EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Fire Management Plan (FMP) for the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) is an operational manual containing the standards, practices and guidelines in use by the Fire Management Division when conducting actions within their jurisdictional area. The jurisdictional area is comprised of the 70,046 acres of PRNS and the 19,265 acres in the northern district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) that is managed by PRNS through an agreement with GGNRA. For the purposes of this FMP, the use of the acronym PRNS in reference to a geographic area will encompass the 90,311 acres managed by Point Reyes National Seashore including the northern lands of GGNRA.

The FMP provides a framework for the Division's fire prevention and fuels reduction programs and governs actions and strategies for the Division's response to wildland fires in the jurisdictional area. The FMP was built upon guidance provided by the fire management section of the National Park Service (NPS) Management Policies (2000) and current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2001). Current federal wildland policy stresses the protection of firefighters and the public, protection of public and private property, and protection, restoration and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural resources on federally-managed lands.

The fire management strategy implemented by this FMP was the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the NPS and finalized through the adoption of a Record of Decision (ROD), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA process, conformance requirements for the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act were also met.

Goals and specific strategies included in this FMP were developed as part of the FMP NEPA process, which concluded with signature of the ROD by the Regional Director in October 2004. Mitigation measures developed for the programmatic FMP EIS are carried forward and incorporated into this operational FMP. These measures will be applied to FMP implementation projects as part of an interdisciplinary team review to ensure continued conformance of the fire management program with the findings of the NEPA process.

The FMP is organized to present the current strategies and tactics for the range of actions assigned to the PRNS Fire Management Division. Program operations addressed include preparedness, prevention, suppression, fuels management, rehabilitation, fire education and information, monitoring and fire and fuels research. The FMP is written to be understood and implemented by PRNS staff as they plan and implement fuel reduction and resource protection and rehabilitation projects and conduct suppression actions.