

Impact Topics Considered but Dismissed from Further Evaluation

Prime and Unique Farmlands – The Council on Environmental Quality’s 1980 memorandum on prime and unique farmlands states that prime farmlands have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Unique agricultural land is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Both categories require that the land be available for farming uses. **There are no soils within the boundaries of Golden Gate National Recreation Area or Muir Woods National Monument that are classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as prime or unique farmlands??.** Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Indian Trust Resources – The federal Indian trust responsibility is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights. No Indian trust resources or sacred sites have been identified for the two parks; therefore, this impact topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Environmental Justice – *Executive Order 12898, General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, requires that all federal agencies address the effects of policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities. The National Park Service has had an active public participation program during development of this general management plan and has equally considered all public input from persons, regardless of demographic factors. None of the alternatives analyzed in this assessment would have disproportionate effects on populations as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (1996) guidance on environmental justice. Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Conformity with Local Land Use Plans –

Natural or Depletable Resource Requirements and Conservation Potential – None of the alternatives being considered would result in the extraction of new resources from the parks. In all of the alternatives, ecological principles would be applied to ensure that the two parks’ natural resources were maintained and protected. Certain resources could continue to be collected for scientific and educational purposes, but the specimens would be stored in the NPS collection. Agricultural operations on NPS lands would continue to result in the extraction of resources through the harvesting of hay to maintain the cultural landscape. The fields would be managed to sustain this harvest. Implementation of the alternatives would result in the use of limited natural resources and energy for construction and operation of new facilities (e.g., trails, visitor centers). New development would be designed to be sustainable to the maximum extent practicable. Overall, the impact on this topic would likely be negligible and thus it was dismissed from detailed analysis.