



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Point Reyes National Seashore
1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Determination of Temporary Closure

36 CFR 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

(a) Consistent with applicable legislation and federal administrative policies, and based upon a determination that such action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent may:

- (1). Establish, for all or a portion of a park area, a reasonable schedule of visiting hours, impose public use limits, or close all or a portion of a park area to all public use or to a specific use activity.

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| 1. Temporary Closure Location: Effective immediately and until further notice Drakes Beach and Road are closed to all public access. The beach is closed from the beach area directly in front of the Ken Patrick Visitor Center to where it reaches the seasonal closure west of the main beach area at the cove's edge. Drakes Beach Access Road is closed from its intersection with Sir Francis Drake to its terminus at the parking lot from 4:00pm until 9:00am daily. | |
| 2. Duration of Temporary Closure: until further notice | |
| 3. Who is affected by the Temporary Closure: All visitors. | |
| 4. Justification for Temporary Closure: This emergency closure is designed to minimize the possibility of human and elephant seal interactions on Drakes Beach. Recent high surf events and extreme storms have brought approximately 70 seals to the beach (including adult females with pups), making the beach unsafe. The road must remain closed when no staff or NPS volunteers are onsite to ensure the safety of visitors and seals. | |
| 5. Additional Justification/Details for Temporary Closure: This closure is consistent with the park's Drakes Beach operations plan for winter season 2023. | |
| Craig Kenkel /s/* Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore | Date: January 23, 2023 |

* The signed Determination of Temporary Closure is on file at park headquarters.