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**Correspondence:**

Please select Alternative "A" and end commercial use of the sensitive wildlife refuge Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the west coast, and is irreplaceable.

Please uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and select Alternative A, which the Parks Service's environmental review says best supports wildlife.

Thank You.

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**Correspondence:**

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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**Correspondence:**

The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when Drakes Bay Oyster Co's commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years.

Please urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Thank you,

Mary Etta Moose

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Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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**Correspondence:**

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Gold, Alan
Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,23,2011 17:52:25
Web Form
I live in L.A. and I consider the entire California coast worthy of protection. I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource
and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

I am writing to ask you to protect the Phillip Burton Wilderness.

I urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative.

NPS Select the no action alternative to allow this area to become a wilderness. Thank You

? Please support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you for protecting our wilderness areas. Joan Milford
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, and is the environmentally preferred alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, and is the environmentally preferred alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.
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<td>Correspondence:</td>
<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company</td>
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<td>kelley, john p</td>
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<td>I support the 'No action alternative'</td>
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<td>Sherman, Amy</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
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<td>The oyster farm provides environmental benefits that were overlooked. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. They've been there since 1934, they practice sustainable aquaculture, and bring visitors to the park. Hotels and lodges in National Parks have far more environmental impact, I don't see any effort on the part of NPS to shut down the Ahwahnee Hotel.</td>
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<td>Name:</td>
<td>Nieters, Lenore I</td>
<td>Outside Organization:</td>
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<td>Received:</td>
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| Correspondence Type: | Web Form | Correspondence: | I write today to urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience. Critical Points:

> ? The NO ACTION Alternative is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you,

LENORE I NIETERS 9303 DARCY CT SANTEE, CA 92071 United States
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<td>Name: Carlitz, Barbara B</td>
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<td>Received: Nov, 23, 2011 18:34:03</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: I support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934. Agriculture is key to the economic survival of West Marin.</td>
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<td>Name: Hall, Eric M</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 23, 2011 18:34:42</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: Stop trying to shut down Drakes Bay Oyster Company! The fact of the matter is that they are a good company doing a good job and they don’t hurt the environment. The NPS’s conduct here is just the thing that gives more fodder to the neo-conservatives and worse to attack the Federal Government as meddlesome fools who need to be entirely replaced by the ideological descendents of James Watt. You're doing nothing to help the environment and everything possible by either your misguided efforts or deliberate sabotage of the EIR process here to make a strong contribution to bring about the wholesale reversal of important protections for the environment. This operation has been here a long time, long before Phil Burton created this park and I bet that there are a lot of you bureaucrats who don’t even know who he was. Your lack of attention to the history of oyster culture and the economic benefits that the oyster operation at Drake’s Bay has is just appalling. You are creating the poster child for the hard right in an election year. What the heck is the matter with you? Give the company a renewable permit, now.</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Drakes Bay Oyster Company is a successful company in which I am a loyal customer of. Please do not close down Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Furthermore, the draft EIS, does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.</td>
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<td>Name: Martinez, Miriam &amp; Guadalupe</td>
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<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Drakes Bay Oyster Company is a successful company in which I am a loyal customer of. Please do not close down Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Furthermore, the draft EIS, does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.</td>
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| Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company." Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is the best thing to happen to the Bay. If they are removed, you can count on major pollution in that bay, the oysters they grow, keep the bay clean, without them, the runoff from the surrounding farms will turn the now pristine...
bay into a mosh pitt of pollution. Wake up Park department, there is no need for this stupidity. It also attracts a steady flow of tourism from around the world, which is beneficial to the local towns. What are you thinking???? Drakes Bay is also very fair in their pricing, whereas the other local surrounding Oyster farms are a over priced rip off to the local buyers.

We are avid fans of Drakes oyster farm, as well as Sierra Club supporters and members (used to be sierra club members- I've let my membership lapse after seeing the ridiculous stance that they are taking on drakes oyster farm!). The oysters that drakes oyster farm provides is a sustainable local food source- we should consider ourselves lucky to have such a low impact, sustainable food producing business such as drakes oyster farm right in our backyard. My partner and I frequently enjoy kayaking drakes estero, and we see no negative impacts from the presence of Drakes oyster farm. Seriously, leave them alone...don't we have other HUGE issues to tackle???? This is preposterous. I am a native born Californian, 20+ year marin resident. Move on to bigger issues. Drakes oyster farm is an asset to our community.

Laura Phillips

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."
The "No Action" alternative should be selected to maintain the wilderness character of this area. Other options do not address this issue adequately.

Dear NPS, None of the alternatives in the EIS are acceptable. The Drakes Bay Oyster Farm (DBOF) should have a renewable lease, not one which requires them to close their business. DBOF must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934. DBOF is one of the highlights of my frequent visits to Pt. Reyes, and also for my students (I am a college instructor and we have conducted field courses at Pt. Reyes). The EIS is poorly researched, failing to show negative impacts of DBOF and failing to highlight the value of oysters to cleaning the estero. It is also a cultural heritage site, at least as important as all the cattle farms in Pt. Reyes, which in fact are far more destructive of native habitat than is DBOF. The new owners of this property are doing their work with more attention to the local environment than the previous owners. There are many flaws in the EIS, well described in the DBOC's own response to your draft EIS. Please do NOT force this wonderful business to close! Pt. Reyes is hardly a pristine wilderness environment and that is mostly due to the cattle ranches and their effect on the local waters. Oysters help clean the ocean, they are a positive influence on the environment, and of course thousands of locals and visitors agree that it is a positive experience to visit and enjoy their oysters.

Richard Nolthenius

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago.

i vote no on oyster farming.
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC).

Based on many visits to DBOC and the West Marin area, I have observed that DBOC is a very conscientious steward of the environment, as well as being a competitor to other oyster companies, thus promoting competition. DBOC has also carefully preserved the history of the area through collections and archives.

My friends and I have been coming to this place for YEARS and YEARS, some of them as far away as Antioch. We specifically come here for two reasons 1. Oysters!! and 2. The way we are treated at the establishment.

These are good, solid, hard-working FAMILY oriented people! They are also environmentally friendly, and have actually helped the local landscape and it's wildlife.

There is simply and absolutely NO REASON whatsoever to withhold a renewable Special Use Permit for my friends at Drakes. Let us stop putting good, wholesome people out of business, shall we?!?!?!?!? This is America!

As a proponent of local and sustainable agriculture I reject any NPS plan which does not allow the Drakes Bay Oyster Company to renew its lease for at least 50 more years. Though the mission of the National Park Service "to preserve wilderness", was crafted with the best intentions, the current state of our nation and natural resource base demands that we as a citizenry reconsider our thinking. As a nation we NEED to move towards and support sustainable and local agriculture. The Drakes Bay Oyster farm perfectly coexists with the natural species of the park. Shutting it down would be detrimental on every front. The VAST Majority of residence in Marin County support the oyster farm and all of the benefits they bring to our community INCLUDING environmental restoration of damaged land. They should be celebrated for all that they have done, have Tax breaks granted as a show of support! By driving them out of business you are only encouraging industrial agriculture elsewhere which leads to increase pollution, land degradation and further enhances global loss of species. Is the National Park Services intent? If you were shutting down a lead smelter on national park land, or a uranium mine I would be all for it! But shutting down this business is the absolute wrong thing to do! Barton Clark

Please support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor-seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Sincerely
Outside Organization: Hrabeta's Family Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:13:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

We support the extending of the lease to the oyster farm. We have been happy customers for at least thirty years and we have noticed the improvements made to the facility and even the access road made in the past years.

Why import the the oysters from the east coast when we can have fresh local ones!

An oyster lover who speaks for his entire family.

---

Correspondence ID: 34049
Name: Hudgins, Jerry C
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:15:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a homeowner and full-time resident in the community in question, I believe that the Drake's Bay Oyster Company's Special Use Permit to operate in Drake's Bay should NOT be extended. While I have formed no firm opinion about whether or not DBOC's operation is harmful to Drake's Bay, I do think that extending their lease would establish a worrisome precedent for undermining the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and commercializing wilderness areas in general. It's my understanding that the owners of this business were fully aware of the lease's termination date when it was assumed from its former owners, and have no reasonable basis for protesting it now. The controversy surrounding DBOC's environment impact, and whether it was accurately measured, is entirely beside the point; the politicization, unpleasant character attacks and sensational reporting that led to it were wholly inappropriate and should not be taken into account in your decision.

Please enforce the Wilderness Act as written, and allow the lease to expire and Drake's Bay to return to wilderness as it specified.

---

Correspondence ID: 34050
Name: Iijima, Matthew
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:16:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

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Correspondence ID: 34051
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:16:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate.

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Correspondence ID: 34052
Name: Lowings, Simon
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:18:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

The Drakes Bay Oyster company should be allowed to stay in operation. Harbor seals are not an endangered species and a historic business like this is a cultural asset to the national seashore. It should be promoted like the nearby lighthouse not shut down.

---

Correspondence ID: 34053
Name: Bucher, Karl
Outside Organization: Private citizen Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:20:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Keep Drakes Bay Oyster Farm in Operation. The agenda to close down the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is inconsistent with the will of the people and with the use of the Point Reyes National Park.

There needs to be special use permit to allow this historical, renewable use to continue. It clearly meets the criteria of "beneficial use" and it is absolutely wrong to shut this operation down. I have obtained beautiful oysters from this farm for over 30 years and desire for my children to also obtain oysters there.

---

Correspondence ID: 34054
Name: Van Wicklen, Betty J
Outside Organization: Wilderness Society Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 19:22:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Per your request, I am submitting my comments on a proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore.
I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. I urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

In these crucial times for our environment, I feel that we must strengthen, rather than relinquish the wilderness protection of all of our national parks and wilderness areas if they are to be preserved as anything faintly resembling their current condition for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

---

**Correspondence:**

Correspondence ID: 34055
Name: Routledge, Judith
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 19:22:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended.

As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, and especially this incredibly beautiful site which I have visited for years, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Let safe private enterprise thrive and grow, and go after the big polluters. Thanks

I grew up in Marin, loved going to Point Reyes, and worked at the NPS headquarters as a young girl. The beauty found in this natural area is amazing, inspiring, and right now - it needs your help.

Commercial oyster fishing is not concerned with the seals or the other animals that rely on the estuary. You can fine them and reprimand them from here to the end of eternity but they are not the NPS. Please, stand up and do your job - protect this incredible park placed under your care.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.
Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34061</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
<th>Document: 43390</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: moyer, marcy</td>
<td>Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 19:30:08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.</td>
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In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34062</th>
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<td>Name:</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 19:30:31</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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<td>Name: Hensley, Jerome M</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 19:35:38</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>Name: Sellers, Margaret L</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 19:35:44</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: Please do not extend the oyster contract for another ten years. Studies show that extending this contract will have an extensive long-term negative impact on the area. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
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<td>Name: Bourdon, K.</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 19:38:45</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:04:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34076  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:04:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34077  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Bautista, Mary P
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My comments on a proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore:

I urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you, MP Bautista

Correspondence ID: 34078  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:07:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34079  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:07:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34080  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Ryon, Richard
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:07:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Point Reyes is a wonderful place. It is not a wilderness and has not been for more than 150 years. There are working dairy farms. There is an oyster farm. Until the other farmers go, the oyster farm should be allowed to stay.

I think the oyster farm is a great asset to the National Seashore. Preservation of a rural lifestyle that is compatible with the environment (as the oyster farm is) is a worthy endeavor of the Park Service. It is a good example for visitors to see and experience.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34081  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Morris, Richard C
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 23, 2011 20:07:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed alternatives in this document are not acceptable, reasonable or appropriate. A RENEWABLE Special Use Permit should be issued to the Drakes Bay Oyster Co. This Company has proven they are good stewards for the Bay and its wildlife,
and should be allowed to continue their operations now and in the future.

Correspondence ID: 34082  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: von Kleinsmid, Peter  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:07:56  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would greatly prefer the "no action alternative". Commercial oyster farming is not appropriate for this wilderness area.

Correspondence ID: 34083  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Loughmiller, John  Outside Organization: Solano County Board of Realtors Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:08:42  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It seems that the Park Service is trying an end run again with only a very flawed document to support their position. Seems to me that cattle grazing and other uses allowed on an otherwise pristine parkland is doing more harm to the environment that a small business that is as much concerned with water quality as anyone. I do not think they are, or are trying to disturb any of our marine mammals. As matter of fact in all the years that I have been a customer I have never seen anything there that did not appear to be OK.

Why don't the tree huggers leave these people alone and just reissue the permit or maybe some politician has another agenda.

John C. Loughmiller

Correspondence ID: 34084  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:09:18  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please select the No Action Alternative, so that Drakes Estero WILL become wilderness in 2012. We've waited long enough for the commercial lease to expire. As our environment degrades more and more, having this area as wilderness is more critical than ever.

Correspondence ID: 34085  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:09:25  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34086  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:09:39  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34087  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:10:30  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34088  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:10:43  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34089  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A  Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  Received: Nov,23,2011 20:10:55  Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
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<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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</table>
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
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<td>Nov,23,2011 20:28:46</td>
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<td>The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience. Points: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience.</td>
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<td>As someone with a deep interest in Wilderness Policy and Stewardship, I wish to submit these comments on the DEIS for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit.</td>
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<td>I urge you to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires.</td>
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Please choose the NO ACTION Alternative for the Final EIS and keep the promise Congress made to the nation in 1976 to restore this part of the Philip Burton Wilderness.
Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Please do everything possible to protect this important wilderness area. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, JAlexander

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None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
The content of the document is as follows:

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I do not support any of the proposed alternatives. Pursuing the demise of Drakes Bay Oyster Farm in the name of environmental protection is an example of excessive and unnecessary zeal. I support a Renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
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None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
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<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 21:06:08</td>
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<td>Name: N/A, N/A</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>34230</td>
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</table>
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate because the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. For once can our elected officials do something right.

The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and is seeking public comments on a proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore. I'm urging the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 YEARS AGO! The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Please select the No Action Alternative for Drakes Estero!

Thanks,

TP

WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH - PLEASE PROTECT DRAKES ESTERO AND CLOSE THE COMMERCIAL OYSTER COMPANY NOW. THANK YOU.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.
National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exceptions from national park laws.

Thank-you.

NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports.
footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

Correspondence ID: 34251
Name: Mazzella, Daniel
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 21:36:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34252
Name: Rolf, Gail
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 21:43:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34253
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34254
Name: Katzman, Gregory
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 21:47:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

Correspondence ID: 34255
Name: Katzman, Gregory
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 21:47:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
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<td>Name: Ngo, Ann</td>
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I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

As a biology major graduate of Colby College in Waterville Maine, I reintroduced oysters into San Francisco Bay in 1978 from our tidal home lot in east corte madera/tiburon. I watch the oysters clean up the bay over the last 33 years. Filter filters attach heavy metals to their shell. The oyster farm out in pt. reyes is providing habitat and are an important part of the food chain. Hydrolic gold mining deposited 3 feet of silt in the bay and smothered a 3 million year oyster bed according to Harold Gilliam's San Francisco bay. the operation out in pt. reyes is not only harmless. (the miwok indians had mounds of shells from their residency here over the millenium) but the filter feeders are an important part of the eco-system. Kindly use good biological stewardship to allow the oyster farm to save the government millions of taxpayer dollars cleaning up heavy metals and leaving a balanced environment. As a life time member of the sierra club, who cherishes the environment, the opponents of the existence of this simple operation are over exaggerating negative effects. Kindly allow the operation to continue, preferably multigenerationally for the good of all. Sincerely James S. Simon, M.D. I have no financial interest in any side of this discussion and yes I like to eat oysters too! God Bless
I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
Correspondence ID: 34268  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Sallurday, Teresa
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 22:01:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34269  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Rigby, Cheryl V
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the NO ACTION Alternative for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company special use permit. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience.

The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. Thank you for your consideration and for accepting these comments.

Correspondence ID: 34270  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: chin, m
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 22:08:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please allow Drakes Oyster to continue operations in the Estero.

Correspondence ID: 34271  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: meadows, kathleen l
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,23,2011 22:17:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This comment is simply that we must all do everything possible to keep Drake's Bay Oyster Farm open and running. This is an essential farm that must not be shut down. I am a big supporter of this farm and visit it every chance I have. I was there with my 2 daughters recently and we noticed that it wasn't open as much as in the past. This oyster farm has a direct environmental impact on the ecology and ecosystems of the area. It is vital that these not be shut down. If we can bring enough pressure to bear--through letters, contacts of local and county offices and petitions, it may be able to still survive...We must care enough to make this happen!

Correspondence ID: 34272  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I have a genuine concern, not only as a person who lives in West Marin, but as someone who wants to support sustainable agriculture in this area, and the land that we all use, depend on and love. I spend much of my free time in the parks and forests of West Marin. We moved here from San Francisco twelve years ago. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Thank You, Ilene Wolff

I am very sorry and disappointed to learn of the current situation for the Drake Bay Oyster Company and National Park Service. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate, nor do they "make sense" for the wonderful place on Point Reyes which is a true landmark of Point Reyes.

I, along with many friends, support renewing the Special Use Permit for Drake Bay Oyster Company.

Please do this ... Drake Bay Oyster Company is loved and enjoyed by so many many people and travelers from around the world.

Thank you,

Sandra Chumack from Glen Arbor, MI (home of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dune National Lakeshore Park which is also enjoyed by many travelers worldwide)
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Now a business that has thrived in Drake's Bay for generation suddenly is an envioromental hazard because it disturbs harbor seals at rest. That may be that a harbor seal is forced to move from time to time from his/her bed of sand. That is not a significant problem significant enough to shut down a oyster industry. Naure is no different then life people/animals must adapt and actually are quite good at making the adaptations. I.E. Sea Lions at the mouth of the fish ladders in Oregon, their pechant for following trollers and ripping hooked salmon from the lines.

The same perverted envioromental logic is used to try and shut down ocean beach in San Francisco because foot and animal traffic disturbs the snowy plover. That is why birds are equipped with wings and that is why seals can swim. The harbor seals are no more in danger in Drakes Bay then they are on Tomales Bay. Why not conduct an environmental study to determine why the harbor seals can coexist in Tomales Bay as opposed to the distrubed seals in Drakes Bay?

The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mullusk, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National
Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to urge you to please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. Thank you for consideration of my comments - to help permanently protect our important US wilderness and wildlife areas. Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Dear US National Park Service, I am writing to urge you to please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. Thank you for consideration of my comments - to help permanently protect our important US wilderness and wildlife areas. Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

I am now nearing retirement from the fishing and seafood industry. Over the course of my years in this industry, I have been fortunate to personally observe shellfishing and aquaculture operations in areas throughout the North Pacific, from Coastal...
USA, across Alaska, as well as Japan, Korea and China. Everywhere, it seems, local shellfishermen are encouraged by their governments to continue to exist in harmony with their surrounding communities. The current situation facing the Drakes Bay Oyster Company seems to represent a rare exception to this rule and brings me to the conclusion that this low tech business activity should be allowed to continue to exist for the enjoyment of future generations.

During the recent Exxon Oil Spill crisis in the Gulf of Mexico, the demand for and consumption of oysters nationwide continued at pre-crisis levels owing to the ability of the industry to fill that demand with oysters from other growing areas in our country. There appears today to exist a balance between the East and West Coasts of the USA, along with the Gulf of Mexico, to keep our country supplied with fresh oysters from coast to coast, regardless of what calamity or ecological disturbance lies ahead. By removing a key source of California oysters now could have long term effects should another region of our coastal system suffer another regional marine disaster such as the Exxon spill.

For the above reasons, I strongly recommend to you to allow the Drake's Bay Oyster Company to continue to operate unabated for the benefit of all Americans. The benefits of doing so clearly surpass the minuses. Your serious consideration of this recommended is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Bruce R. Jenkinson

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34287</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
<th>Document: 43390</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Grove, Jeff</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 23:00:47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Type: Correspondence</td>
<td>Correspondence: I do not support the current NPS plan that would effectively shut down the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm. None of the alternative scenarios are acceptable. I support a renewable special-use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I believe there is a solution available that would benefit all parties.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Correspondence ID: 34288</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
<th>Document: 43390</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Bostroem, Vanya &amp; Miranda</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Vanya Metal Arts Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 23:06:51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Type: Correspondence</td>
<td>Correspondence: We must balance our resources and a sustainable, environmentally aware business would certainly be a plus to the National Park; The Oyster business has been in existence since before the Park was established, and like the farms around it, deserves to stay. Drake's Bay Oysters are a national treasure. Try one with hot sauce and a bit of lemon and you'll agree. With the lights of the surrounding human development evident at night, ie San Francisco, San Rafael etc, the concept of wilderness seems misplaced. I have plowed through the massive ERI, and have not been convinced that any other solution is worth considering. Let's keep the oysters coming for years to come!! Support local environmentally sensitive business. Keep the money in the neighborhood. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Hanson, Art</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 23:10:33</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Correspondence</td>
<td>Correspondence: I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Kurtz, Maya</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov,23,2011 23:11:36</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Correspondence</td>
<td>Correspondence: Please support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34291  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Brumleve, Charles  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:16:30  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: For the Drakes Estero please select the NO Action Alternative. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 34292  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Pence, Richard H  
Outside Organization: Wolfs Kempo Karate Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:17:19  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Point Reyes Oyster company should receive a new permit to stay in business. Oysters CLEAN the environment!!!!!!

Correspondence ID: 34293  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Anderson, Daniel R  
Outside Organization: Stanford University Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:19:09  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Bay Oyster Company is a unique establishment the likes of which are becoming more and more rare. I went there for the first time on my honeymoon trip and fell in love with it. I am concerned about the current proceedings and the impact they may have on this fragile small business and cultural institution. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit.

Correspondence ID: 34294  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: N/A, N/A  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:19:51  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34295  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Dyer, Tonya  
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:22:50  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 34296  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Jensen, Jean N  
Outside Organization: DNR Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:38:03  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: No action alternative!!!

Correspondence ID: 34297  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Deapen, Kristopher  
Outside Organization: Center for Biological Diversity Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,23,2011 23:39:15  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects
Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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YESSSS!!!!

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience.

? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.
Correspondence ID: 34304  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Cornelia, Jared
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 00:31:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.

Correspondence ID: 34305  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Hiroaka, Kiyomi
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 00:37:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34306  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Watterud, Eric
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 00:46:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing in support of the mariculture operations of Drakes Bay Oyster Company within the boundaries of Pt. Reyes National Seashore. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company for a number of ecological, historical, and personal reasons. I first came to West Marin in 1975, as a public school teacher in the Bolinas-Stinson School District. In my first years of working and living in West Marin, I strove to learn as much as I could about the area. In doing so, I often took courses offered by the Pt. Reyes Field Seminar Program. One such course on the natural history of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula made a special point of visiting the oyster operation in Drakes Estero. At the time, the company was known as Johnson’s Oysters. It seemed natural to me that the mariculture operation was an integral part of the Park, in the same way that the adjacent dairy land was. I had recently been to Acadia National Park, in Maine, and was impressed with how the natural and developed environments seemed to fit together. The lobster fishing in that area was a parallel the oyster operations I was seeing in Pt. Reyes.

Agriculture and aquaculture have been an historical part of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula long before the establishment of the National Park here. Many other National Parks honor the historical heritage of the sites they occupy. There is no reason that this history of human use can not be celebrated in Pt. Reyes. I can tell you that many personal celebrations from birthdays to weddings were ushered in with heaps of fresh oysters from Johnson’s, and then Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

As a kayaker, I can attest to the impact that the Drakes Bay Oyster Company has had on the health of the estuary. The water clarity is among the best in all of the Bay Area’s kayaking waters. Oysters serve as filter feeders and the water that comes out is cleaner than that which goes in. It is a pleasure to glide across the water and see 6 to 8 feet to the bottom. The employees of DBOC are dedicated, hard workers, and I have never seen examples of wildlife harassment. Even though I now live in central Marin, I make regular trips to the Pt. Reyes Peninsula and the Seashore to enjoy all it has to offer. Whether it is a hike or an isolated trail, a walk on the beach, or an afternoon on the water in my kayak, I would miss the opportunity to visit Drakes Bay Oyster Company to bring a little treasure of the region home with me.

Please consider an alternative that allows for the continued operations of Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34307  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Filson, Betsy
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 00:51:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34308  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Rosas, Greg
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 00:53:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine
wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I completely disagree with the NPS EIS assertion that the Drake's Bay Oyster Company aquaculture is a detriment to the environment and ecology of Drake's Estero. The EIS should seriously consider the negative socioeconomic impacts of DBOC closure. At this time in world history, it is of utmost importance to support American businesses that operate in honest, ecologically sound ways. Therefore, I believe that none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I hope you will choose the "no action alternative" so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! This area should be returned to wilderness status rather than to extend commercial oyster farming. Commercial oyster fishermen have an entire ocean to make their living in, and wild animals have an ever shrinking wilderness area in which to live.

Again, I urge you to select the "no action alternative" in this matter!

The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.
Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

If everyone took care of the living beings next to them the world would be completely different, just imagine so please try your best and avoid adding extra suffering to this already very "poor" world.

No Action Alternative.

No oyster farm.

Preserve the wilderness.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. All the Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, mainly from invasive species, on wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and on wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county.

The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you for your consideration.
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<td>I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.</td>
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<td>I urge you to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West</td>
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Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

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Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The Oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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I am writing in support of the NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE for Drakes Estero at Point Reyes National Park. This option is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, and would provide that the area to become Wilderness in 2012, as Congress has intended since the 1970s.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. These species and the pristine nature of the terrain and the aquatic environment need protection.

The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. National Parks must be a haven against the commercialism and capitalization that has been rampant since the rejuvenation of conservatism in the Reagan era. Drakes Estero is certainly one of the most beautiful aquatic environments I have visited. I have hiked over Mt. Wittenberg down to the Estero and back up the Bear Valley Trail several times, and the thought that I could do it again, without spoilage of this magnificent place, keeps me hopeful despite the fact that I now live 2000 miles away! I will hike there again, and I hope it is in as pristine a condition then as it was when I was last there several years ago.

This will not be the case if the NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE is not supported. The oyster operation could involve 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promote the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litter remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash. Trashy beaches are plentiful; natural, unspoiled beauty is increasingly scarce. Supporting the NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE may also encourage consideration of this option in other encroachments upon increasingly challenged environments.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012. Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.
1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS must support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.
10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

There are many other issues with this document, but those listed above are among our top concerns.
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<td>I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>Nidess, M.D., Rael</td>
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<td>Dear Sirs/Madams; Regarding the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit, I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash. Consequently, the &quot;No Action&quot; option is the only environmentally sound solution. I have personally been to the Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore, participating in a sea lion release with the Marine Mammal Center in Marin, Ca. and know the area is too beautiful and natural to allow it to be put at risk. Thank you,</td>
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<td>Pasternak, mark</td>
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<td>&quot;None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.&quot;</td>
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<td>Regarding the NPS draft Environmental Impact Statement to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore; I support the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago! The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience. Critical Points:</td>
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<td>Reumschuessel, Hans</td>
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As a former resident of Marin County for 12 years and a recent visitor to the Drake's Bay Oyster Company, I respectfully ask the National Park Service to adopt a position of supporting continued operation for the Oyster Farm.

Besides the loss of jobs in that area and the loss of healthy, locally grown seafood, and a loss of a tourist attraction, I believe that whatever environmental impacts the NPS is concerned about, can be remedied in a cooperative spirit with the Oyster Farm. The NPS should be applauded for its efforts to protect that sensitive stretch of land in West Marin. However, to shut down the Oyster Farm is not the way to go in this case because the positive impact of the farm outweighs any potential negatives.

I have witnessed first hand the dedication, honesty, and environmental awareness of the proprietors. It seems to me that the NPS should reverse course and adopt a cooperation with the Farm to ensure maximum environmental protection.

Wouldn't it be better to spend a fraction of the cost to shut down/remove the Oyster Farm on improving whatever impact there needs to be addressed?

Thank you.

Hans C. Reumschuessel, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin (formerly Fairfax, CA).

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.
we support the drakes bay oyster company and what they have accomplished over the years of business. we continue to forget the hard work and dedication small businesses have contributed to this country. as the economy of this country continues to falter, our govt. continues to find ways to shut down our small business communities. the drakes bay oyster company has been in business many years and providing jobs for many families. again big government has to come in with guns ablazing and shut down a family business trying to make a difference. we hold heartedly support the drakes bay oyster company and what they stand for.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat which would: - promote the spread of invasive species which would negatively impact native oysters, eelgrass beds, and bird, fish and endangered species; - litter remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash; - disrupt the tranquility and natural sounds of this wild area.

Drakes Estero should be kept wild and become part of the Philip Burton Wilderness.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

It would be sad to come to the oyster farm site and see a sign that reads "Former site of oyster farm."
We don't need wilderness at this site, we need a living historical monument that visitors to the park can see and taste.

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<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I think that the NPS is making a very bad decision if it includes not renewing the Lunny family's permit to continue operating the Drake's Bay Oyster Company. This is a unique treasure that epitomizes a thread in the American narrative for natural, sustainable food production.</td>
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<td>Keep Drakes Bay Oyster Farm open. Been going there for over 30 years. No reason to close it.</td>
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<td>I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness. I urge you to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.</td>
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<td>Name:</td>
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<td>Outside Organization:</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
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Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

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<th>Correspondence ID:</th>
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N/A, N/A
Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 08:33:02
Web Form
Please protect our parks, The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

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Thiss, Thomas N
Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 08:33:36
Web Form
With every loss of wilderness we as a species are diminished.

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Carver, Ruth L
Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 08:34:02
Web Form
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

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N/A, N/A
Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 08:39:53
Web Form
Please, take NO ACTION. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.

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Franklin, Constance
Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 00:00:00
Web Form
As one who traveled extensively throughout California, and spent time and money visiting both our National and State parks, I am writing to strongly urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. Both the American and international public deserve to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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Echegoyen, Jean
Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,24,2011 08:53:42
Web Form
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness
and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I have seen the destruction of the environment and the end of the oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay as a result of rampant over-harvesting. Oysters are of immeasurable value to an ecosystem because of their water filtering properties and the removal and containment of toxins in their pseudofeces. Oyster beds also provide substrate stability and niches for other species. Unfortunately, the harvesting of oysters destroys the environment in which they live, other species in the system, and the benefit of their presence in the system. This area should be removed from the active industry, and allowed to become wilderness.

? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience.

The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.
no plan is suitable keep the farm in place it serve a diverse population and coastal experience that goes back further than the governing body trying to eliminate it

Please take the No Action Alternative. The area deserves to be protected.

With the rash of unsafe products, specifically foodstuffs, coming into our country it is nice to be able to buy locally harvested oysters from a long established and trusted company such as Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.

The Drakes Bay Oyster Farm produces nearly 40% of California's oysters on less than 100 acres in a 2250-acre embayment. This is an important source of high-quality, safe protein in a state facing a precipitously declining fishery. Food security from imported replacement oysters cannot be assured, as less than 1% of imported shellfish are inspected when entering the U.S.

Oysters filter the water column for their food. This clarifies the water column, which is beneficial to eelgrass beds. The eelgrass in Drakes Estero has more than doubled over the past decade.

Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as playing a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. You can learn about those policies here: http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/welcome.html

The legislation that created the National Seashore does not, as some activists claim, require that the oyster farm be shut down and turned into wilderness. The legislators who created this park have clarified this in a letter to Secretary Salazar:

Local food is important. Josh Viertel, president of Slow Food USA, wrote to PRNS: "We are everyday people who are working to bring integrity to food and farming, and we see the Lunny's Drakes Bay Oyster Company as a perfect example of that integrity, which we understand to be a healthy, mutually beneficial set of relationships between people, their food, and the land. The Drakes Bay Oyster Farm models sustainable, highly efficient protein production that benefits the local ecology, economy, community, as well as providing an educational example of environmental sensitivity for the many tourists who visit the park and the oyster farm every year." There is no conflict between the continuation of the 80-year-old oyster farm, under California Department of Fish and Game oversight, and the protection of Drakes Estero. The fact that Drakes Estero remains pristine and is home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast reveals the ecological sustainability of this long-standing relationship between human use and protection of the Estero.
Correspondence: Please allow the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm to continue to operate as we need the food they produce. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 34381  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Carbone, Frank A
Outside Organization: Western Regional Master Builders Assoc. Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 09:04:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
What better use of the natural resources than sustainable harvesting? One could readily find 100 practices/conditions more harmful to Bay & ocean waters than oyster farming.

Correspondence ID: 34382  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Gelling, Adam
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 09:10:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34383  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Boonin, Nicholas
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 09:14:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."
There must be many ways to get people interested in preserving and enjoying nature. Drakes Oyster Bay Co. is a unique way that a public looking for one thing (good food) discovers another thing (a natural resource) this is a great marriage that needs to be sustained.

Correspondence ID: 34384  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Cosgrove, Patrick
Outside Organization: Center for Biological Diversity Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

Correspondence ID: 34385  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Minton, Mark A
Outside Organization: Wilderness Watch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 09:23:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species; impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34386  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I support issuing a renewable permit for the continued operation of the Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34387  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Koughan, Martin J
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.24,2011 09:23:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I have visited the Drakes Bay facility many times over the years. It is a treasured asset of the coast community -- well run and highly discreet. It in no way interferes with the public’s opportunity to enjoy the natural surroundings.

I know my neighbors agree that there is no good reason to eliminate such a wonderful public asset.

Please issue the company a renewable use permit. Otherwise, a valuable community resource will be lost.

Thank you for considering the will of the people,

Martin Koughan

I'll be brief. I have been a regular (almost monthly) visitor to the Point Reyes National Seashore for over 30 years... since moving to California from Maryland. I treasure the open and undeveloped areas, the natural habitat and the solitude the park offers. I also consider the oyster farm to be a beautiful example of the co-existence of food production with a thriving natural ecosystem.

I understand the need to both preserve and attempt to restore wilderness. The balance of aquaculture and nature is something to preserve as well.

In truth there is no wilderness so long as we as people interact with it. I understand that the existence of the oyster farm reduces the capacity to restore wilderness in the Drakes Estero. However, the very presence of visitors to the estero does the same. Like all endeavors undertaken by people there is a balance to be chosen and a role to play. I emphatically believe the continuation of the oyster farm operation far outweighs its effect on its reduction of wilderness in the park.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as directed by Congress 36 years ago! 
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<td>Name: Wolcott, Peter C</td>
<td>Outside Organization: NEAT Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 24, 2011 09:49:24</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: I actually drafted the NEPA Environmental Impact Guidelines as a CEQ staffer in 1972. Rather than repeat the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm's arguments, I simply state that I support them and believe that the &quot;no-action&quot; option is appropriate. As a frequent visitor to the area over the past 40 years, I have not seen significant environmental degradation. Local historical, cultural and employment benefits are positive. I like to see some urban-accessible examples of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture. Drakes is a good example for Americans to experience sustainable, local harvests. A particular point is to congratulate Drake's assistance in San Francisco Bay Snowy Plover recovery efforts. I am active in a similar effort here in Leelanau County, Michigan where the Sleeping Bear LakeShore is active.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Pfeiffer, Peter</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 24, 2011 09:53:53</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places. I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.</td>
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<td>Name: Shepard, Kathleen M</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 24, 2011 10:00:03</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: I think the oyster farm is not Changing the environment any more than it has in the past, or any more than any other business in West Marin. The money being spent to eradicate any past human influence from this area seems pointless and wasteful. There are so many other ways this money could be improving the environment. Like maintaining the parks that are already here.</td>
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<td>Name: Smith, Frank</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 24, 2011 10:01:40</td>
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| Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

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| Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

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<td>Name: Nutty Jr, Tom</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Received: Nov, 24, 2011 10:04:19</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of</td>
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the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. Please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago!

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California’s oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, but as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plowlers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

Michael E. Torresan Marine Geologist
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<th>Outside Organization:</th>
<th>ISA Unaffiliated Individual</th>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
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<td>Correspondence:</td>
<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support RENEWABLE SPECIAL USE PERMIT for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. We are long time residents of West Marin. We object to the destructive decisions being made in the park.</td>
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<td>Correspondence ID:</td>
<td>34404</td>
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| Name:                 | Lipmanson, Donald           |
| Outside Organization: | NRDC Unaffiliated Individual |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:09:15      |
| Correspondence Type:  | Web Form                    |
| Correspondence:       | Drakes Estero, not far from where I live and where I often take day hikes, merits designation as a wilderness area. The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act that recognized Drakes Estero as a unique resource that would gain wilderness designation once non-conforming oyster cultivation ended. For NPS to extend the oyster company's permit would represent your agency's capitulation to an ill-conceived scheme by a temporary majority of pro-development House Republicans to undermine Wilderness Act protections on virtually all public lands. That majority will not last long, yet the damage from inappropriate resource exploitation endures far beyond anyone's lifespan. The oyster cultivator has had plenty of opportunity to profit; now its permit should expire and the wilderness designation go forward. |
| Correspondence ID:    | 34405                       |
| Project:              | 33043                       |
| Document:             | 43390                       |

| Name:                 | Glaser, Lynn                |
| Outside Organization: | Unaffiliated Individual     |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:11:25      |
| Correspondence Type:  | Web Form                    |
| Correspondence:       | "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company." |
| Correspondence ID:    | 34406                       |
| Project:              | 33043                       |
| Document:             | 43390                       |

| Name:                 | Cherry, Bob                 |
| Outside Organization: | Unaffiliated Individual     |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:13:01      |
| Correspondence Type:  | Web Form                    |
| Correspondence:       | I encourage you to select the No Action alternative. It was agreed years ago to allow Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore to become designated wilderness in 2012. That time is quickly approaching and it's time to let the oyster farm lease expire as planned and allow the bay to go back to a natural condition. I have two main concerns with this issue. As a strong supporter and frequent user of our National Park Service sites I feel that the No Action alternative would be best for the NPS overall. Parks are not created for commercial profit and resource extraction. They should be places where the public can recreate, wildlife can live and natural processes can function naturally. A commercial oyster farm in an NPS site is inappropriate and should not be allowed beyond the originally agreed upon date. The precedent that this use sets will only encourage attempts to allow or introduce other conflicting uses in other NPS sites. Secondly, a commercial oyster farm appears to be detrimental to the park's natural resources. Issues such as power boat use, introduction of non-native species, competition with native species, etc. cannot be good for the natural resources of the park. These negative impacts should make it obvious that oyster farming is an undesired use and that the lease should be allowed to expire. Please select the No Action alternative and allow the oyster farm to convert to a naturally functioning wilderness. |
| Correspondence ID:    | 34407                       |
| Project:              | 33043                       |
| Document:             | 43390                       |

| Name:                 | Thuesen, Claire F           |
| Outside Organization: | Unaffiliated Individual     |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:20:12      |
| Correspondence Type:  | Web Form                    |
| Correspondence:       | None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. |
| Correspondence ID:    | 34408                       |
| Project:              | 33043                       |
| Document:             | 43390                       |

| Name:                 | Barton, Jeffrey B           |
| Outside Organization: | Unaffiliated Individual     |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:21:23      |

| Name:                 | Barton, Jeffrey B           |
| Outside Organization: | Unaffiliated Individual     |
| Received:             | Nov, 24, 2011 10:21:23      |
Jeff Barton -

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. As long as the oyster farm is run in an environmentally friendly manner (follows regulations, which are numerous) I strongly feel they should be allowed to stay in business. - Jeff Barton

Fay, Andrew -

My family has owned a home on Tomales Bay in the town of Inverness for the last 70 years. We have been going to the Drakes Bay Oyster company since I was a child and found it has changed little in that period of time (50 years). They have maintained an environmentally responsible and productive business for many years, and would be greatly missed if they should be closed down. I do not believe that the impact they are having on Drakes Bay would equal the impact one large ship makes entering and exiting San Francisco Bay in one day, with regard to impact to wild life, pollution, and prop wash. An increase in foreign import of seafood is what we will experience if this great and sustainable business is allowed to close, and we will only be pushing more production off-shore. Additional traffic will also be pushed to Tomales Bay where several commercial oyster farms exist. The Tomales Bay Oyster company use to be a small facility until a few years ago when they in stalled tables and fire pits. Now there are hundreds of people a day visiting that facility and greatly impacting the shoreline. More patrons will be pushed to those businesses and on to a equally delicate bay ecosystem.

A balanced approach is to let the Drakes Bay Oyster Company stay open with a a renewable special use permit that can be renewed every 10 years after environmental review. If the current site is deemed too delicate, then efforts to re-locate them to another location over the next 20 years. If not, then all commerce (cattle ranching, food sales, gift store at the NPS headquarters, etc.) should be removed.

Robinson, Michael J -

"None of the proposed alternatives allow drakes bay oyster farm to continue its business. In this economic climate we need all the sustainable businesses we can get. I have kayaked at drakes estero many times and have observed how well the oyster farm coexists with the local flora and fauna."

Chrisco, Julia L -

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm.

Artegiani, Kathy R -

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. A wilderness area is not an appropriate use of an area that is within a reasonable travel distance for visitors from a large urban area, visitors who actually use the resource. -

Stenberg, Becky V -

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
Keep the functioning ecosystem functioning. A happy relationship between ranching and aquaculture is something to showcase, not shut down. Give the oyster farm owner a reason to invest in good equipment that will be an asset to the area.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewal of the special use permit for Drake's Bay oyster farm.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I support wilderness designation for Drakes Estero in the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select Alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is unique and ecologically significant. It's an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge you to end the lease at Drakes Oyster Farm when it expires. Properly grandfathered in at the time of its designation, the intent was always to restore the area to wilderness when the lease expired. While I value small, local agriculture it is also important to respect the original intent of the wilderness designation especially as increasing population puts greater pressure on wild lands and wilderness both locally and globally.

1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in
3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."
Non of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Please continue to keep a successful small business a part of a much-needed economy in California rather than perpetuating a downward spiral of uncertainty and hardship. Give your full support to both Drake's Bay Oyster Company and the State of California by granting a renewable Special Use Permit.

I urge you to end the lease at Drakes Oyster Farm when it expires. Properly grandfathered in at the time of its designation, the intent was always to restore the area to wilderness when the lease expired. While I value small, local agriculture it is also important to respect the original intent of the wilderness designation especially as increasing population puts greater pressure on wild lands and wilderness both locally and globally. As such, I support the No Action alternative. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop
over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

Once something is lost . . . it's lost forever . . . those who follow us deserve better than our destroying today what was given to us from our yesterdays . . .

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 34427  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Beam, Carol
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 11:10:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34428  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Johnson, Markham
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 11:10:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34429  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Pierre, Amy
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Regarding the proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore:

Please support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with
thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you.

I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drake's Bay Oyster Company.

DBOC are local farmers who provide a lot of local jobs, with a great product. If you remember the Johnson Oyster Company, and compare what DBOC has done to the environment compared to what existed before then, it's pretty easy to see that DBOC actually has helped with the Drakes Estuary.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.
please readdress your thinking on the oyster farm. In my opinion it has less of an impact than tons of other uses. Plus it has been a marin tradition for a great many yrs. Cant some things just remain the same and not be changed just for the sake of making changes!

I believe Drakes Bay Oysters are a good thing for the area and the residents. I do not believe the false charges against their management by the Park Service, as I have witnessed many instances of the local Park under Neubacher stonewalling concerns of locals and even lying in the face of obvious truths.

I support the Lunny Operation as it delivers sustainable food for the area and does no damage to Drakes Estero or Bay. It pretend that it harms seals somehow is a giant lie.

I have kayaked in the area in question and see multiple kayaking companies there. Those kayaks have a much, much greater impact on the environment ... and even their impact is quite minimal at best.

I understand wilderness and what it is. There is NO wilderness that conforms to the term within the Point Reyes National Seashore, which includes pastoral lands and touristic trails and properties.

Getting rid of this good local company is a political move by the Park Service to show its power over locals. I reject that.

I WANT DRAKE'S BAY OYSTERS TO STAY FOR THE GOOD OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY.

I am writing to support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Think of a future where our food is all imported from other countries because of official inflexibility.

Please adopt the No Action Alternative plan for Drakes Estero so that it can become wilderness in 2012. NO oyster company!!!
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
Correspondence ID: 34445  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: N/A, Ron  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:12:16  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. My Family and I have been going to the oyster farm since the 80s. We have a lot of great memories and it become a tradition. To many traditions are being killed in California and we must preserve our traditions because it the essence of who we are as Californians. The Drakes Bay means a lot to many families.

Correspondence ID: 34446  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Magill, Art  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:15:11  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34447  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Cordova, Jim  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:16:52  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34448  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Grotstein, Laurie  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:21:27  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34449  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: N/A, N/A  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:22:26  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Please choose the no action alternative and let expire the lease on the oyster farm in Drakes Estero. There's a reason congress passed the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness act, and that was to help our environment and make our world a little bit better. Please don't try to get out of that now with sneaky alternatives. Choose No Action Alternative.

Correspondence ID: 34450  Project: 33043  Document: 43390  
Name: Kusaba, Patricia  
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 12:24:06  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 34451  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

The Parbers, three generations of them have delighted in Drake's Oyster Bay Co. since 1964 and hope to see it remain and prosper.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I strongly support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

This action is apparently without cause, as I don't see any proven need to force Drakes Bay Oyster Company out of business. I see the action as one based upon some groups' concern for the environment, not as a reaction to some harmful activity.

Why would we want to force a company out of business that has proven a strong, positive symbiotic relationship with their environment?

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Gary Gonser
To Whom It May Concern,

Now let's see: Corey S. Goodman, -B.S. from Stanford and Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley -25 years as a biology professor at Stanford and Berkeley -Currently on the faculty of U.C. San Francisco -An elected member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), American Academy of Arts and Sciences

and a further list of credentials half a page long says, "the National Park Service -- has misused and abused science to support a pre-determined policy agenda, and the realization that no one within NPS or the Department of Interior seems to care about scientific integrity", maybe we should listen to his impartial and highly credible voice of reason.

Since the NPS and the Dept. of the Interior have failed to conform to the 2008 laws regarding federal scientific misconduct policy, which is clearly ILLEGAL, how about we investigate and prosecute their malfeasance instead of threatening a local, sustainable, entirely conscientious family farm which has demonstrated the very levels of integrity, community education, law-abiding and productive behavior to which our federal agencies should be held accountable?

The Drake's Bay Oyster Company and the Lunny Family Farms, represent many of the positive ways in which our future may be secure both economically and environmentally, as an ethical and successful small business. I support the renewal of their lease and a full investigation into the misconduct and falsifying of information by the National Park Service in their attempts to discredit this model family farm.

Respectfully,

Cassandra Bernstein

---

I support a renewable lease for the Drake's Bay Oyster Company.

It appears that the opinions voiced against the oyster company by some Park personnel and some representatives of environmental organizations are not backed by scientific observation. It appears from secret hidden-camera observations that harbor seals are less disturbed by the company's operations than by kayakers. Yet the commercial kayak tour operations will be allowed to continue in the Estero, with lunches (and subsequent bowel and bladder relief!) on the beaches, and inevitable impacts on all species. We see the effects of kayak disturbance on birds firsthand from our house on Tomales Bay, disturbances by well-meaning people in quiet watercraft, but disturbances nonetheless. Yet for some reason, these commercial operations will be allowed to continue in the "Wilderness".

While I understand the importance of, and have campaigned for, environmental preservation and respect for ecosystems, I also understand the future need for sustainable food supplies that are responsibly raised. This is not a destructive, extractive operation, like a strip-mine or clear-cut forestry, nor even a beef-cattle operation allowed to destroy fragile habitat, all of which are seen on other federally-administered lands.

The Wilderness Act is an important step towards protection of public lands, written by men who apparently had no desire to see the end of ranching and mariculture on Point Reyes. If the wording of the original Act is unclear, it can be amended. There are, after all 27 amendments to the US Constitution. That does not make the Constitution any less viable, just as amendments and case-by-case exceptions that are mandated not to set precedents would not negate the purpose of the Act.

This oyster farm is a valuable food resource for our community. It is a responsibly-run business, turning out some of the cleanest oysters in North America and employing several local families. Limits can be set on production levels and "no-go" areas can be enforced. All aspects of the operation can be overseen (as they secretly have been already!).

---

I support a renewable special use permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Wilkinson, Mary C

The Wilderness Act is an important step towards protection of public lands, written by men who apparently had no desire to see the end of ranching and mariculture on Point Reyes. If the wording of the original Act is unclear, it can be amended. There are, after all 27 amendments to the US Constitution. That does not make the Constitution any less viable, just as amendments and case-by-case exceptions that are mandated not to set precedents would not negate the purpose of the Act.

This oyster farm is a valuable food resource for our community. It is a responsibly-run business, turning out some of the cleanest oysters in North America and employing several local families. Limits can be set on production levels and "no-go" areas can be enforced. All aspects of the operation can be overseen (as they secretly have been already!).

---

I support a renewable special use permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Mary
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Point Reyes National Seashore and Drakes Estero are no place for a fish farm. Please keep this out of such a wonderful place.

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

The only acceptable alternative is to permit Drakes Bay Oyster Farm to continue!
1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster canner in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations in the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. We love visiting the area and it would be a great loss for us to not have the Drakes Bay Oyster Company open.

Drakes is the last remaining oyster cannery in California.

If they are closed it would eliminate 40% of California oysters.

Please keep an open mind in dealing with this issue, which is very important to the economy.

Thank you Sue Sunkel & Tim Sunkel

Despite my earlier letter the draft EIR fails to include an appreciation of the relationship between oyster farming and the Gold Rush; the settling of California.

San Francisco Bay oysters were a significant food source for the mining camps in a period when food was a rather precious commodity. The bay was eventually fished out and the last remaining commercial operation is, and has been in your park well before it was a park.

Preserving this enterprise is preserving a connection to our history. You should be protecting this historical resource not trying to drive it from Drakes Bay.

Thank you for your attention,

Harry Mercado
Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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Correspondence ID: 34475  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Koehl, Lisa
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 14:17:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: PLEASE!!! Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Alternative are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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Correspondence ID: 34476  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: WISE, DAVID M
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 14:23:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

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Correspondence ID: 34477  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Held, Chad
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 14:24:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

In fact, maybe it's time to get rid of the ranches out there, too.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I support the No Action Alternative that would allow the area to become wilderness in 2012. I love oysters, but they can be raised in areas other than those designated wilderness.

I have been hiking out at Point Reyes for years, including all the Estero Trails. (Also some kayaking at times.) Yes, when the tide is low the oyster racks are visible. Too bad. The National Park Administration can never make the whole area go back to "pristine wilderness". What are you going to do? -- tear down the buildings by the lighthouse? take out the restrooms? tear up the parking lots? Apart from the oyster issue, the cows have kept open spaces from turning into complete forest -- is the plan to not renew those leases as well some day? I don't like the cows, but I'm glad they are there. The Park service lets various trails get overgrown/impassable and I'm sure hopes they will disappear -- like the Beatty Trail, the Crystal Lake Loop, etc. I don't want a manicured park, but let's keep some of the wilder trails alive! Let's get real -- ranching, farming, the oyster farm, etc. have all been part of that landscape for a long time. Most hikers, kayakers, etc. can live with a little intrusion and enjoy the fact that a good, clean source of protein can be locally grown.(I don't eat oysters and don't even like them, but I think it's great we have the farm there.) Also the economic problems (jobs, etc.) that will impact West Marin if this business is forced to close are rather huge and need to be part of the equation. The Park Service has made several rather questionable, if not ludicrous, decisions in the past few years. Someone there needs to look at the big picture and get his/her colleagues' heads out of the bureaucratic, self-serving, tunnel-vision hole. Also, please don't falsify or "omit" scientific findings -- have some integrity. After all, we pay your salaries.
Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Stop the madness Drakes Bay and its clients want you to stop!!

MY WIFE AND I HAVE VISITED THIS WONDERFUL PLACE AND CANNOT IMAGINE WHY YOU ARE CONSIDERING SHUTTING IT DOWN. PLEASE RENEW THEIR ABILITY TO KEEP OPERATING THIS OYSTER FARM. IT PROVIDES WORK, CLEAN WATER, GREAT OYSTERS AND A MODEL FOR US ALL. PLEASE DO THIS. THANKYOU AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING, GEORGE WEST

All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option.

Please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago!

NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to
overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

We urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago!

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

The Drakes Bay Oyster Company has a positive impact on the environment and the economy of West Marin. They do a good job, you need to give them a renewable special use permit!

Please support the NO ACTION Plan.

We often visit Pt Reyes and consider it a treasured resource. We urge you to please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I and my family have been customers of Drakes Bay Oyster Co DBOC, formerly the the Johnson Oyster Co) since 1975. As a family-owned business it provides employment for family as well as other local residents. I have found the proprietors to be conscientious environmentalists in terms of industry standards. The location and the enterprise are local landmarks worthy of maintaining now and for future generations, e.g., visitors can see the process for growing and harvesting oysters, and appreciate the hard work that all this entails. Especially informative and instructive for children.

The proposed plans and options do not provide for a viable family oyster-growing and harvesting enterprise, which enriches our
regional community by linking inland/urban areas and coastal/farming areas. I strongly support the continuation of the DBOC.

Dr. Francis Yanak
301 Bishop Circle
Petaluma, CA 94954

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<td>Correspondence: The information gathered by NPS has been both inconclusive and controversial. Closing a local, sustainable, family farm in the light of dubious data would be an atrocity. Further research needs to be done. Harbor seal populations are equally, most likely more, affected by kayakers and park tourists than a symbiotic oyster farm. Many community and socioeconomic effects have been overlooked in this matter. Please renew the oyster farm's lease, under circumstances that will not financially ruin them, such as Alternatives B, C, and D will.</td>
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<td>Name: Brown, Mary L</td>
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<td>Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. We have been there to visit and think they need to stay in business. Please correct the misrepresentations that have been made in the NPS reports. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Mary L. Brown 268 Bigelow Street Clayton, CA 94517</td>
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<td>Correspondence: I urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative regarding the proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Drakes Estero should become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago. The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,24,2011 16:02:00</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<td>Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative &quot;A&quot; and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize</td>
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commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

As a resident of California, one of the most beautiful states in the country, lets save something my kids and grandkids can witness, not read about what used to be.

Correspondence ID: 34500  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 16:02:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To be fair there needs to be an option that includes renewing (with future renewals) of the Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Keeping the Drakes Bay Oyster Company up and running contributes to the community in a very distinct way that cannot be reproduced.

Correspondence ID: 34501  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 16:22:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34502  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Niffenegger, Lee
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 16:25:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 34503  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: ST AUGUST, PATRICIA A
Outside Organization: SELF Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 16:35:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please select the No Action Alternative so that Drake Esters will become wildness in 2012. After visiting this area, I believe it should be preserved for future generations. Thank You.

Correspondence ID: 34504  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: P, L
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 16:43:07
I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

The Drakes Estero alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

I urge you to choose the "No Action" Alternative for this beautiful recreation area. It is the environmentally preferred alternative and would provide for the area to become wilderness in 2012 as Congress has intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives all have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. Moreover, the Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county.

Thank you for considering these points.

I urge you to support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. Moreover, the Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I urge you to allow the commercial oyster farm lease in the Drakes Estero to expire in 2012, thus allowing the Drakes Estero to be added to the Philip Burton Wilderness, as originally required in the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act. Thank you.

Please allow the commercial oyster farm lease in the Drakes Estero to expire in 2012, thus allowing the Drakes Estero to be added to the Philip Burton Wilderness, as originally required in the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act. Thank you.
adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values the National Park experience.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I support the special use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Their operation has a long history farming oysters to supply the bay area with seemingly benign environmental impacts on fish and fauna of the national seashore. It appears to be a compatible use. There are many, far graver environmental issues we should be focusing on correcting rather than this small business providing valuable local foodstuffs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
<th>Correspondence: I know the Drakes Bay Oyster company strictly as a tourist. My husband and I were delighted to meet one of the owners, purchase some oysters, and learn about their operation. We were very dismayed to learn that they may be mandated to shut down. We live in a county of Virginia (Rockbridge) in which agrotourism is a key area of economic strength. We see West Marin in a similar capacity--in fact, Drake's Bay is one of the reasons we choose to return to the Inverness/Pt Reyes Seashore area. There are many other arguments to support their continued existence, which I will leave for others to pursue, but in sum, we see none of the proposed alternatives as appropriate. We support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Anne &amp; Jackson Hershbell</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence ID: 34515</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: Chevillon, Vic</td>
<td>Outside Organization: US Citizen Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
<th>Correspondence: Drakes Bay Oyster company adds to the Drakes Bay experience and relationship of the public to the Bay without degrading the Bay. The National Park Service needs to develop another alternative that encourages oyster farming in the Bay under renewable permits. The Drakes Bay Oyster company and its predecessor company are part of the heritage of Drakes Bay. This oyster farm was the first in the United States to use the Japanese technique of oyster farming successfully and represents an important, nature based business, which produces high quality oysters and provides significant recreational and cultural resources in the Bay without degrading the bay. Because of their high quality oysters and set up in the Bay this is a sustainable institution, they long before the National Park Service. Nationalization rather than a common sense, balanced approach to preserving important resources for the public in the Bay seems to be your only goal in your draft EIS. This approach may meet your own agenda, but is not in the public's best interest. Please revise your draft to includes continued operation of Drakes Bay Oyster company</th>
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<td>Correspondence ID: 34516</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: N/A, Bruce</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence: I support, [as well as several neighbors], a RENWABLE lease for Drakes Bay Oyster Farm Thank you for your time...Bruce Goudie</td>
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<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
<th>Correspondence: Please take no action on this permit. Once these natural gifts are gone (destroyed) it is forever.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence ID: 34517</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Slade, Kenneth M</td>
<td>Outside Organization: None Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
<th>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence ID: 34518</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: N/A, N/A</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
<th>Correspondence: I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the country. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</th>
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<td>Correspondence ID: 34519</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Kosec, Dawn</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<th>Correspondence Type: Web Form</th>
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<td>Correspondence ID: 34520</td>
<td>Project: 33043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Klock, William J</td>
<td>Outside Organization: None Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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</table>
Hello first of all Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks for the chance to comment. I support no action on this decision. For so long now everybody has wanted and known of the high wilderness quality and protecting it. The action plan has many adverse effects for the animals that depend on this land and is a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 62’. Plus the tons of plus trash that’ll surely and already has come from these excess number of trips into get these oysters. Please protect this areas wetlands and wildlife for future generations.

I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Thank you for your attention.

Doris Potter
beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in
Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Furthermore, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34528  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Schllo-Wright, Carol
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 19:55:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34529  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Gerassimova, Veronica
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 20:02:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34530  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 20:09:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 34531  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Lackey, Irene
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 20:25:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 34532  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Drakes Estero is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals, and a critical native fish nursery. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

For these reasons, Drakes Estero deserves the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge.

Please do not undermine protections at Drakes Estero or succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize this special place.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 34536  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,24,2011 21:00:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
I am writing in regard to the rider, attached to an Interior Appropriations bill, that grants the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration of 2012. I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. I support the NO ACTION Alternative, which would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012. Please resist the temptation to allow/extend commercialization of this, and other, special nature areas. Thank you.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.
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Name: Martin, Devin  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 21:44:56  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: We believe that allowing the Drake Bay Oyster Company to continue to operate in its current location under a renewable special use permit is the most appropriate course of action. Devin Martin & Skye Livingston

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Name: Rettinghouse, Theresa  
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 21:48:13  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

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Name: Katzenbarger, Kimberly  
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 21:48:13  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

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Name: N/A, N/A  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov,24,2011 21:52:53  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and is seeking public comments
on a proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

I urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago!

The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years.

Please don't extend this permit. Support the No Action Alternative.

Correspondence ID: 34550  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Hensley, Kelsey R
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 22:12:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34551  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Bunton, Laura
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 22:18:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34552  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Aylward, Joseph
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov, 24, 2011 22:25:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As someone who has spent much time in Point Reyes for the past 14 years--I regard it as a second home--I am well acquainted with the issues surrounding the operation of DBOC. I find the Park Service's proposal to shut down this viable, necessary, and environmentally sound operation absolutely incomprehensible. It is tantamount to destroying West Marin's heritage, dismantling a significant portion of its livelihood, and eradicating a crucial element of what makes West Marin and Point Reyes National Park an extraordinary place. My home for most of the year is in Baltimore, where environmental issues about the health of the Chesapeake Bay are a constant concern for everyone who cares about the state of the bay. Oyster farming by responsible farmers is something we nurture, encourage, and cherish as essential to the bay's environmental health, to the many restaurateurs who rely on this essential food source, and to the welfare of the workers who farm the oysters. For those of us who care about sustainable farming and who support local growers, oyster farms are a crucial element of the Save the Bay movement. You are proposing throwing away a resource that fosters the health of Drake's Estero, a resource that the residents of other environmentally fragile areas would fight tooth and nail to preserve. My friends here in Maryland who have visited me in Point Reyes are aghast that this wonderful place is in peril--we would kill to have a DBOC in Maryland. Therefore, I support the position that none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Please do not close down this vital, special place that has operated for generations. Closing DBOC would be a senseless act whose impact will have a profoundly negative effect on the people of West Marin, on the estero, and on those who love this special place. Please don't allow this to happen--your decision will resonate down the years as one of the most rash and indefensible acts in the history of the park service.

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<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Snow, Maryly A</td>
<td>Outside Organization:</td>
<td>Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Nov,25,2011 00:41:59</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
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<td>Correspondence:</td>
<td>I have sailed and kayaked the coast. I have kayaked Drakes Estero. I LOVE the oyster farm! We need those filter feeders to cleanse the water from all those dairy farms that you permit to pollute the Estero. Oysters not only filter feed, but they are an incredibly inexpensive source of protein. Keep oyster farming in Drakes! It IS an attraction. It IS educational.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Kenny and Glover, Robert and Julia</td>
<td>Outside Organization:</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
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<td>We support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>farut, joel</td>
<td>Outside Organization:</td>
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<td>Received:</td>
<td>Nov,25,2011 00:48:44</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type:</td>
<td>Web Form</td>
<td>Correspondence:</td>
<td>Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds. In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012. Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations. Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere. We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.</td>
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| Correspondence ID: | 34560 | Project: | 33043 | Document: | 43390 |
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.
Oyster farming is part of our North Bay heritage and environment and it should remain so. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I grew up in Yosemite National Park, my Dad worked his life and proudly retired from the park service. I to worked for the Park and my experience there later led me to receive a degree in environmental studies from Columbia University. So, since my childhood I've seen studies like this many times before, studies that are commissioned with a specific policy objective in mind. The purpose of this study is to support a future decision not to extend a permit to Drakes Bay. So often there are those special interests who see the best outcome is to "return the park to nature as if humans are not part of the environment and nature". Limit access to the park and eliminate the rich cultural heritage from the environment. This is a wrong-minded approach. The North Bay is a richer place with Oyster Farms, Oyster Farmers, and the people who they attract as visitors to the North Bay.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.
I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

The oyster farm is a national treasure. I have visited often on trips to see my daughter. It would be a shame for it to close.

I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative “A”, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Please help preserving our environment and wilderness by rejecting the Action Alternatives. Thank you.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast’s only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation’s spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Drakes Oyster Farm has been a very responsible business entity. They have been responsible stewards of the delicate ecosystem where they operate. They can serve as a model to other similar businesses. Please let them continue their operation.

All life is sacred and is worthy of caring, compassion, and respect!

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.
I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 34586  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Melchers, Lana O
Outside Organization: Drakes Bay Oyster Farm Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 08:16:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34587  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Rozsics, Michael
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 08:16:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34588  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Martinez, William A
Outside Organization: None Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 08:31:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep farm open, great place, good prices, nice ride to enjoy Marin County Roads.

Correspondence ID: 34589  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, Alison
Outside Organization: None Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Very sorry but none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Their practices of sustainable farming serve as an example we need to support.
Thank you.

"When one touches a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." ...John Muir

With all due respect to the environment and wilderness areas across this grand country, I encourage and urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago. The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years.

Please seriously consider preserving Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

My family has been purchasing oysters from Drakes Bay since my father was a young child. Unless there is compelling evidence that this operation is creating a grossly negative environmental impact, I would ask that the National Park Service provide an option that allows this long standing family run business to continue operating.

I support the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago!

None of the alternatives are viable. I support a renewable Special Uses Permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.

I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
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Name:

Correspondence ID: 34596

Project: 33043

Received: Nov.25,2011 09:13:36

Document: 43390

Correspondence:

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

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Correspondence ID: 34597

Name: Ottina, Martha

Project: 33043

Received: Nov.25,2011 09:26:56

Document: 43390

Correspondence Type:

Outside Organization:

Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Web Form

The oyster farm is one of the key attractants for me and my wife at Point Reyes. They provide an outstanding product at a price we in the 99% can afford.

Correspondence ID: 34598

Name: Amsler, Barbara

Project: 33043

Received: Nov.25,2011 09:17:16

Document: 43390

Correspondence Type:

Outside Organization:

National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Web Form

I urge you to select alternative 'A', which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 34600

Name: Coursol, Wayne

Project: 33043

Received: Nov.25,2011 09:26:29

Document: 43390

Correspondence Type:

Outside Organization:

Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Web Form

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

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undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

The oyster farm here at point reyes is such an added benefit for my family when we go to the coast there on our family vacations. We enjoy hiking, biking, driving to the coast & lighthouse, the food available there at different restaurants, bakeries, organic food stores, farmers market & also the oyster farm.

I really do not understand the reason you think it needs to be closed down. It will be very sad for our family if we are not able to go out there, see the oysters being pulled & shucked & eat fresh oysters.

Please allow them to stay.

Surely they can find another place to raise their oysters. We must save our wild areas for future generations.

As the holiday season approaches, one of the things that we look forward to is fresh, local oysters. Our family has been living in the bay area since the early 1930's, close to the same amount of time as Drake's Bay Oyster Co., and it makes all of us sad to think that there is a possibility that this local treasure may be lost due to bureaucratic inflexibility. Please do what you can to save this small but valuable resource! I know that there must be a way! Let me reiterate what so many are saying: none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I and the members of our extended family support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drake's Bay Oyster Company. Thank you for your consideration.

NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm. The draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The
Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.
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NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts. The draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts in wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

It seems to me that none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate, and that Drakes Bay Oyster Company is doing an excellent job of managing his business and the bay without damage to the ecosystem. This is a small local supplier supplying food to the area. Isn't that what West Marin is all about?
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I am a long time "fan" of Point Reyes. As a matter of fact I appraised much of the land with others for acquisition by the Park Service. This was over thirty years ago. Being familiar with the area I truly believe the impact of the Oyster Company is minimal and may well be beneficial to bringing visitors to the park.

NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company, DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

As a member of the National Parks Conservation Association and California State Parks, this news came as a surprise to me. My husband and I visited this area earlier this year, enjoyed the oysters, but noticed a deteriorating condition of the water and surrounding inlets. I would hope preventing future commercialization would allow the National Park Service to clean up the area.
I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration.

Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Thank you.

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Correspondence ID: 34623  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: sourgeon, david L
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:18:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
the NPS EIR appears to be myopic at best.

---

Correspondence ID: 34624  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Ritter, Krehe H
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:19:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I support the continuing operation of the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. They appear to cause almost no impact on Drakes Estero. We have been hiking there for over 30 years, and it seems to us that the cattle cause far more damage than oyster farms. If you really want to prevent damage to the Estero, we suggest that you do something about the cattle.

Sincerely,

Krehe & Kathy Ritter

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Correspondence ID: 34625  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:27:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

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Correspondence ID: 34626  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Kahn, Kathleen
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:31:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I've been going to the Drakes Bay Oyster farm since I was a child ... and I can't believe the park service is planning to get rid of such a wonderful institution. That area hasn't been wilderness for over 150 years, and it isn't going to become wilderness now, so what's the point of destroying a beloved local business?

It's been established that the so-called scientific reports of damage to the harbor seals are (to put it kindly) erroneous. On the contrary, DBOC co-exists well with its natural environment as well as with its human one. It produces locally raised (and delicious) food, and indeed is a showcase for a local food movement of which Northern California is rightly proud.

You could destroy all this in pursuit of an illusory, postage-stamp sized "pure" wilderness. Or you could protect the estero, the harbor seals, the environment, the DBOC, and the West Marin community, all together. The choice must be obvious.

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Correspondence ID: 34627  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:41:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
I firmly support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.

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Correspondence ID: 34628  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Wu, Jeanette
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 11:52:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

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Correspondence ID: 34629  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Drakes Bay Oyster Company has to stay. They are the best oysters in the bay area. I support them and the family who have been running this company for a long time. They are an asset to the Point Reyes National Seashore and we have to support them and extend their lease to work within the park. I do not believe that they have a negative affect on the natural environment in the park and their existence does not affect the seals or any endangered species.

I am writing to you to urge that you cease forthwith your efforts to shut down the Drakes Bay Oyster farm.

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside
for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time
to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and
best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West
Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy
example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34635</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Cohen, Mark A</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 12:19:03</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable special use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.</td>
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I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness
and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources,
as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting
this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review
shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine
wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private
commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34636</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name: good, mary</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 12:26:59</td>
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<td>Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places. I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.</td>
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<td>Name: N/A, Vanessa</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 12:32:11</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<th>Correspondence ID: 34638</th>
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<td>Name: Cohen, Deborah</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 12:33:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence: I support a renewable special use permit for drakes bay oyster company. It is ridiculous that nps and ill informed , egotistical environmentalists are trying to shut them down.</td>
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<th>Correspondence ID: 34639</th>
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<td>Name: N/A, N/A</td>
<td>Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 12:33:55</td>
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<td>Correspondence Type: Web Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence: I strongly support the NO ACTION Alternative and urge you to choose this option. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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Please support the No Action Alternative. Thank you for your time.
I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.
The "imprint of man's work" is substantially noticeable in the area, yet the estero which is partially surrounded by commercial cattle ranches, remains nearly as pristine as the day Drake sailed into the bay. The oysters that are grown there are unique in the sense that they are never exposed to human coliform such as the waters of all the other oyster producing operations are. In fact, the oyster operations in nearby Tomales Bay are occasionally shut down by the California Department of Health because of high coliform counts in oysters tested there. The oysters from Drakes Estero are as close to pristine wilderness oysters as one can get.

The National Park Service (NPS) at Point Reyes National Seashore has fabricated false and misleading surveys and reports through its Resource Management Division in an effort to discredit and malign the oyster mariculture (Park Service skewed data on Oyster Farm, 07/24/08 S.F. Chronicle.).

A recent investigation and studies by the National Research Council (NRC) conducted by the National Academy of Sciences at the request of congress found inconsistencies and inaccurate findings in the NPS data. The review shows there has been no substantive destruction of Eel grass, and disturbance of seals data which was collected by the National Park Service was based on inaccurate criteria, "Interpretation of the disturbance data is limited by the lack of critical information on how individual fitness and population consequences may vary with disturbance type. Hence, the disturbance monitoring conducted by NPS is inadequate for rigorous inferences on the impacts of mariculture on harbor seals." (NRC Report) Since the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) the state seal population has increased steadily and now exceeds any prior population count. The "harassment" of seals is grossly exaggerated by the NPS as they claim multiple violations based upon their interpretation of the MMPA.

50 CFR ‘216.3 defines harassment as "Level B Harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild".

The NPS has determined these definitions to be sufficient to claim the oyster farm is a detriment to the seal populations. On the other hand, cattle ranching in the seashore is embraced and permitted as historic and cultural, but is far more detrimental to the habitat and wildlife of the area, and encroaches upon the "Wilderness." Cattle ranching has caused numerous measurable environmental impacts. Grazing, fecal run-off, non-native species (cattle and grasses), fencing, roads, watershed impacts, and native wildlife impacts are all attributes of cattle ranching.

The effort to remove oyster mariculture from Drakes Estero appears to be a biased and discriminatory attack on a specific operation. If the NPS sticks to their absolute hard core science policy, then, won't they have to also remove all of the cattle ranches and roads? If it is to be a "Wilderness" area again they must remove man's entire imprint and seek to restore an untrammeled state.

Senator Feinstein is correct in writing legislation to reign in the Department of Interior, National Park Service. The NPS has exhibited poor judgment and overzealously exercised its authority by overlooking or reinterpreting its own mission and bowing to the pressures of environmental organizations like the Marine Mammal Center and the Sierra Club. The effort to curtail and remove the oyster mariculture yet continue to allow cattle ranching is a double standard. Both are historic and both are loved by the community.

That NPS mission was established by the Organic Act of 1916.

"The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purposes of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

I am guessing the part about the "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.", is somehow interpreted by the Point Reyes National Seashore to mean "preserve and prevent from use or enjoyment." The desire of the park to return it to wilderness is not the mandate in the act. The mandate states very clearly that NPS mission was established by the Organic Act of 1916.

The idea that the NPS can create a "wilderness" by omitting existing practices and be specific about what practices are still consistent within or adjacent to the area are hypocritical. They can attempt to restore a wilderness but they can never return it to its prior untrammeled state. To contend that the practices of an historic oyster company prevent them from doing their mandated...
work while they allow paved roads, vehicle traffic, and cattle ranching are insulting to this writer.

Besides the NPS desire to restore the lands to a "Wilderness", they overlook and fail to perform one of the key functions for which the NPS was created in 1916, that being the directive to encourage visitation and use of the land by the citizens who actually own and enjoy it. The efforts of the NPS Point Reyes National Seashore in fact, demonstrate a desire to prohibit the use and enjoyment of a historic and cultural activity by the very citizens it is supposed to be serving.

DBOC provides a large amount of the fresh oysters and canned oysters to Californians. Many of us enjoy oysters as a special treat or on a more regular basis. They are healthy and nutritious. Shipping oysters into California from another state or country would be expensive and entail unnecessary fuel costs. Why mess with a place that has been around for over a century? Please decide to keep DBOC where it is on a renewable lease basis.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Loughran

I have been following the discussion on the renewal of the special use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company for the past year. I find the evidence used by the National Park Service to be inaccurate and suspicious.

I support the renewal of the Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I strongly recommend that the lease for the oyster farm be extended for a minimum of at least 10 years if the law does not permit longer extensions. This period of time should be used for a detailed study of the specific impacts at this site, conducted in a scientifically valid manner and documented in peer reviewed literature, and funded by the NPS at a recognized research university. If the impacts are found to be minimal the option of continued operation of the farm beyond 10 years should be seriously considered. If necessary and if the study indicates minimal impacts, political action should be explored to provide the opportunity for expanding the long-term options.

The farm is limited in area and any impacts are very likely highly localized. They are similar to, but clearly less than those of the dairy farms in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Indeed, I suspect that the cleaning of the water by the oysters is a benefit to the estuary.

I support the renewal of the Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

The oyster farm provides several important services, including providing a local source of oysters, both commercial especially in the San Francisco Metropolitan area and to the many visitors to the farm. The farm provides a unique window to the history of the area. It provides jobs -- particularly important in today's struggling economy. In my judgement, these and other positive impacts are not adequately considered in the analysis in the Draft EIS and need further analysis.
I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Your national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with your parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys your spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Your national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with your parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys your spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.
I strongly support continuing the use permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Farm, which adds to the culture of Pt. Reyes Natl Seashore.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge the NPS to select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago.

Please support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our national's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Sincerely, Ron Hensic

Drakes Bay Oyster Company, I am said to say that I will no longer be able in the future to support or contribute to the NPS. If it is decided not to issue a renewable Special Use Permit for the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I have always been a supporter and contributor to the National Park Service, and have enjoyed a locally grown food product for years. I cannot understand why anyone would want to end such a perfectly suited local business that cannot be replaced. I urge you to not consider any of the proposed alternatives, as these are not appropriate, and to continue allowing this aquaculture business to be licensed to operate. Thank you,

Thomas Jacobson

I simply cannot understand why once again a Government Agency makes the mistake of trying to change or "fix" something that "the agency" feels is for the common good without any regard to just plain ole common sense. Drakes Bay Oyster Farm has been and is one of those family run business's that not only provides old time service, but in my opinion is also a historical tradition. I am 61yrs old, but I also remember traveling to Drakes Bay Oyster Farm with my family to spend a day BBQ'ing oysters and having just a wonderful day with my family. I still enjoy taking my family out there. I also feel that the current business is very concous of the beautiful and special place they have and are very responsible owners. I think none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I have always been a supporter and contributor to the National Park Service. If it is decided not to issue a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company, I am said to say that I will no longer be able in the future to support or contribute to the NPS.

Sincerely, Ron Hensic

I have been hiking in west Marin for over 30 years and often stopped by the oyster farm on my way home, in my opinion it is a gem, effects the environment minimally and I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Sincerely, Ron Hensic

I have been going here to buy oysters for over thirty years now. I haven't seen any detrimental change in the surrounding area and have enjoyed a locally grown food product for years. I cannot understand why anyone would want to end such a perfectly suited local business that cannot be replaced. I urge you to not consider any of the proposed alternatives, as these are not appropriate, and to continue allowing this aquaculture business to be licensed to operate. Thank you,

Sincerely, Ron Hensic

I simply cannot understand why once again a Government Agency makes the mistake of trying to change or "fix" something that "the agency" feels is for the common good without any regard to just plain ole common sense. Drakes Bay Oyster Farm has been and is one of those family run business's that not only provides old time service, but in my opinion is also a historical tradition. I am 61yrs old, but I also remember traveling to Drakes Bay Oyster Farm with my family to spend a day BBQ'ing oysters and having just a wonderful day with my family. I still enjoy taking my family out there. I also feel that the current business is very concous of the beautiful and special place they have and are very responsible owners. I think none of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I have always been a supporter and contributor to the National Park Service. If it is decided not to issue a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company, I am said to say that I will no longer be able in the future to support or contribute to the NPS.

Sincerely, Ron Hensic

I have been hiking in west Marin for over 30 years and often stopped by the oyster farm on my way home, in my opinion it is a gem, effects the environment minimally and I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.
Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I am a retired NPS employee and a former member of an official NPS interdisciplinary NEPA team.

I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. All of the Action Alternatives would allow and/or create significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including measurable impacts to wetlands, birds, fish,
harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds, as well as to wilderness and the national park experience. All of the Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, are counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Thank you complying with NEPA and for providing the opportunity to provide comments.

None of the proposals for the Drakes Bay oyster company seem appropriate to me. Please help the Oyster company in supplying us with great oysters. Thank you, David Duarte

Please do not allow commercial oystering in this important ecosystem. It is due to be designated wilderness in 2012, and that plan, which has been in place since the 1970's, should be implemented.

I respectfully request that you support the NO ACTION alternative, clearly the most environmentally friendly option.

I look forward to visiting the area in the future, and would love to be able to share the experience with my children in a way that closely resembles my experiences there in the past. Continued commercial oystering will make that impossible.

Thank you for reading.

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A” best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point
Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county.

Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.

**Correspondence ID:** 34673  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** Lilley, Joe  **Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 14:34:06  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable special use permit for Crakes Bay Oyster Company

**Correspondence ID:** 34674  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** Sobotka, Daniel M  **Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 14:43:41  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** Please do not renew the lease to the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Please allow the lease to expire and allow the intended designation of Wilderness area to be enacted in 2012. This area needs to be left free of commercial use. This area needs to be kept in trust to the American people...one of the nation's jewels...a testament to our respect to God and his bounty.

**Correspondence ID:** 34675  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** Harden, Ronald D  **Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 14:57:09  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** I urge that the commercial use permit not be extended. It is time to fulfill the intent of the establishment of the area and have management for natural conditions only.

**Correspondence ID:** 34676  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** N/A, N/A  **Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 14:57:11  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

**Correspondence ID:** 34677  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** Warwick, Bradley S  **Outside Organization:** private citizen  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 15:01:37  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** I've been going to Drakes oyster farm for forty years and I would not like it to be closed and renew the contract for 50 years more.I believe that they take good care of the area (being organic and all.)Also I know they make sure the animals and sea life is protected.The oyster company has been there for over a hundred years and has never been closed due to human progress.( unlike all the tomales oysters )I trust the owners and are doing a very good thing out there on the drakes estero.It would be a terrible loss. I don't trust the Park service and how are they ging to protect and manage the area without funds? There already trying to shut down all the parks, Leave Drakes Estero in good hands and renew the permit .

**Correspondence ID:** 34678  **Project:** 33043  **Document:** 43390  **Name:** Cauthen, George  **Outside Organization:** NRDC Unaffiliated Individual  **Received:** Nov, 25, 2011 15:20:06  **Correspondence Type:** Web Form  **Correspondence:** Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.
Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

I urge the National Park Service to allow the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years. None of the other alternatives are satisfactory.

The Draft EIS makes clear that allowing the private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts-most notably from the invasive species-on eelgrass habitat, native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, endangered species, wilderness values and the National Park experience.

These are quite enough reasons for our family of ardent travelers, environmentalists, and observers of wildlife at peace to support the NO ACTION Alternative that is before your agency; we believe that it is highly desirable for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.
Correspondence ID: 34684  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Trauberman, Sophie
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 15:56:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 34685  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Barnard, Ann C
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 15:56:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 34686  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Goodwin, Paul
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 15:57:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I fully support a renewable special use permit for Drakes Bay Oyster farm, and in my view, none of the proposed alternatives are acceptable. I am not sure why you are trying to push out a small family business that is environmentally responsible, and whose legacy of oyster farming in this location dates back a century. Please leave Drake Bay Oyster farm in place, and allow them to continue their business and providing local jobs.

Correspondence ID: 34687  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Packer, Patti
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:03:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
I am writing to comment on the proposal to allow a commercial oyster farm to operate in Drakes Estero in the Philip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Do not allow Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. Commercial activity must not be allowed to continue in this important wildlife area. Allowing this private, commercial oyster company to exploit Drakes Estero for ten more years would have numerous adverse impacts from invasive species. Native fish, harbor seals, resident and migratory birds, and endangered species must be protected.

Please select the "No Action Alternative" so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 34688  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Rose, Sylvia
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:06:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:
None of the proposed options are acceptable. I support the continuation of the renewable permits of operation for the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm/Company. It certainly should be possible for a long lived company to continue to operate in an environmentally sustainable way so we, the public, can continue to enjoy their product.

Correspondence ID: 34689  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Moszyk, John A
Outside Organization: Individual Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:06:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Please urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Correspondence ID: 34690  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Ward, Stacey A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:20:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please opt for the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34691  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Capper, Stephen P
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:25:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company, I believe the environmental arguments in favor of policies that lead to a closure of Drakes Bay Oyster Company are not substantiated and many environmental benefits of the farm are underrepresented in the EIS.

On a personal level a visit to Drakes Bay Oyster Company provides a unique experience within Northern California that is treasured by myself and my friends. It's great to have the opportunity to go to a facility that is really about producing high quality, sustainable, local seafood at an affordable price. This contrasts with local alternatives that seem to be much more focussed on providing a gourmet meal at a high price and not understanding the long standing tradition of oyster growing in the area. It also helps provide oysters distributed within Northern California with a much lower carbon footprint than most alternatives.

While it is understandable that the NPS is concerned about the environmental impact of work within the park, it's important to recognize the importance of traditional working practices and sustainable farming to the nations history also.

Drakes Bay has long been a center piece of a trip to Point Reyes that has made this park a favorite place to visit, I feel the park would be diminished by it's absence.

Correspondence ID: 34692  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: De Cecco, Jorge A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:34:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the No Action initiative due to the harmful environmental impact of the other options. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 34693  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Corrigan, Sean
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:44:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 34694  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Toller, Stephanie
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,25,2011 16:56:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of
protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative “A”, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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<td>Siegel, Michelle A</td>
<td>Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>Seltzer, John</td>
<td>Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>I have enjoyed my visits to The Point Reyes National Seashore area for nearly 40 years. One of the chief memorable experiences is visiting and partaking of the oysters at Drakes Bay. The current owners have cleaned up the establishment and also offer educational tours and informative explanations as to the process they go through to obtain their oysters. I really see no reason why they should not be permitted to continue with the operation of Drakes By Oyster Farm. Their stewardship is a positive contribution to people's visits to The Point Reyes National Seashore area. Please allow them to continue to operate. Thank You</td>
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<td>Treiber, Terry</td>
<td>Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the country. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.</td>
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<td>MacNiven, Dylan</td>
<td>Woodhouse Fish Co Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>Palmer, Kirstie</td>
<td>Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

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In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

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Drakes Estero would become a national ecological treasure and wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act mandates the addition of Drakes Estero to the Philip Burton Wilderness in 2012, when a commercial oyster farm lease expires. Unfortunately, a rider attached to an Interior Appropriations bill granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to extend the Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease beyond its expiration. The NPS's draft EIS addresses whether to extend the permit another 10 years. Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

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Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area. The Drakes Bay Oyster Company's lease should not be extended beyond its expiration date. Please support the no action alternative. The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash. I appreciate your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sellers

I am in favor of a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I lived in the SF Bay Area for 48 years and visited what is now the Point Reyes National Seashore many times...a major component of the area's charm is the large number of locally owned businesses. My wife and I still visit Tomales Bay even though we live in Monterey county. Please allow Drakes Bay Oyster Company to continue to serve locals and tourists alike.

Thanks You.

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Thanks for your time.
I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

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I urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, and are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964. They set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. We obviously can NOT allow 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat!

None of the alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drake's Bay Oyster Company.

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I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

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In addition, the following should be addressed and assessed, as the continuation of the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is vital to the aqaur environment and economic viability of West Marin:

1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a $10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish
The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

Thank you, Sandra Wollenberg

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

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Sincerely, Loretta Smith 3160 College Avenue #207 Berkeley, CA 94705-2700

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I support sustainable agriculture and Drakes Bay Oyster Farm. Its current responsible operation is consistent with the agricultural character of the county and a model of what sustainable agriculture should look like. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

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<td>Correspondence: I've been a happy visitor to the Point Reyes area since I came to northern California in 1945, and when the National Seashore was constituted I was pleased that the old diary farms and the nearly-as-old oyster company were allowed to continue. Now the existence of the oyster company is threatened for a variety of reasons. Some of the arguments against it have been based on what many perceive as inadequate science; some see any permission for it to continue as a dangerous breach of a necessary dike against rampant commercialization; and some argue that the present owners knew the risks of the contract they signed years ago. Weighing these and other issues is not easy but looking at the overall situation it is hard for me to see that granting a renewable lease to the oyster company would be a bad thing for the seashore or the environment. Please let this valuable agricultural use of a tiny sliver of the National Seashore continue. It is a worthwhile use of our public land and harms no one at all.</td>
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<th>Correspondence ID: 34743</th>
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<td>Correspondence: ? I support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash</td>
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<td>Correspondence: &quot;None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.&quot;</td>
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<td>Name: Oswald, Sarah</td>
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<td>Received: Nov,25,2011 00:00:00</td>
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Many thanks to the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin for the information in this alert. For more information and to read the draft EIS, click here.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah
I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

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<td>GONZALEZ, CYNTHIA C</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA NURSES ASSOCIATION Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Nov,25,2011 22:35:09</td>
<td>Web Form</td>
<td>None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.</td>
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<td>34751</td>
<td>33043</td>
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<td>Jansson, Pia</td>
<td>Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Nov,25,2011 22:57:31</td>
<td>Web Form</td>
<td>PLEASE CONTINUE TO ALLOW DRAKES BAY OYSTER COMPANY TO CONTINUE HARVESTING OYSTERS IN DRAKES BAY. THIS IS A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS AND PLEASE LET THEM REMAIN IN OPERATION. ALLOWING THE FEDERAL GOV TO OVERTAKE THIS LAND IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY. THE TAKE OVER WILL DESTROY A FAMILY LEGACY. THANK YOU CYNTHIA GONZALEZ</td>
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<td>34752</td>
<td>33043</td>
<td>43390</td>
<td>Yust, Dan W</td>
<td>California Resident Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Nov,25,2011 22:59:01</td>
<td>Web Form</td>
<td>I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places. I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.</td>
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<td>Cantisano, Amigo</td>
<td>Organic Ag Advisors Unaffiliated Individual</td>
<td>Nov,25,2011 22:59:17</td>
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<td>&quot;None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.&quot;</td>
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We need to support small scale food production that is organic, sustainable, eco-friendly, and important to the local economy and local food security. Support Drakes Bay Oyster Company
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Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back. |

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<td>Name:</td>
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<td>Outside Organization:</td>
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Correspondence ID: 34759  
Name: Heaton, Debbie  
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov, 26, 2011 00:58:22  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 34760  
Name: Werner, Bonnie  
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov, 26, 2011 00:58:22  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 34761  
Name: Villegas, Iris  
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual  
Received: Nov, 26, 2011 01:06:39  
Correspondence Type: Web Form  
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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| Name: Brazeau, Elizabeth W | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 06:44:57 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: Ignored is the fact that an intentional expiration deadline was given. Additional stresses on an area already designated for return to full wilderness is unacceptable. I urge ‘no action’ on the proposal to extend commercial use of this already compromised area.

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| Name: Escobar, Lorna Escobar | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 06:46:16 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

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| Name: Van Ingen, Elizabeth | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 06:48:24 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

This farm is a local treasure.

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| Name: Rudolph, Lucy | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 07:00:14 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

This farm is a local treasure.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Correspondence ID: 34772</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
<th>Document: 43390</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Name: Bennett, Robert | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 07:21:18 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: Please consider this my full support for a renewable permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.

The evidence put forth by the NPS, claiming detrimental environmental impact originating from the operations of Drakes Bay Oyster Farm, is so flawed it is difficult not to believe there are private interests with a stake in the elimination of the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.

As an environmentalist and citizen who fully supports the restoration and preservation of natural environments, I consider the use of public resources in pursuit of closing the farm, misguided at best.

Unlike areas like the Gulf of Mexico, where corporate interests protect the right to ravage the environment and species who directly depend on it's health, there is sufficient evidence that Drakes Bay is a thriving system and that the oyster farm contributes to it's health.

There is sufficient scientific evidence to support the continued operations of Drakes Bay, and a renewable permit will provide an escape should reasonable evidence be produced refuting the claims of those of us who support the oyster farm. I see my missions as calling to question those who claim to represent public interest, but whose actions contradict their efforts. If, NPS, your pursuit of eliminating Drakes Bay Oyster Farm has done anything of value, it has empassioned at least on voter to pursue efforts to staff your organization with public servants who actually demonstrate public service.

Thank you, Robert Bennett

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<th>Correspondence ID: 34773</th>
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| Name: N/A, N/A | Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual | Received: Nov, 26, 2011 07:52:50 | Correspondence Type: Web Form | Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes...
Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

We recently purchased onsite oysters from the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. it was a fun outing and we enjoyed their delicious high quality oysters raw and right off of the grill. Delicious fresh oysters like that are Divine.

we want to express our strong support for the continuance of the successful Lunny family business. it is truly a unique business in the Bay Area, and provides many contributions to the local economy.

1. They provide fresh high quality oysters to the Bay Area.
2. They are the second largest employer in West Marin County.
3. They bring tourists such as us into the area. We came specifically for the oysters to add to our fun at visiting the park. We might likely go elsewhere to hike with no oysters to lure us to Drakes Bay.
4. We support local agriculture and the eat locally food movement. If the Drakes Bay Oyster Company is put out of business, there is no other suppliers of locally grown oysters.

Finally we understood that a panel from the National Academy Of Scientists visited the site, reviewed the data, and concluded that the Pt. Reyes National Seashore scientists were guilty of "SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT". We object to a political agenda based on faulty science putting a legitimate business permanently out of business.

Sincerely, Nancy and Jay Cutler
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As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I support a renewable special use permit Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Thank you for considering this and supporting the people.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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Correspondence ID: 34797  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Lofton, Saab
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:26:52
Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 34798  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Guilbault, Aubrey K
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:26:57
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Messerschmitt, susan
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:26:57
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<td>Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places. I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative &quot;A&quot;, which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative &quot;A&quot; best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.</td>
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Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.
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**Correspondence ID:** 34861  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Friedman, Carolyn**  
**National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual**  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:12  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 34862  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Nickrosz, John**  
**National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual**  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:12  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 34863  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Jones, Blanche**  
**National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual**  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:12  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 34867  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Hurley, Scott**  
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
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**Correspondence ID:** 34868  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Flowers, Danny**  
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
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**Correspondence ID:** 34869  
**Project:** 33043  
**Document:** 43390  
**Hamessley, Lydia**  
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:28:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
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<th>Correspondence ID: 34879</th>
<th>Project: 33043</th>
<th>Document: 43390</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Ramos, Paul</td>
<td>Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Johannsen, Shirley</td>
<td>Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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<td>Name: Unger, Kris</td>
<td>Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual</td>
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Correspondence ID: 34920  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Pasholk, Robin
Received: Nov, 26, 2011 08:29:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 34921  Project: 33043  Document: 43390
Name: Campbell, Janet
Received: Nov, 26, 2011 08:29:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Lequint, Magali
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:30:00
Web Form

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National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
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When you stand before the Supreme Being you cannot say... But I was told by others to do thus... or virtue was not convenient at the time. This will not suffice. Remember it.
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**Name:** McLean, Claire  
**Outside Organization:** National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:30:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
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**Name:** Webb, Lynne  
**Outside Organization:** National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:30:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
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**Name:** Iabruzzo, Stephanie  
**Outside Organization:** National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Nov, 26, 2011 08:30:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**  
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Correspondence ID: 34980
Project: 33043 Document: 43390
Xavier, Caroline
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:30:47
Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 34981
Project: 33043 Document: 43390
Rust, Tom
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Nov,26,2011 08:30:47
Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 34982
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Toxie, Susan
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Nov,26,2011 08:30:47
Web Form
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Leathers, Alison
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Web Form
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Heath, Laura
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Nov,26,2011 08:30:52
Web Form
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Anuci, John
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