

CONCEPT OF ALTERNATIVE 2: PRESERVING AND ENJOYING COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

The overall concept:

- Preserve and enhance a dynamic and interconnected coastal ecosystem
- The park is part of the core of a vast and diverse network of protected lands and waters, many recognized as part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, including GGNRA, MUWO, PORE, MMWD, State Parks, County Open Space lands, SF Watershed and 3 national marine sanctuaries extending from Cordell Banks to the Farallon Islands to Big Sur.
- Restoration and management of this dynamic coastal landscape is achieved through collaborative regional partnerships with common goals to re-connect fragmented habitats, minimize the impact of invasive species, manage for changing fire regimes, and restore naturally functioning ecosystems. **biodiversity**
- ID vulnerable resources and values and innovative actions/technologies/policies we can take. Build resilience into the landscape. Resiliency to climate change...proactive (responsive/proactive) manage for rising sea level, increased flooding and landslide hazards, changing fire regimes, migration corridors, processes and biodiversity
- Engage visitors in **research, education, stewardship, citizen science** – active participation. Psychological value of nature. Park as a lab.

MUIR WOODS NM – Coastal Ecosystem

- This alternative goes back to the fundamental purpose of the proclamation that established MUWO – preservation of the primeval character of the old growth redwood forest.
- Visitors are immersed in the experience – natural sounds, smells, light and darkness of the forest.
- The experience is more primitive than today with the majority of the built environment – buildings (except MUWO Inn), parking lots, most paved trails – removed. Visitors arrive by shuttle bus only. A light-on-the-land accessible trail reaches into the heart of the forest.
- Trails are re-aligned out of the flood plain, bridges are removed and/or re-designed and other impediments to natural processes are removed – many of the CCC era ‘improvement’ like bank stabilization rip-rap. Where not in conflict with natural resource goals, historic trails and structures are adapted for contemporary uses.
- The creek is allowed to meander across the flood plain, flooding the valley bottom, possibly uprooting trees and opening gaps in the canopy, woody debris

- accumulates. The landscape appears ‘messier’ but functions much more naturally. Floodplain processes and riparian habitat are restored where parking lots are removed. The road into and all residences, the Hillwood School in Camino del Canyon and Conlon Ave addition areas are removed and the area restored by removing invasive vegetation and sediment sources are stabilized.
- Visitors engage in participatory stewardship, education and science that furthers preservation of the forest, salmon, spotted owls, bats, natural soundscape and more, as part of the continuing history and evolution of the land preservation and conservation movement.