



# 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.

<b>1. Temporary Closure Location:</b> Effective immediately Drakes Beach is closed from the beach area directly in front of the Ken Patrick Visitor Center west to where it reaches the year round closure of the elephant seal colony. The Peter Behr trail and overlook is also closed.	
<b>2. Duration of Temporary Closure:</b> Until April 15th, 2021	
<b>3. Who is affected by the Temporary Closure:</b> All visitors	
<b>4. Justification for Temporary Closure:</b> This emergency closure is designed to minimize the possibility of human and elephant seal interactions on Drakes Beach. Recent high surf events and extreme high tides have brought 20 males, 19 females and now 6 pups to Drakes Beach, making it unsafe for visitors to walk from the parking lot down to the beach.	
<b>5. Additional Justification/Details for Temporary Closure:</b> This action is consistent with the park's Drakes Beach operations plan for winter season 2021. Under this plan, the beach access is to be closed if females give birth on the beach, and Drakes Beach road will be closed to all traffic Tuesdays – Thursdays, due to lack of staffing to ensure safety for animals and public.	
/s/* <b>Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore</b>	<b>Date:</b> 2/1/21

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