Tierra could strengthen protection of threatened and endangered species and contribute to the regional conservation efforts focused on preserving large natural resources corridors and highly scenic views.

### **4. Gateway to the San Mateo County**

A large triangle of land between Rancho Corral de Tierra and Highway 92, could contribute significantly to natural resource protection, the regional trails network, and preservation of scenic and rural character.

## **B. Transportation Hubs**

### **1. Marin County**

The park anticipates requesting the authority to extend the boundary to include a location for a transit hub that would serve the Muir Woods shuttle. The hub would support improved public access to Muir Woods and other nearby recreational areas, and reduce congestion associated with recreational travel to west Marin County. This opportunity would need to occur somewhere along the developed Highway 1-U.S. 101 transit corridor in southern Marin County.

### **2. Alcatraz Island**

The park anticipates requesting the authority to extend the boundary to include a location for a ferry embarkation center that would serve visitors to Alcatraz Island. The facility would provide appropriate services for the approximately 1.4 million annual visitors, facilitate educational and interpretive programming, and support the operational needs for ferry service to the island. This location would be along the San Francisco waterfront.

*(Park map with no background and big bullets)*

## **C. Bolinas Lagoon**

Daphne to expand:

- National/ international significance of the resources (RAMSAR?..)
- Improve resource management by making GGNRA lands continuous, give focus to management of smaller park properties along shore...
- GGNRA and PORE manage much of the surrounding lands and watershed...
- Currently managed by Marin County...
- Current NPS role...
- Approximately 1,000 acres...

*(Park map with existing boundary?)*